

Maha Kumbh: Planning & Governance Secrets



The Maha Kumbh embodies India's timeless spiritual heritage and celebrates faith and harmony.

- Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi

KENNETH IAN JUSTER,
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This has been an amazing experience. I am enormously impressed by the preparations that are being made for Kumbh Mela 2019 and I think it will be a magnificent celebration, a spiritual event of great meaning and importance. I hope to be able to visit Prayagraj during Kumbh Mela itself. I thank the Prime Minister of India for arranging this visit. It really has been very special, with several memorable moments. Travelling into Prayagraj by bus and having schoolchildren celebrate our visit through many miles has been an extremely moving experience.

Context:



- The world's largest religious congregation, the **Maha Kumbh Mela**, kicked off on **January 13, 2025** with over **50 lakh** people taking the **first holy dip** at **Sangam**, the point where the **Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati** rivers converge.



1. What is Kumbh Mela?

- The term **‘Kumbh’** comes from the root **‘Kumbhk’** (the sacred **pitcher of elixir of immortality**).
- Kumbh Mela is a **major pilgrimage** and festival in Hinduism.
- It is **celebrated in a cycle of approximately 12 years**, to celebrate every **revolution Brihaspati (Jupiter) completes**.
- **Kumbh** is mainly held at four riverside pilgrimage sites, namely: **Prayagraj (Ganges-Yamuna-Sarasvati rivers confluence), Haridwar (Ganges), Nashik (Godavari), and Ujjain (Shipra)**.
- Each **site’s celebration** is based on a **distinct set of astrological positions of the Sun, the Moon, and Jupiter**.
- The **celebrations** occur at the **exact moment when these positions are fully occupied**, as it is considered to be the holiest time in Hinduism.
- The **Kumbh Mela is an event** that intrinsically encapsulates the **science of astronomy, astrology, spirituality, ritualistic traditions,** and socio-cultural customs and practices, making it **extremely rich in knowledge**.

2. What is the origin of Kumbh Mela?

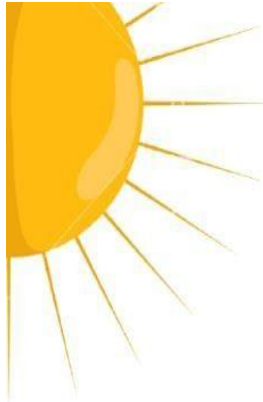


- As per Hindu mythology, the origin of the **Kumbh Melas** is linked to **Samudra Manthan** or the churning of the **cosmic ocean**, when **deities and demons** came together to attain amrit, or the **nectar of immortality**.
- The story goes that when **Devas (gods) and Asuras (loosely translated as demons)** churned the ocean, **Dhanvantri** emerged carrying a pitcher of amrita, or the elixir of immortality.

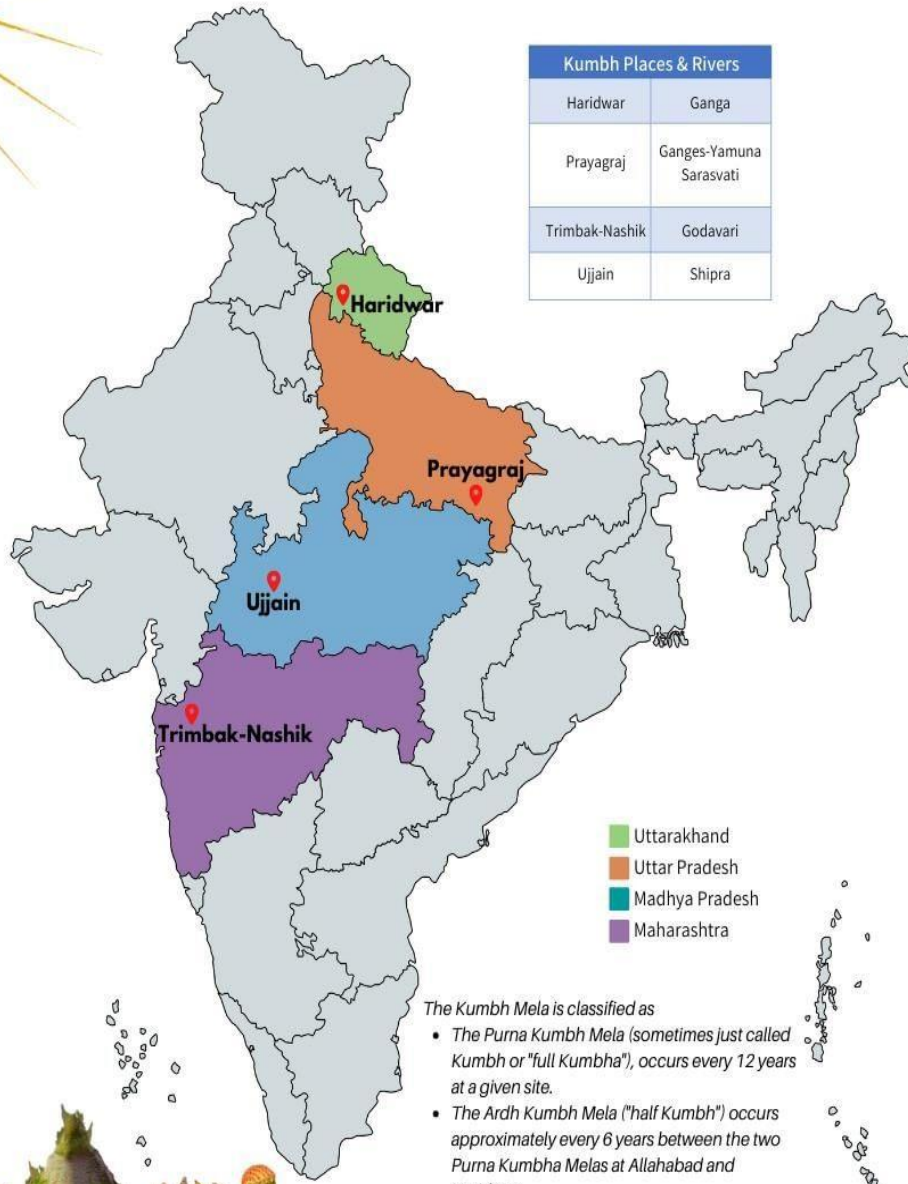
- To make sure the **Asuras don't get it**, **Indra's son, Jayant, ran off with the pot.**
- The **Sun, his son Shani(the planet Jupiter), Brihaspati** (the planet Jupiter), and the **Moon went along to protect him and the pot.**
- As Jayant ran, the **amrita split at four spots: Haridwar, Prayagraj, Ujjain, and Nashik-Trimbakeshwar.**
- He ran for 12 days, and as one day of the **Devas is equal to one year of humans**, **Kumbh Mela** is celebrated at these **locations every 12 years**, based on the **relative positions of the Sun, the Moon, and Jupiter.**
- A battle broke out, leading to drops of the **nectar falling at four sites – Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain.**
- These places house **four Tirthas or holy sites and a dip in the rivers** flowing through them River Kshipra in Ujjain, Nashik's Godavari, Ganga in Haridwar and Sangam at Prayagraj **would lead to salvation.**
- Each of these sacred locations has hosted the **Kumbh Mela on a rotational basis for centuries**, but the **Prayagraj event is considered the most important and spectacular.**



The Kumbh Mela



Kumbh Places & Rivers	
Haridwar	Ganga
Prayagraj	Ganges-Yamuna Sarasvati
Trimbak-Nashik	Godavari
Ujjain	Shipra



The Kumbh Mela is classified as

- The Purna Kumbh Mela (sometimes just called Kumbh or "full Kumbha"), occurs every 12 years at a given site.
- The Ardh Kumbh Mela ("half Kumbh") occurs approximately every 6 years between the two Purna Kumbha Melas at Allahabad and Haridwar.
- The Maha Kumbh, which occurs every 12 Purna Kumbh Melas i.e. after every 144 years.

3. Enlist various types of Kumbh Mela?

- There are four different types of Kumbh: **Purna (complete) Kumbh Mela**, **Ardh (half) Kumbh Mela**, **Kumbh Mela**, and **Maha (Great) Kumbh Mela**.

Types of Kumbh	Description
<p>Maha Kumbh Mela</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Maha Kumbh Mela is the rarest and most sacred gathering of the Kumbh Mela. ● It is held only in Prayagraj. ● It comes every 144 years or after 12 Purna (Complete) Kumbh Mela. 
<p>Purna Kumbh Mela</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It comes every 12 years. ● Mainly held at 4 Kumbh Mela Places in India i.e. Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain. ● It rotates every 12 years at these 4 places.
<p>Ardh Kumbh Mela</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ardh Kumbh means Half Kumbh Mela which is held every 6 years in India only at two places i.e. Haridwar and Prayagraj.
<p>Kumbh Mela</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Held at four different places and is organised by the state governments. ● Millions of people participate with spiritual enthusiasm.

Magh Kumbh Mela	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magh Kumbh is also known as Mini Kumbh Mela which is held annually and only at Prayagraj. • It is organised in the month of Magh according to the Hindu Calendar.
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- The grand event is highly sacred, with **Shahi Snan, or holy dip, being its highlight**.
- Saints and monks from **various akharas** take the holy dip at a certain time on auspicious days.
- The dates of the **Kumbh Mela** are decided on the movements of the **Moon, Sun and Jupiter** as per the Hindu calendar.

