

2025  
MAHA KUMBH  
Prayagraj



MARCH 24TH, 2025  
SPECIAL EDITION

# NEWSLETTER

INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

A Beacon of Hope and Healing:  
The Red Cross at the Ganges





MARCH 24TH, 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, IRCS, NHQ



जगत प्रकाश नड्डा  
JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA



मंत्री  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण  
व रसायन एवं उर्वरक  
भारत सरकार  
Minister  
Health & Family Welfare  
and Chemicals & Fertilizers  
Government of India



### MESSAGE

Mahakumbh-2025 was not merely an event; it was the living embodiment of India's spirit - a confluence of faith, tradition and humanity on a scale unparalleled anywhere in the world. Once again, millions of devotees came together and I am proud to say that the Indian Red Cross Society stood steadfast by their side.

Our volunteers and staff remained available during the Mahakumbh offering first aid, medical assistance, rescue services, tracing support for the missing and ensuring that every pilgrim could experience this sacred journey with safety, dignity and peace of mind. Their tireless dedication, compassion and resilience are a reflection of the values that define the Indian Red Cross Society.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every volunteer, staff member and supporter who made this massive humanitarian endeavor possible. This special edition of newsletter is a tribute to their efforts and a reminder of what we can achieve when compassion and commitment guide our path.

Together, we can build a healthier, safer and more compassionate India.

(Jagat Prakash Nadra)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, IRCS U.P

**ब्रजेश पाठक**

उप मुख्यमंत्री

कार्यालय कक्ष संख्या-99, 100, मुख्य भवन,  
विधान सभा सचिवालयदूरभाष- 0522-2238088 (का0)  
0522-2239999 (आ0)

लखनऊ: दिनांक

**शुभकामना संदेश**

मुझे यह जानकर अत्यन्त प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि उत्तर प्रदेश रेडक्रास सोसाइटी द्वारा प्रयागराज महाकुम्भ मेले में आने वाले श्रद्धालुओं की सहायता के लिए शिविर स्थापित किया गया है। महाकुम्भ मेला परिसर के सेक्टर-5 तुलसी मार्ग व सेक्टर-24 अरैल घाट में लगे सहायता शिविरों में प्रतिदिन हजारों श्रद्धालुओं को निःशुल्क प्राथमिक उपचार, एम्बुलेंस सेवा, भोजन इत्यादि की समुचित सुविधा प्रदान की जा रही है, जो कि अत्यंत प्रशंसनीय है।

प्रदेश के विभिन्न जनपदों एवं राज्यों से आये सभी स्वयं सेवकों के प्रति कृतज्ञता व्यक्ता करता हूँ कि उन्होंने अपना समय निकालकर महाकुम्भ जैसे पावन अवसर पर अपनी निःस्वार्थ सेवाएं प्रदान की गई हैं। साथ ही साथ मैं महाकुम्भ में लगे सहायता शिविरों के सफल संचालन हेतु रेडक्रास सोसाइटी के सभी पदाधिकारियों को बधाई देता हूँ।

मैं, उत्तर प्रदेश रेडक्रास सोसाइटी के स्वयं सेवकों द्वारा किये गये निःस्वार्थ सेवाभाव के लिए उनकी प्रशंसा करते हुए उनके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना करता हूँ।



(ब्रजेश पाठक)



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## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN, IRCS, NHQ



Dear Friends,

The Mahakumbh 2025 was a breathtaking tapestry of faith, weaving together millions from diverse backgrounds. Amid this sea of devotion, I was profoundly touched by the spirit of the Red Cross.

From dawn to dusk, our volunteers were the heartbeats of this sacred gathering. They were the smiling faces offering water to weary souls, the gentle hands providing first aid, and the reassuring voices guiding those in distress. I witnessed our medical teams work tirelessly, delivering care with compassion—each interaction a testament to humanity.

One moment etched in my heart: a small child, lost and frightened, found solace in the arms of a Red Cross volunteer until they were joyfully reunited with their family. It was moments like these that highlighted our mission. We were not just responders; we were guardians of comfort, safety, and hope.

The Mahakumbh encapsulated India's rich diversity, and the Indian Red Cross Society proudly stood as a beacon of support for all. We were there not only to respond to emergencies but to educate, uplift, and empower our community.

If you were inspired to join this noble cause, if you cherished the power of compassion, I invite you to continue being part of our journey. Together, we can change lives.

With warmth,

Dr. Anant Pandhare  
Vice Chairman,  
Indian Red Cross Society



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## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN, IRCS U.P



The Maha Kumbh Mela was the world's largest public religious congregation. This grand event primarily saw the participation of ascetics, saints, sadhus, sadhvis, kalpvasis, aghoris, and pilgrims from all over the world.

It was a matter of great joy that, just like the previous year, the Indian Red Cross Society had the opportunity to set up a camp to serve the saints and pilgrims. Volunteers from various districts and states came to the Red Cross / St. John Ambulance camp in Uttar Pradesh, where they provided service day and night, and I commended their efforts.

