



Mahakumbh 2025: A Spectacle of Faith, Unity, and Tradition

As the sacred waters settle, the echoes of devotion and grandeur leave an everlasting imprint on history

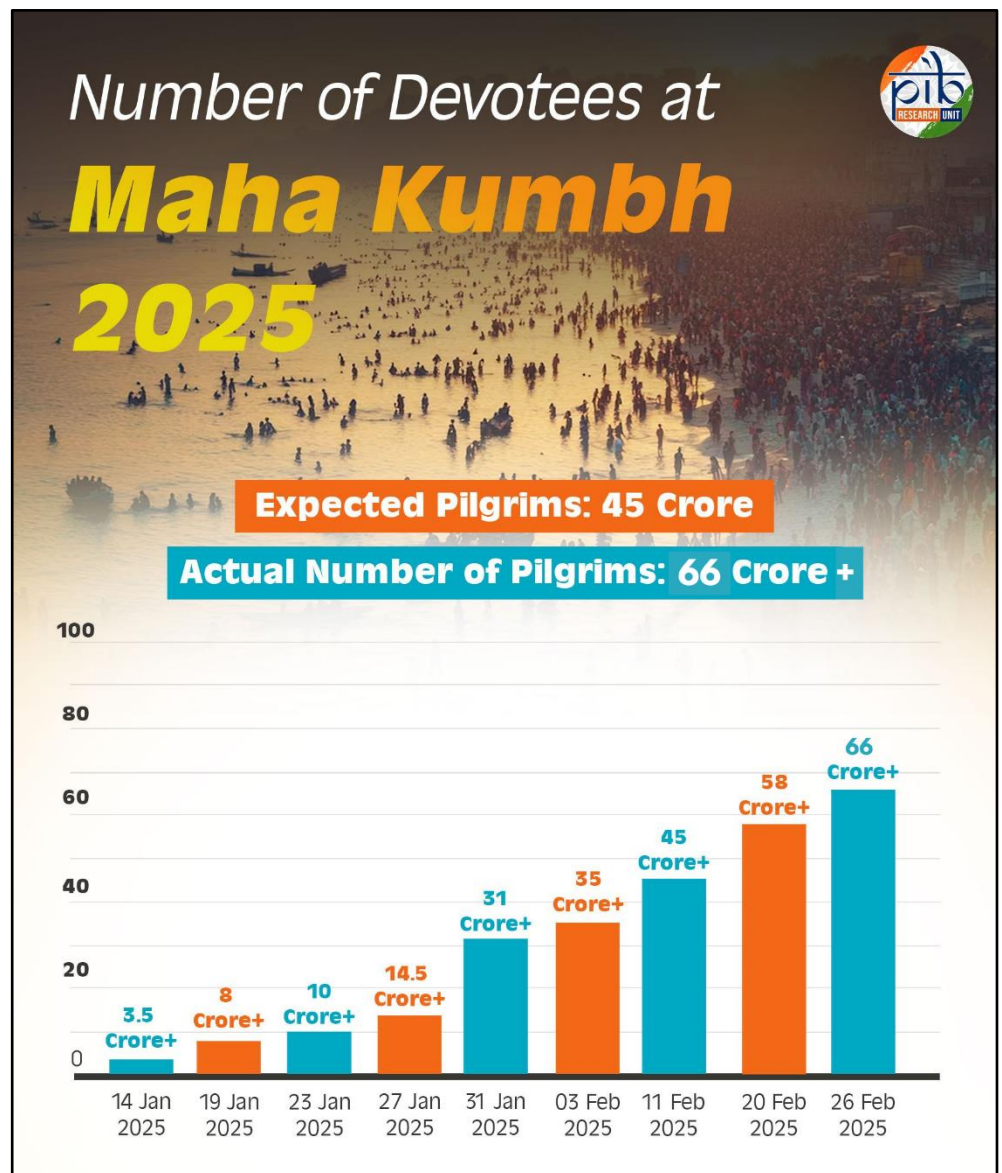
(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

February 26, 2025

Introduction

In a world marked by the hustle of modernity, few events hold the power to bring millions together in pursuit of something greater than themselves. The **Maha Kumbh Mela**, currently being held from **13 January 2025 to 26 February 2025**, is a sacred pilgrimage that is celebrated **four times** over a course of **12 years**. 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. The Maha Kumbh Mela is deeply embedded in **Hindu mythology** and represents one of the most significant gatherings of faith in the world. This sacred event rotates between **four locations** in India-**Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik,** and **Prayagraj**- each situated 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. The expected turnout of 45 crore devotees in 45 days was exceeded within a month, reaching 66 crores⁺ by the concluding day.





- **Triveni Sangam:** The sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, offering a deeply spiritual experience.
- **Ancient Temples:** Hanuman Mandir, Alopi Devi Mandir, and Mankameshwar Temple, showcasing the city's religious heritage.
- **Historical Landmarks:** Ashoka Pillar, University of Allahabad, and Swaraj Bhawan, reflecting India's rich history and colonial-era architecture.
- **Cultural Vibrance:** Bustling streets, markets, local art, and cuisine providing a glimpse into the city's life.
- **Kalagram:** Kalagram, set up by the Ministry of Culture in Sector-7 of the Maha Kumbh district, is a vibrant cultural village showcasing India's rich heritage. Designed around the themes of Craft, Cuisines, and Culture, it offered an immersive experience through performances, exhibitions, and interactive zones.
- **Akhara Camps:** Spiritual hubs where sadhus and seekers engaged in meditation, discussions, and philosophical exchanges.
- **Immersive Digital Experiences:** Inspired by Kumbh 2019, ten stalls facilitating the pilgrims with this experience were specially set up at prime locations in the Kumbh Mela to show videos of major events such as Peshwai, auspicious bathing days, Ganga aarti, etc.
- **Drone Show:** A Grand Drone show was organised by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department featuring hundreds of drones creating vibrant shapes in the sky. Devotees were mesmerized by the divine depiction of the Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean) and Gods drinking from the Amrit Kalash.
- **Cultural events at the Ganga Pandal:** It saw renowned artists from across the country mesmerize devotees with grand presentations of music, dance, and art from 7th - 10th February. The main highlights of the event included performances by famous artists like Odissi dancer Dona Ganguly on 7th; renowned singer Kavita Krishnamurti and Dr. L. Subramaniam on 8th; Suresh Wadkar and Sonal Mansingh on 9th; and, on 10th, celebrated singer Hariharan. In addition, prominent artists from various Indian classical dance and music traditions made the evening musical and grand.
- **International Bird Festival:** Held from February 16-18, 2025, showcasing over 200 migratory and local birds, including endangered species.

