



**TWO DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON**

**PRAYAGA MAHAKUMBHA -2025 & OTHER RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS IN INDIA:
HISTORICITY, GOVERNANCE, COMMERCE & ASPECTS**

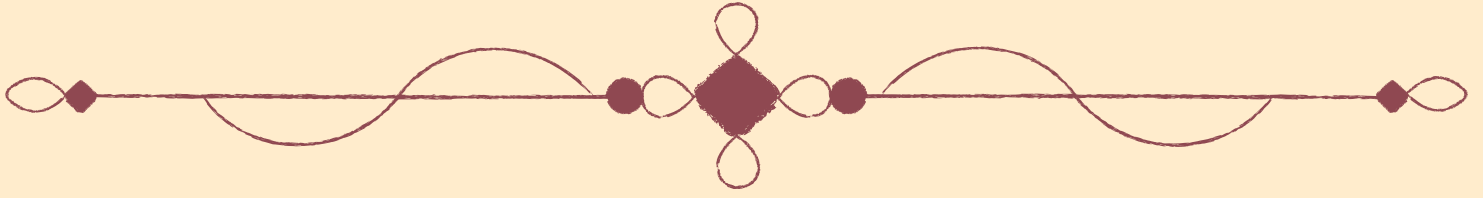
organized by

**Department of Social Sciences & Humanities, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College,
University of Delhi
3rd & 4th March**

VENUE - DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, DWARKA SECTOR -3, NEW DELHI -110078

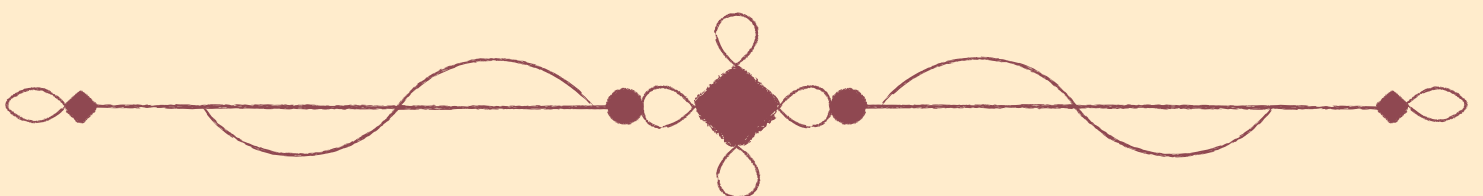
CONCEPT NOTE

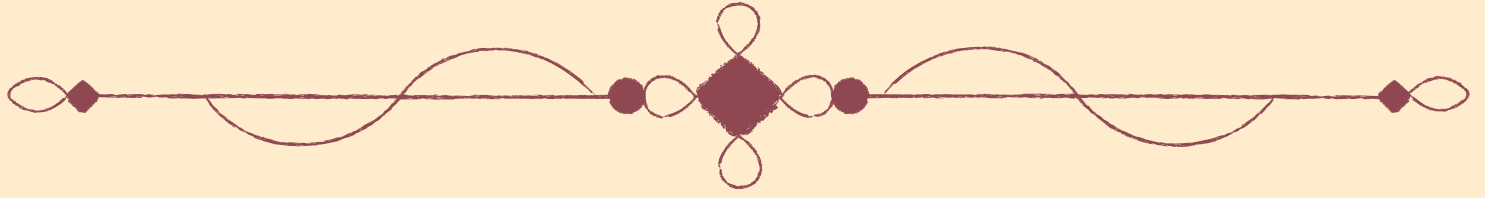
The Mahakumbha-2025 at Prayaga is the biggest religious commingling of humanity on earth and is a combination of six meritorious Vrata days from the Poush Purnima (13th Jan), Makar Sankranti (14th Jan), Mauni Amavasya (29th Jan), Vasant Panchami (3rd Feb), Maghi Purnima (12th Feb) and is said to be attended by around 25 crore devotees and Monks for ritual baths and Kalpavasa austerities. The river confluence (Sangam) of the three pious rivers has been a sacred space since at least Asoka's time and had been visited by rulers such as Chandragupta, Samudragupta, Kumaragupta, Harshavardhana and his Chinese Buddhist friend Hiuen Tsang, and also Akbar's court gem Mahesh Das alias Birbal. There is a wonderful interplay of sacred rituals and Kalpavasa austerities, observance of Vrata rites by the ordinary devotees, Tirth Purohitas, Kings, business elites, monks and nuns. The State has been interfering in its affairs since long and presently also the state administration has come to facilitate things for the devout attendees in various ways and said to have spent about Rs.7700 crores on dredging the river bed for clean waters, establishment of a Kumbh city in about 10000 hectares, roads and lights, on tents and hotels, on safety and police and health and hygiene, 5000 acres on parking and other stalls. New Mela authorities have cropped up to facilitate the attendees along with a few NGOs. This, along with the other religious festivals, has created jobs of various kinds for the ordinary people, the businessmen and the service providers and the state financial experts hold the opinion that this religious gathering will be able to generate jobs and business of about 200,000 crore rupees, an astronomical amount that a festival has generated so far in India. A modern historian is undertaking a study of various religious festivals in North and Central India alone from 1872-1933 and has calculated that more than 5 crore people attended various religious festivals and generated much wealth and helped stop the dragon of Deindustrialization by creating demand for goods and their production and sale. Hence, there arises a pressing need for historians and scholars to analyze the various aspects related to this biggest peaceful show on Earth - The Wonder that is India going on presently during our own time and eyes and hence doesn't need much pramana. The detailed discussions will follow during the conference.



