

The Kumbh 2025: Bestower of Sarvasiddhi (All Attainments) and Divine Enlightenment

Yogi Adityanath^{1*}

1. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh State.
Email id: gorakhnathmandir@yahoo.com

Abstract

The tradition of Mahakumbh has flourished from Indian great spiritual and cultural heritage. Mahakumbh is the vibration of cultural and spiritual consciousness of India. It is a divine and lively glimpse of 'One India-Great India-Inclusive India'. Maha Kumbh is a eternal and integrated victory cry of unity in diversity of India. Skanda Purana and Vishnu Purana are emphasizing importance of bathing in Mahakumbh. This event deepens the experience of spirituality and is a confluence of astrology, astronomy, tradition, rituals, social and cultural perspectives. Mahakumbh indicates that antiquity should not only be preserved but also rediscovered. For Mahakumbh 2025 various public accommodations were arranged. A special plan was prepared for security and convenience on special bathing festivals like Paush Purnima, Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya, Basant Panchami, Magh Purnima, and Mahashivratri. The Kumbh Mela, with its uninterrupted flow of faith, is a centre of attraction for the whole world. This Kumbh mela is often regarded as 'Sarvasiddhipradah Kumbh,' the Kumbh that grants all achievements. The 2025 Mahakumbh highlighted the U.P. Government's exceptional organization, utilizing infrastructure efficiently for a well-executed event.

Key words: Mahakumbh, Skanda Purana, Prayagraj, Rivers, Spirituality

Introduction

Maha Kumbh is the vibration of cultural and spiritual consciousness of India. It is a divine and lively glimpse of 'One India-Great India-Inclusive India'. Kumbh, which blossoms and flourishes in the loving lap of multi-religious, multi-cultural, multi-lingual India, is not just a fair or a dip, but an eternal and integrated victory cry of unity in diversity of India. The chirping of faith between splendor and detachment, 'Mahakumbh' is such a great festival of Sanatan culture, which immerses all differences, disputes and differences of opinion in the sacred flow of faith and tradition. It is the biggest spiritual fair on earth.

In this much-awaited fair, crores of devotees forget their ego and misconceptions and take a bath in the Amrit Dhara of the great Sanatan culture with the desire of salvation and liberation as well as to get rid of the defects of the body, mind and intellect. We all are getting the opportunity to witness the divine and grand Maha Kumbh Prayagraj-2025, it is a matter of great fortune.

Importance of Maha Kumbh as per Indian mythology

In the mythological scriptures, while praising the glory of Kumbh-festival, bathing in it has been described as the destroyer of all sins and the giver of infinite virtue. It is described in Skanda Purana-

सहस्रं कार्तिके स्नानं माघे स्नानशतानि च।

वैशाखे नर्मदा कोटिः कुम्भस्नानेन तत्फलम्।।

The merit obtained by bathing in the Ganges a thousand times in the month of Kartik, by bathing a hundred times at the confluence in Magh, or by bathing a crore times in the Narmada in Vaisakh, is obtained by bathing just once in the Kumbh (1).

The Vishnu Purana also praises the Kumbh bath, saying:

अश्वमेधसहस्राणि वाजपेयशतानि च।

लक्षप्रदक्षिणा भूमेः कुम्भस्नानेन तत्फलम्।।

The amount of merit accumulated by performing a thousand Ashvamedha sacrifices, a hundred Vajapeya sacrifices, or circumambulating the earth a hundred thousand times is obtained by bathing once in the Kumbh. It is remarkable that no invitation cards are published, no invitations are sent, and no collective requests are made for arrival, yet whenever the Mahakumbh is organized, a spontaneous tide of devotion and faith surges forth. The Kumbh is also held in Haridwar (on the Ganges), Ujjain (on the Kshipra), and Nashik (on the Godavari), but Prayagraj Kumbh has special significance. Here, devotees get the opportunity to bathe at the confluence of three sacred rivers. Prayagraj is often referred to as the king of pilgrimage sites (2).

Goswami Tulsidas says:

“को कहि सकइ प्रयाग प्रभाऊ। कलुष पुंज कुंजर मृगराऊ।।

अस तीरथपति देखि सुहावा। सुख सागर रघुबर सुख पावा।।”

(गोस्वामी तुलसीदास)

The glory of Prayagraj can be described with the given example: Just as a lion, the king of the jungle, has the power to stop a herd of mad elephants, Prayagraj, the king of pilgrimage sites, can wash away the sins of humans. Even Lord Rama found bliss in the presence of this sacred place. Thus, the successful organization of the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj is only possible through divine grace.

Beneficial effect on society

We are committed to making Mahakumbh a confluence of spirituality and modernity, national unity, Indian philosophy, and all creative forces. The Kumbh Mela, with its uninterrupted flow of faith, is a center of attraction for the whole world. This event deepens the experience of spirituality and is a confluence of astrology, astronomy, tradition, rituals, social and cultural perspectives. It is a confluence of the four Vedas and the ancient Indian civilization. It is an infinite flow of humanity and an inexhaustible source of energy.

