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## Uttar Pradesh Expands Sanskrit Scholarship Scheme | Uttar Pradesh | 04 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government launched a new scholarship scheme to support [Sanskrit education](#), enhancing eligibility and funding for students.

### Key Points

- **Expansion:**
  - The scheme now supports **69,195 students with a budget of Rs. 586 lakh**, a significant increase from the previous 300 beneficiaries.
  - Unlike the prior scheme, which had strict age limits, the new scholarship is open to all qualified Sanskrit students across Uttar Pradesh.
  - CM emphasized **Sanskrit's relevance** to scientific fields such as computer science, encouraging students to view it as a language with broad applications.
- **Support for Traditional Gurukul Education:**
  - Plans to revive [gurukul-style schools](#) were announced, with improved support for residential facilities and hiring of qualified teachers.
  - Establishment of a Vedic science center will facilitate research, integrating traditional Sanskrit knowledge with modern scientific inquiry.

### Gurukul

- The 'Gurukul' was a type of education system in ancient India with shishya (students) living with the guru in the same house.
- Nalanda has the oldest university system of education in the world.
- Students from across the world were attracted to Indian knowledge systems.

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## Preparations for Kumbh Mela 2025 | Uttar Pradesh | 04 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, UP CM announced measures to make the [Kumbh Mela](#) 2025 a safer, culturally rich event.

### Key Points

- **Enhanced Safety Measures:**
  - Advanced security and surveillance systems, including [drones](#), will be deployed for crowd control and emergency response.

- **Cultural Showcases:**
  - Traditional performances and exhibitions will feature throughout the Mela, emphasizing India's diverse heritage.
- **Infrastructural Developments:**
  - Road expansion, improved sanitation, and upgraded facilities are prioritized to handle millions of pilgrims.
- **Environment-Friendly Initiatives:**
  - Steps to minimize waste and maintain the cleanliness of the Ganga River and surrounding areas.

## Kumbh Mela

- Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
- Kumbh Mela comes under the [UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#).
- The festival is held at **Prayagraj (at the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati), Haridwar (on the Ganges), Ujjain (on the Shipra) and Nasik (on the Godavari) every four years** by rotation and is attended by millions of people irrespective of caste, creed or gender.
- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a culturally diverse festival.
- The event encapsulates the science of astronomy, astrology, spirituality, ritualistic traditions, and social and cultural customs and practices, making it extremely rich in knowledge.
- Knowledge and skills related to the tradition are transmitted through ancient religious manuscripts, oral traditions, historical travelogues and texts produced by eminent historians.
- The teacher-student relationship of the sadhus in the ashrams and akhadas remains the most important method of imparting and safeguarding knowledge and skills relating to Kumbh Mela.