I had the honor of visiting the camp to serve the devotees, which made me feel privileged to be a member of such a humanitarian organization.

During the event, volunteers raised awareness about cleanliness, peace, and the importance of hygiene. In emergencies, ambulance and first aid services were offered. Those who had become separated from their loved ones were successfully reunited with them.

During the royal bath event, millions of devotees attended, and with great patience, the volunteers guided people to take their sacred dip in faith while providing them with continuous service, comfort, and support.

Thank you.

Akhilendra Shahi  
Vice Chairman  
Uttar Pradesh Red Cross



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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL, IRCS, NHQ



From the sacred confluence where faith and hope entwined, the Indian Red Cross Society extended its hand to the spirit of the Mahakumbh Mela 2025. Like the Ganga flowing tirelessly, we pledged our unwavering support to the millions who journeyed to this hallowed ground.

As the Secretary General, I envisioned a gathering where compassion flowed freely, a sanctuary of care amidst the vibrant tapestry of devotion. Our initiative was woven with threads of medical expertise, disaster preparedness, and a deep respect for the traditions that bind us.

We were present at every ghat, at every turn, ensuring that the journey of faith was also a journey of safety, health, and human dignity. I spoke to you from a place of deep respect for the traditions and beliefs of this sacred gathering.

We stood ready to provide essential services, ensuring that the millions who converged upon the sangam could experience the spiritual power of the Mahakumbh with security and peace of mind.

Together, we created an environment where the flame of faith shone brightly and the spirit of humanity burned even brighter.

R.K. Jain, I.A.S (Retd)  
Secretary General



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## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY, IRCS U.P



Dear Friends,

As millions gathered for Mahakumbh 2025, the U.P. Red Cross dedicated itself to ensuring the safety, well-being, and dignity of every attendee. This event was not just a religious celebration; it represented a vibrant tapestry of faith and shared humanity.

Our committed team focused on several key areas:

- **Medical Services:** We provided first-aid posts and medical assistance to those in need.
- **Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation:** We ensured hygiene and implemented measures for disease prevention.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** We were ready to respond rapidly to any emergencies that arose.
- **Humanitarian Support:** We assisted vulnerable populations, providing vital resources.

The success of our efforts hinged on the dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the collaborative spirit of our community. We actively enhanced our resources through training and acquisitions, which allowed us to serve all attendees better.

It was a privilege to work alongside such compassionate individuals and to contribute to this important humanitarian mission. With your continued support, the U.P. Red Cross left a lasting mark of care and compassion at Mahakumbh 2025.

Thank you for being part of this journey!

Warm regards,

Dr. Himabindu Naik  
General Secretary, U.P. Red Cross



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## INTRODUCTION: A SACRED GATHERING



As the sun rose over the sacred banks of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati, Mahakumbh Prayagraj 2025 set the stage for a spectacle of spirituality and human unity. From January to March, millions gathered for this grand festival, symbolizing faith, hope, and devotion. Amidst this sea of humanity, the Indian Red Cross Society emerged as a beacon of care and compassion, playing an indispensable role in ensuring the safety and well-being of devotees.

## THE PREPARATIONS: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

Months before the festivities commenced, the Indian Red Cross Society mobilized its resources. Teams of dedicated volunteers and professionals trained in first aid, disaster management, and health services formulated a comprehensive action plan. Strategic partnerships with local authorities and health departments were forged, establishing a solid groundwork that would enable seamless integration of services during the Kumbh Mela.

**Glimpse of Preparedness, click on the link ;**  
**<https://tinyurl.com/34m9epx7>**



## THE PREPARATIONS: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK



*First aid training was given to fire safety officers in the month of December in Prayagraj for Maha Kumbh-2025*

## History of IRCS at Kumbh Mela

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) played an integral role in every Kumbh Mela since its inception. Some notable milestones included:

- In the 1934 Kumbh Mela, IRCS provided medical aid to over 10 lakh (1 million) pilgrims during the event held in Allahabad (now Prayagraj).
- During the 1966 Kumbh Mela, IRCS set up a massive medical camp with over 100 beds to cater to the needs of the pilgrims.
- In the 2013 Kumbh Mela, IRCS deployed over 20,000 volunteers and established a network of 300 health camps and hospitals.

The Indian Red Cross Society's efforts in the Mahakumbh Prayagraj 2025 stood as a testament to its commitment to serving humanity in all its forms. As the world's largest human gathering approached, IRCS was prepared to provide aid, comfort, and care to millions of pilgrims and participants.



