



Indore - Ujjain Highway

Why in News?

Recently, the President of India inaugurated a key [infrastructure](#) project, [Indore -Ujjain highway](#) in Madhya Pradesh, focusing on transportation and infrastructure.

Key Points

- **Indore-Ujjain Highway Foundation:**
 - The President laid the foundation stone for the six-lane highway between Indore and Ujjain, estimated to cost Rs. 1,692 crore.
 - The highway, approved in February 2024, aims to reduce the travel time between the two cities from 60 minutes to 35-40 minutes.
 - This project is set to be completed in 2.5 years, targeting the decongestion of traffic ahead of the **2028 Simhastha Kumbh**.
- **Simhastha Kumbh:**
 - The [Simhastha Kumbh Mela](#) is a Hindu religious festival held every 12 years in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India.
 - The festival is named after the Simha constellation of the zodiac, as it is celebrated when Jupiter enters Leo.

Maha Kumbh

- Kumbh Mela comes under [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)'s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#).
- It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
 - It takes place on the banks of the [Godavari river](#) in Nashik, the [Shipra river](#) in Ujjain, the Ganges in Haridwar, and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical [Saraswati river](#) in Prayagraj. The confluence is referred to as the 'Sangam'.
- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a culturally diverse festival.
- The over month-long fair is marked by the construction of a massive tented township, complete with cottages, huts, platforms, civic facilities, administrative and security measures.
 - It is organized immaculately by the government, the local authorities and the police.
- The mela is especially renowned for the presence of an extraordinary array of religious ascetics enticed from remote hideaways in forests, mountains and caves.