

UP: CM Yogi Adityanath launches incense made of recycled flowers

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GORAKHPUR: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday launched organic incense sticks made from flowers offered at Gorakhnath Temple promoting environment-friendly products by recycling of flowers. Speaking after the launch of 'Shree Gorakhnath Ashirwad' incense sticks on Sunday afternoon, the CM said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of converting waste into wealth is being realized by making incense sticks from the flowers offered at the temple.

"These flowers were either thrown away or disposed of in rivers. This was hurting the faith of devotees and also polluting the rivers," he said.

"Besides giving respect to faith, this is also a big step towards women empowerment as these are being made by women. It is also a belief in our tradition that nothing is a waste on this earth and this is a testimony of this fact", he said, while adding women making the incense sticks have already started earning Rs 4,000-5,000 per month.

The incense sticks are being manufactured by the Mahayogi Gorakhnath Krishi Vigyan Kendra (MGKVK) with technical support from the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow.

The production and distribution will remain in the hands of Gorakhnath Temple Trust.

The flowers are dried and powdered in a machine and then mixed with wood powder. The paste is then coated on thin sticks and soaked into fragrance liquid and dried before being packed.

“It is for the first time this flower recycling has been started at a temple in UP. Incense sticks are being made from flowers at Sai Temple in Shirdi and Vaishno Devi Temple. Soon, incense sticks will be made from flowers at Chandrika Devi Temple in Lucknow,” said CIMAP director Dr. Prabodh Kumar Trivedi.

Soon ‘bel patra’ and basil leaves will also be used for making incense sticks, he added.