Digital Ticket Booking for Kumbh Mela 2025 | Uttar Pradesh | 01 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Recently, the Railways has introduced jackets with **QR scanners for volunteers to digitize ticket bookings for passengers** ahead of **the Kumbh Mela 2025.**

Key Points

- **Deployment of Officials:**
    - **North Central Railway officials** from the Prayagraj division **will wear fluorescent green jackets with QR codes** embedded at the back.
        - Devotees can scan the QR code to **access the Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) mobile app.**
    - The app allows passengers to **book unreserved tickets digitally**, avoiding long queues.
    - Railways will operate over **10,000 regular trains** and more than **3,000 special trains** during the event.
- **Mahakumbh Rail Seva 2025 App:**
    - The **Railways has launched an app and portal** to provide train schedules, guest house information, helpline numbers, and more.
    - 28 guest houses with a capacity of 1.3 lakh devotees will accommodate visitors.
    - A **toll-free number 1800-4199-139** has been active since 1st November, 2024.
        - From 1st January 2025, the **helpline will operate 24x7, with multilingual call operators** proficient in Odia, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, and Bengali.
    - Railway **announcements will be made in 12 languages**, including Hindi, English, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Bengali, Odia, Punjabi, and Assamese.

Kumbh Mela

- **About:**
    - It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river. This gathering takes place at 4 different places, namely:
        - In **Haridwar**, on the banks of **the Ganges.**
        - In **Ujjain**, on the banks of **Shipra.**
        - In **Nashik**, on the banks of **Godavari** (Dakshin Ganga).
        - In **Prayagraj**, at the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna, and the mythical invisible **Saraswati.**
- **Different Types of Kumbh:**
    - The **Kumbh Mela** is celebrated **4 times over a course of 12 years.**
    - At **Haridwar and Prayagraj**, **Ardh-Kumbh Mela** is held **every 6th year.**
    - The **Maha Kumbh Mela** is celebrated at Prayag after 144 years (after 12 'Purna Kumbh Melas').
    - **Maagh Kumbh** is celebrated **every year** in the month of **Maagh (Jan-Feb) in Prayagraj.**

NMCG's 59th Executive Committee Meeting | Uttar Pradesh | 01 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Recently, the **59th Executive Committee (EC) meeting** of **the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** approved several critical projects dedicated to the conservation and rejuvenation of **the Ganga River.**

- These initiatives are aimed at **promoting the cleanliness, sustainable development, and preservation of the environmental and cultural significance of the river.**

Key Points

- **Projects in Uttar Pradesh:**
  - **Chandauli Project:**
    - Construction of a 45 million liters **Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)** using the **hybrid annuity model.**
    - Includes supporting infrastructure and ensures **operation and maintenance (O&M) for 15 years.**
  - **Manikpur Project:**
    - Development of a 15 million liters **Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant** and a 35 kilowatts **solar power plant.**
    - Designed for **eco-friendly waste management** and effective operations for 5 years.
- **River Conservation in Bihar:**
  - **Buxar Project:**
    - Construction of a **50 million liters STP** and supporting structure.
    - Incorporates a **nature-based 1 million liters capacity STP**, three interception **pumping stations**, and an 8.68 km sewer network.
    - Ensures robust O&M for 15 years, advancing **sustainable river conservation efforts.**

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- **About:**
  - On 12th August 2011, the NMCG was listed **as a society** under **the Societies Registration Act, 1860.**
  - It acted as the implementation arm of the **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)** which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986.**
    - **NGRBA** was dissolved in 2016 and **replaced by the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga.**
- **Objective:**
  - The objective of the NMCG is to **reduce pollution and ensure the rejuvenation** of the Ganga River.
    - **Namami Gange** is one of the Coveted Programmes of NMCG to clean Ganga.
  - This can be achieved by promoting intersectoral coordination for comprehensive planning & management and maintaining minimum ecological flow in the river, with the aim of ensuring water quality and environmentally **sustainable development.**