4. How is Kumbh Mela different from Maha Kumbh Mela?

- The Kumbh Mela is held every three years with the four locations – **Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik, and Prayagraj** – hosting the event on rotation.
- The **Maha Kumbh** is organised on a grand scale due to its religious importance.
- It is primarily held at **Prayagraj and draws a large crowd**, becoming one of the largest gatherings in the world.

Feature	Kumbh Mela	Mahakumbh Mela
Frequency	Every 3 years	Every 12 years
Locations	Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik, Prayagraj	Primarily at Prayagraj
Significance	Important for spiritual growth	Considered the most sacred
Devotee Attendance	Millions (less than Mahakumbh)	Estimated 400 million

Rituals	Sacred plunge in holy rivers	Enhanced spiritual rituals
Spiritual Benefits	Cleansing of sins	Greater purification and salvation

5. Why is Maha Kumbh 2025 special?

- The **2025 Maha Kumbh Mela** holds **special significance** as it marks the **completion of 12 Kumbh Mela cycles**.
- It is after **144 years** that the **positioning of all the four planets is in line**, and **three hours prior to Amavasya** (January 29), importantly, **‘Pukh (also pushya) Nakshatra’** will also align with the four planets i.e the **Sun, Moon, Jupiter and Saturn**.
- Thus, the **most auspicious of all the Maha Kumbh in the past 144 years is in 2025**.

6. What is Amrit Snan or shahi snan?

- The Kumbh Mela is held after every **12 years** at **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik-Trimbakeshwar, and Ujjain**, at the banks of the **sangam, the Ganga, the Godavari, and the Kshipra rivers** respectively.
- It is believed that bathing in these rivers during the **Kumbh washes away one’s sins**.
- Some dates during the Kumbh period are specially auspicious, **depending on the alignment of planets, the Sun, and the Moon**.
- The **Kumbh Mela is attended by hundreds of sadhus, as part of their akhadaas** or groups.
- The sadhus are the **“royalty”** here, and thus they take the first dip.
- **The first ritual dip** has traditionally been called the **shahi snan or the royal bath**.
- From 2025 Mahakumbh, the bath is being called **amrit snan**.

- **January 14** was the **first amrit snan or shahi snan at the Mahakumbh underway in Prayagraj.**
- This is being seen as more in keeping with Hindu religious beliefs, as it is believed that Kumbh is celebrated at the four places where amrit, or the nectar of immortality, spilled after Samdura Manthan, or the churning of the ocean.






7. What are the important bathing dates in the Kumbh 2025?

Days	Date
Makar Sankranti	January 14
Mauni Amavasya	January 29
Vasant Panchami	February 3
Shiv Ratri	February 26

8. How is the site of a Kumbh Mela decided?

- **Site selection** depends on **astrological calculations**.
- Another reason for the **12-year gap in Kumbh Melas** is explained by the fact that **Jupiter takes 12 years to complete one revolution around the Sun**.

<p>Haridwar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Jupiter is in Aquarius or Kumbh rashi (whose symbol is the water bearer), and Sun and Moon in Aries and Sagittarius respectively, Kumbh is held at Haridwar. 
<p>Prayagraj</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Jupiter enters the Aries constellation and the Sun and the Moon are in Capricorn constellation, the Kumbh festival is held at Prayagraj on the new moon day. • When Jupiter is in Taurus, and the Sun and Moon are in Capricorn or Makar (thus, Makar Sankranti is also in this period) the Kumbh is held at Prayag.
<p>Nashik and Trimbakeshwar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Jupiter is in Leo or Simha, and the Sun and Moon in Cancer, the Kumbh is held at Nashik and Trimbakeshwar, which is why they are also called the Simhastha Kumbh.

- When **Jupiter, the Sun, and the Moon enter Cancer on lunar conjunction (Amavasya)**, then also the Kumbh Festival is held on the banks of **river Godavari**.





Ujjain

- In the event of **Jupiter moving in to Leo and the Sun entering Aries**, the **Kumbh festival is held at Ujjain**.
- When **Jupiter enters Libra and the Sun and the Moon remain together on Kartik Amavasya (8th month of Hindu year)** then also the Kumbh Festival is held at Ujjain.



9. What is the debate over Kumbh Mela history?

Debates	Description
<p>Skanda Purana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Skanda Purana is often cited as proof of the Kumbh Mela's antiquity, but the exact origins of the festival are uncertain. • The Skanda Purana mentions a similar festival, but historians debate whether it refers directly to the Kumbh Mela. • According to Professor Girija Shankar Shastri, head of Banaras Hindu University’s (BHU) Department of Jyotish, “No scripture can be definitively said to contain a reference to the Kumbh Mela as we know it today”. • While the Samudra Manthan is described in many books, the spilling of amrita at four places is not. <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Skanda Purana is widely cited to explain the origins of the Kumbh Mela, but those references have not survived in the extant versions of the Purana.

<p>Gorakhpur’s Gita Press</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dipakbhai Jyotishacharya pointed out that a book published by Gorakhpur’s Gita Press, called Maha Kumbh Parva, claims that the Rig Veda has shlokas mentioning the benefits of participating in the Kumbh Mela.
<p>8th-century Hindu philosopher Adi Shankaracharya</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many believe that it was 8th-century Hindu philosopher Adi Shankaracharya who established these four periodic fairs, where Hindu ascetics and scholars could meet, discuss and disseminate ideas, and guide lay people. 
<p>Kama Maclean, Associate Professor of South Asian and World History</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kama Maclean, Associate Professor of South Asian and World History at Australia’s University of New South Wales, has written that while Xuanzang does mention a fair, there is no way to ascertain he was describing the Kumbh Mela. • She argues that an ancient bathing festival of Magh mela (fair held in the Hindu month of magh) was held at Prayag, which the pandits of the city rebranded as the “timeless” Kumbh sometime after the Revolt of 1857 to ensure the British did not meddle with it.

<p>Prof. DP Dubey, retired Professor of ancient history at the University of Allahabad</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. DP Dubey, retired Professor of ancient history at the University of Allahabad and General Secretary of the Society of Pilgrimage Studies, has studied and written extensively about the Kumbh Mela. • He writes that the fair at Haridwar is likely to have been the first to be called Kumbh Mela, as Brihaspati is in Kumbh rashi for this fair. • The origins of the Kumbh are linked to the worship of the Ganga as the great life force of the northern plains. • Fairs on the banks of sacred rivers are indeed an ancient Hindu tradition. • Gradually, travelling sadhus spread the idea of four Kumbh Melas on the banks of sacred rivers, where laymen as well as sanyasis could gather. • Apart from pilgrimage, such huge gatherings also presented an opportunity to earn influence and followers. • In the book ‘Kumbh Mela, Pilgrimage to The Greatest Cosmic Fair‘, he cited records from the Mughal era to those kept by sanyasi akhadas.
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10. Enlist the brief timeline of Kumbh Mela?

<p>1954</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Maha Kumbh Mela organised by Indian authorities after Independence was in January 1954.
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- Despite prior planning, the **Army and Public Works Department** faced the **hurdle of constructing and maintaining five new pontoon bridges** over the constantly changing course of the Ganga.

1966

- In 1966, over seven lakh pilgrims took the holy dip on **Magha Purnima** – the fifth important bathing day.



<p>1977</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1977 marked the completion of 12 Kumbh Mela cycles –i.e. 144 years, and was also unique as the flow of the river Ganga in two streams had created two ‘sangams’ (confluences). • While Emergency was imposed across India by the Indira Gandhi government, preparations for the Kumbh Mela were continued at a large scale. • Fourteen bridges on the two streams of Ganga were erected, while 2,000 country boats facilitated travel from the river banks to the narrow bathing strips at the Sangam. • Armed with 8,000 policemen, Army jawans, and Home Guards, the government kept strict control on traffic to avoid any stampede, as one crore people gathered in Prayagraj for a holy dip on January 19, creating a world record for the largest crowd gathering. 
<p>1989</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1989, the Kumbh area was expanded to 3,000 acres, with more pontoon bridges fabricated by the Army over the Ganga.

- Special **bathing strips** on the river (similar to those in 1977) were not feasible that year as the space between the two streams of the river was insufficient, **but crowds continued to swell as 1.5 crore devotees visited Prayagraj for a holy dip, entering the Kumbh officially as the world’s largest gathering of people in the Guinness World Book of Records.**



2001

- The **millennium’s first Maha Kumbh Mela**, held in 2001 from January 9 to February 20, saw proceedings being telecast live, with the **U.P. government commissioning Aastha Television Channel and providing studio facilities, transportation, hospitality, communication and other assistance.**
- The government’s media channel **Doordarshan** also broadcasts the major events, i.e. all the Shahi Snans.
- **India’s remote sensing satellite (IRS-ID)** captured the landscape of the Kumbh area, including the confluence of the two rivers Ganga and Yamuna.

- Apart from security personnel, the government deployed naval diggers, mine-sweepers, and sniffer dog squads.
- Two Air Force helicopters were tasked with air surveillance while intelligence agencies kept an eye on activity by **militants and Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)**.