Strengthening effects on mental health and body

If one looks closely, and he or she can see "prosperity and renunciation" playing together on the shining sands of the confluence. Even with minimal amenities, one can seek and preserve the joy of the inner self, creating a path for life; this art can be learned with great ease in the school of Kumbh. There are many examples where foreign devotees, overwhelmed by the spiritual dust here, renounced their material wealth and immersed themselves in the ocean of devotion. The reason behind this is that materialism influences us but does not inspire us. Therefore, it is said that the path of the traveller from an "impressive world" to an "inspiring world" leads to Mahakumbh.

Amrut (nectar) - Mahakumbh

Mahakumbh is a confluence of "offering, ritual pouring, and surrender," which is a spiritual inspiration along with a movement for social reformation. That's why it is said in public life that Kumbh is the nectar-like flow of the unity of eternal culture, which has been flowing for eternity, but today's self-centred, convenience-oriented, time-scarce lifestyle deprives us of its real nectar. Until three or four decades ago, despite the lack of resources, a large group of devotees would stay for the entire Kumbh. Here, in the dignified presence of revered saints, respected sanyasis, religious leaders, mahamandaleshwars, revered Shankaracharyas, thinkers, sages, philosophers, and detached individuals, there was a critical examination of our life values and ideals, reflection on their relevance, and deliberation on social problems. This gave social life a smooth flow and novelty. There was vitality in contemplation, and stagnation was far away. Returning from here, people shared the discussions held at Kumbh with their villages and society. Many saints, on the insistence of inquisitive and devout people, would stop in their villages on their way back from Kumbh and deliver discourses. Through this practice, the religious consciousness of India, inspired by the awareness of the common people living in the regions, reached the educated and uneducated ordinary people.

There are many interpretations of Kumbh, such as in Indian philosophy, where the soul is called amrit and the body is called kumbh. In this body-like kumbh, the soul-like amrit element is believed to exist, which remains covered by sin and virtue, differentiation and non-differentiation, mine and yours, attachment and illusion. Through the realization of the self, one gets the

opportunity to sip the nectar-like water of knowledge from the Kumbh.

Efforts of U.P. State Government in Administrative Management

In Mahakumbh 2025, it is estimated that about 66 crores devotees arrived in the city of Prayagraj. The state government prioritised providing all possible basic facilities to them. This year's Prayagraj Mahakumbh, held after a gap of 12 years, was more divine and grand than all previous Kumbh festivals. This intangible cultural heritage of humanity showcased the glorious tradition of eternal Indian culture, diverse social environment, and public faith to the whole world. In the 2019 Kumbh, the cooperation of 5,721 organizations was taken, while in the Mahakumbh, about 10,000 organizations are working together for a single purpose. The Mahakumbh Mela area, spread over 4,000 hectares and divided into 25 sectors, was equipped with all necessary arrangements for the convenience of devotees. A 12 km long ghat, parking in 1,850 hectares, 450 km of chequered plates, 30 pontoon bridges, 67,000 street lights, 1,50,000 toilets, 1,50,000 tents, and more than 25,000 public accommodations were arranged. A special plan was prepared for security and convenience on special bathing festivals like Paush Purnima, Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya, Basant Panchami, Magh Purnima, and Mahashivratri. To make such a massive event memorable, the state government worked with a holistic approach on four main points: information, cleanliness, communication, and security. Ensuring accurate information, better sanitation throughout the area, a robust communication system, and security for everyone was the top priority of U.P. Government. The arrival of crores of pilgrims from Prayagraj, the state, the country and other parts of the world was expected. For the convenience and guidance of places, routes, and sites, the 'Mahakumbh Mela 2025' app was launched. This app provided detailed information about the ghats, temples, and major religious sites in Prayagraj, so that devotees and tourists could reach their destinations without any hassle. In terms of religious faith and tourism, Prayagraj is significant. The beautification and renovation of various temples and historical sites in Prayagraj, such as Akshayavat, Saraswati Kup, Patalpuri, Bade Hanuman Temple, Dwadash Madhav Temple, Bharadwaj Ashram, Nagvasuki Temple, and Shringaverpur Dham, was completed. Through the strengthening of these religious sites, the ancient glory of Prayagraj was also restored. Keeping in mind the mythological significance of Mahakumbh, an Amrit Kalash was established in the mela area this time. A replica of the scene of droplets falling from the Amrit Kalash was displayed on an area of about 12,000 square feet. To make this grand event unforgettable, the city's roads, squares, walls, temples, and bridges were decorated on a war footing. In this sequence, five ancient temples in Kumbh Nagar—Maa Allop Shankari Devi Temple, Shri Shankar Vimana Mandapam Temple, Shri Hanumant Niketan Temple in Civil Lines, Shringi Rishi Temple in Shringaverpur Dham, and Nagvasuki Temple—were illuminated with facade lighting so that tourists and devotees could see them in a majestic and artistic form at night. This boosted night tourism. Facade lighting work was also done on the fort located on the Yamuna riverbank

