



Presents

VEDANTA BY THE NARMADA



THE MAHĀBHĀRATA

Dharma, Duty & Difficult Choices

Guided by Neema Majmudar

07TH – 11TH JANUARY 2027 | AHILYA FORT, MAHESHWAR



An annual retreat exploring timeless Vedanta teachings
in the serene setting of Ahilya Fort

THE MAHĀBHĀRATA

A story of human life, and the choices we make



The Mahābhārata has profoundly influenced Indian culture for millennia and is traditionally revered as the Fifth Veda. It is a vast tapestry of stories within stories, insightful dialogues and debates, memorable parables and evocative metaphors - all woven together to illuminate the complexity of human life.

In this retreat, we will explore selected stories from the Mahābhārata that resonate with the life and legacy of **Devi Ahilyabai Holkar - service to society, upholding justice and accountability, and understanding and fulfilling one's duty.** Through these stories, we will look at the complexity of life and the challenges of discerning what is appropriate and arriving at the right decision in a given situation.

The Mahābhārata offers no simple heroes or easy answers. The characters face difficult choices, conflicting responsibilities, relationships, ambitions and consequences. Through their stories, we are invited to look beyond the epic itself - and reflect on our own lives.



THE LEGACY OF DEVI AHILYABAI HOLKAR

A LIFE OF DUTY, SERVICE & RESPONSIBILITY

Devi Ahilyabai Holkar led with a deep sense of responsibility towards her people and her society. Her legacy of service, justice, accountability and public welfare provides a natural context for this year's enquiry.

The questions explored through the Mahābhārata echo through her life:

- What does it mean to use responsibility well?
- How does one act with justice and integrity?
- What does true service require?
- How does one make the right choice when circumstances are complex?

At Ahilya Fort, these are not merely philosophical questions. They are part of the history and living spirit of the place.



ABOUT THE TEACHER



Neema, a former United Nations professional with 17 years of experience in New York, Bangkok, and Fiji, now teaches traditional Advaita Vedanta (non-duality) in the lineage of Adi Shankaracharya and Swami Dayananda Saraswati. Combining spiritual wisdom with real-life engagement, she bridges ancient teachings with modern dilemmas. For over 20 years, Neema has conducted classes, seminars, and retreats across Europe, Asia, and India. Based in Mumbai, she transitioned her teaching online during the 2020 pandemic, fostering a global community of dedicated students. Her sessions are known for their clarity, depth, and warmth.



A HERITAGE HOME ABOVE THE SACRED NARMADA



Ahilya Fort, in the central Indian town of Maheshwar, sits high above the sacred river Narmada. Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar ruled here from 1765 to 1796 and built Ahilya Wada, her personal residences, offices, and darbaar audience hall, within the fort.

In the year 2000, Prince Richard Holkar, her descendant and son of the last Maharaja of Indore, converted his home in Ahilya Wada into a guest residence, today known around the world as the Ahilya Fort Hotel.

THE QUESTIONS WE WILL EXPLORE

What does it mean to do the right thing?

When responsibilities conflict and there is no obvious answer, how do we discern what is appropriate?

What is our duty?

How do we understand and fulfil our responsibilities without being driven solely by personal desires, expectations or attachments?

What shapes our choices?

How do fear, ambition, loyalty, attachment and self-interest influence the way we act?

How do we act responsibly?

What is the relationship between intention, action and consequence?

How do we develop discernment?

How can we respond to the complexity of life with greater clarity rather than simply reacting to circumstances?

The enquiry is not simply about understanding the Mahābhārata. It is about understanding ourselves through it.

THE RETREAT JOURNEY

07TH JANUARY 2027

Arrival & Check-in

Arrive at Ahilya Fort, settle in and begin to ease into the rhythm of the retreat.

08TH – 10TH JANUARY 2027

TIMING	ACTIVITY
6:00 AM	Meditation
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Vedanta Session I
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Vedanta Session II
12:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Lunch & Personal Time
3:30 PM - 4:15 PM	Taichi Session
4:30 PM - 5:15 PM	Vedic Chants
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Vedanta Session III
7:00 PM	Dinner & Aarti
Post-Dinner	Q&A / Discussion

The programme and timings may evolve with the retreat. Alongside the sessions, there will be time to experience the Fort, Narmada and Maheshwar at an unhurried pace.

11TH JANUARY 2027

Check-out & Departure

PACKAGES

4-NIGHT STAY

CATEGORY	ACCOMMODATION WITH ALL INCLUSIONS	
	SINGLE (in ₹)	DOUBLE (in ₹)
Princely	₹90,000	₹101,000
Princely Superior	₹118,000	₹132,000
Regal	₹150,000	₹162,000

TEACHERS FEE: ₹15,000 per person

Additional 18% GST

Airport Transfers: Indore Airport transfers are available at ₹12,000 per car (₹6,000 one way), with a maximum capacity of 3 guests per car, excluding the driver.

INCLUSIONS

- Accommodation at Ahilya Fort
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Vegetarian meals
- Tea, coffee and refreshments
- All scheduled Vedanta sessions with Neema Majmudar
- Meditation
- Taichi session
- Vedic chants
- Sunset boat ride, weather permitting
- Music performance on one evening
- Aarti and evening experiences
- Q&A / discussion sessions

EXCLUSIONS

- Airfare
- Transfers to and from the airport
- Neema Majmudar's teacher fee
- Additional nights / stays outside the retreat dates
- Meals other than those specified above
- Spa and Body & Soul services
- VIP Darshan at Omkareshwar Temple
- Other experiences within or outside the property
- Personal expenses



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A FEW DAYS TO STEP BACK
TO LOOK DEEPER
TO RETURN WITH GREATER CLARITY

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