

## **Spiritual tourism to get a boost with Temple Management courses**

Mumbai University and the Shikshana Prasaraka Mandali, Pune, a trust with a rich legacy managing numerous educational institutions, have partnered with Temple Connect, an organization dedicated to enhancing the temple ecosystem. This collaboration aims to enrich Temple Management courses offered by Mumbai University and the Prin. L. N. Welingkar Institute of Management Development and Research (WeSchool).

Under this initiative, Mumbai University and WeSchool will serve as the educational partners, leveraging their expertise in management education to enhance the Temple Management Education ecosystem. The programs, including Certificate, Advanced Certificate, and Diploma courses, will provide hands-on experience and cover various aspects of temple management, such as people management, socio-cultural management, sustainability, and more.

The Temple Management Course Committee, chaired by Dr. Suresh Haware and attended by prominent dignitaries, has laid the foundation for these courses. Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni, Vice-Chancellor of Mumbai University, expressed his appreciation for the collaboration, emphasizing the significance of temple management education.

Dr. Uday Salunkhe, Group Director of WeSchool, personally oversaw an observational study of temples in Maharashtra, which informed the structured curriculum for the Temple Management Program. He believes that this collaboration will enrich participants' understanding of temple administration and contribute to preserving cultural heritage.

Dr. Haware, Chairman of the Temple Management Education Committee, acknowledged Temple Connect's global contributions and expressed optimism about the benefits of this collaboration for students.

Shri Prasad Lad, MLC Maharashtra, hailed the collaboration as an exciting step towards supporting the temple economy.

Giresh Kulkarni, Founder of Temple Connect, highlighted the organization's goal of raising awareness about temple ecosystems and management. He praised Mumbai University and WeSchool for their commitment to studying major temples, laying the groundwork for structured Temple Management programs.

Temple Connect will engage with the temple ecosystem and educational institutions, facilitating industry experts' involvement and internships for students. The course will be extended nationally to various universities and institutions to maximize knowledge sharing and improve Temple Management practices across India.