



Tradition Meets Transformation: Economic and Social Impacts of Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj

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Abstract: The Maha Kumbh 2025, held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, was not only a religious congregation of unparalleled scale but also a transformative event with far-reaching socio-economic and cultural implications. Hosting over 663 million pilgrims, the event acted as a catalyst for urban development, social integration, and economic activity in the region. While traditional rituals and spiritual practices remained central, the incorporation of smart city technologies, infrastructure expansion, and public health measures reflected a shift towards modern event governance. The festival spurred significant growth in sectors such as tourism, hospitality, retail, and handicrafts, reportedly generating revenue of approximately Rs. 3 lakh crore. Importantly, it fostered social cohesion by uniting diverse communities through shared cultural and religious experiences, while also promoting volunteerism and charitable engagement. However, the scale of the event brought environmental concerns, particularly around waste management and water quality, underscoring the need for sustainable planning in future iterations. This paper explores how tradition and modernity coalesced during Maha Kumbh 2025, reshaping Prayagraj's social and developmental landscape and offering insights into the broader dynamics of cultural festivals in contemporary India.

Keywords: Maha Kumbh 2025, Prayagraj, Socio-Economic Impact, Religious Tourism, Urban Transformation, Social Cohesion

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1. Introduction

The Maha Kumbh Mela, deeply rooted in Indian tradition, is a grand spiritual gathering with origins tracing back to ancient Hindu mythology. Its significance is linked to the legend of the *Samudra Manthan* (churning of the ocean), during which

drops of the divine nectar (*amrit*) were believed to have fallen at four sacred sites — Haridwar, Prayagraj, Nashik, and Ujjain. This belief forms the foundation of the Kumbh Mela, where millions of devotees converge to cleanse their sins in the holy rivers (Lochtefeld, 2010). Historical records indicate that the Kumbh Mela has been celebrated for over a millennium, with references found in texts like the *Mahabharata* and the accounts of Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang. Over centuries, the festival has evolved into not only a spiritual congregation but also a socio-economic phenomenon (Singh & Tiwari, 2020). Held every twelve years, the event carries profound spiritual significance while also serving as a major cultural and economic milestone for both the region and the nation. The recent Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj showcased this rich legacy while significantly boosting local businesses, hospitality, and cultural tourism.

Maha Kumbh 2025, held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh during January 13- February 26, 2025, was one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, attracting millions of devotees from across India and beyond (Figure 1). During the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, the event area was meticulously organized into 25 distinct sectors to efficiently manage the influx of pilgrims. This necessitated extensive preparations, particularly for the ghats- the riverfront steps providing access to the sacred rivers. To accommodate the massive influx of pilgrims, authorities planned and constructed multiple pontoon bridges across the rivers. For the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, a total of 30 pontoon bridges were built to ensure smooth and safe movement (Figure 1). Around ~663 million people gathered to take a holy dip at the confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, popularly called as ‘Sangam’ area (Figure 2). Its spiritual significance was underscored by the presence of Sadhus, religious discourses, and devotional music, creating an ambiance of serenity and self-reflection (Maclean, 2009; Singh, 2014; Chakrabarty, 2017). Beyond its religious essence, the Maha Kumbh Mela drives economic growth by generating substantial revenue for local businesses, particularly in hospitality, transportation, and retail sectors (Singh, 2025a). The influx of visitors spurs employment opportunities, contributing to regional development. The festival also promotes health benefits through meditation, fasting, and river immersion, enhancing psychological well-being and physical vitality (Kanaujiya & Tiwari, 2024). Moreover, the event fosters social unity by bringing together diverse communities (Buzinde et al., 2014). This article explores the extensive economic and social impact of Maha Kumbh 2025, analyzing its contributions to employment, trade, tourism, and community engagement.