Key Rituals and Practices

- **Shahi Snan:** The most significant ritual, where millions bathe at Triveni Sangam to cleanse sins and attain Moksha. Special dates like Paush Purnima and Makar Sankranti witness grand processions of saints and Akharas, marking the official start of the Maha Kumbh.
- **Ganga Aarti:** A visually stunning ritual where priests offer glowing lamps to the sacred river, evoking devotion.
- **Kalpavas:** A month-long period of spiritual discipline where devotees renounce comforts, engage in meditation, and participate in Vedic rituals like Yajnas and Homas.
- **Prayers & Offerings:** Dev Pujan honors deities, while rituals like Shraadh (ancestral offerings) and Veeni Daan (offering hair to the Ganges) symbolize surrender and purification. Acts of charity, such as Gau Daan (cow donation) and Vastra Daan (clothing donation), hold great merit.
- **Deep Daan:** Thousands of lamps are floated on the river, creating a celestial glow that symbolizes devotion and divine blessings.
- **Prayagraj Panchkoshi Parikrama:** A sacred journey around Prayagraj's holy sites, reviving an ancient tradition and offering spiritual fulfillment.



History and Major Bathing Dates

The **origins** of the Kumbh Mela are rooted in Hindu mythology. According to the **Samudra Manthan** (churning of the ocean) story in the ancient Hindu scriptures, the gods (Devas) and demons (Asuras) fought over the **Amrit** (nectar of immortality). During this celestial battle, **drops of the nectar fell at four locations**—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik—where the Kumbh Mela is now held, with the Maha Kumbh occurring once every **144 years** at Prayagraj. Historically, the Maha Kumbh Mela has been referenced since ancient times, with records dating back to the **Maurya** and **Gupta periods**. It received royal patronage from various dynasties, including the **Mughals**, and was **documented** by **colonial administrators** like James Prinsep. Over centuries, it evolved into a global spiritual and cultural phenomenon. Recognized by **UNESCO** as an **intangible cultural heritage**, the Kumbh Mela symbolizes India's enduring traditions, fostering unity, spirituality, and cultural exchange among millions worldwide.

The **timing** of each Kumbh Mela is determined by the **astrological positions** of the **Sun**, **Moon**, and **Jupiter**, believed to signal an auspicious period for spiritual cleansing and self-enlightenment. The festival embodies a confluence of faith, culture, and tradition, attracting ascetics, seekers, and devotees alike. The event's

grandeur is marked by **Shahi Snans** (bathing rituals), **spiritual discourses**, and **vibrant cultural processions** that reflect India's deep spiritual heritage.



Major bathing dates are:

Date	Bathing Occasion	Significance	Number of Devotees taking a dip (Approx.)
January 13, 2025	Paush Purnima	It serves as an unofficial inauguration of the Maha Kumbh Mela, signifying the commencement of this grand event. Additionally, Paush Purnima marks the initiation of Kalpvasa, a period of intense spiritual practice and devotion observed by pilgrims during the Maha Kumbh Mela.	1.5 crore
January 14, 2025	Makar Sankranti (First Shahi Snan)	Makar Sankranti signifies the sun's transition to its next astronomical position in accordance with the Hindu calendar. This auspicious day marks the initiation of charitable donations at the Maha Kumbh Mela. Pilgrims traditionally make contributions based on their own volition and generosity.	3.5 crore
January 29, 2025	Mauni Amavasya (Second Shahi Snan)	Mauni Amavasya is a day steeped in significance, as it is believed that the celestial alignments are most propitious for the sacred act of bathing in the holy river. It commemorates a profound event when Rishabh Dev, revered as one of the first sages, broke his protracted vow of silence and immersed himself in the purifying waters of the Sangam. As a result, Mauni Amavasya draws the largest congregation of pilgrims to the Kumbh Mela, making it a momentous day of spiritual devotion and purification.	5 crore
February 3, 2025	Basant Panchami (Third Shahi Snan)	Basant Panchami symbolizes the transition of seasons and celebrates the arrival of the Goddess of Knowledge, Saraswati, in Hindu mythology.	2.33 crore
February 12, 2025	Maghi Purnima	Maghi Purnima is renowned for its connection with the veneration of Guru Brahaspati and the belief that the Hindu deity Gandharva descends from the heavens to the sacred Sangam.	2 crore
February 26,	Maha Shivratri	Maha Shivaratri holds deep symbolism as it marks the final holy bath of the	1.3 crore

Key Infrastructure Development



- **Temporary City Setup:** Maha Kumbh Nagar had been transformed into a temporary city with thousands of tents and shelters, including **super deluxe accommodations** like the IRCTC's "Maha Kumbh Gram" luxury tent city which offers deluxe tents and villas with modern amenities.
- **Roads and Bridges:**
 - Renovation of **92 roads** and beautification of **17 major roads**
 - Construction of 30 pontoon bridges using **3,308 pontoons**.
- **Signage for Navigation:** A total of **800 multi-language signages** (Hindi, English, and regional languages) were installed to guide visitors.
- **Public Utilities:** Over **2,69,000** checkered plates had been laid for pathways. Mobile toilets and robust waste management systems ensured hygiene.

Medical Facilities at Maha Kumbh

The **Maha Kumbh 2025** witnessed an extensive medical setup to ensure the well-being of millions of devotees. With **over 2,000 medical personnel** deployed across the Mela area, the Uttar Pradesh government implemented **high-tech healthcare services** in every sector. From minor treatments to **major surgeries**, all medical needs were addressed efficiently.



Key Medical Arrangements:

- **Central Hospital at Parade Ground:**
 - **100-bed** capacity
 - OPD, ICU, and emergency care
 - Conducted over **10,000 treatments** and multiple successful deliveries
- **Additional Hospitals:**
 - **23 hospitals** with a total capacity of **360 beds**
 - **Two sub-central hospitals** (25 beds each)
 - **Eight sector hospitals** (20 beds each)
 - **Two infectious disease hospitals** (20 beds each)
- **Medical Services Expansion During Amrit Snan & Magh Purnima:**
 - **133 ambulances** deployed, including **seven river ambulances** and **one air ambulance**
 - **Medical Observation Rooms** at key railway stations for emergencies
 - **First aid posts** with trained staff at multiple locations
- **SRN Hospital and Other City Hospitals on High Alert:**
 - **250 beds reserved** at SRN Hospital
 - **Blood bank stocked with 200 units**
 - Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital prepared with:
 - **40-bed trauma center**
 - **50-bed surgical ICU**
 - **50-bed medicine ward**
 - **10-bed cardiology ward and ICU**
- **Medical Teams and Emergency Readiness:**
 - **300 specialist doctors** deployed at the **Super Specialty Hospital**
 - **Expert doctors from AIIMS Delhi and BHU** remained on high alert
 - **150 AYUSH medical personnel** provided alternative treatments
- **Advanced Facilities and AI Integration:**
 - **ECG services and Central Pathology Lab** conducting **100+ tests daily**
 - **50+ free diagnostic tests** available for pilgrims
 - **AI-driven translation technology** enabled doctors to communicate in **22 regional and 19 international languages**
- **Affordable Medicines through Jan Aushadhi Kendras:**
 - **Five Jan Aushadhi Kendras** set up in Mahakumbh Nagar, including one in Kalagram
 - Established under **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**
 - Provided **affordable and quality medicines** to pilgrims throughout the Mela
 - Part of a **nationwide network of 15,000+ Jan Aushadhi centers**, with **62 centers in Prayagraj**
 - Contributed to the national target of **₹2,000 crore in medicine sales**, with **₹1,500 crore already achieved**.

