

Digital Ticket Booking for Kumbh Mela 2025

Why in News?

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

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 Uijain, 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.

