

MAHAKUMBH

The term 'Kumbh' comes from the root 'Kumbhak' (the sacred pitcher of elixir of immortality). There is a mention of 'Kumbh' and the bathing ritual associated with it in the Rig Veda. It speaks of the benefit of bathing at sangam during this period, elimination of negative influences and rejuvenation of mind and soul. Prayers for the 'Kumbh' are also expressed in Atharva Veda and Yajur Veda.

It recounts how Gods and demons fought over the sacred pitcher (Kumbh) of Amrit (nectar of immortality) called the Ratna of Samudra Manthan. It is widely believed that Lord Vishnu (disguised as the enchantress 'Mohani') whisked the Kumbh out of the grasp of the covetous demons who had tried to claim it. As he took it heavenwards, a few drops of the precious nectar fell on the four sacred site we know as Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik and Prayag.

The Kumbh Mela is the largest public gathering and collective act of faith, anywhere in the world. The Mela draws tens of millions of pilgrims over the course of approximately 45 days to bathe at the sacred confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati. Primarily, this congregation includes Ascetics, Saints, Sadhus, Sadhvis, Kalpvasis, and Pilgrims from all walks of life.

MAIN BATHING DAYS

| D-day (Main Bathing Day) | Date |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| PAUSH POORNIMA | 13.01.2025 |
| MAKAR SANKRANTI | 14.01.2025 |
| MAUNI AMAVASYA | 29.01.2025 |
| BASANT PANCHAMI | 03.02.2025 |
| MAGHI POORNIMA | 12.02.2025 |
| MAHASHIVRATRI | 26.02.2025 |

PRAYAGRAJ CITY

In 600 BC, there was a kingdom covering the part of present district of Prayagraj. It was called 'Vatsa' with capital as 'Kaushambi', the remains of which still lies south-west of Prayagarj. Gautam Buddha also honoured this city with his three visits. After this, the region came under the Mauryan rule, Kaushambi was made the headquarter of one of the provincials of 'Ashoka'. Under his instructions two monolithioc pillars were erected at Kaushambi one of which later shifted to Prayagraj. Prayagraj has been the hub of politics and education. University of Allahabad was once known as Oxford of East. The city has given large number of political leaders, including three Prime Ministers to the country. It has been the centre of literature, art as well as the movement for freedom of India from British Empire.

PLACES TO VISIT IN PRAYAGRAJ:-

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ➤ Shankar Viman Mandapam | ➤ Anand Bhawan |
| ➤ The rivered temple of Veni Madhav | ➤ Prayag Sangeet Samiti |
| ➤ Sankatmochan Hanuman Temple | ➤ Allahabad University |
| ➤ Mankameshwar Temple | ➤ Public Library |
| ➤ Bhardwaj Ashram | ➤ Ganga Library |
| ➤ Victoria Memorial | ➤ Shree Akhileshwar Mahadev Mandir |
| ➤ Takshakeshwar Nath Temple | ➤ Dashashwamedha Temple |

NEARBY ATTRACTION:-

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| ➤ Vindhyachal | ➤ Varanasi |
| ➤ Chitrakoot | ➤ Ayodhya |

FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT RAILWAY STATIONS

1. Waiting Room and Waiting Hall.
2. Sleeping Pods.
3. Retiring Room/Dormitory.
4. Executive Lounge.
5. Battery Operated Cars for movement on platforms for Elderly/Divyang.
6. Wheel Chair.
7. Public transport outside the Railway station.
8. Catering facility.
9. First aid booths.
10. Tourist booth.
11. Pradhanmantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
12. Provision of Multilingual Announcement.
13. Cloak Room.

Note:- Some of these facilities may not be available on main bathing days due to movement restrictions.

DIRECTION WISE STATIONS

There are 9 railway stations in Prayagraj City from where passengers of different directions can catch their train on peak days (D-1 to D+2):-

| ZONE | RAILWAY STATION | DIRECTION TOWARDS |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--|
| NCR | PRAYAGRAJ Jn. (PRYJ) | KANPUR(CNB) Pt. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY (DDU) SATNA (STA) JHANSI (VGLJ) |
| | NAINI Jn. (NYN) | SATNA (STA) JHANSI (VGLJ) Pt. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY (DDU) |
| | PRAYAGRAJ CHHEOKI (PCOI) | SATNA (STA) JHANSI (VGLJ) Pt. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY (DDU) |
| | SUBEDARGANJ (SFG) | KANPUR(CNB) Pt. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY (DDU) SATNA (STA) JHANSI (VGLJ) |
| NR | PRAYAGRAJ SANGAM (PYGS) | AYODHYA (AY) JAUNPUR (JNU) LUCKNOW (LKO) (Only other than peak days) |
| | PRAYAG Jn. (PRG) | AYODHYA (AY) JAUNPUR (JNU) LUCKNOW (LKO) |
| | PHAPHAMAU (PFM) | |
| NER | PRAYAGRAJ RAMBAG (PRRB) | VARANASI (BSB) GORAKHPUR (GKP) |
| | JHUSI (JI) | MAU (MAU) |

RESTRICTIONS ON PEAK DAYS

During Kumbh Mela some restrictions shall be imposed at Railway stations for passengers safety and their smooth evacuation. Restriction period shall be from D-1 to D+2 where 'D' is main bathing day.