The entire medical infrastructure was **continuously monitored by senior officials** to ensure **smooth operations, cleanliness, and quick emergency responses**. These arrangements played a **crucial role in managing the healthcare needs of millions** at the Maha Kumbh 2025.



AYUSH at Maha Kumbh

The **Ayush OPDs, clinics, stalls, and wellness sessions** emerged as major attractions for devotees and visitors at **Maha Kumbh 2025, Prayagraj**. The Ministry of Ayush, in collaboration with the **National Ayush Mission, Uttar Pradesh**, provided **free healthcare services** to both domestic and international pilgrims. With a strong focus on **traditional healing systems**, Ayush services received widespread participation, reinforcing the global trust in **Ayurveda, Homeopathy, and Naturopathy**.

Key Highlights of Ayush Services:

1. **Extensive Healthcare Support:** Over **1.21 lakh devotees** availed Ayush services during the festival.
2. **Dedicated Ayush OPDs:** A team of **80 doctors across 20 OPDs** provided **24x7 medical services**, addressing both common and chronic conditions.
3. **International Participation:** Foreign devotees also accessed **Ayush OPD consultations** and wellness therapies.
4. **Yoga Therapy Sessions:** Daily therapeutic **yoga sessions** were conducted from **8:00 AM to 9:00 AM** at designated camps in the **Sangam area and Sector-8**, led by experts from the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi**.
5. **Integrated Healthcare:** Over **7 lakh pilgrims** received medical care, including:
 - **4.5 lakh** treated at **23 allopathic hospitals**
 - **3.71 lakh pathology tests** conducted
 - **3,800 minor and 12 major surgeries** successfully performed
6. **Specialist Involvement:** Experts from **AIIMS Delhi, IMS BHU, and international specialists from Canada, Germany, and Russia** contributed to providing world-class healthcare.
7. **Traditional Treatments:** **20 AYUSH hospitals** offered treatments in **Ayurveda, Homeopathy, and Naturopathy** to over **2.18 lakh pilgrims**.
8. **Holistic Wellness:** Services such as **Panchakarma, yoga therapy, and health awareness campaigns** were well-received, enhancing the overall well-being of attendees.

Security Measures

Security at Maha Kumbh 2025 had been strengthened through a seven-tier system with **AI-powered surveillance**, a vast deployment of personnel, and emergency response mechanisms. Over **50,000 security personnel**, including **paramilitary forces, 14,000 home guards**, and 2,750 AI-based CCTV cameras, had been deployed. Enhanced measures included drone and underwater surveillance, cyber security, and river safety. Fire safety infrastructure had been expanded with specialized vehicles and firefighting stations. Lost and Found centers used digital registration and social media updates to reunite missing persons with their families.



Key Security Measures

1. Surveillance and Law Enforcement

- **AI & Drone Monitoring:** 2,750 AI-powered cameras, drones, anti-drones, and tethered drones for real-time tracking.
- **Underwater Drones:** First-time deployment for 24/7 river surveillance, operating up to 100 meters deep.
- **Checkpoints & Intelligence Squads:** Screening at multiple entry points, hotel and vendor inspections, and patrols.
- **Seven-Tier Security System:** Layered protection from the outer perimeter to the inner sanctum.

2. Fire Safety Measures

- **₹131.48 crore allocated** for fire safety, ensuring the deployment of:
 - 351 firefighting vehicles.
 - 50+ fire stations and 20 fire posts.
 - Four **Articulating Water Towers (AWT)** equipped with thermal cameras, reaching 35 meters in height.
 - Over 2,000 trained fire personnel.
 - Fire safety equipment installed in all tent settlements.



3. Emergency & Disaster Response

- **Multi-Disaster Response Vehicles:** Equipped with lifting bags (10-20 tonnes), rescue tools, and victim location cameras.
- **Remote-Controlled Life Buoys:** Deployed for immediate water rescue operations.
- **Incident Response System (IRS):** Ensures swift emergency handling through a coordinated command structure.

4. Enhanced River Security

- **3,800 Water Police personnel** deployed, including 2,500 currently on duty and 1,300 additional personnel before the event.
- **11 FRP Speed Motor Boats** and four Anaconda motorboats with built-in changing rooms for patrol.
- **Three Water Police Stations & Two Floating Rescue Stations** operating 24/7.
- **Four Water Ambulances** equipped with medical facilities stationed along the river.
- **Deep-Water Barricading:** An 8-km stretch secured to prevent accidents.
- **Equipment Deployment:** 100 diving kits, 440 lifebuoys, and over 3,000 life jackets.

5. Overall Deployment & Infrastructure

- **Security Forces:** 10,000+ police personnel, NDRF, SDRF, CAPF, PAC, and bomb disposal squads.
- **Prayagraj Police Infrastructure:**
 - 57 permanent police stations.
 - 13 temporary police stations.
 - 23 security checkpoints.
 - 8 zones, 18 security sectors.
- **700+ boats** with police and disaster response personnel stationed along the rivers.
- **Mock Drills & Inspections:** Conducted by police and ATS teams for security preparedness.

6. CRPF's Role in Maha Kumbh 2025

- **24/7 Security:** Personnel deployed at ghats, Mela grounds, and key routes.
- **Use of Modern Technology:** Vigilant monitoring to handle emergencies effectively.
- **Guidance & Assistance:** Helping devotees navigate massive crowds with a polite approach.
- **Disaster Management:** Rapid response team on high alert for crises.
- **Humanitarian Efforts:** Assisting in reuniting lost children and elderly with their families.