2013

- In 2013, a record three crore pilgrims descended on the Sangam on the biggest bathing day, **Mauni Amavasya**, as the government arranged **22 ghats spread across 14 sectors** and spanning 18,000 feet of the Ganga's river banks.




11. How did the Britishers look at the Kumbh Mela?

- The **first reference to the Kumbh Mela** by the British was in an **1868 report** which said a ‘**Coomb Mela**’ was to be held in **Allahabad in 1870**, for which logistic support and sanitation facilities were sought.
- During the British Raj, the **festival saw a large gathering of citizens from all walks of life apart from the sadhus**, and it was used to galvanise support for the freedom movement.
- According to the **Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)**, even **Mahatma Gandhi participated in the Maha Kumbh mela in 1918** and interacted with other attendees.



- With the **imposition of pilgrim tax, rapid expansion of railway infrastructure, institutionalisation of the Shahi snan, preparation of housing, sanitation, and food facilities for the pilgrims and policing**, the British Raj controlled the Maha Kumbh Mela’s functioning, thus **limiting clashes between the akharas**.

12. What is the significance of Kumbh Mela?

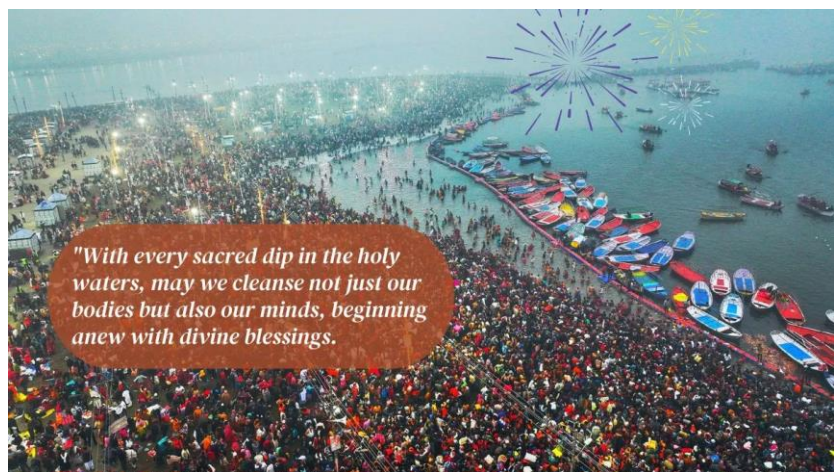
Significance	Analysis
<p>Pauranic Significance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a mention of ‘Kumbh’ and the bathing ritual associated with it in the Rig Veda (verse 10.89.7). • It speaks of the benefits of bathing at sangam during this period, elimination of negative influences and rejuvenation of mind and soul.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayers for the ‘Kumbh’ are also expressed in Atharva Veda and Yajur Veda.
<p>Astrological Significance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The story of Samudra Manthan, one of the best-known episodes in the Hindu mythology, narrated in the Bhagavad Purana states that the sacred alignments of celestial bodies directly relate to the Kumbh festival.



- It took **12 divine days** to carry the Amrit to the heavens.
- As one divine day of **Gods is equivalent to one year of the humans**, the journey to the heavens

Social Significance

- The **Maha Kumbh Mela** is perhaps the **only event in the world where no invitation** is required yet millions of pilgrims gather to **celebrate the holy event.**



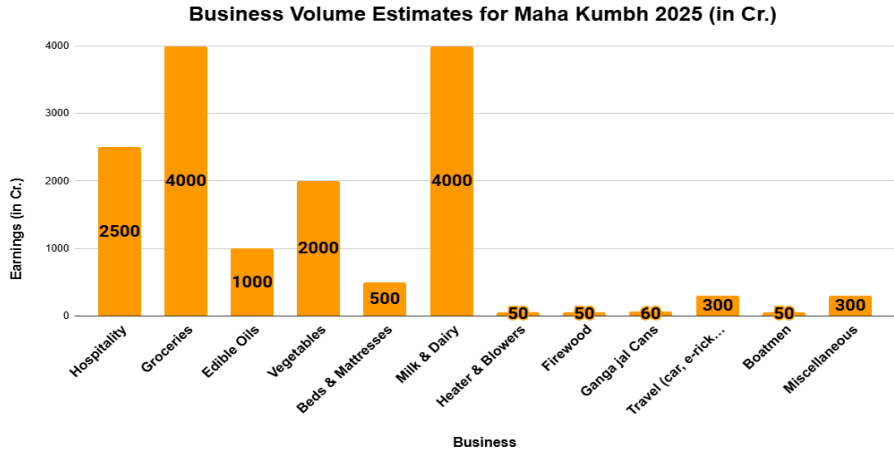
- Apart from its **primary bathing rituals**, the social aspect of the **festival also revolves around the various Yajnas**, the chanting of Vedic Mantras, holy elucidations, etc.
- A **prominent part** of the festival is the act of donations **to the poor and helpless and to the saints**.



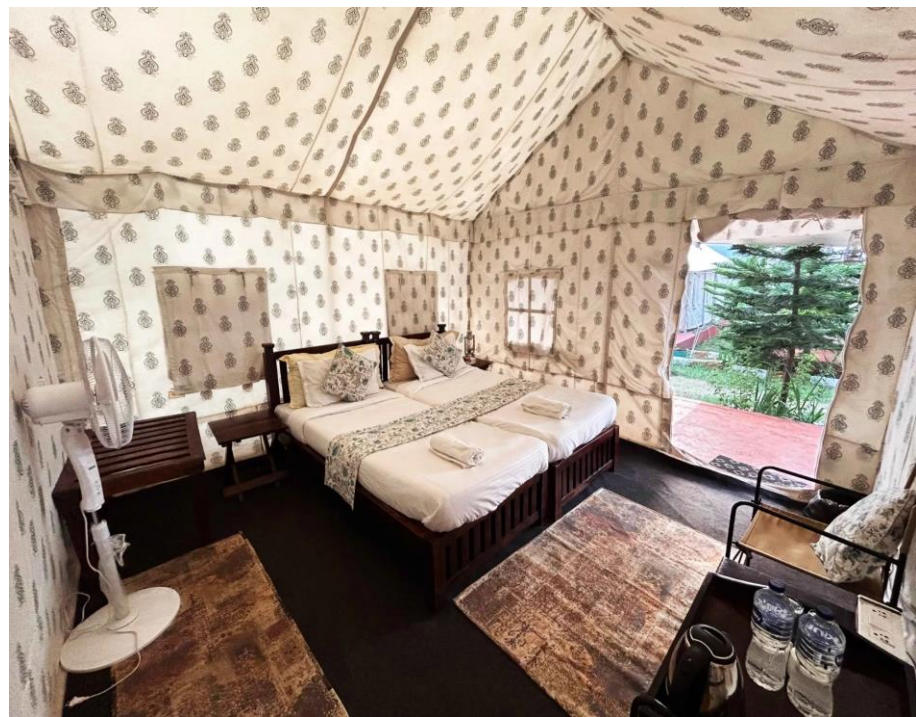
- **Donations range** from basic food and clothing to **even precious metals**.
- The **welfare of all beings**, sharing of noble thoughts and **maintaining good relationships** with all the beings across the world is the core message prevalent during the Kumbh festival.
- **Maha Kumbh has been spiritually uniting the people of India** and across the world since time immemorial and **will continue doing so for years to come**.

13. What is the Economic Significance of Kumbh?

<p>Revenue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Confederation of All India Traders, it is predicted that Kumbh mela would generate a turnover of Rs 25,000 crore from 2025 Kumbh. • This includes turnovers of Rs 5,000 crore from puja items, Rs 4,000 crore from dairy products and Rs 800 crore from flowers. • The hospitality sector, especially the luxury hotels, is expected to have a combined turnover of Rs 6,000 crore. • Small-time vendors, workers in the informal sector, and those providing everyday goods and services establish temporary livelihoods during the event. • According to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the 2025 Maha Kumbh is projected to generate revenues of up to ₹2 lakh crore. <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Revenue generation by Maha Kumbh Mela</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Revenue (Cr.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>12000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>120000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025E</td> <td>200000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Year	Revenue (Cr.)	2013	12000	2019	120000	2025E	200000
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amid 40 crore people attending the event, Rs 2 lakh crore revenue could be generated if a single person spends Rs 5,000. • Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the Prayagraj's Ardh Kumbh Mela in 2019 contributed Rs 1.2 lakh crore to the state's economy when over 24 crore people turned up for this event. • Alok Shukla, President of the UP chapter of the • Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), describes the Maha Kumbh as a “golden opportunity” for local businesses, with “revenues equivalent to one year worth of business compressed into two months”. <p style="text-align: center;">Business Volume Estimates for Maha Kumbh 2025 (in Cr.)</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Business</th> <th>Earnings (in Cr.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Hospitality</td><td>2500</td></tr> <tr><td>Groceries</td><td>4000</td></tr> <tr><td>Edible Oils</td><td>1000</td></tr> <tr><td>Vegetables</td><td>2000</td></tr> <tr><td>Beds & Mattresses</td><td>500</td></tr> <tr><td>Milk & Dairy</td><td>4000</td></tr> <tr><td>Heater & Blowers</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Firewood</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Ganga jal Cans</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>Travel (car, e-rick...</td><td>300</td></tr> <tr><td>Boatmen</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Miscellaneous</td><td>300</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Business	Earnings (in Cr.)	Hospitality	2500	Groceries	4000	Edible Oils	1000	Vegetables	2000	Beds & Mattresses	500	Milk & Dairy	4000	Heater & Blowers	50	Firewood	50	Ganga jal Cans	60	Travel (car, e-rick...	300	Boatmen	50	Miscellaneous	300
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<p>Jobs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economic activities associated with the festival will generate employment for over 600,000 workers across various sectors, as per the CII report. • The report says the hospitality sector aims to employ 250,000 people, airlines and airports around 150,000 and tour operators around 45,000. 																										