SUB THEMES

- Historical Evolution of Kumbha Melas.
- Vratas and Utsavas through the Ages
- Initiation of Naga sadhus on Moni Amavasya
- Anna-Satra and Food Distribution
- Community Participation & Social Harmony
- State and Kumbh: Pre to Post- Independence India
- Religious Festivals and National Movement
- Image, Serene and Click
- Literature and Religious Festival
- Kumbh, Hygiene and Health
- Vratas and Utsavas through the Ages
- Gender and Religious Festivals
- Kalpavas at Magh Masa and Kumbh
- Myths and Kumbh
- Texts, Oral History and Experience
- Traders and Mercantile Class
- Leaders, Legitimacy and Kumbh
- Kumbh Beyond the Border
- Kumbh in the World Literature
- Floating City, Kumbh & Vicinity
- Sponsorship and Donations: State, NGO, Devotee
- Centrality of Akhadas: Niranjani, Juna & Nirmal Akhada, Kinnar Akhada & Others
- Sahitya Main Kumbh





GUIDELINES

1. The paper presentation competition is an offline event open to all undergraduate, postgraduate students and research scholars and each entry can have up to two co-authors, as long as they all meet the criteria.
2. The abstract must be 300 words with 5-6 keywords, and the final presentation (PPT format preferred) will be sourced from the submitted research paper.
3. The research paper should be of 4000-5000 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography, and must follow the Chicago Citation Format (Guide).
4. The submission must be original, and strict plagiarism and AI detection will be conducted; any violation will lead to disqualification.
5. Only selected abstracts will require a full paper submission and presentation preparation.
6. Participants will have 10 minutes to present, including Q&A, and technical PPT presentation will be provided by the Department of Social Science & Humanities Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, University of Delhi
7. The abstract and paper must include author(s) name(s), year of study, course, institutional affiliation, email ID, and contact number.
8. *The main text of the Research paper should be in Times New Roman, font size 12, 1.5 spacing, default Black font.*

Important Dates

- Submission of Abstract - 18th February 2025
Notification for Acceptance - 22nd February 2025
Submission of Full Paper - 28th February 2025

Registration Fee

- UG/PG Students - INR 500
Guest faculty/ Research Scholar - INR 1000
For College, Department, Retired Faculty & Others - INR 1500

For Details, Enquiry & Paper Submission: kumbhconference2025ddu@gmail.com, +91 8168192154, + 91 8572002601

PATRON

Prof. Hem Chand Jain
Officiating Principal
DDUC

SEMINAR CONVENER

Prof. Radha Madhav Bharadwaj
Dept. of Humanities

CO-ORDINATOR

Ms. Sangita Kumar
Dept. of Humanities

SEMINAR CO-CONVENER

Mr. Vikas Kumar
Dr. Aparna Shree
Dept. of Humanities