Cyber Security at Maha Kumbh

More than **65 crore** devotees have visited the **Maha Kumbh Nagar**. To ensure that such a large number of devotees are well-informed, the Uttar Pradesh government had decided to utilize every platform, including **print, digital, and social media**. **Cyber experts** have been actively monitoring online threats and investigating gangs exploiting platforms such as **AI, Facebook, X, and Instagram**. A **mobile cyber team** was also deployed for **large-scale public awareness campaigns**.

Special cyber security arrangements were initiated to safeguard devotees from across the globe:

- 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)** installed in both the fair area and the commissionerates for raising awareness about cyber threats.
- Formation of a dedicated helpline number, **1920**, and promotion of verified government websites.

Ease of Making Payments at Maha Kumbh

- **Seamless Digital Banking Services:** Ensuring convenience, safety, and security for millions of devotees and pilgrims.
- **Service Infrastructure:** Service counters, mobile banking units, and customer assistance kiosks at five key locations.
- **Daak Sevaks:** Trusted Daak Sevaks offering **doorstep banking services** for cash withdrawals via Aadhaar-linked accounts through AePS (Aadhaar ATM).
- **'Banking at Call' facility:** Pilgrims can dial **7458025511** to access banking services anywhere within Maha Kumbh.
- **Empowering Digital Transactions:** Enabling local vendors and businesses to accept digital payments through **DakPay QR Cards**, fostering a cashless ecosystem.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Educating pilgrims and vendors through trained professionals, Daak Sevaks, hoardings, and digital demonstrations and assisting with account openings, transactions, and queries.
- **Memorabilia Offer:** Free printed photographs for visitors as a keepsake.

Railway Transportation at Maha Kumbh

Maha Kumbh 2025, necessitated extensive preparations by Indian Railways to ensure seamless transportation, safety, and infrastructure readiness. Indian Railways has undertaken massive operational, infrastructural, and security measures to handle the unprecedented influx of devotees at Prayagraj and adjoining regions.

1. Operational Measures To manage the surge in passengers, Indian Railways has implemented the following measures:

- **Special Train Services:** Over 1,000 special trains are being introduced on high-demand routes to Prayagraj from various parts of India.
- **Increased Train Frequencies:** Regular trains operating on critical routes have been augmented to handle additional passengers.
- **Reservation System Enhancements:** Tatkal and special booking counters have been set up to facilitate smooth ticketing.
- **Dedicated Help Desks:** Information booths and inquiry counters have been increased at major railway stations to assist pilgrims.

2. Security and Crowd Management Given the large congregation, security measures have been significantly bolstered:

- **Deployment of RPF and GRP Personnel:** More than 10,000 personnel from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) have been deployed at key stations.
- **CCTV Surveillance:** High-resolution CCTV cameras have been installed across railway stations and inside trains for real-time monitoring.
- **Drone Surveillance:** Drones are being used for crowd monitoring and quick response to emergencies.
- **AI-Based Crowd Management Systems:** Advanced AI-based predictive modeling is being used to monitor crowd density and prevent stampedes.

3. Infrastructure Development To accommodate the increased footfall, major infrastructural upgrades have been carried out:

- **Expansion of Platforms:** Stations in Prayagraj and nearby regions have undergone expansion to handle additional trains.

- **New Foot Over Bridges (FOBs):** Additional FOBs have been constructed to ease passenger movement.
- **Enhanced Lighting and Signage:** Railway stations have been equipped with improved lighting and digital signboards for better navigation.
- **Escalators and Lifts:** Stations have been upgraded with escalators and lifts for the convenience of elderly and differently-abled passengers.

4. Passenger Amenities and Digital Initiatives To ensure a comfortable experience for devotees, Indian Railways has introduced several passenger-friendly initiatives:

- **Additional Waiting Rooms and Rest Areas:** Temporary waiting halls with adequate seating, clean drinking water, and sanitation facilities have been established.
- **Food and Water Distribution:** Special food counters and kiosks have been set up to provide hygienic meals and drinking water.
- **Digital Ticketing and Mobile App Services:** The Indian Railways app has been upgraded with real-time train tracking, ticket booking, and emergency services information.
- **Public Announcement Systems:** High-quality PA systems have been installed for timely announcements regarding train arrivals and departures.

5. Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response To mitigate risks and handle emergencies effectively, Indian Railways has implemented:

- **Quick Response Teams (QRTs):** Deployed at key stations to handle medical emergencies and crowd control.
- **Onboard Medical Facilities:** Special medical coaches have been added to long-distance trains.
- **Fire Safety Measures:** Fire extinguishers and emergency exits have been reviewed and upgraded in railway coaches and stations.
- **Coordination with Local Authorities:** Continuous coordination with local police, healthcare units, and disaster management teams to handle contingencies.

Bus Transportation at Maha Kumbh

The Uttar Pradesh government had deployed **1200 additional buses on 12 February 2025**, supplementing the **3050 already allocated** for Maha Kumbh 2025. Special **shuttle services** had also been arranged to enhance intra-city transportation.

- Buses were available **every 10 minutes** at **four** temporary bus stations.
- **750 shuttle buses** were operating every **2 minutes** for intra-city connectivity.
- Measures taken to **prevent overcrowding** and ensure smooth pilgrim movement.

Air Transportation for Maha Kumbh

Prayagraj Airport underwent significant modernization to support the large influx of devotees during the Maha Kumbh Mahotsav from January 13 to February 26, 2025. Expansion efforts improved connectivity, capacity, and passenger services, ensuring a seamless travel experience. To ensure seamless travel for tourists attending the Maha Kumbh, the **Ministry of Tourism** had partnered with **Alliance Air** to enhance air connectivity to Prayagraj from multiple cities across India.

1. Flight Operations & Connectivity

- **81 new flights** were introduced in January 2025 to accommodate pilgrims.
- The total number of flights increased to **132**, providing around **80,000 monthly seats**.
- Direct connectivity expanded from **8 cities in December 2024 to 17 cities**, while connecting flights

reached **26 cities**, including Srinagar and Visakhapatnam.

- The **Union Civil Aviation Minister** directed airlines to regulate airfares, especially for peak days like the **Shahi Snan (January 29, February 3)** and other major bathing days (**February 4, 12, and 26**).

2. Passenger and Flight Traffic

- The airport witnessed **30,172 passengers** and operated **226 flights** within a week.
- For the first time, **over 5,000 passengers** traveled through the airport in a single day.
- **Night flights** were introduced, providing **24/7 connectivity**—a historic first in the airport's **106-year history**.

