

## MAHAKUMBH MELA 2025:

( A Celebration of Spiritual Grandeur and Cultural Heritage)

(13th <sup>January</sup> 2025 to 26th <sup>February</sup> 2025)

"All devotees, tourists, and pilgrims of the Russian Federation are invited to be part of this unique spiritual gathering and to enjoy India's unique culture and tourism potential"



The Maha Kumbh Mela is deeply embedded in Hindu mythology and represents one of the most significant gatherings of faith in the world. As per Hindu mythology, the [Kumbh Mela](#) originated from the divine 'Samudra Manthan' or churning of the ocean, where the gods and demons fought for a pot (Kumbh) of the nectar of immortality (Amrit). As Lord Vishnu flew away with the pot, a few drops of the nectar fell in four places on earth, which are now known as [Haridwar](#), Prayagraj, Ujjain, and Nashik – the sites of the Kumbh Mela.

The Maha Kumbh Mela, a sacred pilgrimage that is celebrated four times over a course of 12 years, stands as a unique embodiment of such power. Kumbh Mela, the world's largest peaceful gathering, draws millions of pilgrims who bathe in sacred rivers seeking to purify themselves from sins and attain spiritual liberation. This sacred event rotates between four locations in India-Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik, and Prayagraj- each located by a holy river, from the Ganges to the Shipra, the Godavari, and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati in Prayagraj. In 2025, from January 13 to February 26, Prayagraj will once again become the heart of this magnificent celebration, drawing millions of pilgrims and visitors to witness a profound display of devotion, unity, and the vibrant expression of India's spiritual heritage. The Maha Kumbh Mela not only represents India's deep-rooted heritage but also showcases the timeless human quest for inner peace, self-realization, and collective unity.

## KEY RITUALS AND PRACTICES

**Shahi Snan;** In the context of the [Maha Kumbh Mela](#), “Shahi Snan” refers to the “royal bath.” The Maha Kumbh Mela is a grand assembly of rituals, with the bathing ceremony standing as the most significant of them all. Held at the Triveni Sangam, millions of pilgrims gather to partake in this sacred practice, which is deeply rooted in the belief that immersing oneself in the holy waters can cleanse an individual of all sins. This act of purification is believed to liberate both the individual and their ancestors from the cycle of rebirth, ultimately leading to Moksha, or spiritual liberation.

Alongside the bathing ritual, pilgrims also engage in worship along the banks of the sacred river and participate in enlightening discourses led by sadhus and saints, adding a layer of spiritual depth to the experience. While taking a dip in the holy waters is considered sacred throughout the entire Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, certain dates hold special significance like Paus Purnima (January 13), Makar Sankranti (January 14).

The tradition of Shahi Snan is based on the belief that those who partake in the ritual receive the blessings of virtuous deeds and the profound wisdom of the saints who have come before them, as they immerse themselves in the sacred waters.

**Aarti, prayers and offerings;** The mesmerizing Ganga Aarti ceremony on the riverbanks is an unforgettable sight for the participants. During this sacred ritual, priests perform intricate ceremonies while holding glowing lamps, offering a visual spectacle. The Ganga Aarti attracts thousands of devotees, evoking profound devotion and reverence for the sacred river. Devotees perform Dev Pujan to honor deities believed to visit the Sangam during the Kumbh. Rituals such as Shraadh (offering food and prayers to ancestors) and Veeni Daan (offering hair to the Ganges) are integral to the festival, symbolizing surrender and purification.

**Kalpavas;** Kalpavas, a profound yet lesser-known aspect of the Maha Kumbh Mela, offers seekers a sacred retreat dedicated to spiritual discipline, austerity, and higher consciousness. Pilgrims participating in Kalpavas embrace a life of simplicity, renouncing worldly comforts and engaging in daily rituals like meditation, prayers, and scripture study. This immersive experience fosters deepened devotion and spiritual transformation within the larger pilgrimage.

**Satsang, Deep Daan and Prayagraj Panchkoshi Parikrama;** There are three core rituals related to Maha Kumbh Mela. First one, Satsang, or associating with truth, is core practice where devotees listen to discourses by saints and scholars. Second one, Deep Daan, transforms the sacred rivers into a mesmerizing spectacle. Devotees float thousands of lighted earthen lamps (Diyas) on the flowing waters of the Triveni Sangam as an offering of gratitude. Third one is Prayagraj Panchkoshi Parikrama. It aims to reconnect pilgrims with ancient practices through journey that envelops sacred landmarks like the *Dwadash Madhav* and other significant temples, offering spiritual fulfilment while preserving cultural heritage. The Government has made extensive preparations to ensure that Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj is a safe and spiritually enriching event. This 45-day festival will start from January 13 to February 26 and will host over 40 crore devotees from across the globe.