## Glimpses of IRCS response at Kumbh 2019



*Successful execution & completion of Red Cross/ St. John Ambulance Camp in Kumbh Mela Prayagraj 2019 where thousands of Monks, Saints & pilgrims benefitted from the Red Cross/St John Camp. Following services were provided to the visitors in the mela 2019 ; First Aid, Ambulance Service, Awareness & Promotion of Red Cross, Health Camps and Assistance like guidance and information, emergency help, offering amenities such as seating, water stations, or assistance with carrying items, especially for elderly or disabled, at the Ghats & Mela area.*



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## IRCS AT MAHAKUMBH PRAYAGRAJ 2025

During the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj in 2025, more than 660 million devotees and tourists converged for a spiritual experience. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) played a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants. Here's a snapshot of the IRCS's contributions and initiatives that were implemented:



**Medical Services:** IRCS provided medical aid to pilgrims and participants through a network of health camps, hospitals, and first-aid centers. A fleet of ambulances & emergency response teams, were on standby 24x7 during the Mahakumbh.



**Disaster Management:** IRCS had a comprehensive disaster management plan to respond to any emergency situations during the Mahakumbh Mela. The IRCS emergency services includes search and rescue, evacuation and relief distribution.



**Food and Nutrition:** The IRCS provided nutritious food and meals to pilgrims, particularly the elderly, children, and those with disabilities.



**Assistance to the visitors at the Ghats & Mela area:** IRCS provided nutritious food and meals to pilgrims, particularly the elderly, children, and those with disabilities.



**Awareness and Promotion of Red Cross:** The IRCS organized social activities and educational programs to promote the humanitarian values of the Red Cross Movement among pilgrims.



**Water and Sanitation:** IRCS contributed to ensure access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for pilgrims. This included setting up water purification plants, sanitation stations, and providing hygiene kits.



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## Details of Activities Conducted by Red Cross at Maha Kumbh



**125k**

People received first aid from the Indian Red Cross at the Prayagraj Mahakumbh camp.



**1,600**

Blankets and tarpaulins were given to the underprivileged in Prayagraj.



**500k**

people were served tea, biscuits, and snacks during the event.



**6,500**

people received emergency ambulance services from the Red Cross volunteers.



**100k**

people were provided with meals to ensure no one went hungry during the festivities.



**1,500**

senior citizens received assistance from Red Cross volunteers to reach the ghats safely.



**375**

375 IRCS volunteers from 18 states provided services at the Prayagraj Mahakumbh.



**6,500**

Volunteers from 52 districts provided essential services at Mahakumbh.



# RED CROSS: PIONEERING HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS AT MAHAKUMBH 2025

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1. Serving Devotion and Nourishment, Red Cross volunteers delighted devotees with khichdi on Makar Sankranti.



*On the auspicious occasion of the first Shahi Snan/Makar Sankranti, the devoted volunteers of Red Cross, Uttar Pradesh, lovingly served Khichdi to approximately 500 devotees, providing nourishment and warmth to all who had gathered to celebrate.*



## 2. Warm Hospitality: Devotees Cherished Tea and Biscuits Served by Dedicated Volunteers at Mahakumbh Prayagraj 2025.



*Devotees at Mahakumbh Prayagraj 2025 were delighted with warm tea and freshly baked biscuits, generously served by dedicated volunteers from Lakhimpur Kheri and Sultanpur districts.*

To know more click on the link; <https://tinyurl.com/3w3mpfeb>



### 3. Promoted Care and Cleanliness: Red Cross Volunteers Connected with Devotees at the Mahakumbh 2025.



*Red Cross volunteers engaged with devotees at the fair, shared vital information about its first aid camp, and encouraged mutual support and respect for the sacred ghats by promoting a litter-free environment.*





## 4. Restored Hope and Resilience: Red Cross Volunteers Supported Devotees After Mauni Amavasya Stampede.



*On the day of Mauni Amavasya at Prayagraj Kumbh 2025, following the chaos caused by the stampede, Red Cross volunteers had utilized loudspeakers to gather information from those affected by the incident. They had provided emotional support to those in distress, helping them regain their strength and enabling them to return home with renewed resilience.*



## 5. Dedicated Care: Red Cross Volunteers Ensured Safety at Mahakumbh Fair First Aid Camp



*Red Cross volunteers diligently provided first aid and ambulance services at the First Aid Camp, ensuring the safety and well-being of devotees at the Mahakumbh Fair, hosted by Red Cross Uttar Pradesh.*



## 5. Dedicated Care: Red Cross Volunteers Ensured Safety at Mahakumbh Fair First Aid Camp



*On January 19, 2025, fair in-charge State Branch Uttar Pradesh Mr. JP Shukla and assistant fair in-charge Mrs. Aarti Srivastava, along with volunteers of Jharkhand State Centre, St. John Ambulance, provided first aid services to the devotees who had come to the fair.*



## 6. Red Cross Volunteers: A Beacon of Hope and Care for Elders at Mahakumbh Mela 2025



*Red Cross volunteers brought hope and care, easing the journey for our elders at Mahakumbh Mela 2025.*



## 7. Swift Response: Indian Red Cross Society Aided in Prayagraj Mahakumbh Fire Emergency.



*A massive fire had broken out on January 19th 2025, in the fair area of Prayagraj Mahakumbh. In it, relief work like evacuation, medical assistance, psychological support, basic needs etc. and first aid services were provided by the volunteers of the Indian Red Cross Society Uttar Pradesh State Branch.*