3. Infrastructure Expansion

- The **terminal area expanded** from **6,700 sq. m. to 25,500 sq. m.**
- The **old terminal** was reconfigured to accommodate **1,080 peak-hour passengers**, while a **new terminal** handled **1,620 passengers**.
- **Parking capacity** increased from **200 to 600 vehicles**.
- **Check-in counters** rose from **8 to 42**, and **baggage scanning machines (XBIS-HB)** increased from **4 to 10**.
- **Aircraft parking bays** grew from **4 to 15**, while **conveyor belts** increased from **2 to 5**.
- **Taxi tracks and airport gates** were expanded from **4 to 11**.

4. Enhanced Passenger Experience

- **Boarding bridges** increased from **2 to 6** for smoother passenger movement.
- New **lounges, a childcare room, and additional F&B counters** were introduced.
- The **UDAN Yatri Café** was established for **affordable food options**.
- **Meet-and-greet services** were launched for differently-abled passengers.
- **Prepaid taxi counters and city bus services** were introduced in collaboration with the **UP Government**.

5. Safety & Medical Facilities

- **Security infrastructure** was strengthened with additional **aerobridges and door-framed metal detectors**.
- **Ambulances and air ambulance services** were deployed to handle medical emergencies.
- Arriving pilgrims were given a **floral welcome**, enhancing their spiritual journey.

Ensuring Food Availability and Safety

The Union Government and Uttar Pradesh government have taken multiple measures to provide affordable food and ensure food safety at Maha Kumbh 2025. Subsidized rations, free meals, and stringent food safety protocols are in place to cater to millions of devotees.



1. Subsidized Ration Distribution by NAFED

- **Quality ration** at affordable prices distributed across Prayagraj.
- **Over 1000 metric tons** of rations provided.
- **20 mobile vans** ensure delivery across Maha Kumbh.
- **Orders via WhatsApp/call** on 72757 81810 for doorstep delivery.
- **Subsidized items:**
 - Wheat flour & rice (10 kg packets).
 - Moong, masoor, and chana dal (1 kg packets).

2. Free Meal Distribution & Cooking Gas Arrangements

- **20,000** people served free meals daily.
- **25,000 new ration cards** issued for Maha Kumbh.
- **35,000+ gas cylinders** refilled and 3,500 new connections issued.
- **5,000 gas cylinders** refilled daily to support food preparation.

3. Food Safety Measures by FSSAI & UP Government

- **5 zones & 25 sectors** monitored for food hygiene.
- **56 Food Safety Officers (FSOs)** deployed across the fair.
- **10 Mobile Food Testing Labs (Food Safety on Wheels)** conducting on-the-spot food safety tests.
- Hotels, dhabas & stalls regularly inspected for hygiene compliance.
- Public health lab in Varanasi testing food samples from Maha Kumbh.

4. Awareness & Public Engagement

- **FSSAI's interactive pavilion** educating visitors on food safety.
- Nukkad Natak performances & live quizzes promoting hygiene awareness.
- Adulteration checks & training sessions for vendors and food businesses.

Cleanliness and Sanitation

The **Swachh Maha Kumbh Abhiyan** has set a benchmark for environmental stewardship, ensuring a cleaner and more sustainable pilgrimage experience.



1. Sanitation Infrastructure

- **10,200** sanitation workers and **1,800 Ganga Sevadut** deployed for cleanliness.

2. Waste Management Initiatives

- **22,000** sanitation workers ensuring litter-free fairgrounds.

- **Water treatment** initiatives to maintain clean river water for bathing.
- **Strict plastic ban** and use of biodegradable cutlery.
- Thousands of **bio-toilets** and **automated garbage disposal units** installed.

3. Major Bathing Days and Cleanliness Efforts

- **Basant Panchami (Feb 14, 2025):**
 - **2.33 crore** devotees took a dip in the Triveni Sangam.
 - **15,000 sanitation workers and 2,500 Ganga Seva Doots** deployed.
 - Special cleaning of akhada paths and ghats.
 - **Quick Response Teams (QRTs)** ensured swift waste removal.
- **Magh Purnima (Feb 24, 2025):**
 - **Over 2 crore** devotees participated.
 - **Overnight cleaning drive** restored ghats and fairgrounds.
 - Special cleaning vehicles and cesspool operations maintained sanitation.

4. Sanitation and Waste Disposal System

- **12,000 FRP toilets** with septic tanks.
- **16,100 prefabricated steel toilets** with soak pits.
- **20,000 community urinals** installed.
- **20,000 trash bins** and **37.75 lakh liner bags** for waste collection.
- Special sanitation teams clearing waste post-major rituals.

5. Miyawaki Forests: A Green Initiative

- **119,700 saplings of 63 species** planted in 2023-24 across 34,200 sqm.
- **Buswar dumping yard transformed** into a green zone with **27,000 saplings**.
- **Species planted:** Mango, neem, peepal, tamarind, tulsi, gulmohar, and medicinal plants.

6. Public Participation and Awareness

- **Swachhata Rath Yatra** promoting cleanliness.
- Street plays, musical performances, and public address systems spreading awareness.
- **Waste disposal initiatives:** Segregation at source and organized garbage collection.

7. River Cleaning with Trash Skimmer Machines

- **Two machines remove 10-15 tons of waste daily** from Ganga and Yamuna.
- **Machine capacity:** 13 cubic meters, covering a **4 km stretch** of the river.
- Waste disposal at **Naini plant**, plastic sent for recycling, and organic waste composted.

8. Welfare of Sanitation Workers

- **Sanitation colonies** with housing and amenities.
- **Primary schools for workers' children** under **Vidya Kumbh initiative**.
- Proper food, accommodation, and timely wages ensured.

Water Supply

A large-scale arrangement for clean and pure drinking water has been made for millions of pilgrims coming from across the country and abroad at the Maha Kumbh:

- **233 Water ATMs** installed across the Mela area, operational **24/7**.
- **RO (Reverse Osmosis) purified water** provided to pilgrims.

- **Over 40 lakh pilgrims** benefited from these Water ATMs between **January 21 and February 1, 2025**.
- Initially, water was available at **₹1 per liter** via **coins or UPI payments**, but now it is **completely free**.
- Each ATM is equipped with **sensor-based monitoring** to detect faults.
- **SIM-based technology** ensures connectivity with the administration's **central network**.
- **Each ATM dispenses 12,000 to 15,000 liters** of RO water daily.
- **On-site operators** ensure smooth functioning and quick resolution of technical issues.
- Pilgrims must **refill bottles** instead of using plastic, reducing waste.
- Water supply arrangements focus on **cleanliness and sustainability**.
- **Technical teams** monitor ATMs to ensure **uninterrupted** service.



International Bird Festival

This festival blended **science, nature, and culture**, inspiring conservation efforts and sustainable development.