and the Shastri Bridge. To promote tourism, Tent City, Triveni Pushp, Floating Restaurants, Water Sports, and Sports Complex were constructed. Rail is the lifeline of India, preferred for convenient, affordable, comfortable, and secure travel. In Prayagraj Mahakumbh, it is estimated that about 10 crore passengers and devotees arrived by train. At all railway stations in Prayagraj, about 10 shelter sites were built for the stay of approximately 25,000 passengers. The crowd management roadmap was prepared by the Mahakumbh Railway Nodal Division, Prayagraj Mandal. The state government also made robust arrangements for the health care of devotees. For the devotees coming to the largest spiritual event in the world, 10 lakh OPDs and 10,000 IPDs were fully prepared. High-tech temporary hospitals were built for the health check-up of devotees, with a team of doctors from AIIMS Raebareilly for healthcare. In this sequence, all major hospitals in Prayagraj were upgraded. For the smooth movement of devotees and tourists, the widening of the city's main roads was completed. To strengthen the connectivity of Prayagraj city, the National Highway Authority of India was constructing a ring road and several other highways, and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was building a six-lane bridge over the Ganges. To make the connectivity of Bamrauli Airport smoother, beautification and strengthening of the road, ROB, and flyover at Subedar Ganj were being done. The widening of roads, drainage system, lighting, and strengthening of basic amenities made traffic smoother and ensure that arriving devotees do not face any inconvenience. In Mahakumbh 2025, drivers, boatmen, guides, and cart operators wore special track suits with the emblem of Kumbh and the tourism department. This would identify the person and ensure transparency in any information or assistance. This new arrangement will help control any disorder and traveler problems in the mela. About 2,300 cameras were used for crowd monitoring, crowd density analysis, incident reporting, and surveillance for cleanliness and security. In the previous Kumbh Mela 2019, 1,100 cameras were installed. The Mahakumbh, being held in the Amrit Kaal, is an elixir for the economy as well. Economic activities related to the festival are expected to create employment opportunities for more than 6,00,000 workers in various sectors. In Kumbh, diplomats, tourists, and devotees come from countries like Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mauritius, Singapore, America, the UK, Sri Lanka, and many others. Therefore, there was a significant creation of jobs in the hospitality sector, airlines, airports, travel, medical, and eco-tourism. Additionally, there is hope for the creation of thousands of jobs in the informal sector. The Prayagraj Mahakumbh, like such a massive gathering, would not only increase the income of vendors, taxi drivers, tour guides, interpreters, and service providers directly or indirectly in contact with tourists but would also provide employment to more than 45,000 families directly or indirectly. New sources of employment will also develop around all religious tourist sites. Certainly, under the guidance of the Prime Minister and with the cooperation of the central government, the grand and divine Prayagraj Mahakumbh set global standards for security, convenience, and organization. For

the convenience and dignity of devotees and tourists, world-class infrastructure, beautiful buildings, and excellent technical services were arranged.

Summary

However, to understand the significance of Mahakumbh, one must experience the flowing waters of the sacred Triveni. The tradition of Mahakumbh has flourished from our great spiritual and cultural heritage. The Kumbh Mela is a major medium for self-discovery. Every person who comes here experiences something different. Some see unity in diversity, while others find a path to liberation from the cycle of birth and death. Some are amazed by the confluence of cultures, while others encounter truth and establish it in their souls. Here, in the divine environment of the confluence, some transcend their limited self and become dedicated to the universe, while others realize the essence of the self and drink the nectar-like element of the vast ocean of Narayana. In the midst of the strong winds of individualism, consumerism, and materialism prevailing in the world, this eternal Indian philosophy strengthens the timeless sentiment of "cooperation, coexistence, and coexistence." With the grand entry of the saints of the largest Juna Akhara in the city of Prayagraj, Mahakumbh 2025 has begun. From January 13, 2025, to February 26, 2025, this 45-day-long Mahakumbh of spirituality and culture has brought a new dawn of peace and harmony for humanity and the global village. Therefore, for the indescribable experience of spiritual journeys, for the joyful experience of cultural unity, for the encounter with unparalleled traditions and epoch-making inspirations, for the technique of devotion, power, and liberation, for the confluence of faith, identity, and joy, for immersion in meditation, worship, and adoration, for being filled with positivity and affection, for self-dialogue, and to witness the largest human gathering on Earth, come to 'Sarvasiddhipradah Kumbh,' the Kumbh that grants all achievements.

Conclusion

Mahakumbh indicates that antiquity should not only be preserved but also rediscovered. Not only should the virtues of ancient times be praised, but their creation process and ideas should also be molded into modern forms. Philosophy and ideas should have a form that is both beneficial to the public and pleasing to the people. The eternal desire for the nectar of civilization since the churning of the ocean will be fulfilled only when time permits, but for the completeness, sovereignty, and universality of eternal culture, Mahakumbh is like a boon of nectar. Tirtharaj Prayag is invited everybody to immerse their self in that nectar stream in Mahakumbh 2025. The Mahakumbh 2025 showcased the exceptional organizational skills of the U.P. Government, which executed the event in a well-structured manner, making the most efficient use of available infrastructure.

References

1. Skanda Purana
2. Vishnu Purana