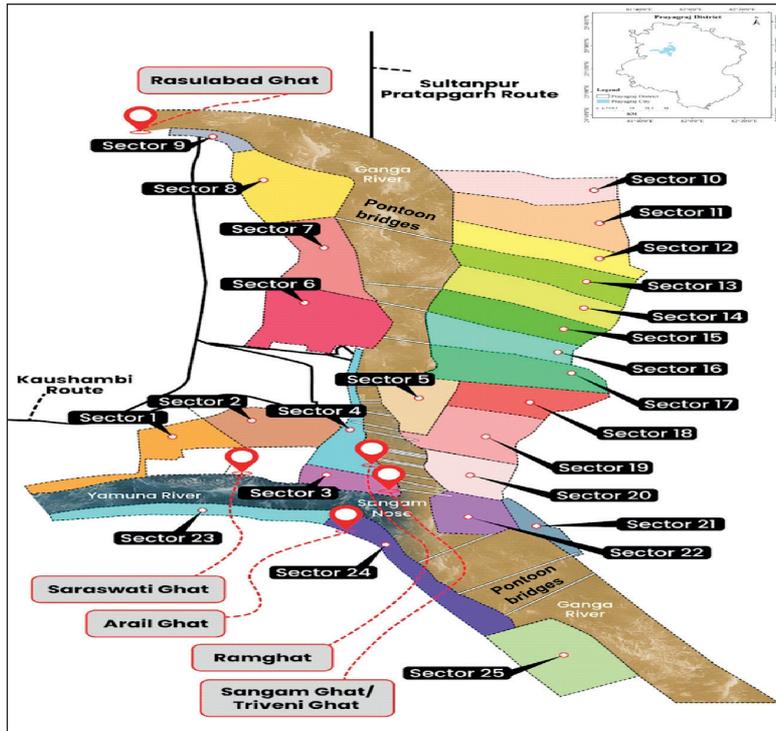


Figure 1: Location of the Maha Kumbh Mela area with various sectors (Redrawn after India Today Digital, 2025)



Figure 2. Sea of humanity taking a holy dip at the Sangam. (Photo by Oneindia Desk, 2025)

2. Economic Impact of Maha Kumbh 2025

2.1. Boost to Tourism and Hospitality Sector

One of the most significant economic impacts of Maha Kumbh 2025 was the surge in religious tourism not only in Prayagraj city but also in other key cities of Uttar Pradesh, such as Ayodhya, Varanasi, and beyond. Over 663 million visitors participated in the event (~40% of India's population!), including both domestic and international pilgrims (Mehta, 2025). This influx led to a massive boost in the hospitality sector, with hotels, lodges, guest houses, and temporary accommodations experiencing full occupancy. The hotel and accommodation industry saw a rise in room rates, with premium hotels charging up to 300% higher rates than usual. Additionally, makeshift accommodations, tent cities, and dharamshalas provided lodging for thousands of devotees. Small businesses, including street vendors selling food, religious items, souvenirs etc., also benefited immensely from the massive footfall. The categories of accommodation included Budget Hotels, Mid-Range Hotels, Premium Hotels, Luxury Hotels, Dharamshalas & Ashrams, and Tent Accommodations etc. The estimated hotel prices before and during Maha Kumbh 2025 (INR per night) are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Estimated Hotel Prices Before and During Maha Kumbh 2025 (INR per night)

| Type of Accommodation | Price before Maha Kumbh 2025 (in Rupees) | Price during Maha Kumbh 2025 (in Rupees) | % increase |
|------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Budget Hotels | 1000/- | 2500/- | 150% |
| Mid-range Hotels | 2500/- | 6000/- | 140% |
| Premium Hotels | 5000/- | 20000/- | 300% |
| Luxury Hotels | 10000/- | 30000/- | 200% |
| Dharamshalas & Ashrams | 500/- | 1200/- | 140% |
| Tent accommodations | 1500/- | 4000/- | 167% |

2.2. Employment Generation

Maha Kumbh 2025 created a substantial number of employment opportunities, both temporary and permanent. It is envisaged that the event generated over 1.2 million temporary jobs, benefiting a wide range of workers, including Hospitality staff (hotel workers, chefs, cleaners), Transportation workers (drivers, auto-rickshaw operators, boatmen), Security personnel, Vendors and small business owners, Event management professionals etc.

Local artisans and craftsmen producing religious souvenirs, paintings, and handmade products also found an expanded market during the festival. A detailed employment distribution across various sectors during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 is presented in Table 2, providing a comprehensive overview based on available data.

