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Amma at Ernakulam

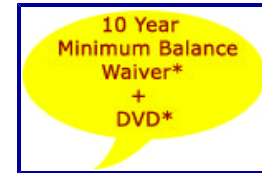


Mata Amritanandamayi has mesmerised the world with her potent message of active loving and giving. Amma, as she is affectionately called, hugs the world and the world hugs her back in tearful joy. The high and mighty, poor and rich, young and old are lining up in Kochi for a gentle hug. Literally, Ernakulam is bursting at the seams with the hope of an embrace from 'hugging saint' Mata Amritanandamayi. Through devotion and selfless service to the mankind, Amma has shown the world that religions and languages are no barriers for spiritual fulfillment and human service.

It's after more than a year that Amma has arrived in the city much to the joy and satisfaction of the devotees. The best possible arrangements has been set up at Brahmastanam temple at Edapally in Kochi for the two day festival where Amma will give `darshan' to her devotees. According to a rough estimate devotees and followers of Amma in the region of more than half a million have arrived in the city to attend the festival.

Thousands of volunteers are putting in their best efforts to ensure smooth functioning of the festival and also to make Amma's visit to the city a memorable one. Several cultural programs are being organised which will be performed by artists and students representing various units of the Math. Special facility is being provided for senior citizens, patients and the differently abled. Amma's `darshan' can be had at 12 in the afternoon and after 9 in the evening.

The loving and much caring Amma is also a strict disciplinarian to all her disciples. Amma's ordained students observe strict celibacy and the residents of her ashram meditate eight hours a day in addition to doing service. Amma has said that strict standards have been set for all her



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disciples and the same is aimed at keeping their ego in check and also to inculcate an aptitude for selfless service. Amma breaks the ego to bring out the real essence in every human being especially her disciples. And it is never in conflict with her love for her followers.

Amma with her special aura of sanctity travels not only across the country but also throughout the world by giving 'darshan' thereby bringing solace and peace to an increasing number of devotees from every corner of the universe with her divine hug.

Sunil

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