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The employment numbers in medical and eco-tourism are estimated at 85,000. • Apart from this, around 55,000 new jobs are expected to be created in the informal sector which encompasses taxi drivers, tour guides, interpreters and volunteers. • With one sweeper assigned for every 10 toilets, this Kumbh is set to be the cleanest in history.
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An entire city has been set up spanning 2,500 hectares at Prayagraj, where the authorities have erected a mini-city of over 4,000 tents which are lit by 40,000 LED lights. • The carnival area involves 250 kilometers of road and 22 pontoon bridges making it the largest temporary city in the world. <div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year the authorities have also introduced 200 luxury and 250 deluxe tents costing up to 35,000 Indian rupees (around 490 U.S. dollars) per night.



- **Eleven fully equipped hospitals** and mobile health units will cater to the medical needs of attendees.

	
<p>Temporary livelihoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kumbh Mela provides temporary livelihoods for small-time vendors, informal sector workers, and others who provide everyday goods and services.
<p>Tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revelry attracts tourists from countries like Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mauritius, Singapore, UK, and Sri Lanka. • An estimated 40 crore visitors are expected to attend, boosting local trade, tourism, and employment. • Accommodation and tourism are anticipated to be the largest contributors, with local hotels, guesthouses, and temporary lodging arrangements generating Rs 40,000 crore.

Explore
Prayagraj and the Spirit of Kumbh Mela

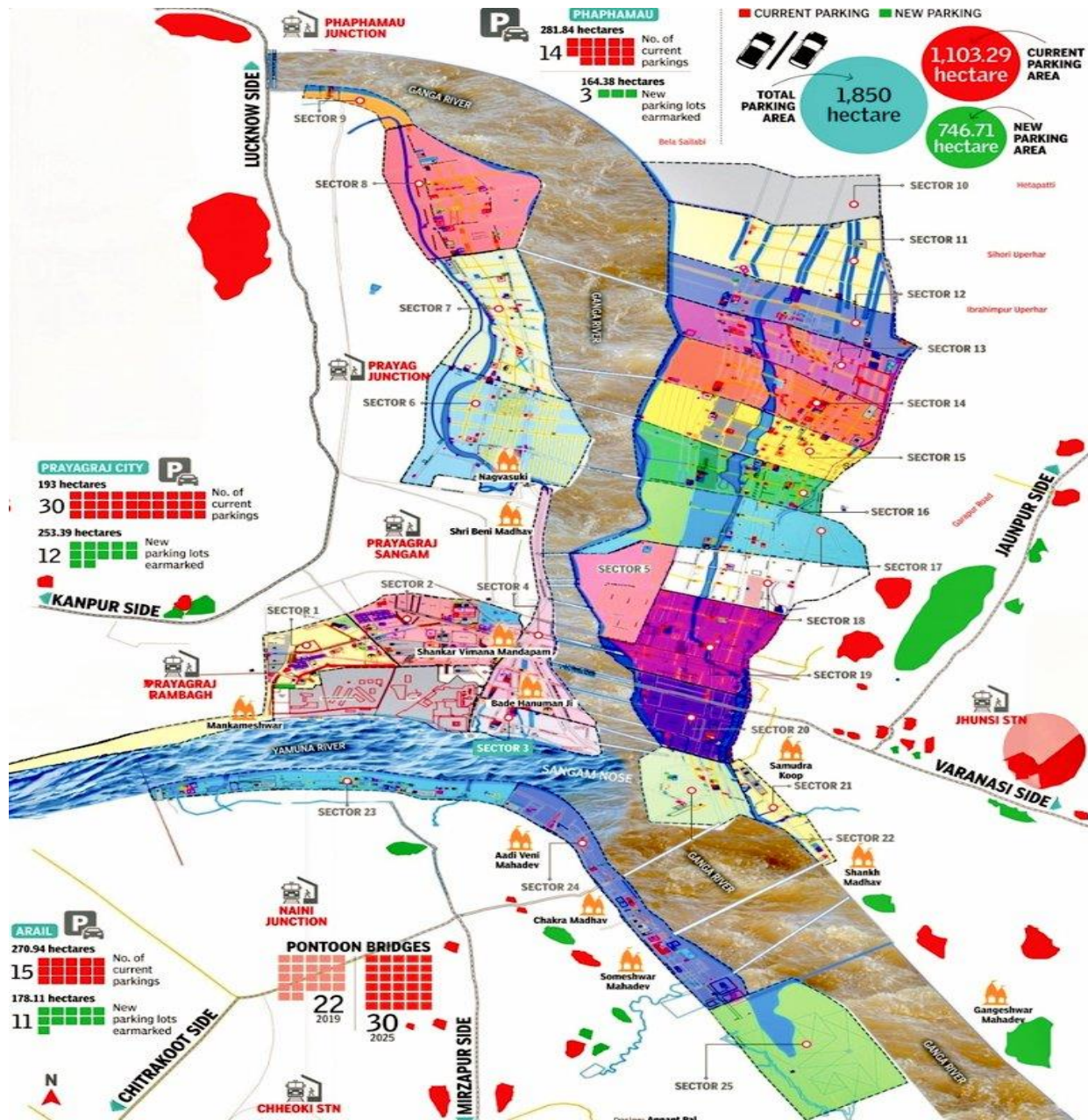
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Highlights:

- Heritage walks
- Kumbh Mela Exploration
- Sangam Boat Rides
- City tours
- Food walks
- Akhara Visit

14. Why is Maha Kumbh 2025 an Historic event?

- The **Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj** is not just a **spiritual gathering** but it is a **moment for humanity to reflect, innovate, and unite**.
- Rooted in **ancient wisdom** and **enhanced by modern advancements**, it represents **India's ability to honor its traditions** while embracing the future.



<p>Revival of Ancient Wisdom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original purpose of the Kumbh as a gathering for introspection and guidance is being re-emphasized in a modern context.
<p>Scale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With an estimated 400 million attendees, this Kumbh will be the largest congregation in human history.



- Officials said that compared to 2019, when the Kumbh was spread across 3200 hectares, the 2025 Mela would be organised in an area of 4000 hectares.



Technology

- AI, drones, and advanced systems make it the most technologically advanced Kumbh ever.



Upgradation of ghats

- **The State government has infused 460 crore to upgrade and modernise seven ghats along the banks of Ganga and Yamuna rivers at Sangam.**
- **Special emphasis on gender sensitive infrastructure at the ghats to avoid inconvenience to women visitors.**
- **Like the banks of Ganga and Saryu in Varanasi and Ayodhya, 'aartis' at Prayagraj ghats would be a permanent feature.**
- **Length of ghats increased to 12 km this time to handle additional rush.**
- **In 2019, the length of ghats was 8km.**



River traffic management


- **River traffic management system will manage 4,000 boats used to ferry pilgrims and devotees between different ghats to Sangam.**

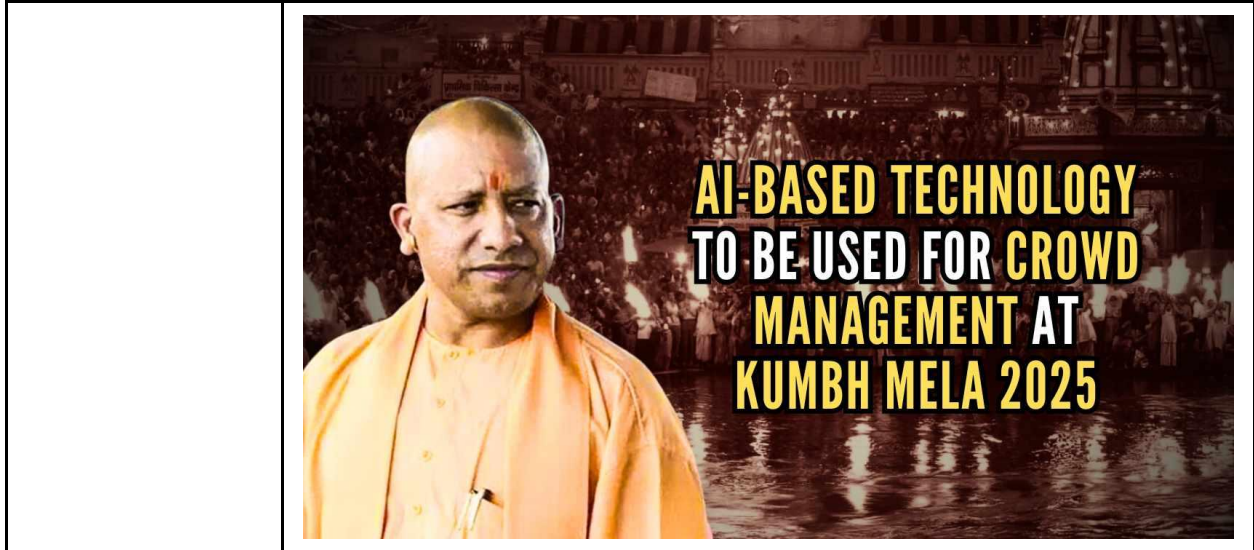


- **The river line is being set up using deep-water barricading boxes, with platforms placed every 8-10 metres to serve as operational intersections for Jal Police personnel.**



- **A 12-kilometer river line with separate entry and exit routes for boats will cover 50 bathing ghats.**
- **Over 2,000 water traffic police personnel, including 35 Jal Police divers, 150 SDRF members, 12 NDRF teams, and 35 Indian Navy sea divers will be deployed.**

<p>Sanitation facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Urban Development Department said that over 1.5 lakh toilets will be made on the ground for the convenience of the pilgrims. They added that more than 10,000 sanitation workers will be engaged to ensure that these toilets remain functional. 
<p>Crowd Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Uttar Pradesh government will use artificial intelligence-based technologies and tools for crowd management at the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj.