- **Date & Venue:** February 16-18, 2025, in Prayagraj.
- **Bird Species:** Over **200 migratory and local birds**, including endangered species.
- **Objective:** Promote **environmental conservation and biodiversity awareness**.

Festival Highlights

- **Bird Watching & Awareness**
 - Rare birds like **Indian Skimmer, Flamingo, and Siberian Crane**.
 - Thousands of migratory birds from **Siberia, Mongolia, Afghanistan**, and other regions.
 - **Eco-tourism plan** for devotees, featuring expert-led **bird walks and nature walks**.
- **Competitions & Activities**
 - **Photography, painting, slogan writing, debates, and quizzes**.
 - **Prizes worth ₹21 lakhs** (₹10,000 to ₹5 lakhs).
- **Expert Insights**
 - **Ornithologists, environmentalists, and conservation experts** in technical sessions.
 - Discussions on **bird migration, habitat protection, climate change impact**.
- **Cultural & Educational Programs**
 - **Street plays, art exhibitions, and cultural performances** on biodiversity.

- Student participation in **conservation activities** for hands-on learning.

List of Notable Personalities at Maha Kumbh



Various well-known personalities visited Prayagraj to take a dip in the holy Triveni Sangam. These include:

- **Hon. President of India** Smt. Droupadi Murmu
- **Prime Minister** Shri Narendra Modi
- **Home Minister** Shri Amit Shah
- **Defense Minister** Shri Rajnath Singh
- **Governor of Uttar Pradesh** Smt. Anandiben Patel
- **UP Chief Minister** Yogi Adityanath & Cabinet Ministers
- **Chief Ministers:**
 - Rajasthan – Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma
 - Haryana – Shri Nayab Singh Saini
 - Manipur – Shri N. Biren Singh
 - Gujarat – Shri Bhupendra Patel
- **Union Ministers:**
 - Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
 - Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal
 - Shri Shripad Naik
- **Members of Parliament:**
 - Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi
 - Shri Anurag Thakur
 - Smt. Sudha Murthy
 - Shri Ravi Kishan
- **Sports & Entertainment Personalities**
 - Olympic Medalist Saina Nehwal
 - Cricketer Suresh Raina
 - International Wrestler Khali
 - Renowned Poet Kumar Vishwas
 - Choreographer Remo D'Souza
 - Bollywood Actress Katrina Kaif
 - Bollywood Actress Raveena Tandon

Kalagram

Kalagram, set up by the Ministry of Culture in Sector-7 of the Maha Kumbh district, is a vibrant cultural village showcasing India's rich heritage. Designed around the themes of Craft, Cuisines, and Culture, it offers an immersive experience through performances, exhibitions, and interactive zones. The space brings together traditional arts, folk performances, digital storytelling, and culinary delights, making it a must-visit for devotees and tourists. The exhibition featured performances by nearly 15,000 artists from different parts of the country.



Key Highlights of Kalagram

- **Grand Entrance:** 635 ft wide, 54 ft high façade depicting 12 Jyotirlingas and Lord Shiva consuming Halahal.
- **Massive Stage:** 104 ft wide and 72 ft deep, themed on Char Dham.
- **Performances:** 14,632 artists perform daily on multiple stages.
- **Anubhuti Mandapam:** 360° immersive experience narrating the descent of Ganga.
- **Aviral Shashwat Kumbh:** Digital exhibition by ASI, NAI, and IGNSA on Kumbh's history.
- **Food Zone:** Offers satvik cuisine from different regions and Prayagraj's local delicacies.
- **Sanskriti Aangans:** Handicrafts and handlooms by 98 artisans from seven Zonal Cultural Centres.

International Tourism at Maha Kumbh

The Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj emerged as a global phenomenon, attracting foreign tourists, travel writers, and spiritual seekers from various countries. The Uttar Pradesh government and the Ministry of Tourism implemented extensive initiatives to facilitate international participation, promote cultural exchange, and position the event on the world tourism map.

1. International Participation and Tourism Initiatives

- A group of **British travel writers** visited the Maha Kumbh on **February 25–26, 2025**, exploring religious, historical, and cultural sites in Prayagraj.
- Special plans were executed to provide **accommodation, guided tours, digital information centers, and cultural programs** for foreign visitors.
- The delegation also visited **Prayagraj Fort, Anand Bhawan, Akshayavat, Alfred Park, and the Sangam area**, along with trips to **Ayodhya, Varanasi, and Lucknow**.

2. Foreign Tourists and Cultural Engagement

- Pilgrims and tourists from **South Korea, Japan, Spain, Russia, the United States**, and other nations participated in the festival.
- Many engaged with local guides at the **Sangam Ghat** to understand the **spiritual and cultural significance** of the event.
- A visitor from Spain described the experience as a **“once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”**
- Foreign devotees actively participated in the **rituals and ceremonies**, with many international **sadhus and sanyasis** taking the holy dip.

3. Maha Kumbh as a Global Cultural Brand

- The event was promoted as part of the **"Brand UP" vision**, highlighting Uttar Pradesh's potential for tourism and investment.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government engaged with global tourism and hospitality stakeholders** at international fairs to foster **sustainable tourism** and investment opportunities.
- The strategic engagement aimed to enhance **India's reputation as a land of spirituality and innovation**.

4. Promotion at International Tourism Fairs

- **Maha Kumbh 2025** was showcased at **FITUR in Madrid, Spain (January 24–28, 2025)** and **ITB Berlin, Germany (March 4–6, 2025)**.
- Special **40-square-meter pavilions** were set up to display **Uttar Pradesh's cultural heritage** and attract global tourists.
- **VVIP lounges** facilitated **B2B and B2C interactions**, ensuring international collaborations.
- Promotional materials in **multiple languages** helped reach a diverse global audience.

5. Digital Maha Kumbh and Global Engagement

- The event's **official website** saw **33 lakh visitors from 183 countries** in the first week of January.
- Visitors from **6,206 cities worldwide** accessed the platform, with **India, the United States, Britain, Canada, and Germany** leading the traffic.
- The **technical team managing the site** reported a surge in global traffic, with millions of daily users exploring content on Maha Kumbh's **history and spiritual significance**.
- The **digital initiative** ensured seamless access to information, enabling visitors to focus on the **spiritual aspects** of the festival without logistical challenges.

6. Incredible India Pavilion and Tourist Services

- On **January 12, 2025**, the **Ministry of Tourism** set up the **Incredible India Pavilion**, a **5,000 sq. ft. immersive space** at Maha Kumbh.
- The pavilion facilitated **foreign tourists, scholars, researchers, journalists, photographers, and the Indian diaspora**.
- The **Dekho Apna Desh People's Choice Poll** allowed visitors to vote for their favorite tourism destinations in India.
- A **dedicated toll-free Tourist Infoline (1800111363 or 1363)** was launched, operating in **10 international languages** and Indian regional languages like **Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali, Assamese, and Marathi**.

