

Sangam city gears up to host a digitally enhanced Maha Kumbh

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Lucknow: Prayagraj is gearing up to host a digitally enhanced Maha Kumbh 2025, transforming the ancient religious gathering into a smart, secure and sustainable event.

The massive spiritual congregation, spread across 4,000 hectares and recognized by UNESCO as an intangible heritage, will be monitored by an extensive network of over 1,800 CCTV cameras, including PTZ (pan tilt and zoom), fixed, and ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) cameras. The digital surveillance system will be crucial in managing the millions of pilgrims expected to attend the event.

"We are combining cutting-edge technology with time-honoured tradition," says Amrit Abhijat, principal secretary, urban development department. "It is going to be more than an

event; Maha Kumbh would emerge as a prototype for future massive religious gatherings, ensuring both spiritual fulfilment and visitor comfort."

The transportation infrastructure has received a significant upgrade with 720 cameras monitoring 120 temporary parking areas, equipped with AI-

SMART EVENT

based analytics for vehicle counting. Additionally, 126 advanced analytics CCTV cameras will oversee operations at nine railway stations and nine bus stands, enabling real-time traffic management.

To ensure convenience and safety of the pilgrims, free wi-fi zones would be provided throughout mela area. At regular intervals energy-efficient LED lights with smart controls would be placed on the ground for enhanced nighttime visibility.

Healthcare facilities include a 100-bed hospital with telemedicine capabilities and AI-powered facilities. The event's communication infrastructure features a 50-seat contact centre integrated with the mela helpline 1920. Moreover, 40 variable message display screens would be strategically placed for public information dissemination.

Smart waste management systems featuring sensor-based bins and real-time collection monitoring would be provided along with water purification and distribution systems.

All systems will be monitored through integrated command and control centre, representing a significant step in modernizing traditional religious gatherings, said the officer. Secretary of the department Amit Kumar Singh said the objective is to offer 'Bhavya Kumbh, Divya Kumbh and Digital Kumbh' experience to visitors.