

# EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH

# Muslims in Prayagraj, India

Questions? Want to explore moving here?



Newly named Prayagraj, the city of Allahabad can be an uninteresting place to those who prefer the atmosphere of a modern city. Its charm is found in its tranquility.

200,000

Muslims in City

816,000

Muslims in District

URDU

Language

0.2%

Christian

## MAP OF INDIA



## UTTAR PRADESH



## ABOUT PRAYAGRAJ

The seventh most populous city in Uttar Pradesh, *formerly named Allahabad*, "the city of Allah," is Prayagraj, the administrative headquarters of the formerly Allahabad District and was recently renamed Prayagraj.

Prayagraj is among the world's fastest growing cities and recognized as one of the **largest commercial centers in the state**. There are many **universities** here as well.

In recent years, a high court ruling declared that Muslims in Uttar Pradesh (*home to the country's largest Muslim population and only 0.1% Christian*) would no longer be considered a minority. This was the latest in a series of attempts to curtail the protection and privileges (*including the right to establish and administer educational institutions*) of minority rights. As expected, Muslims and defenders of minority rights greeted the ruling with anger and indignation. Though the ruling was stayed the next day, it signals that changes in secularism and democracy may be on the horizon.

## LIVABILITY

1. Located in the southeastern part of Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj is only 24 miles wide and long, right where the Ganges and Jumna Rivers meet.
2. A railway line divides the city both geographically and culturally, and there is one small airport that flies between major cities once a day or so.
3. The area has a humid subtropical climate, with an annual mean temperature of 79°F. It experiences three seasons, a hot dry summer that lasts from April to June, with temperatures in excess of 104°F; the warm humid monsoon, that extends from early July to September with a cool dry winter lasting from December to February.
4. It would be strategic for locals or Latinos to land here and blend in, because of political climate and scrutiny and the lack of foreign faces present in this "small-ish" city (small, for India, that is).



# PRAYAGRAJ

## Overview & OPPORTUNITIES

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### SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Around 1.3 million Hindus represent the largest religious affiliation in Prayagraj. **About 200,000 Muslims** make up the largest minority group, followed by about 1,300 Christians. Other minority religions include Buddhists and Sikhs. The city is the site of many sacred fairs and rituals, **attracting thousands of pilgrims throughout the year...the number swells to millions during the Kumbh Mela, a mass Hindu pilgrimage for purification held every six years, which could create unique opportunities to plant Kingdom seeds that might spread throughout India.**

The city's Muslim population is likely to include people from many villages in the Prayagraj District, which would be more difficult for foreigners to live. This suggests that the city itself could be a home base for ministry in outlying regions.

It is a tragedy that **no known followers of Christ are actively focused on movements to Christ** among Urdu-speaking Muslims in Prayagraj.

### SOCIETY

Known for its **literary and artistic heritage**, Prayagraj has been called *the literary capital of Uttar Pradesh*.

Universities are plentiful in the city, and some foreign students *do* study here. So, students from any country getting an undergraduate degree or a masters, would make sense and allow a few years of student-visa access to learn Hindi/Urdu, the culture, and create a longer visa plan.

Hindi, the official state language, is dominant here, and the dialect is Awadhi. English is also spoken, particularly by white-collar workers.

**Muslims speak Urdu**, which is very similar to Hindi.

The city's distinctive education system includes schools run by the State and private schools—mostly run by religious organizations. Government schools use Hindi and English, while private schools generally teach in English medium. So, teaching English is desirable.

Hindu women mostly wear traditional saris, but Western attire and the shalwar kameez for Muslims are gaining acceptance. Men are more likely to wear Western dress but wear traditional attire for festivals.

*Is God speaking to your heart about the Muslim people in India? Prayagraj offers a unique opportunity for influencing how Muslims throughout India learn about the Savior they have never known.*



### ECONOMY

While Allahabad's economy was built on **tourism, real estate and financial services** now account for most of its revenue. As one of the largest commercial centers in Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj enjoys the State's second-highest per capital income and third highest GDP. **Tourism, fishing and agriculture** are the city's main industries. In addition to more than 3,000 small industries, there are believed to be more than 10,000 unregistered small industry units in the city.

In addition to teaching English, entrepreneurial opportunities are as broad as your imagination. It may also be possible to franchise a branch of an existing business located elsewhere in India.

Because of the 'fishbowl' feel of the city (*everyone will know you're there*), it may be best to come on a student visa as a student in your field of interest, or if you have an upper level degree, you could apply to teach at the universities.