Governance

- Under **Yogi Adityanath's** leadership, **Kumbh 2025** is being positioned as a model of **governance, faith, and modernity.**
- The **joint assembly meet** elevates its **significance** as a **national and global event.**
- The **government** has also extended invitations to **global leaders, religious heads, and cultural ambassadors,** elevating the **Kumbh's stature** as a **global event.**




<p>Legacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The infrastructural and cultural initiatives will benefit Prayagraj for generations to come.
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15. Enlist various Technological Innovations at the Maha Kumbh 2025?

- For the first time in history, **cutting-edge technology** will play a **significant role in organizing** and enhancing the **Kumbh Mela** experience.

<p>Artificial Intelligence and Chatbots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AI-powered chatbots will assist pilgrims with information on rituals, schedules, and locations in real-time, ensuring a seamless and informed experience. ● The Maha Kumbh 2025 in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj is going to be a historic congregation as the Uttar Pradesh government gears up to conduct the world's largest AI-powered headcount. <div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to officials, this initiative marks a new era in event management, combining artificial intelligence (AI) with advanced monitoring techniques for accuracy and to handle massive crowd sizes.
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<p>Advanced Surveillance Systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2,500 AI-powered cameras will monitor the event to manage crowds, prevent mishaps, and ensure safety.  <p>Cyber Safety Measures for Maha Kumbh 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyber Warriors in Action A team of 56 cyber experts will patrol cyberspace to protect devotees from online fraud and mis-information Awareness and Support Cyber help desks are set up at the mela arena and all police stations, and variable messaging displays (VMDs) will educate visitors on safe online practices. For this, AI, X, Facebook, and Google are being effectively used. Monitoring and Action Experts are actively investigating and taking action against 50 suspicious websites and online scams. A helpline number (1920) and dedicated cyber police stations have been set up for immediate assistance.
<p>Underwater Drones</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These drones will be deployed to enhance security during the Shahi Snan (Royal Bath) and other water-based activities.



Navigation and Mobile Apps

- The “Maha Kumbh Mela 2025” app will provide pilgrims with maps, real-time updates, and guidance, **making their journey hassle-free.**

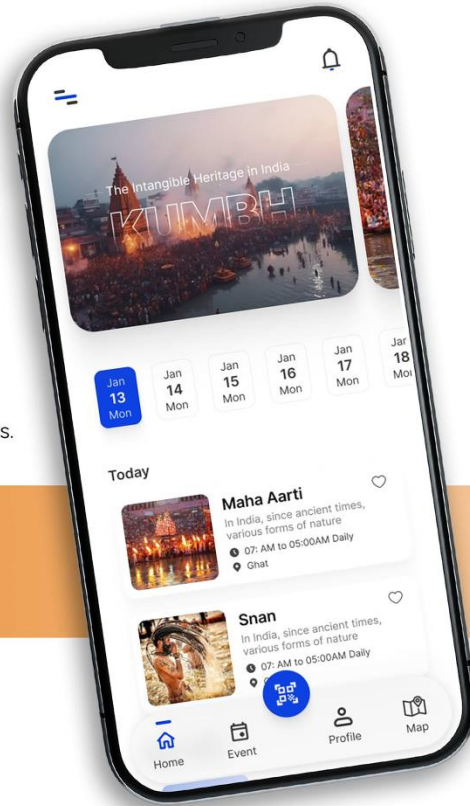


**No Internet?
No Problem!**

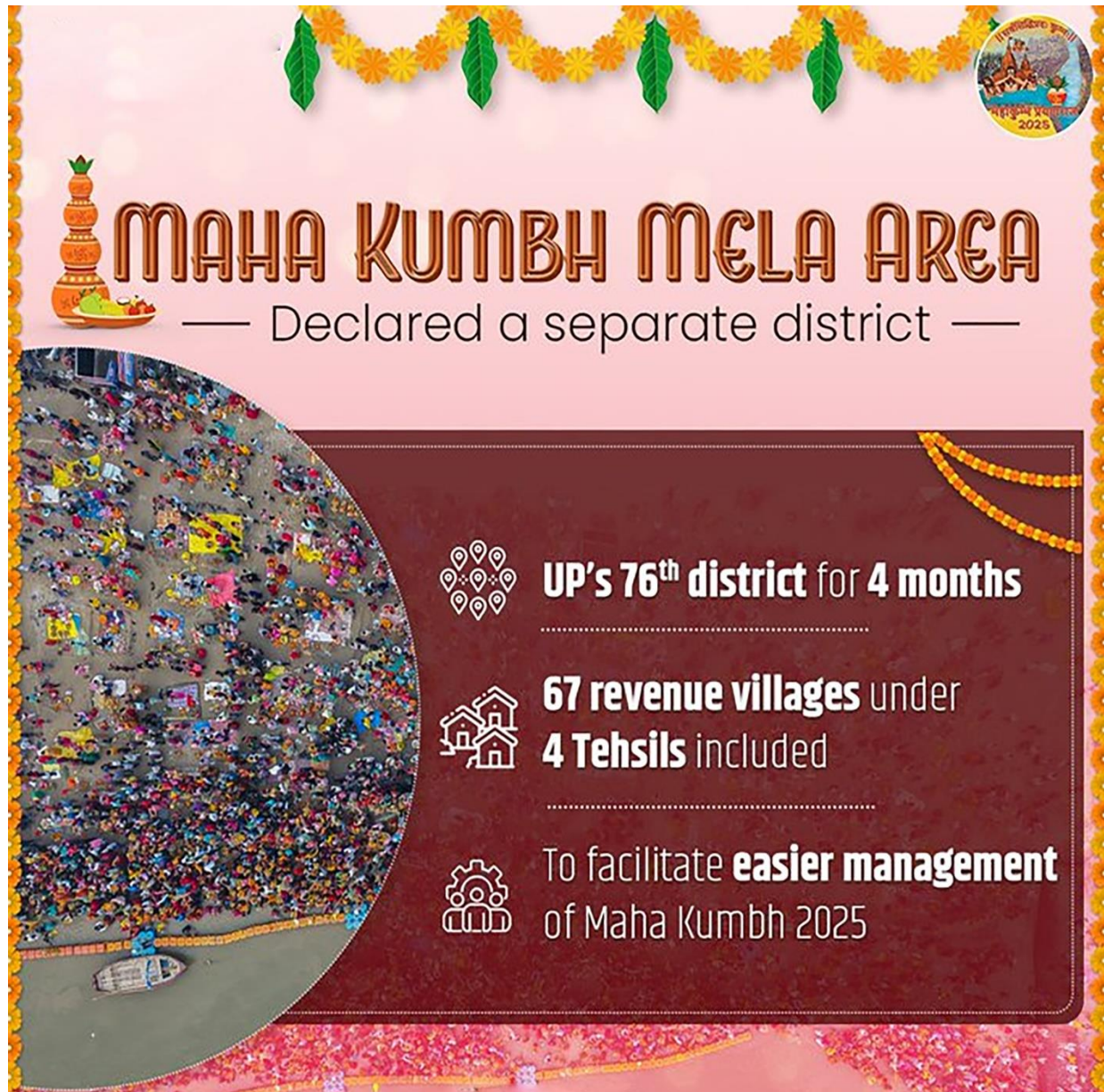
Our Maha Kumbh 2025 app works seamlessly in offline mode, ensuring you stay connected even in rush areas.

You can do offline:

- Access Information
- Navigate Easily
- Stay Updated



16. Which is the new district of Mahakumbh area and how will it facilitate better organisation and efficient governance?



- The **Maha Kumbh area of Prayagraj** has been declared as the **76th district of the state** by the **Uttar Pradesh Government** as of **December 2nd, 2024**.
- The new district will be known as **Maha Kumbh Mela district**.

- According to a notification, **66 villages of four tehsils - Sadar, Soraon, Phulpur and Karchana** and the **entire parade area** have been included in the new district which will remain **till March 31, 2025**.
- The initiative **aims to ensure seamless coordination of logistics, law enforcement**, and facilities for the pilgrims expected to attend the event in Prayagraj.

