

# Pilgrimage & Gathering

Many Hindus place a high value on pilgrimage to holy places, or participation in auspicious events such as the largest gathering of humanity on earth - the Khumb Mela.

The Khumb Mela was most recently held in 2019, between January and March. Over 120 million pilgrims visited the north Indian city of Prayagraj (formally called Allahabad), to bathe in the holy waters where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers meet. A commonly held belief is that a third, spiritual, river joins them at the confluence and that bathing in all three rivers can help a pilgrim on their journey towards, "*moksha*" - liberation or salvation from the cycle of life and death. Elsewhere, particularly in South Asia, similar but smaller community festivals take place, many times centered around an important river.

For most Hindus, life itself is ordered around spiritual disciplines such as a yearly pilgrimage, weekly visits to temple, daily worship in the house, and the observance of festivals.

These events are usually facilitated by the women of the family but with the participation of the men. There is a sense that they must do these things or suffer ill-defined consequences, either in this life or the life hereafter, or that their loved ones will suffer as well.

*How can we pray*

**Pray for Hindus who sacrifice much to meet with God or to obtain freedom, that they will discover Jesus, who paid once and for all for the sins of mankind and offers that great gift freely to all peoples.**

ROMANS 6:23

**Pray for those who are tired of ritual and long for a personal living connection with God and are earnestly seeking Him, that they will find Him.**

MATTHEW 7:7

**Pray for the seekers, pilgrims and ascetics, that they will discover living water in the person of Jesus.**

JOHN 4:10