7. Luxury Accommodation and Travel Packages

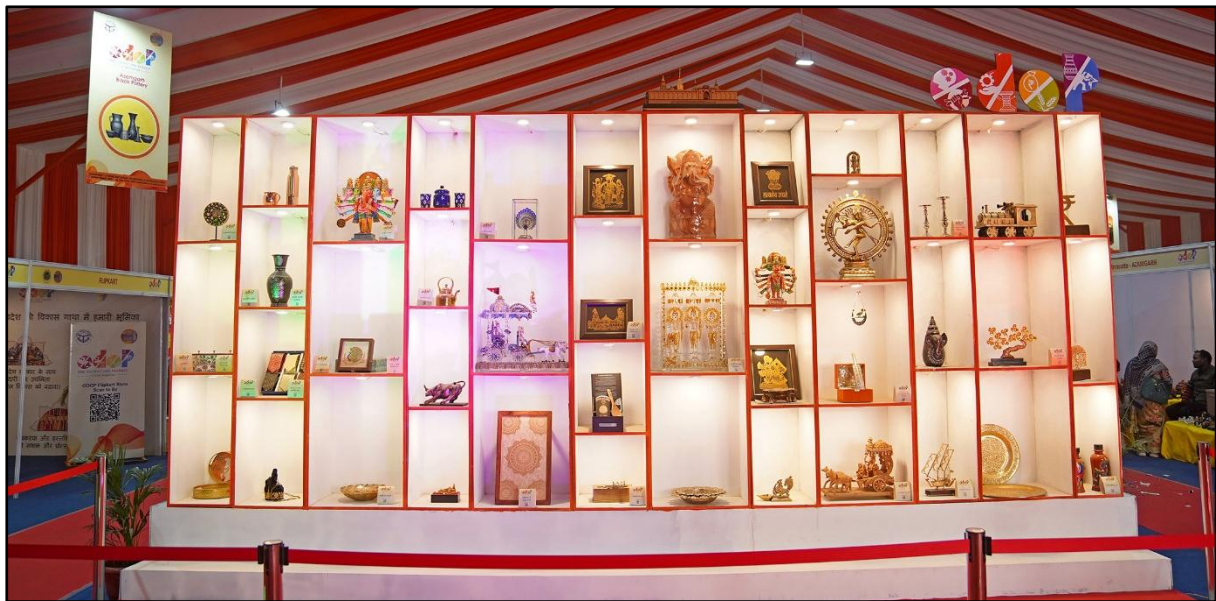
- The **Ministry of Tourism** collaborated with **UPSTDC, IRCTC, and ITDC** to provide curated **tour packages and luxury accommodations**.

- **ITDC set up 80 luxury accommodations at Tent City, Prayagraj, while IRCTC introduced luxury tents** for the convenience of international tourists.
- **A digital brochure detailing the tour packages** was widely circulated through **Indian Missions and India Tourism Offices** to reach a broader audience.

Through these extensive efforts, Maha Kumbh 2025 successfully established itself as a **global spiritual and cultural event**, reinforcing Uttar Pradesh's identity as a premier destination for **religious tourism and international investment**.

Key Exhibitions at Maha Kumbh

The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 featured a vast array of exhibitions designed to showcase India's rich cultural, artistic, and spiritual heritage. These exhibitions provided visitors and pilgrims with a unique opportunity to engage with the traditions, crafts, and historical narratives of India.



1. Kumbh Gram (Sector 7) Exhibitions

A specially curated space in Sector 7 of Kumbh Gram hosted several exhibitions reflecting the diverse aspects of India's heritage, handicrafts, tourism, and disaster preparedness. These included:

- **Khadi Gramodyog Exhibition:** Displaying the significance of khadi and village industries, promoting indigenous craftsmanship and self-reliance.
- **One District One Product (ODOP) Pavilion:** Showcasing district-specific products from Uttar Pradesh, supporting local artisans and businesses.
- **Uttar Pradesh Darshan Mandapam:** A visual journey through the major cultural and religious sites of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Incredible India Kala Gram:** Featuring a vast collection of artistic works that celebrated India's folk and traditional art forms.
- **Chhattisgarh Exhibition:** Presenting the unique cultural and traditional aspects of Chhattisgarh, including tribal art and crafts.
- **Uttar Pradesh Tourism Exhibition:** Highlighting major tourist destinations within Uttar Pradesh, encouraging travel and exploration.
- **North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC) Pavilion:** Dedicated to promoting the region's diverse cultural performances, arts, and heritage.
- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Exhibition:** Educating visitors on disaster preparedness, resilience, and emergency response mechanisms.

2. 'Bhagwat' Exhibition at Allahabad Museum

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the 'Bhagwat' exhibition at the Allahabad Museum, an initiative that showcased a remarkable collection of miniature paintings inspired by the Bhagwat. The exhibition presented intricate depictions of significant events from the Bhagwat, offering visitors a deep insight into India's spiritual and artistic traditions.

3. 'Aviral Shashvat Kumbh' Exhibition

This exhibition provided a historical perspective on the Kumbh Mela, tracing its origins and evolution over centuries. Featuring artifacts, digital displays, and informational posters, 'Aviral Shashvat Kumbh' aimed to educate visitors on the enduring legacy of this grand festival and its role in India's spiritual landscape.

The exhibitions at Maha Kumbh 2025 not only enhanced the spiritual experience of pilgrims but also served as a window into India's rich cultural heritage. Through a blend of traditional artistry, historical retrospectives, and interactive showcases, these exhibitions played a crucial role in making Maha Kumbh 2025 an enriching and memorable event for millions of attendees.

Telecom at Maha Kumbh: BSNL

Under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative**, **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** played a crucial role in strengthening the communication infrastructure at the Maha Kumbh 2025, ensuring reliable connectivity for millions of pilgrims, administrative officials, security forces, and volunteers. A dedicated customer service center was set up in the Mela area, where visitors received on-site assistance, complaint resolution, and uninterrupted communication services.

Pilgrims from different parts of the country were provided with free SIM cards from their respective circles. If any pilgrim lost or damaged their SIM card, they did not need to return to their home state, as BSNL had arranged for SIM cards from all circles across the country to be available in the Mela area. This service was provided free of charge, allowing devotees to stay connected with their families throughout the event.

