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**Divine-Grand-Digital
Mahakumbh of Unity**



CLIMATE CONCLAVE

THE MAHAKUMBH DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

16th February 2025 | Prayagraj

Preamble

We, the representatives of religious, faith-based and spiritual organisations, scientific institutions, policy-making bodies, industry, government authorities, citizens and devotees of India, gathered at the sacred confluence of Ganga-Yamuna-Saraswati in Prayagraj, acknowledge the eternal significance of Kumbh for spiritual unity, cultural heritage and collective consciousness.

The climate crisis is the greatest challenge of our time, posing a threat to the Earth's ecosystems, human livelihoods and the well-being of future generations. As moral and spiritual guides to billions of people across the world, our religious leaders and faith-based organizations hold a unique position to inspire action, influence behaviour and bring about transformational change.

In paying homage to the eternal wisdom of Sanatan Dharma at Mahakumbh, we acknowledge the important role of all religious and spiritual traditions in inspiring collective action to tackle the climate crisis and call for a global spiritual movement to protect our planet.

Importance of Kumbh Mela

The Kumbh Mela is a profound expression of faith and spirituality, symbolising humanity's eternal quest for knowledge, self-realisation and harmony among diverse cultures and beliefs.

For centuries, the Kumbh Mela has served as a unifying force in promoting inter-religious dialogue, promoting peace and showcasing India's rich spiritual heritage. It is a testimony to our compassion and tolerance towards all living beings.

Role of religious leaders, faith-based and spiritual organizations in climate change mitigation

The teachings and principles of all religions provide guidance to prevent environmental degradation. Hinduism and most Indic faiths consider nature as divine, establishing its preservation as a sacred duty of human beings. Ancient scriptures emphasize harmony with nature and establish that caring for nature is essential not only for human development but also for spiritual upliftment. These principles are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are important for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

Religious leaders and faith-based and spiritual organizations can contribute to mitigating the ill effects of climate change through the following measures:-

1. Spiritual guidance and teachings

- Teaching the moral obligation to protect nature and its structures.
- Integrating environmental and climate education in sermons, gatherings and community programs.

2. Advocacy and influence

- Supporting strong climate policies at the local, national and international levels.
- Working with governments, businesses, scientists and citizens to promote renewable energy, water and energy conservation, afforestation and sustainable production and consumption.
- Promoting faith-based climate awareness by building inter-religious alliances.

3. Community engagement

- Leading grassroots initiatives such as tree planting, cleanliness drives, water and land conservation.
- Inspiring people to adopt waste management, renewable energy, energy conservation and eco-friendly technologies.
- Promote inter-religious collaboration for large-scale environmental projects.

4. Supporting vulnerable communities

- Providing relief and activating community action during climate disasters and other calamities.
- Promote community-based adaptation strategies to enhance resilience to climate disasters.

5. Leading by example

- Encourage religious and spiritual institutions to operate sustainably by adopting green practices such as renewable energy, energy conservation, waste management and water and land conservation.
- Build solar-powered places of worship, zero waste religious centres and eco-friendly community centres.
- Promote eco-friendly religious events.

6. Incorporation of traditional knowledge

- Promote traditional ecological knowledge in line with sustainability.
- Incorporate teachings on the sanctity of rivers, forests and biodiversity into modern climate solutions.



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Commitments

The Uttar Pradesh government resolves to:

- Support religious centres and faith-based and spiritual organisations in the state in adopting renewable energy, waste management, energy and water conservation, afforestation and other eco-friendly technologies and measures.
- Assist in setting up environment and climate education programmes for religious centres, faith-based and spiritual organisations in the state.
- Promote eco-friendly religious events in the state.
- Organise a conference on "Faith and Climate Change" at every Kumbh mela held in the state.

Declaration

Religious leaders and faith-based organisations have immense potential to inspire climate action, as they can present environmental protection as a moral and spiritual duty. By assuming these roles, they can guide humanity towards a just and harmonious future.

We, the participants of the Faith of Kumbh and Climate Change Conference, pledge today, on 16th February 2025, to support spiritual and faith-based organisations in disseminating knowledge and finding solutions to the climate crisis.

We reiterate our commitment to unity, sustainability and spiritual upliftment. The Mahakumbh Declaration calls on all faith-based and spiritual organisations, policy-makers, civil society, industry, scientists, governments and individuals to join this effort. Together, we will build a future where spirituality and sustainability co-exist and prosper for generations to come.

पर्यावरणनाशेन नश्यन्ति सर्वजन्तवः ।
पवनः दुष्टतां याति प्रकृतिविकृतायते ॥
- श्री विष्णु सहस्रनाम स्तोत्रम्

With the destruction of the environment, all living beings perish.
The air becomes polluted, and nature becomes distorted.
- Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam Stotram