UP's 76TH DISTRICT: MAHAKUMBHNAGAR

For the duration of the Mahakumbh, the sprawling tent city has been designated Uttar Pradesh's 76th district. Here's a glimpse of the massive arrangements, in numbers:

4,000

hectares: The area of the tent city

160,000

tents, including 2,200 luxury tents

10,000

CCTV cameras, including 329 AI cameras



56 police stations and **133** police posts

67,000 streetlights

1,249-km-long water pipelines

16 ghats stretching for 12 km

7,000 buses to ferry devotees

- The newly created district will have a **dedicated administrative team to oversee preparations and maintain services** during the mela.

17. How Six coloured e-passes will ensure safety and effective crowd management?



- For the **safety and convenience of devotees attending Maha Kumbh**, six coloured e-passes are being introduced by the mela authorities.
- These passes are designed to regulate vehicle movement and ensure effective crowd management during the event.
- The six e-passes will be issued based on the category of the pass holder.

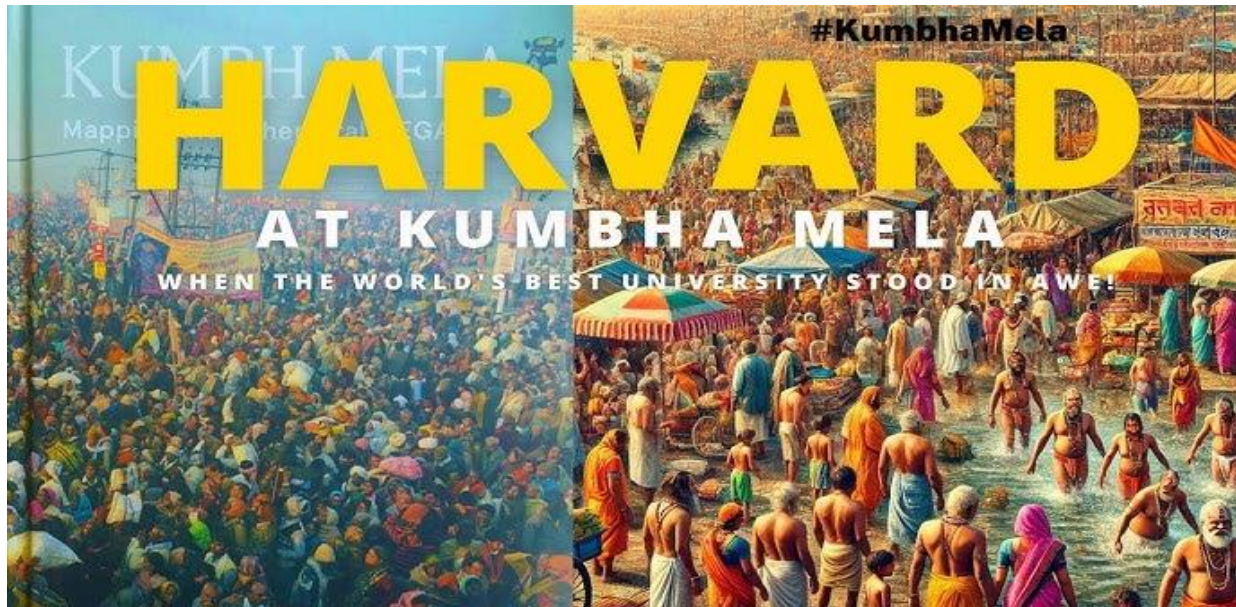
<p>White-coloured e-pass</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A white-coloured e-pass is designated for the High Court, VIPs, foreign ambassadors, foreign nationals, non-resident Indians (NRIs) and representatives from central and state govt departments.
<p>Saffron-coloured e-pass</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The saffron-coloured e-pass is reserved for akharas and institutions.

Yellow coloured e-pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The yellow e-pass will be issued for working agencies, vendors, food courts, and milk booths.
Red-coloured e-passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For emergency and essential services, red-coloured e-passes will be provided.
Sky blue coloured e-passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The media will be issued sky blue passes.
Blue coloured e-passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The blue coloured passes will be designated for the police force.

18. Why Western universities are studying Mahakumbh?

DECODING MAHA KUMBH

- Professors and students from premier institutes to study various aspects of Maha Kumbh
- Institutes include Harvard, Stanford, London School of Economics, Kyoto University, AIIMS, IIM-Ahmedabad, IIM-Bangalore, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Madras and JNU
- Eight fields and subjects have been shortlisted by the state govt which will be covered by researchers
- Research studies will focus on planning and implementation of Maha Kumbh and estimating economic impact and outcome of the Mela



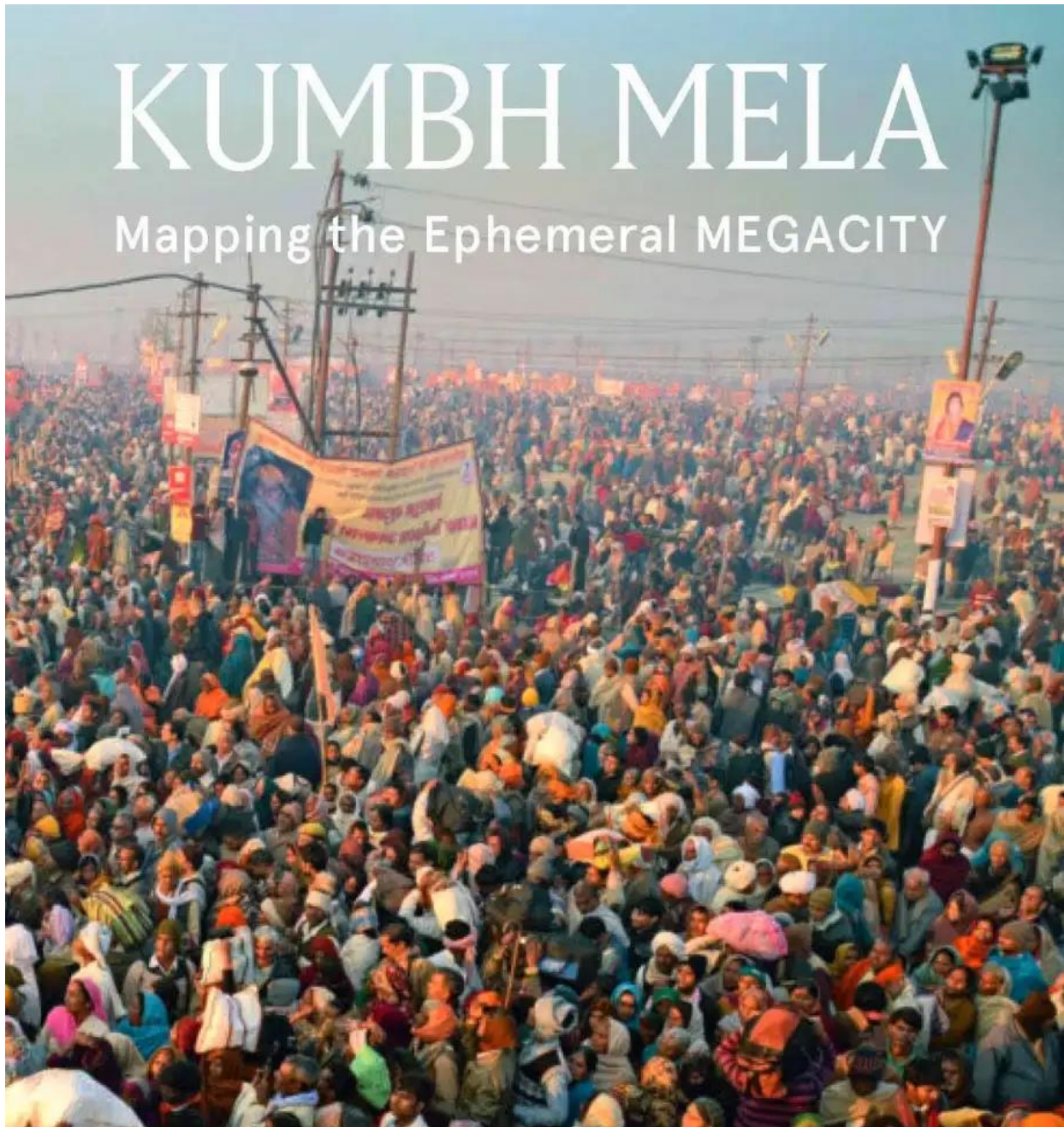
- **Mahakumbh Mela is a unique event in the world with none matching it in size or scale.**
- **Prayagraj, a city with a population of 5.5 million, will host nearly 40 crore pilgrims during Mahakumbh, compared to the 25 crore footfalls in 2019.**
- **The grand event is celebrated every 12 years when the sun, moon and Jupiter align in a specific way.**
- **More than two dozen prominent universities and other educational and research institutes from around the world as well as in the country are going to camp in Prayagraj during Mahakumbh to study various aspects related to the largest religious gathering in the world.**
- **Harvard, Stanford, London School of Economics, Kyoto University, AIIMS, IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras and JNU are some premiere institutes that are going to send professors, research scholars and students to stay in Prayagraj.**
- **What attracts different researchers is how the gargantuan management of the Mela works without any major disruptive incident, accident or crime.**

- **Mahakumbh will see a veritable pop-up metropolis, constructed using tents, pontoons and bamboo structures, which will house millions of pilgrims and be completely dismantled after the festival.**
- The temporary **metropolis will feature** everything from **spatial zoning** and infrastructure supply lines to **food distribution networks** and public gathering spaces.
- According to **Mela Officials** , this is the **first time when institute backed studies are conducted on the economic impact, crowd management, socio-cultural manifestation, food distribution chain, anthropological study through ethnographic accounts, faecal sludge management among other areas.**
- **Eight different fields** and subjects have been **shortlisted** by the state government which would be covered by the researchers.
- Opening the event for global participation, the **urban development department** had floated the idea of carrying out exhaustive study.