| D-day (Main Bathing Day) | Date | Restriction Period |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| PAUSH POORNIMA | 13.01.2025 | 12.01.2025(00:00 hrs.) to 16.01.2025 (24:00 hrs.) |
| MAKAR SANKRANTI | 14.01.2025 | |
| MAUNI AMAVASYA | 29.01.2025 | 28.01.2025(00:00 hrs.) to 31.01.2025 (24:00 hrs.) |
| BASANT PANCHAMI | 03.02.2025 | 02.02.2025(00:00 hrs.) to 05.02.2025 (24:00 hrs.) |
| MAGHI POORNIMA | 12.02.2025 | 11.02.2025(00:00 hrs.) to 14.02.2025 (24:00 hrs.) |
| MAHASHIVRATRI | 26.02.2025 | 25.02.2025(00:00 hrs.) to 28.02.2025 (24:00 hrs.) |

DURING RESTRICTION PERIOD:-

PRAYAGRAJ JUNCTION:-

- Entry shall be given from City side (PF-1 side) only.
- Exit shall be allowed towards Civil Lines side only.
- Direction wise movement through *Yatri Ashray* for unreserved passengers.
- Ticketing arrangements in enclosures in the form of counters, ATVMs and Mobile ticketing.
- Separate entry of reserved passengers shall be given through Gate no. 5 from City side.
- Reserved passengers will be allowed on platforms only 30 minutes before arrival of their trains.

NAINI JUNCTION:-

- Entry shall be given from Station road only.
- Exit shall be given towards Malgodam side (2nd entry) only.
- Direction wise movement through *Yatri Ashray* for unreserved passengers.
- Ticketing arrangements in enclosures in the form of counters, ATVMs and Mobile ticketing.

PRAYAGRAJ CHHEOKI STATION:-

- Entry shall be given from COD road only connecting Prayagraj-Mirzapur highway.
- Exit shall be given towards GEC Naini road (1st entry) only.
- Direction wise *Yatri Ashray* for unreserved passengers.
- Ticketing arrangements in enclosures in the form of counters, ATVMs and Mobile ticketing.

SUBEDARGANJ STATION:-

- Entry shall be given from Jhalwa side only.
- Exit shall be given towards GT road side only.
- *Yatri Ashray* for unreserved passengers.
- Ticketing arrangements in enclosures in the form of counters, ATVMs and Mobile ticketing.

PRAYAG JUNCTION:-

- Entry shall be given from Chaitham line (PF-1) only.
- Exit shall be given towards Rampriya road (PF-4) only.
- Direction wise movement through *Yatri Ashray* for unreserved passengers.
- Ticketing arrangements in enclosures in the form of counters, ATVMs and Mobile ticketing.

PHAPHAMAU STATION:-

- Entry shall be given from 2nd Entry side (PF-4) only.
- Exit shall be given towards Phaphamau Bazar (PF-1) only.
- Direction wise movement through *Yatri Ashray* for unreserved passengers.
- Ticketing arrangements in enclosures in the form of counters, ATVMs and Mobile ticketing.

PRAYAGRAJ RAMBAG STATION:-

- Entry shall be given from Main Entry towards Hanuman Mandir Chauraha only.
- Exit shall be given towards Lowther road only.
- Ticketing arrangements in enclosures in the form of counters, ATVMs and Mobile ticketing.

JHUSI STATION:-

- Entry and exit shall be given from both side of the station.
- Ticketing arrangements in enclosures in the form of counters, ATVMs and Mobile ticketing.

Note:- *Prayagraj Sangam Station* will remain closed on main bathing days(D-1 to D+2).

COLOUR CODING OF YATRI ASHRAYAS AT STATIONS

(NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY)

| Station | Yatri Ashray No. | Gate No. | Colour Coding | Directions (Towards) |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Prayagraj Jn. | 1 | 1 | Red | Lucknow, Varanasi |
| | 2 | 2 | Blue | Mugalsarai (DDU) |
| | 3 | 3 | Yellow | Manikpur, Satna, Jhansi |
| | 4 | 4 | Green | Kanpur |
| | Reserved Passengers | 5 | N/A | All directions |
| Naini Jn. | 1 | 1 | Green | Kanpur |
| | 2 | | Blue | Manikpur- Jhansi |
| | 3 | | Red | Manikpur- Satna |
| | 4A & 4B | 2 | Yellow | Mugalsarai (DDU) |
| Prayagraj Chheoki | 1 | 1A | Red | Manikpur, Satna, Jhansi |
| | 2 | 1B | Green | Mugalsarai (DDU) |

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE

1. Beware of pick-pockets.
2. Take care of your belongings.
3. Do not eat anything given by any unknown person.
4. Keep watch around you and alert onboard staff, security staff and volunteers if you see any unclaimed objects lying around you.
5. Buy tickets only from authorized counters/personnel.
6. Do not panic.
7. Move in queue and avoid pushing people in front of you.
8. Follow guidance of security/ticket checking staff and volunteers deployed at the Railway stations.
9. Do not sit on the platforms and FOBs. Keep them free for movement.
10. Do not carry inflammable materials like cooking gas cylinders, kerosene, kerosene stoves, straw etc.
11. Do not spit or litter in Railway premises. Help Railways in keeping trains and Railway stations neat and clean.
12. Do not smoke in train and in station premises.
13. Show your ticket on demand by ticket checking staff.