**To know more click on the link; <https://tinyurl.com/4z79vx5t>**



# HEROES OF MAHAKUMBH 2025: CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

MARCH 24TH, 2025



## A HEARTFELT JOURNEY OF SERVICE AT KUMBH MELA 2025

AARTI SRIVASTAVA  
CO-MELA IN-CHARGE / ACCOUNTANT  
KUMBH MELA PRAYAGRAJ 2025  
RED CROSS UTTAR PRADESH

"Service is the highest duty"—with this guiding principle, I began my journey in disaster preparedness as a Supervisor with the Indian Red Cross Society in Uttar Pradesh in 2014. Currently, I serve as Secretary in Lakhimpur Kheri; however, I have always considered myself a volunteer dedicated to service above all.

The Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj 2025 was made exceptional by a rare alignment of celestial bodies after 144 years. In this auspicious event, I was honored to be appointed as Co-Mela In-Charge and Accountant by Dr. Himabindu Naik, General Secretary of Red Cross Uttar Pradesh, along with Mr. Akhilendra Shahi, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Arun Singh, Treasurer. I was profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the millions of devotees who flocked to this sacred gathering.

Since the commencement of the Kumbh Mela, the Red Cross provided essential first aid services to thousands of pilgrims, offering emotional support to the injured, guiding travelers through the confluence areas, reuniting lost families, providing meal arrangements, and conducting cleanliness awareness campaigns.

Among the many rewarding experiences at the Kumbh, the most poignant for me was saving the lives of two women through divine grace. While working in the office, there was a sudden power outage. When I stepped outside, I saw towering black smoke rising from Sector 19. Our team quickly arrived on the scene. There, we witnessed terrified people running for their lives amidst fierce flames. My attention was drawn to a narrow alley between some tents, where a few individuals emerged, panic-stricken. As I attempted to enter that alley, I heard the terrifying sound of a cylinder exploding. Momentarily overwhelmed, I hesitated but then heard a woman's desperate cries from within a tent.

Rushing back, I found a woman who was traumatized, her face severely burnt. I grabbed her hand and urged, "We need to get out quickly!" She instinctively pulled away, lamenting that all her belongings were burnt and expressing her despair. With no time to reason with her, I forcefully pulled her behind me, successfully getting both of us outside just as several cylinders exploded in succession. The crowd around us erupted in applause, and I teared up recalling that moment.

At Kumbh, I encountered numerous incidents that filled me with pride. Yet, there were moments where my inability to help left me with regrets. The Red Cross ingrained in me the importance of selflessness and the essence of saving lives. I was deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve sadhus, the injured, and helpless travelers on the sacred land of Prayag through the Red Cross.



# HEROES OF MAHAKUMBH 2025: CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM



## DEDICATION AND SERVICE: THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF JAYPRAKASH SHUKLA IN HUMANITARIAN AID

JAYPRAKASH SHUKLA  
SECRETARY, DISTRICT BRANCH SULTANPUR / LECTURER  
MAHAKUMBH MELA IN-CHARGE  
UTTAR PRADESH  
CONTACT: 7905415150, 9450430043

I am Jayprakash Shukla, the Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society, Sultanpur District, Uttar Pradesh. I had the honor of serving as the Kumbh Mela In-Charge since 2019, while also overseeing the Magh Mela.

My efforts in facilitating the successful execution of the Kumbh Mela in 2019 were recognized by the Honorable Governor of Uttar Pradesh, who conferred upon me a token of appreciation. Additionally, I had the privilege of being honored twice by the Governor for my contributions alongside my team during the Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra in Odisha. Furthermore, I received a Gold Medal for my exemplary services provided for 43 days under the St. John Ambulance Brigade during the Commonwealth Games.

Since 2019, I had consistently provided my services as the In-Charge for the Mahakumbh and Magh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. During this time, I extended my services to approximately 45,000 devotees, assisting them in various capacities, such as lost-and-found assistance, CPR, and emergency response during fire incidents.

As we approached the Mahakumbh Mela 2025, I had already begun preparations. From December 23, 2024, I provided my services at Sector 5, Tulsi Marg, Harishchandra Chauraha, and Sector 24, Chakr Madhav Marg, alongside my able colleagues, Dipika Singh and Jasper Shukla.

In collaboration with the Fire Department, I played a crucial role in responding to fire incidents in sectors 19, 22, and 16. Noteworthy was my successful resuscitation of Sita Devi, aged approximately 65 years, who was promptly transported to the hospital via CPR. Additionally, I was able to save Rajesh Singh, a 4-year-old from District Jawahar, Rajasthan, ensuring his safety before reuniting him with his family. In another instance, Naresh Chandra, a 33-year-old from Sasaram, Bihar, received critical first aid and was subsequently taken to the Sector 25 camp hospital.