### 1. Key security features at Maha Kumbh 2025: Ensuring Safe Experience

- I. Fire safety: Deployment of articulating water towers equipped with advanced features along with firefighting crews.
- II. Hi-Tech Security Infrastructure: Deployment of AI and Drone Surveillance, along with underwater drones to ensure safety during Maha Kumbh Mela.

## **2. Multi -Disaster Response and Emergency Readiness**

- I. Deployment of newly deployed multi-disaster response vehicle, equipped with victim location cameras, lifting tools, to handle emergencies efficiently.
- II. Deployment of large-scale deployment of remote-controlled life buoys has been introduced to enhance safety.
- III. Creation of an incident response system to ensure quick and coordinated action during emergencies.
- IV. Over 10,000 police personnel, along with PAC, Bomb Disposal Squads, National Disaster Response Force, and Central Armed Police Forces units, will ensure safety throughout the event.

## **3. Enhanced River Security by Water Police**

To ensure the safety of devotees, the Government has deployed a large contingent of Water Police personnel equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Key measures include:

- I. Advanced Surveillance: Underwater drones and sonar systems are used for round-the-clock monitoring.
- II. Extensive Deployment of Water Police personnel to ensure the security.
- III. Emergency Response Tools: FRP speed motor boats, have been deployed for continuous patrolling of the Sangam area to ensure constant vigilance and rapid response to emergencies.
- IV. Dedicated Infrastructure: Three Water Police stations and two floating rescue stations function 24/7 to enhance vigilance.
- V. Medical Preparedness: Four water ambulances equipped with modern medical facilities are stationed strategically.

## **DIGITAL MAHAKUMBH; A Confluence of Devotion and Technology**

Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, is set to be an extraordinary blend of spirituality and innovation, bringing together the sacred traditions of Sanatan Dharma with state-of-the-art digital advancements. This iconic festival, which attracts millions of devotees from around the globe, is embracing modern technology to enhance the experience for all attendees.

### **Cyber Security at Maha Kumbh**

Government has prioritized making this year's Maha Kumbh a “Digital Maha Kumbh”. A robust cyber security team is established to provide cyber security to the devotees coming from all over the world. Key features include:

- I. Deployment of 56 dedicated cyber experts for cyber patrolling.
- II. Establishment of a Maha Kumbh cyber police station to counter cyber threats like fraudulent websites, social media scams, and fake links.
- III. 40 Variable Messaging Displays (VMDs) will be installed in both the fair area and the commissionerates for raising awareness about cyber threats.
- IV. A dedicated helpline number, 1920, and promotion of verified government websites.

### **Immersive Digital Experiences**

Devotees and pilgrims will be witnesses of a spectacular drone show depicting legendary tales of "Prayag Mahatmyam" and "Samudra Manthan". They will also experience 360-degree virtual reality of Peshwai (Grand procession of Akhadas), auspicious bathing days (snaan), Ganga aarti, and multiple special footage from this grand festival of faith and harmony.

### **Online Stay Booking**

Online bookings for stays at Maha Kumbh Gram will be open from January 10 to February 28. Reservations can be made easily through the IRCTC website, with additional information available on both the IRCTC and Tourism Department websites and the Maha Kumbh mobile application. Bookings can also be made through IRCTC's business partners, Make My Trip and Go IBIBO. For the safety and comfort of the guests, the Tent City will provide first aid services and will be under constant surveillance with CCTV cameras.

### **Conclusion**

The Maha Kumbh Mela is far more than a religious congregation; it is a vibrant celebration interwoven with faith, rituals, and spiritual enlightenment that captures the essence of India's cultural and spiritual heritage. It serves as a profound reflection of the nation's deep-rooted ethos, showing the enduring connection between humanity and the divine.

The grand procession of saints, the resonating chants and the sacred rituals performed at the confluence of rivers transform the Mela into a divine experience that touches the soul of every participant.

### **References;**

<https://kumbh.gov.in/>

<https://pib.gov.in/>

To cater to the specific needs of foreign tourists, influencers, journalists, and photographers attending Maha Kumbh, the Ministry of Tourism has set up a dedicated toll-free Tourist Infoline (1800111363 or 1363). Besides English and Hindi the Toll Free Infoline

is now operating in ten (10) International languages The service will provide assistance, information, and guidance to make the experience smoother and more enjoyable for international visitors.