Table 2: Employment distribution across various sectors during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

| Sectors | Estimated Jobs |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Hospitality | 300,000 |
| Construction | 250,000 |
| Transportation | 200,000 |
| Event Management | 150,000 |
| Security Services | 100,000 |
| Retail & Vendors | 100,000 |

2.3. Trade and Commerce

The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 significantly boosted local businesses, particularly in sectors like religious artifacts, handicrafts, textiles, and Ayurvedic products. The overall economic impact of the event provides insight into the substantial business turnover experienced (Table 3). The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 is estimated to have generated approximately Rs. 3 lakh crore in revenue over its 45-day duration, 50% higher than previous estimates. This single event will contribute ~0.5% -1% to the GDP. The sector-specific details are given below.

Handicrafts and Textiles: The ‘One District-One Product’ exhibition, held during the festival, recorded sales exceeding Rs.28 lakh on Makar Sankranti alone on first day i.e., during 13-14 February 2025, indicating a strong demand for local handicrafts and textiles (Taparia, 2025).

Banking and Financial Transactions: To facilitate financial transactions for pilgrims, 16 banks established branches within the mela premises, collectively managing transactions amounting to Rs. 37 crore. The State Bank of India (SBI) accounted for the majority of these transactions. Additionally, 55 ATM booths, including 50 mobile ATMs, were strategically installed across the 25 sectors of the Mela grounds to facilitate seamless financial transactions. However, due to the increasing preference for digital transactions, the demand for ATMs was lower than anticipated. Notably, some ATMs required refilling only once a week, underscoring the growing reliance on digital Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment methods through personal mobile phones.

Major economic sectors that experienced growth included:

- **Retail and Small Businesses:** Individual success stories, such as a boatman’s family earning Rs. 30 crore during the event, highlight the significant economic opportunities the festival presented to local entrepreneurs. Shops selling puja materials, rudraksha malas, brass idols, souvenirs etc. recorded unprecedented sales.

- **Food Industry:** Restaurants and street food vendors experienced high demand for traditional Indian food, with stalls selling sweets, snacks, and beverages witnessing record sales.
- **Transport Sector:** Increased demand for buses, taxis, rickshaws, and railways resulted in higher ticket prices and profits for transportation businesses.

Table 3: Estimated business turnover during Maha Kumbh 2025 (in Crores INR)

| <i>Business Sector</i> | <i>Estimated turnover (in Crores)</i> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Handicrafts & Textiles | 28.0 |
| Banking and Financial Transactions | ~37.0 |
| Ayurvedic products | 50.0 |
| Religious Artifacts | 75.0 |
| Small Businesses | 3000.0 |
| General Boatmen | 7.0 |
| Boatman's Family | 30.0 |
| Kumbh Tea Vendors | 0.00225 |
| Motorcycle Service | 0.0225 |
| Total Revenue | ~3,00,000.0 |

3. Infrastructure Development

To accommodate the vast number of pilgrims, significant investments were made in infrastructure. The Uttar Pradesh government, along with central Government of India funding, allocated over Rs. 5,000 crore for improving roads, bridges, sanitation facilities, water supply, and public transportation systems in and around Prayagraj. These developments will have a long-term impact on the region, benefiting local residents beyond the festival period. Key initiatives and their impacts include:

3.1. Temporary City and Accommodation

During the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, a vast Tent City was established to accommodate the millions of pilgrims attending the event. This temporary settlement offered a range of facilities catering to both paid and free accommodations, ensuring that attendees from diverse economic backgrounds could participate in the festivities.

Paid Accommodations

Deluxe and Premium Tents: These tents were equipped with modern amenities, including fire-resistant materials and buffet dining options. Guests could also enjoy

daily cultural performances, spiritual discourses, yoga sessions, and spa services. Transportation within the Mela area was facilitated through shuttle services and battery-operated vehicles, ensuring easy access to bathing areas. Security and medical services were available around the clock to ensure the safety and well-being of the guests.

Luxury Cottages: For those seeking a more upscale experience, luxury cottages provided five-star comforts amidst the spiritual ambiance of the Kumbh. These accommodations offered a serene environment away from the crowds, allowing guests to engage in the festivities at their own pace.