Throughout that journey, I remained steadfast in providing primary care to over 35,000 devotees, ensuring their safety and well-being.



# TESTIMONIALS OF VOLUNTEERS

## AND STAFF

MARCH 24TH, 2025



*I, Vinod Biyani, Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch Jalgaon, would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the exemplary services provided during the Mahakumbh. It was a privilege to meet with Aarti Srivastava, Secretary of Red Cross Kheri, and Ranish Sharma, State Coordinator, and other volunteers at the Red Cross camp. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of all the officials and staff of Red Cross Uttar Pradesh and other State branches. Their dedication to providing vital health services and first aid to devotees at this monumental spiritual gathering was nothing short of commendable. Their selfless service truly embodied the spirit of humanity, and I wished them continued success in their philanthropic endeavors. Together, they set a remarkable example of compassion and commitment that inspired everyone.*

**Vinod Biyani**  
**Chairman,**  
**Indian Red Cross Society**  
**District Branch Jalgaon**



*I felt proud to have had the opportunity to work with the Red Cross Uttar Pradesh during the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj in 2025. The moments we spent in the camp, providing first aid to injured and distressed pilgrims and offering various other services, were truly unforgettable. I would like to express my gratitude to the entire Uttar Pradesh Red Cross team for successfully organizing such a large and significant event in such a well-planned and efficient manner. The officials and volunteers who continuously managed the entire operation in such challenging circumstances were indeed a source of inspiration for all of us.*

**Ashim Nath, Divisional**  
**Commander of St. John**  
**Ambulance Brigade Kharagpur**  
**Ambulance**





# TESTIMONIALS OF VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF



*The Red Cross made a significant decision to set up grand aid camps during the Maha Kumbh Mela, which required substantial funding. In this noble endeavor, the 46 district branches of the Red Cross generously contributed financial support. As a result, a large-scale aid camp was operational since January 13th at the Maha Kumbh Mela. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the officials of the district Red Cross branches who contributed to this cause. Additionally, I extended my warmest congratulations to all the selfless volunteers of the Red Cross, who tirelessly assisted those in need. I wished all the volunteers a bright future and hoped that they continued to engage in such humanitarian work.*

**Treasurer**

**Arun Kumar Singh**

**Red Cross, Uttar Pradesh**



*In 2025, I had the privilege of serving as a First Aider at the Maha Kumbh Mela through St. John's / IRCS UP. This remarkable experience allowed me to provide vital emergency health services to countless pilgrims, monks, and saints who journeyed miles to bathe in the sacred Sangam. Engaging with these individuals and hearing their inspiring stories of resilience was truly rewarding. My responsibilities ranged from administering first aid to the injured and distributing free medicines with the medical team to offering psychosocial support to those who had lost loved ones during the event. Utilizing my Red Cross training, I aimed to maximize the assistance provided to the pilgrims. Overall, this volunteering opportunity was profoundly fulfilling and transformative.*

**Shweta Singh Talwar**

**First Aid Master Trainer / First Aid**

**Lay Lecturer**



*I, Haryank Singh, had been working as a volunteer for the past five years. During the Mahakumbh, I engaged in various activities such as providing assistance to the injured and elderly, offering first aid, and distributing food, which allowed me to connect with devotees who showered me with affection and blessings. However, the most profound experience for me was rescuing people trapped in a fire at Sector 18. The joy and peace I felt after helping them were indescribable.*

**Haryank Singh, Volunteer  
Red Cross Uttar Pradesh**



*First of all, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Hima Bindhu Naik, the General Secretary of Red Cross Uttar Pradesh, for inviting all states and districts to participate in the grand event of the Mahakumbh, 2025 which provided us with the opportunity to serve and witness it. I appreciate the arrangements made for the volunteers from various states despite the daily challenges. I sincerely thank all the state officials for their support.*

**Shri Amrit Lal  
Assistant Commissioner, St.  
John Ambulance, Jharkhand**



*The opportunity to serve as a volunteer with the Red Cross during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj in 2025 was incredibly significant for me. It was the first time I realized how fulfilling it was to assist those in distress. Everything there was magnificent, but our responsibility was to offer help and service to all the devotees and workers present, whether they were cleaners, police officers, or saintly figures. Under the guidance of our elders, we made earnest efforts to serve. The love and blessings we received after helping those in need were unforgettable. The Red Cross gave my life a new direction and taught me that humanity is the greatest religion of all.*

**Anurag Saxena, Volunteer  
Red Cross, Uttar Pradesh**



*I had truly been overwhelmed by the tireless humanitarian efforts that took place at the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance assistance camps in the Kumbh Mela area. Witnessing the selfless work that was being done day and night, I felt compelled to contribute my support as well. It filled me with a profound sense of pride that God had granted me the opportunity to be involved with such a noble organization dedicated to serving humanity.*