BSNL established a camp office at Lal Road, Sector-2, from where all communication services were managed. There was a significant increase in demand for fiber connections, leased line connections, and mobile recharges during the Kumbh, and BSNL ensured the availability of SIM cards from different states, benefiting both pilgrims and security personnel.

To guarantee uninterrupted communication, BSNL activated a total of 90 BTS towers in the Mela area:

- **30 BTS towers** operating on the **700 MHz 4G band**
- **30 BTS towers** on the **2100 MHz band**
- **30 BTS towers** with **2G-enabled connectivity**

Additionally, BSNL provided several advanced communication services, including:

- Internet leased lines
- Wi-Fi hotspots
- High-speed internet (FTTH)
- Webcasting
- SD-WAN services
- Bulk SMS services
- M2M SIMs
- Satellite phone services

Through these initiatives, BSNL ensured seamless communication throughout the Mahakumbh 2025, supporting both the public and the administrative machinery in managing the grand event efficiently.

Akharas at Maha Kumbh

In Maha Kumbh 2025, the **Akharas** played a significant role, representing various traditions and sects of Sanatan Dharma. The word 'Akshara' originates from 'Akhand,' meaning indivisible. These religious institutions have existed since the **6th century** during the time of **Adi Guru Shankaracharya** and have been the custodians of spiritual practices and rituals at the Kumbh Mela.



A total of **13 Akharas** participated in this Maha Kumbh, including the **Kinnar Akhara**, **Dashnam Sannyasini Akhara**, and **Mahila Akhara**, symbolizing gender equality and a progressive outlook. The grand processions and sacred rituals of the Akharas were among the main attractions of the event, inspiring millions of devotees toward spiritual growth, discipline, and unity.

These institutions not only preserved the spiritual and cultural values of Sanatan Dharma but also embraced modern sensibilities by promoting inclusivity and equality. The presence of the Akharas at Maha Kumbh fostered unity across caste, religion, and cultural diversity, making the event a symbol of spiritual and cultural enrichment.

Green Maha Kumbh: A National-Level Environmental Discussion

The Green Maha Kumbh was held on **January 31, 2025**, as a significant platform to promote environmental awareness alongside cultural and spiritual traditions. The event brought together over **1,000** environmental and water conservation experts from across the country. It was organized as part of the **Gyan Maha Kumbh - 2081** series by **Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas**.

The discussions at the Green Maha Kumbh focused on:

- Issues related to **nature, the environment, water, and cleanliness**.
- Maintaining the **balance of the five elements of nature**.
- Sharing **best practices** in environmental conservation and cleanliness.
- Strategies to engage **devotees in sustainability efforts** during Maha Kumbh.

Experts from various fields shared their insights and experiences on tackling environmental challenges and implementing eco-friendly solutions. Additionally, the discussions explored ways to **raise awareness among visitors** about environmental protection, promoting initiatives that ensured a cleaner and greener Maha

Kumbh. The event reinforced the vision of an **environmentally responsible** Maha Kumbh, setting a precedent for sustainable practices in future religious gatherings.

Netra Kumbh



Maha Kumbh 2025 witnessed several record-breaking initiatives, with a significant focus on healthcare and social welfare. One of the most remarkable efforts was the **Netra Kumbh**, a massive eye care initiative aimed at combating vision impairment. Spanning 10 acres in Sector 5 near Nagvasuki, the event set new benchmarks in eye testing and spectacle distribution, striving to secure a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

- **Record-Breaking Eye Tests & Spectacles:** Over 5 lakh people underwent eye tests, and 3 lakh spectacles were distributed.
- **Daily OPD & Facilities:** The Netra Kumbh had 11 hangars, offering 10,000 consultations daily with specialists and optometrists.
- **Previous Achievement:** The earlier Netra Kumbh secured a place in the Limca Book of Records.
- **Aim for Guinness World Record:** The 2025 event sought to surpass previous achievements and enter the Guinness Book of World Records.
- **Eye Donation Camp:** Encouraged donations to help reduce blindness, addressing corneal issues affecting over 15 million people in India.

BHASHINI in Maha Kumbh

At Maha Kumbh 2025, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) successfully leveraged **BHASHINI**, a revolutionary initiative under the Digital India program, to overcome language barriers and enhance communication. By offering multilingual access in 11 Indian languages, BHASHINI transformed information dissemination, navigation, emergency response, and governance, ensuring a seamless experience for millions of pilgrims. Additionally, the **Kumbh Sah'AI'yak** chatbot, powered by AI, provided real-time assistance, making Maha Kumbh 2025 more accessible and technologically advanced than ever before.

BHASHINI's Role in Maha Kumbh 2025:

1. **Real-Time Information Dissemination:** Announcements, event schedules, and safety guidelines were translated into 11 Indian languages, enabling pilgrims to stay informed regardless of their native language.
2. **Simplified Navigation:** BHASHINI's speech-to-text, text-to-speech tools, and multilingual chatbot, integrated with mobile applications and kiosks, assisted devotees in finding their way.

3. **Accessible Emergency Services:** The CONVERSE feature helped pilgrims communicate with the **112-emergency helpline** in their native languages, in collaboration with the UP Police.
4. **E-Governance Support:** Authorities used BHASHINI to effectively communicate regulations, guidelines, and public service announcements to a diverse audience.
5. **Lost and Found Assistance:** BHASHINI's **Digital Lost & Found Solution** enabled visitors to register lost or found items using voice inputs, with real-time translations simplifying the process.

Kumbh Sah'AI'yak Chatbot:

- Launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, this AI-powered, multilingual, voice-enabled chatbot played a crucial role in assisting pilgrims.
- Powered by advanced AI technologies like **Llama LLM**, it provided real-time navigation and event-related information.
- BHASHINI's language translation enabled the chatbot to function in **Hindi, English, and nine other Indian languages**, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility.

Akashvani's Kumbhvani



In a significant initiative to keep devotees and pilgrims informed, **Akashvani's Kumbhvani News Bulletins** were broadcasted live through the public address system in Mahakumbh Nagar in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The first Kumbhvani News Bulletin was aired on public address system today i.e. 18.01.2025 at 8:30 am. The Kumbhvani news bulletins were broadcasted three times a day, at 8:30-8:40 am, 2:30-2:40 pm, and 8:30-8:40 pm, providing updates on various activities related to the Mahakumbh Mela. Additionally, devotees could also tune in to Kumbhvani news bulletins on **103.5 MHz frequency** in Prayagraj.

References

- <https://pib.gov.in/EventDetail.aspx?ID=1197®=3&lang=1>
<https://www.instagram.com/airnewsalerts/p/DE3txwqIpRQ/>

Santosh Kumar | Sarla Meena | Rishita Aggarwal