Digital Transformation of Mahakumbh | Uttar Pradesh | 01 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is going to use **the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled cameras**, **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** wristbands** and **mobile app** tracking to track the headcount of pilgrims at **the Mahakumbh 2025**.
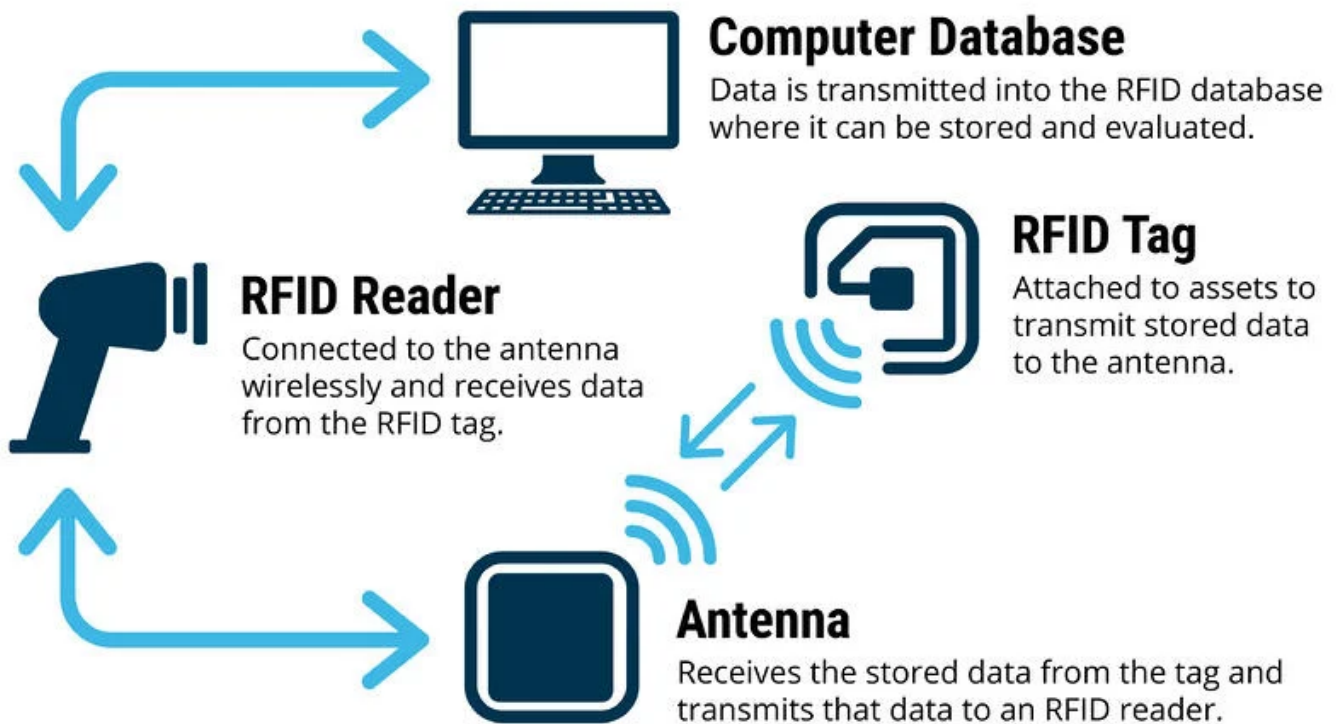
Key Points