Free Accommodations for the Underprivileged

Basic Tents: Approximately 150,000 tents were made available free of charge to accommodate pilgrims who could not afford paid lodging. These tents provided essential shelter and were strategically located to ensure accessibility to the main event areas.

Community Facilities: The Tent City also featured communal dining areas, medical aid stations, and security services to support the well-being of all attendees, regardless of their accommodation type. Cultural programs and spiritual discourses were organized to enrich the pilgrims' experience. These diverse accommodation options ensured that the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 was inclusive, allowing pilgrims from various socio-economic backgrounds to participate in this significant spiritual gathering.

3.2. Transportation Infrastructure Enhancements

To accommodate the massive influx of pilgrims for the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, significant enhancements were made to the transportation infrastructure.

Road Transportation: The construction of the Ganga Expressway, connecting Meerut to Prayagraj, was expedited to improve accessibility and reduce travel time for pilgrims. Within the Mela area, over 450 kilometres of roads were constructed to facilitate smooth movement and reduce congestion. An area of **about 20 km²** was designated for parking to manage the influx of vehicles.

Indian Railway Services: Railways augmented services by adding coaches to key trains and operating 360 trains, including 190 special trains, to handle the surge in passengers (Indian Railways, 2025). During the Maha Kumbh 2025, Indian Railways implemented extensive measures to accommodate the massive influx of pilgrims. A total of 190 special trains were introduced to manage the increased passenger traffic. The existing schedule of 110 regular trains continued to operate, ensuring consistent

connectivity. Additionally, 60 Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains were deployed to facilitate short-distance travel to cities like Varanasi, Ayodhya, Kanpur, Lucknow, etc.

On Mauni Amavasya (January 29, 2025), a day of significant religious importance, Indian Railways operated approximately 360 trains, encompassing the special, regular, and MEMU services, to cater to the surge in pilgrims. Key regular trains, including the Prayagraj Express and Lucknow Mail, had additional coaches attached to increase capacity. Various railway stations in and around Prayagraj underwent infrastructure improvements to handle the elevated passenger numbers. These comprehensive efforts ensured that the transportation needs of millions of devotees were efficiently met during the Maha Kumbh 2025 (Singh, 2025b).

Air Transportation: Prayagraj Airport expanded its operations, offering daily flights from major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bangalore. During the Maha Kumbh 2025, the city's airport experienced an unprecedented surge in air traffic to accommodate the massive influx of pilgrims. Between January 13 and February 26, 2025, Prayagraj Airport handled over 2,000 flights, marking a significant increase from its usual operations. On February 16, 2025, the airport managed 120 scheduled flights, facilitating travel for 20,297 passengers- the highest daily footfall by air travel recorded during the event. A record-breaking 236 flights operated in a single day on February 21, 2025, with approximately 24,512 passengers passing through the airport. In the concluding three days, the airport managed over 748 flights, including 394 chartered flights, accommodating more than 75,500 passengers. Airfares surged by 300% to 600% during the event, prompting many travellers to consider alternative transportation methods. To support this surge, Prayagraj Airport underwent significant upgrades, including expanding the terminal area from 6,700 to 25,500 square meters, increasing peak-hour passenger handling capacity from 540 to 1,080. These developments underscore Prayagraj Airport's pivotal role in managing the logistical demands of Maha Kumbh 2025, reflecting its transformation into a critical aviation hub during the event.

3.3. Health and Sanitation

Approximately 150,000 toilets and urinals were installed, with a dedicated workforce of 10,000 sanitation workers ensuring cleanliness. To maintain river cleanliness, 500 "Ganga Praharis" were appointed to maintain the sanctity of the river during the festival.

3.4. Safety and Security

Around 75,000 police officers from various branches of Uttar Pradesh police force, supplemented by additional central forces, were deployed to ensure safety of the pilgrims. A network of approximately 2,300 cameras provided continuous monitoring, and underwater drones were utilized for recovery operations. The fire department was bolstered with 351 fire-fighting vehicles and over 2,000 personnel, along with advanced equipment like articulating water towers.