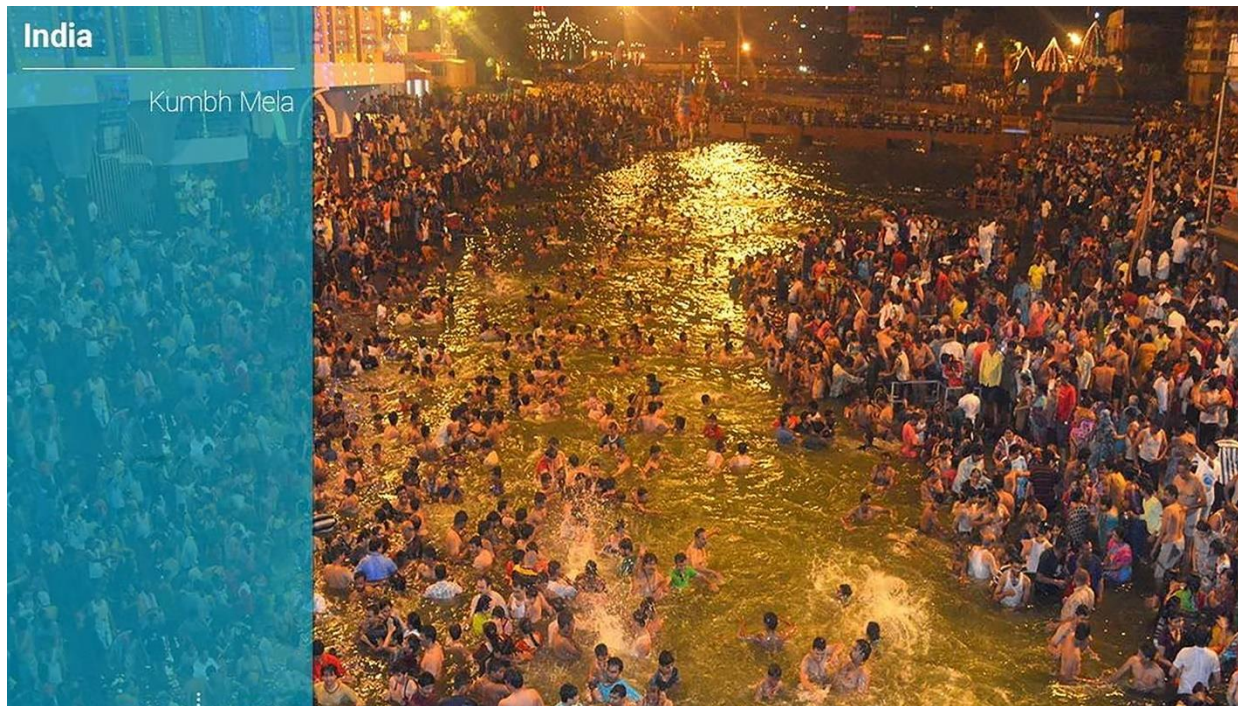
19. What Western researchers found at Mahakumbh 2013?

- **MahaKumbh 2013** was far better organised than **Fifa World Cup in Brazil and Commonwealth Games in New Delhi**, was said in a book on **world's biggest religious congregation**, produced by scholars and students of Harvard University along with architects and town planners of international repute.
- The book, **'Kumbh Mela - Mapping the Ephemeral Megacity'**, said that **"For a country notorious for its 'lethargic' bureaucracy, the success of Maha Kumbh is truly noteworthy."**
- The book details the **"sheer human achievement of creating the temporary and yet complex infrastructure of the 24-square-mile Kumbh city, compared to almost 2/3rd of Manhattan.**
- Calling the entire process of making this city with an expiry date as **"astonishing"**, the book also described how this **city came up for 45 days and took in millions of devotees.**

- A team comprising mainly medical doctors from **Harvard University** was "**largely impressed**" with the orderliness of the Mela and the lack of any major disease outbreak.
- The main objective of the Harvard team, which had the support of the **National Disaster Management Authority** and the **Allahabad Medical College**, was to map patterns of diseases, **water distribution, sanitation and disaster management plans**.




20. When and why was Kumbh included as an Intangible Cultural Heritage site?



- The **Kumbh Mela** has been inscribed on the **Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** by the **Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** under **UNESCO** in **2019**.
- The committee noted that as the **largest harmonious conclave in the world**, **Kumbh Mela** stands for values like **magnanimity** and **patience** that are **very beneficial for modern humanity**.
- The concept of **Kumbh Mela** goes well with the **current international human rights** tools because the **festival welcomes people from all corners of the world without any differentiation**.
- It was also observed that inscribing **Kumbh Mela** would ensure **continuity of the festival** by way of **Guru-Shishya parampara** (teacher-student lineage) that involves passing on the knowledge and skills related to Kumbh Mela from the saints and sages to their disciples.

21. Mention about the tragedies that happened at Kumbh?

Year	Tragedy
1954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the beginning of the event, on January 23, 60 huts were burnt down in Kumbh Nagar after a cooking mishap, leaving 300 pilgrims stranded and six injured. <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>350 KILLED IN KUMBH MELA STAMPEDE</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Women & Children Among Victims</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>NEHRU AND PANT VISIT SCENE OF TRAGEDY</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>KUMBH NAGAR, Feb. 3.</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY persons were crushed to death and over 1,000 received injuries in the worst ever tragedy which befell Kumbh Nagar on the main bathing day, 'Mauni Amavasya.' Official sources, who gave these figures, said the number of victims might be higher.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Mr. Nehru, accompanied by U.P.'s Chief Minister, Pandit Pant, visited the mela area in the evening on hearing the news of the tragedy.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>Mr. M. A. Rao, Railway Administrative Officer, Kumbh Mela, said that as soon as the tragedy happened, he was asked to suspend rail traffic and running of specials to Allahabad.</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>There was an unprecedented rush on the mela grounds and in the forenoon when the sun of the crowd was below the rain-soaked bank, on the right bank of the Ganga near the bathing ghats, traffic arrangements literally failed.</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>Confusion worsened as a procession of Naga sadhus was passing through the boat area and thousands of pilgrims tried to line the route of the procession. Policemen and volunteers tried to vain to make way for the procession.</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>According to eye-witnesses, many pilgrims swung on to the procession route when some sadhus used their lances to push them out. This caused a stampede and thousands of pilgrims fell down on the muddy ground and were trampled by others behind them.</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>The mela authorities made urgent arrangements through their broadcasting system asking pilgrims not to proceed to the Sangam area but the rush of bathers continued unabated, says P.T.I.</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>The band area, the scene of the</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>Continued on page 7 col. 3.</small></p> </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> <p>The vast pilgrim crowds thronging the Sangam for the holy dip on the main day of the Kumbh Fair on Wednesday.</p> </div> 

- Tragedy also struck on the main bathing day on **February 3** when a stampede occurred in Kumbh Nagar, killing at least **300** and injuring over a **thousand**.



- The Hindu reported that thousands of pilgrims **surged on the procession route of the Naga Sadhus** who used their **lances to push them**, causing a **stampede**.
- Most of the victims were **women and children from Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Traffic arrangements had collapsed** in the week preceding the tragedy due to the unprecedented inflow of pilgrims.
- A **government enquiry committee** found that the **planning for the Mela and traffic arrangements were defective**.



2013

- Away from the Sangam, on **February 11**, at least **ten people were killed** and 39 injured after a **footbridge collapsed due to the heavy rush of pilgrims** at **Allahabad railway station**.



- In another incident, a mere two hours later, a **stampede killed over 26 people** as they swarmed from **platform number six to one**, confused by a change in a train's arrival.
- Several eyewitnesses accused police of **lathi-charge, mismanagement, and preventing people from crossing platforms**, and said there was a lack of medical aid at the railway station.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Akhilesh Yadav-led government blamed the Railways for the stampede, while State Urban Development minister Azam Khan quit the Kumbh Mela committee, taking moral responsibility.
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22. Enlist security measures at Kumbh 2025?

- **The Maha Kumbh Mela** is one of the **largest spiritual gatherings** in the world, drawing **millions of devotees** from around the globe to the sacred city of **Prayagraj**.
- With over **450 million pilgrims** expected to attend in 2025, the **Uttar Pradesh government** has gone to great lengths to ensure that the event is not **only spiritually enriching but also safe and secure for all**.

Security Measures	Analysis
Comprehensive Force Deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 10,000 police personnel, along with PAC, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) units, will ensure safety throughout the event. • Over 700 boats equipped with flags will have PAC, NDRF, and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel stationed 24/7. • In addition, paramilitary forces, PAC, bomb disposal squads, and other security forces will be deployed. • Prayagraj Police Commissionerate's permanent and temporary infrastructure include 8 zones, 18 sectors, 13 temporary stations, 44 permanent stations, 33 temporary checkpoints, 5 companies of PAC, 4 teams of NDRF, 12 teams of AS Check and 4 teams of BDD.