**Sanjay Jayswal**  
**Membership In-Charge**  
**Red Cross, Uttar Pradesh**



*During the Mahakumbh 2025, I had the opportunity to serve at the assistance camps organized by the Red Cross Uttar Pradesh. I contributed to humanitarian efforts for 15 days. One day, while my fellow volunteers and I were working in the fairgrounds, we encountered a woman who had collapsed and was unresponsive. We immediately sprang into action, providing her with first aid and arranging for an ambulance to transport her to the hospital. Once she regained consciousness, her family expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the entire Red Cross team for our swift intervention. That moment stood out as one of the most touching experiences of my life.*

**Rajneesh Sharma**  
**State Coordinator**  
**Red Cross Uttar Pradesh**

**“VOLUNTEERS DO NOT  
NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME,  
THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART.”**



# TALES OF UNITY AND DEVOTION: INSPIRING STORIES FROM MAHAKUMBH 2025

MARCH 24TH, 2025

## 1. *A Beacon of Hope at Mahakumbh 2025: Free Homeopathic Health Camp for Pilgrims*



A heartwarming free homeopathic health check-up and medicine distribution camp unfolded at Sangam Ghat in Prayagraj Sector 5. This noble initiative, a collaboration between the Indian Red Cross Society, Fatehpur, and Dr. Satyanarayan Seva Foundation led by Chairman Dr. Anurag Srivastava, brought hope and healing to countless pilgrims during the Kumbh Mela.

Dr. Anurag, along with his dedicated team, conducted health assessments and dispensed soothing homeopathic remedies for common ailments such as cold, cough, and joint pain. Each attendee received health-boosting syrups, nurturing their energy and enhancing digestion as they continued their spiritual journeys.

Grateful devotees showered blessings upon Dr. Anurag for his unwavering commitment to their well-being, while prominent figures like Jayprakash Shukla and Abhinav Srivastava supported the initiative, highlighting the spirit of service and compassion that defined Mahakumbh 2025. The Indian Red Cross Society's tireless efforts truly illuminated this sacred occasion, ensuring that health and welfare accompanied every pilgrim on their path.

**. To know more click on the link ; <https://tinyurl.com/2awpu698>**



## 2. A Brave Rescue: Humanity Prevailed Amidst the Flames.



At the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, a remarkable rescue unfolded as volunteers leaped into action to save a woman from raging flames. Aarti Srivastava, Co-In-Charge of the Mela, had discovered smoke after a sudden blackout and quickly alerted Mela In-Charge Jai Prakash Shukla. With help from volunteers across Jharkhand, Lakhimpur, and Sultanpur, ambulances were mobilized.

Upon arriving at Sector 19 to chaos and flames engulfing tents, Aarti and her team bravely pushed through the smoke. They heard the desperate screams of Padma, who was trapped inside a tent, mourning her severely burned face and lost belongings. Overcoming Padma's resistance, Aarti pulled her to safety just as gas cylinders began to explode.

Once stabilized in the ambulance, Padma joyfully reunited with her son. Other volunteers tirelessly cleared debris and provided support until the fire was extinguished. Aarti reflected, "It brought joy knowing we saved a life amidst the chaos." This gripping incident showcased the extraordinary spirit of compassion during a crisis.

**To know how brave volunteers saved life during a fire broke out at Mahakumbh 2025 ;  
<https://tinyurl.com/8n85yx8y>**



### 3. Compassion in Action: Red Cross at Mahakumbh 2025



At the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, the dedication of the Red Cross was evident through the thoughtful contributions of officials and staff of Red Cross Uttar Pradesh. They presented hygiene kits to the staff responsible for sanitation, lighting, and water arrangements, highlighting a commitment to health and well-being.

In addition to this, hygiene kits and shawls were distributed to women cooking for volunteers at the Red Cross camp and other underprivileged women, ensuring their dignity and comfort. Recognizing exemplary leadership, Shri Naik and Dr. Naik praised Jai Prakash Shukla and Aarti Srivastava for their efforts during emergencies, presenting them with shawls and certificates of appreciation.

The ceremony also honored other volunteers, including Dr. Ravindra Sharma and Rajneesh Sharma, for their unwavering commitment. As the event concluded, Shri Akhilendra Shahi, Vice-Chairman of Red Cross Uttar Pradesh, expressed gratitude to attendees by gifting Red Cross cups. This gathering showcased the Red Cross's unwavering spirit of service and compassion in action during one of the world's largest religious events.



## 4. A Heartfelt Rescue: Red Cross Volunteers Saved a Life at Mahakumbh 2025



On January 25, 2025, during the sacred Ekadashi, courageous Red Cross volunteers in Uttar Pradesh demonstrated remarkable heroism. They formed a human chain to assist the flood of pilgrims at the bustling event.

Amidst the crowd, a lifeless woman was discovered on the road, while her distraught companion wept nearby. Aarti Srivastava, Co-In-Charge of Red Cross Lakhimpur Kheri, quickly sprang into action alongside Anil Tiwari from Deoria and State Coordinator Rajneesh. They performed swift CPR on Julie Singh, a woman from Banaras, reviving her just in time.

