

Kumbh Summit 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the UP government has launched a series of cultural events across the state for the preparation of Maha-Kumbh 2025.

Key Points

Kumbh Summit Events:

- Launched across 18 tehsils of U.P. as a prelude to Maha Kumbh 2025.
- Events include "Kumbh Abhinandan" road show, Bal-Yuva Kumbh, Kala-Sanskriti Kumbh, Kavi Kumbh, and Bhakti Kumbh.
- Universities and educational institutions will take part in these cultural celebrations.
- Various cultural academies, including <u>Lalit Kala Academy</u> and <u>Sangeet Natak Academy</u>, are responsible for organizing competitions.
- Focus on eco-friendly practices like 'zero plastic usage' and Al tools for security.
- Ensuring transport via 700 electric buses and enhancing accessibility for devotees during peak festival days.
- Deadline of December 15, 2024 is set for all facilities to be ready for Maha Kumbh.

Maha Kumbh

- Kumbh Mela comes under <u>United Nations Educational</u>, <u>Scientific and Cultural Organization</u> (<u>UNESCO</u>)'s Representative List of Intangible <u>Cultural Heritage of Humanity</u>.
- 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 <u>Godavari river in Nashik</u>, the <u>Shipra river in Ujjain</u>, the <u>Ganges in Haridwar</u>, and the confluence of the <u>Ganges</u>, <u>Yamuna</u>, and the mythical <u>Saraswati river in Prayagraj</u>. 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

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