<p>Strengthened Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prayagraj Police has expanded their infrastructure and personnel, setting up temporary police stations and checkpoints in both urban and rural areas. • With 57 police stations, 13 temporary stations, and 23 checkpoints, the Prayagraj Police are equipped to manage the large influx of pilgrims.
<p>Seven-Tier Security Framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A seven-tier security circle has been established to ensure the safety of more than 40 crore people expected to visit Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh. • The local authorities have set up temporary police stations and checkpoints in urban and rural areas and near railway stations, bus terminals, airports, and other key routes. • Prayagraj Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba said 13 temporary police stations and 23 checkpoints are being established for reinforced security, bringing the total number of stations from 44 to 57.
<p>Fire Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the large-scale setup of tents and temporary structures, fire safety is a key concern at the Maha Kumbh Mela. • To address this risk, the Uttar Pradesh Fire and Emergency Services Department has deployed advanced firefighting technologies, including four articulating water towers (AWTs).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These specialized vehicles are designed to tackle fires in multi-story structures and extensive tent areas, which are a common feature of the Mela. • The vehicles can operate at heights of up to 35 meters and distances of 30 meters horizontally, making them ideal for the sprawling tent city of the event. • Additionally, ₹131 crore has been allocated to ensure comprehensive fire safety, which includes over 350 firefighting vehicles, 50 fire stations, and more than 2,000 trained personnel.
<p>Enhanced River Security by Water Police</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the safety of crores of devotees along the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, especially in the Sangam area, the Uttar Pradesh government has deployed a large contingent of Water Police personnel equipped with state-of-the-art technology.
<p>Digital Surveillance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the government's vision for a "Digital Maha Kumbh," the security infrastructure incorporates cutting-edge technology to provide round-the-clock surveillance across the Mela area. • AI-powered cameras, drones, and anti-drone systems will be employed to monitor both the ground and air spaces, keeping an eye on large crowds and tracking any unusual activities that could pose a risk.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the first time ever, underwater drones will provide 24/7 surveillance beneath the rivers, ensuring safety during sacred Sangam Snan.
<p>Lost and Found Centres</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mela authority along with the police department is establishing high-tech Lost and Found registration centers across the Mela area. • This facility will provide digital registration of lost pilgrims at all centers and assist the pilgrims to unite with their kins. • Lost persons not carrying a mobile can call and connect with their family/friends. • Lost/missing person’s information, including the centre name/location where the person is situated, will be displayed at every Lost and Found centre to help family/friends trace the missing person/s. • Public address announcements will be made at the centres for all lost/missing people. • Social media (Facebook & Twitter) postings of Lost and Found individuals will be done. • Finally, police support will be granted if lost person/s are not claimed by their family/friends within 12 hours.

23. Enlist various world records in which Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2019 has been placed?

- **Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2019 set 3 Guinness World Records and won accolades by Heads of Missions of 70 countries.**



Acknowledgement & Testimonial



LONGEST PARADE OF BUSES

803 special Kumbh Mela buses were paraded on a stretch of 3.2 kilometers in the city of Prayagraj on February 28, 2019.



MOST CONTRIBUTIONS TO A HANDPRINT PAINTING

7,644 individuals contributed to the handprint painting in 8 hours on March 01, 2019.



MOST PEOPLE SWEEPING THE FLOOR (MULTIPLE VENUES)

10,181 cleaners sweeping simultaneously on March 02, 2019.





24. Enlist various world records which Maha Kumbh 2025 is set to establish?



- **Maha Kumbh 2025** is set to **establish several world records** this time around.
- The **fair authority** has planned to **achieve four different world records** in various categories, with a strong possibility of setting a record for the largest gathering of devotees at a single event

Event	Analysis
<p>Netra Kumbh 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A world record for eye tests and spectacle distribution is also anticipated. • This will be the first time that eye tests for 5 lakh people and the distribution of 3 lakh spectacles will take place at a single event. • For this purpose, a grand "Netra Kumbh" (Eye Fair) has been set up in Sector 5 near Nagvasuki, spanning approximately 10 acres. • The previous Netra Kumbh earned a place in the Limca Book of Records for its achievements. • This year's Netra Kumbh aims to secure a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records by setting even higher benchmarks. <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>स्वास्थ्य सेवा! नेशनल मेडिकोज ऑर्गेनाइजेशन राष्ट्र सेवा! Regd. Under NMO Bharat trust</p> <p>॥ करुण शयक शम्भु ॥</p> <p>नेत्र कुम्भ 2025 प्रवाहण 12 जनवरी से 26 फरवरी</p> <p>नेत्र कुम्भ 2025</p> <p>500 से अधिक वरिष्ठ नेत्र चिकित्सकों द्वारा 5 लाख नेत्रों का परीक्षण निः शुल्क चश्मा वितरण व घर के समीप निः शुल्क मोतियाबिंद सर्जरी सेवा के इस महायज्ञ में आपके सहयोग की आहुति अपेक्षित</p> <p>जनवरी 12 से फरवरी 26 पंजीकरण हेतु लिंक: https://bit.ly/48KOH6P</p> <p>स्कैन करें!</p> </div>



MAHAKUMBH 2025
ENSURING
EYE CARE OF DEVOTEES
THROUGH
NETRA KUMBH

₹9.15 crore allocated for the eye care of pilgrims

A world-class eye care facility within the Mela area

Comprehensive eye checkups for both pilgrims and saints

Nand, Gopal, Gupta 'Nandi'

The poster features a circular inset showing a large crowd of pilgrims at a water source. It also includes a QR code and the logo of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Largest synchronized sweeping drive

- **Kumbh 2025** will focus on the **largest synchronized sweeping drive, with 15,000 participants** coming together to carry out a coordinated cleaning effort.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This record aims to showcase the importance of cleanliness and environmental stewardship as core values of the world’s biggest religious and spiritual event.
<p>Largest e-vehicle parade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kumbh 2025 will showcase the largest e-vehicle parade, featuring a procession of 1,000 e-rickshaws and e-vehicles during Mahakumbh 2025 to turn the mela into an eco-friendly pilgrimage. • This initiative emphasizes Mahakumbh's commitment to sustainable transport solutions, reducing carbon emissions, and enhancing last-mile connectivity.
<p>Most handprint paintings within 8 hours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kumbh 2025 will be a reattempt to create the most handprint paintings within 8 hours, involving 10,000 participants contributing their unique handprints. • This record celebrates the beauty and spirit of Mahakumbh 2025, showcasing the diversity and unity of participants. • Each handprint symbolizes collective harmony and the shared values of the event.
<p>Largest river-cleaning drive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kumbh 2025 will be the largest river-cleaning drive, involving 300 volunteers across multiple locations to clean and preserve the holy rivers. • It aims to demonstrate the world’s biggest religious and spiritual event’s dedication to ecological conservation and the spiritual bond with nature.



25. What is Maha Kumbh's global appeal?



- **The Maha Kumbh** has transcended national boundaries, drawing devotees and **spiritual seekers** from **around the world**.
- **International pilgrims and tourists**, including YouTubers from South Korea and visitors from **Japan, Spain, Russia, and the United States**, were captivated by the event's grandeur.

- At the **Sangam Ghat**, many engaged with local guides to understand the **cultural and spiritual essence of the Maha Kumbh**.
- **Christina from Spain** described her experience as a **“once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”**
- The **anticipated turnout for Maha Kumbh 2025 is expected to surpass the population of several nations**, underlining its global significance.
- Foreign devotees not only witnessed but also actively participated in the rituals.
- **Sadhus and sanyasis from various countries**, having **embraced Sanatan Dharma**, took the holy dip, adding to the festival’s **spiritual diversity**.



26. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **For Prelims:** Godavari River, Shipra River, Sangam, Ardh-Kumbh, Vijayanagar empires, Delhi Sultanate, and Mughals, UNESCO, Intangible cultural heritage
- **For Mains:** Significance of Kumbh, Historical Evolution.

Some previous years prelims questions.

Q1. Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO? (2024)

- (a) Chhau dance
- (b) Durga Puja
- (c) Garba dance
- (d) Kumbh mela

Ans: (c)

Q2. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements: (2017)

1. It is a song and dance performance
 2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance
 3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 only

Ans: (b)

Some previous years mains questions.

Q1. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss (2018)

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Sheel Vardhan Singh sir:

- Why are stampedes increasing nowadays?
- Kumbh mela is approaching, how would you manage such a situation? Role of Technology in crowd management?

Board B.B. Swain sir:

- What steps will you take towards Kumbh Mela crowd management?
- What technological steps can be taken?

Board Manoj Soni sir:

- UP had generated profit through kumbh mela.
- If you are DM of Ujjain how will you do the same?

Some questions for QUIZ.

Q1. Consider the following Cultural Heritage Element:

1. Kutiyattam
2. Chhau
3. Mudiyettu
4. Bharatanatyam
5. Sankirtana

How many of the above countries are part of the UNESCO Intangible cultural heritage list?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Ans: (c)

Some questions for POLL.

Q1. Do you think that Kumbh serves as an event of cultural unity?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q2. Are you satisfied with the preparation of Kumbh 2025?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