Their rapid intervention stabilized her condition, and they efficiently called for an ambulance, ensuring her family was notified and rushed to the hospital. After confirming her recovery with medical staff, the dedicated team returned to their duties—leaving behind a saved life and a grateful family.

This inspiring incident showcased the unwavering spirit of the Red Cross, with volunteers like Aarti, Rajneesh, and the Deoria team embodying the ideals of compassion and service, making a profound difference during one of the world's largest religious gatherings.

**To know how Red Cross volunteer saved a life during stampede ;\_**  
**<https://tinyurl.com/yeys95sm>**



# PHOTO GALLERY

MARCH 24TH, 2025

















# Community Care: Blanket Distribution at Mahakumbh 2025, Prayagraj Closing Ceremony

MARCH 24TH, 2025



*At the end of the Indian Red Cross Society Uttar Pradesh Mahakumbh Prayagraj felicitation and closing ceremony, blankets were distributed to women of Banjara families who sold flower garlands at the ghat, cleaning workers, electricity workers, and police personnel.*



# Honored the Heroes: Recognized Red Cross Volunteers in U.P.

MARCH 24TH, 2025



*Certificates were awarded to the volunteers serving at Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj by Mr. Ravindra Naik, Principal Secretary (Secretariat Administration) of U.P., Dr. Himabindu Naik, General Secretary of Red Cross U.P., and Mr. Akhilesh Shahi, Vice Chairman of Red Cross U.P.*



# Honored the Heroes: Recognized Red Cross Volunteers in U.P.

MARCH 24TH, 2025



*A function was organized at the Red Cross Society Uttar Pradesh Medical College, Prayagraj, to honor volunteers for their excellent services during the Maha Kumbh. They provided medical care to thousands of injured people, assisted in cases of fire, helped the elderly, and successfully carried out various other tasks.*



## महाकुंभ के अमृत गंगा सम्मान से सम्मानित हुई खीरी की लाडली

### आरती श्रीवास्तव को महाकुंभ अमृत गंगा सम्मान 2025 से किया गया सम्मानित

❖ गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच, नीला फाउंडेशन, रसायन विज्ञान विभाग सी एम पी डिग्री कॉलेज प्रयागराज द्वारा दिया गया सम्मान।

#### संवाददाता

**लखीमपुर खीरी।** डॉ शंभू नौटियाल संयोजक + गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच + एवं रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में + गंगा संवाद राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का विशाल कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया, इस अवसर पर रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश के उन 10 पदाधिकारियों/स्वयं सेवियों को सम्मानित किया गया जिन्होंने महाकुंभ प्रयागराज 2025 में पूरे समय मेले में रहकर आग लगने, भगदड़ होने एवम विभिन्न विपरीत परिस्थितियों में अपनी जान जोखिम में डालकर



श्रद्धालुओं/साधू संन्यासियों की जान बचाई, इसके अलावा रेडक्रॉस प्राथमिक चिकित्सा शिविर में पूरे समय रहकर हजारों घायलों, घबराहट से पीड़ित

मूर्कंधत, तीर्थयात्रियों, मुकिसकर्मियों, सफाई कर्मियों की सहायता की। महाकुंभ प्रयागराज 2025 में उत्कृष्ट कार्य करने वाले देवरिया जनपद से अखिलेंद्र शाही



उप सभापति रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश, लखीमपुर खीरी जनपद से आरती श्रीवास्तव लेखाकार महाकुंभ प्रयागराज रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश, अधिवक्ता अनुराग सक्सेना, हरयंक सिंह, हीरागिनी, अंशिका,

सुल्तानपुर जनपद से जय प्रकाश शुक्ला मेला प्रभारी, दीपिका सिंह एवम रजनीश शर्मा एवम अमृत लाल असिस्टेंट कमिश्नर सेंट जान एंबुलेंस झारखंड को गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच, नीला फाउंडेशन, रसायन विज्ञान विभाग सी एम पी डिग्री कॉलेज प्रयागराज द्वारा सम्मानित किया गया। कार्यक्रम में सर्वप्रथम उपस्थित जनों द्वारा गंगा विश्व धरोहर विषय पर चर्चा परिचर्चा की गई एवं उपस्थित जनों को गंगा को स्वच्छ बनाए रखने हेतु जागरूक किया, गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच कार्यक्रम में उत्तरकाशी से आई हुई टीम का भी रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश के स्वयंसेवियों द्वारा माला पहनाकर स्वागत किया गया एवं डॉ रवींद्र शर्मा चैयरमैन रेडक्रॉस लखीमपुर खीरी द्वारा सभी का आभार प्रकट किया गया।

