

Preparations for Kumbh Mela 2025

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 <u>drones</u>, 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 <u>UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.</u>
- 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.