- **Overview of Mahakumbh 2025:**
    - The government anticipates a footfall of approximately 450 million devotees during the Mahakumbh, a **UNESCO-recognized Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**
    - It is the **world's largest peaceful congregation**, where pilgrims take a sacred dip in the river.
- **Digital Transformation of Mahakumbh:**
    - **Digital and AI-Based Initiatives:**
        - Launch of a **dedicated website and app** for event information.
        - **AI-powered chatbot** available **in 11 languages.**
        - **QR code-based passes** for people and vehicles.
        - Multilingual **digital lost-and-found centres** for visitors.
    - **ICT and Monitoring Systems:**
        - **ICT monitoring** for cleanliness and tent accommodations.
        - **Software for land and facility allocation** and multilingual digital signage.
        - Automated ration supply system and **drone-based surveillance** and **disaster management.**
        - **Real-time monitoring software** for 530 projects and an inventory tracking system.
        - Integration of all **event locations on Google Maps.**
- **Infrastructure and Facilities:**
    - **Ghats for Devotees:**
        - 35 permanent ghats and nine **new ghats constructed** to facilitate bathing.
        - **Aerial flower showers** planned across all 44 ghats, covering a 12-km area.
    - **Enhanced Visitor Experience:**
        - **Multilingual digital signage** and other technological aids to enhance crowd management and convenience.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

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Basic RFID System

Computer Database
Data is transmitted into the RFID database where it can be stored and evaluated.

RFID Reader
Connected to the antenna wirelessly and receives data from the RFID tag.

RFID Tag
Attached to assets to transmit stored data to the antenna.

Antenna
Receives the stored data from the tag and transmits that data to an RFID reader.

- RFID is a **type of passive wireless technology** that allows for tracking or matching of an item or individual.
- **The system has two basic parts: Tags and Readers**.
  - The **reader gives off radio waves and gets signals back from the RFID tag**, while the **tag uses radio waves to communicate** its identity and other information.
  - A **tag can be read from up to several feet away** and does not need to be within the direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked.
- The technology has been **approved since before the 1970s** but has become much more **prevalent in recent years** due to its usages in things like global supply chain management and pet microchipping.

UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

UNESCO's ICH List recognizes various cultural practices & traditions that are passed down through generations.

Features of Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **Traditional, Contemporary and Living**
- **Inclusive** (recognizes and respects diversity)
- **Representative** (reflects the traditional practices)
- **Community based**

Two Types of List Under ICH
- Representative List of ICH of Humanity
- List of ICH in **Need of Urgent Safeguarding**

5 Domains of ICH (UNESCO's 2003 Convention)
- Oral Traditions & Expressions (Including Language);
- Performing Arts;
- Social Practices, Rituals & Festive Events;
- Knowledge & Practices Concerning Nature & The Universe;
- Traditional Craftsmanship

S.No	ICH of India	Year of Inscription	Description
1	Garba of Gujarat	2023	Traditional dance from Gujarat, performed during Navratri
2	Durga Puja in Kolkata	2021	Grand Hindu festival with elaborate rituals & Durga's artistic displays
3	Kumbh Mela	2017	Hindu pilgrimage & festival → Largest peaceful congregation on earth
4	Nowruz	2016	Parsi New Year
5	Yoga	2016	Ancient Indian practice uniting mind, body, & spirit
6	Traditional Brass & Copper Craft of Utensil Making Among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab	2014	An Oral tradition passed onto generations of Thathera community
7	Sankirtana	2013	Storytelling of Krishna with singing, drumming, & dancing Region → In Manipur
8	Buddhist Chanting of Ladakh	2012	Sacred Buddhist recitation in Ladakh monasteries
9	Mudiyettu	2010	Dance drama of goddess Kali's battle with demon Darika Region → Kerala
10	Kalbelia Folk Songs & Dances of Rajasthan	2010	Known for fluid, snake-like movements
11	Chhau Dance	2010	Tribal martial art dance blending folk traditions of eastern India
12	Ramman	2009	Religious Festival & Ritual Theatre of The Garhwal Himalayas
13	Ramlila	2008	The Traditional Performance of The Ramayana
14	Tradition of Vedic Chanting	2008	Oral tradition preserving Vedic chants with precision
15	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre	2008	Ancient theatre → merging rituals & drama Region → Kerala

All these elements of ICH from India are included in UNESCO'S List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.