

## Research Unit

# Press Information Bureau Government of India

## Digital Maha Kumbh

# A Confluence of Devotion and Technology

## **Ministry of Culture**

December 31, 2024

Maha Kumbh 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. From high-tech security measures to digital land allotments and immersive virtual reality experiences, Maha Kumbh 2025 is redefining the way devotees connect with their faith and the event's rich cultural heritage. With comprehensive preparations spanning infrastructure, safety, and digital services, the Maha Kumbh is poised to become a model of harmony between tradition and technology.



## **Cyber Security at Maha Kumbh**

Special cyber security arrangements have been initiated to safeguard devotees from across the globe. Key features include:

- Deployment of **56 dedicated cyber warriors** and experts for cyber patrolling.
- Establishment of a **Maha Kumbh cyber police station** to counter cyber threats like fraudulent websites, social media scams, and fake links.
- 40 Variable Messaging Displays (VMDs) will be installed in both the fair area and the

commissionerates for raising awareness about cyber threats.

• A dedicated helpline number, **1920**, and promotion of verified government websites.

About **45 crore devotees** are expected to visit **Maha Kumbh Nagar**. To ensure that such a large number of devotees are well-informed, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to utilize every platform, including print, digital, and social media. Cyber experts are actively monitoring online threats and investigating gangs exploiting platforms such as **AI, Facebook, X, and Instagram**. A **mobile cyber team** is also deployed for large-scale public awareness campaigns. Currently, the state's team of experts has identified around 50 suspicious websites, and action is underway against them.

### **Immersive Digital Experiences**

#### 360-DEGREE VIRTUAL REALITY STALLS

Inspired by Kumbh 2019, ten stalls facilitating the pilgrims with this experience were specially set up at prime locations in the Kumbh Mela area. These stalls will show videos of major events such as Peshwai (Grand procession of Akhadas), auspicious bathing days (snaan), Ganga aarti, and multiple special footage from this grand festival of faith and harmony.





#### SPECTACULAR DRONE SHOW

A fleet of 2,000 drones will narrate the legendary tales of "Prayag Mahatmyam" and "Samudra Manthan," creating a magical evening spectacle over the Sangam Nose. The spectacular show will depict iconic events like the mythical Samudra Manthan and the emergence of the Amrit Kalash (nectar pot), creating a magical visual narrative in the evening skies. The show will also highlight the religious and spiritual significance of Prayagraj, offering a unique experience for pilgrims and locals.

## **Infrastructure and Land Digitalization**

Uttar Pradesh's newest district, Maha Kumbh Nagar, is being established with state-of-the-art facilities in record time. The digitalization of land allotments includes:

- Online availability of land and facilities through the "Maha Kumbh Land and Facility Allotment" site.
- Digitized records for over **10,000** institutions, including government, social, and religious organizations.
- **Drone surveys** conducted before and after the monsoon to map land topography with high accuracy.
- Comprehensive **data digitization** of applications and **live tracking** of application status and allotments.
- **Automated data flow among vendors and government departments** for timely facility setup through facility slips.

• Customized **MIS reports** and institution-wide analysis enabled **Prayagraj Mela Authority** to complete land and facility allotments on time with minimal queues and physical appointments.

GIS-based maps with essential public utilities are available on Google Maps for seamless navigation. These include emergency services, police stations, checkpoints, command and control centers, hospitals, parking areas, food courts, vending zones, toilets, pontoon bridges, roads, etc. With this transparent system, the work of saints, sages, and institutions is being done easily and quickly without waiting in queues.

## **Enhanced Devotee Security Arrangements**

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POWERED CAMERAS

AI-powered cameras have been introduced at the world's largest cultural event, along with drones, anti-drones, and tethered drones strategically deployed to enhance surveillance.

#### UNDERWATER DRONES

The newly introduced underwater drones will provide 24/7 surveillance beneath the waters, monitoring all activities. Notably, these drones are equipped with advanced technology that allows them to function effectively in low-light conditions, ensuring precise tracking of targets. This state-of-the-art underwater drone can dive up to 100 meters and transmit real-time activity reports to the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC). It can be operated over an unlimited distance and provides precise information about any suspicious underwater activity or incident, enabling immediate action to be taken.

### REMOTE-CONTROLLED LIFE BUOYS

Large-scale deployment of remote-controlled life buoys has been introduced to enhance safety. These devices can rapidly reach any location and transport individuals to safety in case of emergencies, ensuring the well-being of pilgrims.

#### **Lost and Found Services**

For the first time, **high-tech Lost and Found registration centers** are being established in association with the state police department. These centers aim to reunite lost pilgrims with their families through:

- Digital registration of missing individuals.
- Public address announcements and updates across social media platforms, like Facebook and X.
- Police assistance for unclaimed individuals after 12 hours.



### **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**

Maha Kumbh 2025 is set to be a divine and digitally advanced event, reflecting the seamless integration of spirituality and technology. Under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi and the consistent efforts of the government of Uttar Pradesh, this Maha Kumbh will stand as a beacon of faith, innovation, and global cultural unity.

#### References

https://kumbh.gov.in/

Department of Information & Public Relations (DPIR), Government of Uttar Pradesh

Santosh Kumar/ Sarla Meena/ Rishita Aggarwal