3.5. Technological Innovations

During Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, Prayagraj integrated smart city technologies, featuring AI-powered surveillance and a navigation application for pilgrims, significantly improving urban management and event coordination (Singh, 2025c).

3.6. Impact of Infrastructure Development

The infrastructural developments as mentioned above provided a significant economic uplift to Prayagraj, creating employment opportunities and stimulating local businesses. The city witnessed improved infrastructure, sustainable practices, and smart city features, setting a benchmark for future urban planning in India. Advanced surveillance and security measures ensured the well-being of millions of pilgrims, showcasing effective crowd management strategies. Beyond its spiritual dimensions, Maha Kumbh 2025 played a pivotal role in Uttar Pradesh's economy. The state government estimated that the event would generate approximately Rs. 2 lakh crore in revenue, with around 60 lakh people benefiting from direct and indirect employment in tourism, hospitality, transportation, and local trade (Banerjee, 2025). These comprehensive developments not only facilitated the successful hosting of the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 but also left a lasting positive impact on Prayagraj's infrastructure and global image.

4. Social Impact of Maha Kumbh 2025

4.1. Cultural and Religious Significance

Maha Kumbh is more than just a festival; it is a spiritual and cultural confluence, held every 12 years in the city of Prayagraj. It promotes religious harmony by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds, sects, and traditions from all over India and abroad. The presence of saints, seers, and devotees from different corners of the world fosters an exchange of spiritual knowledge and cultural values (Sivaraman, 2009).The

rituals performed, such as the Amrit Snan (royal bath) and yajnas, reinforce faith and devotion among participants. Additionally, Maha Kumbh serves as an opportunity for religious organizations to engage in charitable and social service activities, such as free food distribution, medical camps, and educational awareness programs.

4.2. Community Engagement and Social Cohesion

One of the most notable social impacts of Maha Kumbh is its ability to bring together people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Pilgrims, irrespective of caste, class, or nationality, gather in the same place, share communal meals, and participate in prayers together. This fosters a sense of unity and equality (Buzinde et al., 2014). The presence of volunteers, NGOs, and government agencies working collectively to manage the event highlights the spirit of collaboration and social responsibility. The Kumbh also provides a platform for spiritual discourse and philosophical debates, strengthening India's tradition of intellectual and spiritual discussions (Koenig, 2011).

4.3. Environmental Challenges and Sustainability Efforts

While Maha Kumbh has numerous benefits, it also poses environmental challenges (Sharma & Verma, 2021), particularly concerning waste management and water pollution. Millions of people taking a dip in the Ganges can lead to contamination if proper measures are not taken.

The water quality of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers at various monitoring locations in Prayagraj was analyzed daily from January 12 to February 22, 2025 during the Maha Kumbh Mela (Central Pollution Control Board, 2025). The results highlight significant variations in key water quality parameters, including pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), turbidity, chemical oxygen demand (COD), biological oxygen demand (BOD), and fecal coliform levels. It is observed that the pH values remained within the permissible range (6.5 - 8.5) across all bathing locations, indicating stable water acidity/alkalinity. The highest pH was observed at Shringverpur Ghat (8.85) on January 30, 2025.

The DO levels were generally above 5 mg/L, suggesting the water had good oxygen availability. The highest DO (10.5 mg/L) was recorded at Shastri Bridge on January 24, 2025. Turbidity varied significantly, with the highest level of 190 NTU recorded at Shastri Bridge on January 24, 2025, indicating high sediment and particulate matter. Lowest turbidity was observed in Yamuna River at Old Naini Bridge (2.9 NTU) on January 30, 2025.

BOD levels exceeded the permissible limit (≤ 3 mg/L) at several locations, indicating organic pollution. The highest BOD (7.42 mg/L) was recorded near Shastri Bridge on January 24, 2025.

The highest fecal coliform level (49,000 MPN/100ml) was recorded at Sangam on January 20, 2025, suggesting severe microbial contamination. Shringverpur Ghat and Lord Curzon Bridge recorded low fecal coliform levels (<1.8 MPN/100ml) on multiple days, indicating cleaner water conditions. The water quality was relatively good in upstream locations but showed signs of contamination near high-activity areas like Sangam. Increased turbidity and BOD levels suggest organic and sediment pollution, especially during high pilgrim activity days. Fecal coliform levels were alarmingly high near Sangam and Old Naini Bridge, posing health risks for bathers (Central Pollution Control Board, 2025).