## महाकुंभ के अमृत गंगा सम्मान से सम्मानित हुई खीरी की लाडली

विजय मिश्रा। तराई विचार

**लखीमपुर खीरी।** डॉ शंभू नौटियाल संयोजक "गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच" एवं रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में "गंगा संवाद राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी" का विशाल कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया, इस अवसर पर रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश के उन 10 पदाधिकारियों/स्वयं सेवियों को सम्मानित किया गया जिन्होंने महाकुंभ प्रयागराज 2025 में पूरे समय मेले में रहकर आग लगने, भगदड़ होने एवम विभिन्न विपरीत परिस्थितियों में अपनी जान जोखिम में डालकर श्रद्धालुओं/साधू संन्यासियों की जान बचाई, इसके अलावा रेडक्रॉस प्राथमिक चिकित्सा शिविर में पूरे समय रहकर हजारों घायलों, घबराहट से पीड़ित मूर्कंधत, तीर्थयात्रियों, पुलिसकर्मियों, सफाई कर्मियों की सहायता की। महाकुंभ प्रयागराज 2025 में उत्कृष्ट कार्य करने वाले देवरिया जनपद से अखिलेंद्र शाही उप सभापति रेडक्रॉस



उत्तर प्रदेश, लखीमपुर खीरी जनपद से आरती श्रीवास्तव लेखाकार महाकुंभ प्रयागराज रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश, अधिवक्ता अनुराग सक्सेना, हरयंक सिंह, हीरागिनी, अंशिका, सुल्तानपुर जनपद से जय प्रकाश शुक्ला मेला प्रभारी, दीपिका सिंह एवम रजनीश शर्मा एवम अमृत लाल असिस्टेंट कमिश्नर सेंट जान एंबुलेंस झारखंड को गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच, नीला फाउंडेशन, रसायन विज्ञान विभाग सी एम पी डिग्री कॉलेज

प्रयागराज द्वारा सम्मानित किया गया कार्यक्रम में सर्वप्रथम उपस्थित जनों द्वारा गंगा विश्व धरोहर विषय पर चर्चा परिचर्चा की गई एवं उपस्थित जनों को गंगा को स्वच्छ बनाए रखने हेतु जागरूक किया, गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच कार्यक्रम में उत्तरकाशी से आई हुई टीम का भी रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश के स्वयंसेवियों द्वारा माला पहनाकर स्वागत किया गया एवं डॉ रवींद्र शर्मा चैयरमैन रेडक्रॉस लखीमपुर खीरी द्वारा सभी का आभार प्रकट किया गया।

## महाकुंभ अमृत गंगा सम्मान से सम्मानित हुए अखिलेंद्र शाही पहल दुडे

गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच, नीला फाउंडेशन, रसायन विज्ञान विभाग सी एम पी डिग्री कॉलेज प्रयागराज के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में हुआ आयोजन डॉ शंभू नौटियाल संयोजक गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच एवं रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में गंगा संवाद राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का विशाल कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। कार्यक्रम में इंडियन रेड क्रॉस सोसाइटी उत्तर प्रदेश की महासचिव डॉ हिमा बिंदु नायक, उपसभापति अखिलेंद्र शाही, महासचिव हरीश चंद्र शर्मा, रेडक्रॉस उत्तराखंड, डॉ रवींद्र शर्मा, मेला प्रभारी जयप्रकाश शुक्ला, महाकुंभ लेखाकार आरती श्रीवास्तव, रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश, शंभू नौटियाल संयोजक गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच आदि के संयुक्त दिशा निर्देशन में कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। कार्यक्रम में सर्वप्रथम उपस्थित जनों द्वारा गंगा विश्व धरोहर विषय पर चर्चा परिचर्चा की गई एवं उपस्थित जनों को गंगा को स्वच्छ बनाए रखने हेतु जागरूक किया गया। तत्पश्चात अखिलेंद्र शाही, जय प्रकाश शुक्ला, आरती श्रीवास्तव,



रजनीश शर्मा, अधिवक्ता अनुराग सक्सेना, हरियांक सिंह, हीरागिनी अनुराग, दीपिका सिंह, अंशिका श्रीवास्तव, अमृत लाल असिस्टेंट कमिश्नर सेंट जान एंबुलेंस झारखंड को गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच, नीला फाउंडेशन, रसायन विज्ञान विभाग सी एम पी डिग्री कॉलेज प्रयागराज द्वारा सम्मानित किया गया। गंगा विश्व धरोहर मंच कार्यक्रम में उत्तरकाशी से आई हुई टीम का भी रेडक्रॉस उत्तर प्रदेश के स्वयंसेवियों द्वारा माला पहनाकर स्वागत किया गया एवं डॉ रवींद्र शर्मा चैयरमैन रेडक्रॉस लखीमपुर खीरी द्वारा सभी का आभार प्रकट किया गया।



# MEDIA COVERAGE

MARCH 24TH, 2025



**महाकुंभ में सेवा देने वाले रेडक्रॉस के सदस्यों को किया गया सम्मानित @BANYNEWS**



To view click here ; [IRCS responds to Community Support at Prayagraj Mahakumbh](#)