The significant findings are that the Sangam showed the highest fecal coliform contamination (25,000 MPN/100ml), indicating severe microbial pollution. Shastri Bridge had the highest BOD (6.2 mg/L), suggesting organic pollution. Turbidity was also highest at Shastri Bridge (95 NTU), likely due to heavy sediment inflow. Old Naini Bridge and Yamuna-Sangam also showed moderate contamination levels (Central Pollution Control Board, 2025).

To counter these issues, the government implemented several eco-friendly initiatives:

- Deployment of thousands of sanitation workers to maintain cleanliness.
- Installation of temporary toilets and waste disposal units.
- Use of bio-degradable materials in food stalls and public spaces.
- Strict regulations on plastic usage.
- Awareness campaigns to educate pilgrims about environmental conservation.
- Monitor water quality in the Ganges through real-time sensors.

5. Safety and Crowd Management

To ensure the safety and effective management of such a vast crowd of ~663 million people, authorities implemented a comprehensive strategy encompassing advanced technology, extensive security measures, and robust infrastructure.

5.1. Advanced Technological Measures

Digital Surveillance: Approximately 2,760 CCTV cameras equipped with Artificial Intelligence (AI) were deployed across the Mela area (Singh, 2025c). These systems

monitored crowd density in real-time, detecting surges to prevent potential stampedes (Mehta, 2025).

Facial Recognition and AI Assistance: AI-based facial recognition technology assisted in reuniting lost individuals with their families. Additionally, multilingual chatbots provided visitors with guidance and information, enhancing overall event management (Mehta, 2025).

Underwater Drones: To bolster safety, underwater drones were utilized for real-time monitoring of river activities, offering immediate alerts in case of accidents or emergencies.

5.2. Emergency Services

Law Enforcement Deployment: A massive security force comprising approximately 75,000 police officers from the Uttar Pradesh Police, along with personnel from the Uttar Pradesh Provincial Armed Constabulary (UP-PAC), National Disaster Response Force, and Central Armed Police Forces, was mobilized to maintain order and safety (Wikipedia, 2025).

Fire Safety Resources: The Uttar Pradesh Fire and Emergency Services Department allocated significant resources, including 351 fire-fighting vehicles and over 2,000 personnel. Advanced equipment, such as articulating water towers capable of extensive horizontal and vertical reach, was deployed to enhance fire-fighting capabilities (Wikipedia, 2025).

5.3. Infrastructure and Crowd Management

Temporary City Setup: A vast temporary city spanning 4,000 hectares was established to accommodate the influx of pilgrims. This included the construction of 150,000 tents and the installation of 150,000 toilets and urinals, ensuring adequate lodging and sanitation facilities (Prayagraj Municipal Corporation, 2025).

Traffic and Transport: To manage the massive crowds, authorities constructed 30 pontoon bridges in the Sangam bathing area and expanded road infrastructure by over 450 kilometers. Parking facilities covering 20 km² were also developed to facilitate vehicle management (Prayagraj Municipal Corporation, 2025).

5.4. Lost and Found Services

Reuniting Families: Ten lost and found centers were established across various sectors of the Mela. These centers utilized digital registration systems and regular

announcements, both on-site and via social media, to assist in reuniting missing individuals with their families (Wikipedia, 2025). Despite these extensive measures, the event faced challenges. On the most auspicious Mauni Amavasya day of January 29, a stampede occurred, resulting in several fatalities and injuries, highlighting the inherent risks associated with managing such large gatherings (Mehta, 2025). A few fire incidents highlighted the challenges of managing such a vast congregation. The swift response of the emergency services in containing the fire and preventing injuries underscores the importance of rigorous safety protocols during large-scale events (Mehta, 2025). In summary, the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 showcased a blend of traditional practices and modern technology to ensure the safety and effective management of millions of pilgrims. The integration of AI, extensive security personnel, and robust infrastructure played pivotal roles in addressing the complexities of this monumental event.

6. Long-Term Economic Sustainability of Infrastructure Upgrades from Maha Kumbh 2025

The infrastructure upgrades undertaken for Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj included expanded roads, improved rail and air connectivity, sanitation facilities, temporary accommodations, and smart city technologies (Prayagraj Municipal Corporation, 2025). While these developments were essential for managing the massive influx of pilgrims, their long-term economic sustainability depends on how effectively they are integrated into the city's post-event economy.

6.1. *Transportation and Connectivity*

Air Travel: Prayagraj Airport saw major expansions, including increased flight operations and passenger handling capacity. Can these improvements support long-term tourism, business travel, and trade beyond Maha Kumbh? Perhaps, attracting more airlines, direct international flights, and cargo transport facilities could enhance economic gains of the region.

Rail & Road Network: The addition of new roads, widened highways, and railway upgrades significantly improved connectivity. Will the enhanced transport network remain efficiently utilized, or will it face underuse post-event? It is envisaged that better roads can boost local trade, tourism, and daily commuting efficiency if linked with economic hubs.

6.2. Tourism & Religious Pilgrimage

Prayagraj has multiple religious and historical sites, but tourist inflow fluctuates outside Kumbh Mela. Developing heritage tourism circuits, cultural festivals, and eco-tourism initiatives could sustain visitor numbers year-round. Modernized bathing ghats, improved riverfronts, and accommodations should be marketed for spiritual tourism, yoga retreats, and heritage tours.

6.3. Urban Development & Smart City Integration

Digital infrastructure, such as AI-powered crowd management and smart surveillance, was deployed for Maha Kumbh (Singh, 2025c). These technologies can be repurposed for traffic control, city security, and urban planning, benefiting the general population.

6.4. Sanitation & Environmental Management

Over 150,000 toilets and waste disposal units were set up to maintain hygiene. How can this improved sanitation infrastructure be maintained after the festival? The solution lies in converting temporary sanitation hubs into permanent community toilets that can support urban sanitation needs, especially in slum areas.

6.5. Employment & Local Business Growth

Temporary employment (construction workers, security personnel, hospitality staff, transport operators, etc.) saw a massive surge. Will these jobs sustain, or will they disappear after the event? Converting Kumbh-related workforce training into permanent job opportunities in tourism, transport, hospitality, and urban management may be the key. Additionally, promoting small businesses such as hotels, restaurants, local crafts, and services to expand their reach by catering to wider tourism markets.

6.6. Impact on Real Estate & Housing

Infrastructure development during Maha Kumbh often leads to increased land value and urban expansion. The concern is, will real estate development be planned in a way that prevents overcrowding, unregulated expansion, and environmental degradation? It is proposed to strengthen urban planning policies to utilize newly developed areas for residential and commercial expansion without displacing existing communities. While Maha Kumbh 2025 brought short-term economic prosperity, the real challenge lies in ensuring that the infrastructure continues to generate economic value. Long-

term success depends on sustained investment, policy planning, and integrating new infrastructure into Prayagraj's daily economic and urban framework.

7. Summary

Maha Kumbh 2025 proved to be a monumental event with far-reaching economic and social implications. From generating massive revenue and employment opportunities to fostering spiritual and cultural unity, the event left a lasting impact on Prayagraj and the country as a whole. The infrastructure upgrades, trade expansion, and environmental sustainability measures taken during the event will continue to benefit the region long after the festival has concluded.

While Maha Kumbh remains a deeply religious event, its role in shaping the economic and social landscape of India cannot be overlooked. With proper planning, investment, and sustainable practices, future editions of the festival can further maximize its benefits while minimizing challenges. Maha Kumbh 2025 has once again reinforced the cultural and economic strength of India, making it not only a spiritual gathering but also an event of global significance. India's successful execution of Maha Kumbh 2025 stands as a historic milestone, showcasing the nation's unlimited potential and exponential growth. This transformation in mindset has significant economic implications, as a nation that believes, acts, and executes without constraints creates long-term impacts beyond just a few years. The continuous evolution and upgrading of India's collective mindset is a driving force behind its aspirations to become a developed nation during Amritkaal. Staying on course amid global uncertainties will be crucial for sustaining this progress and ensuring long-term national growth.

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