Gangasagar Mela

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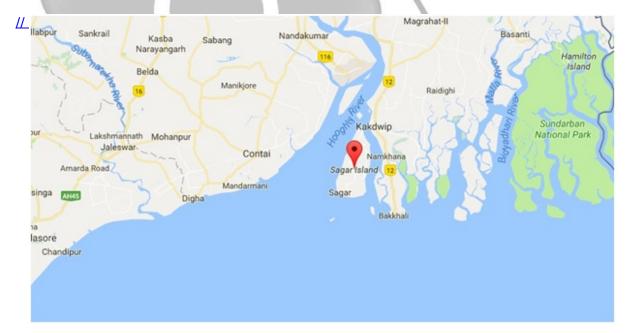
The annual **Gangasagar Mela** is being organised in **West Bengal** and the state government has introduced several initiatives to enhance the Gangasagar Mela experience, including:

- Bandhan Initiative: Pilgrims receive a certificate in three languages.
- e-Anushandhan: System for accessing mela facilities.
- e-Parichay: QR code-enabled identity bands to prevent missing persons.

Additionally, the state has been advocating for **"national mela" status** for the Gangasagar Mela for several years.

About Gangasagar Mela:

- Gangasagar Mela is an annual religious festival held on Sagar Island, West Bengal, at the confluence of the Ganga and Bay of Bengal.
- The <u>Ganga river</u>, originating from Gangotri, completes its journey and merges with the Bay of Bengal.
- The festival, which coincides with <u>Makar Sankranti</u>, involves rituals like taking a holy dip in the Ganga, offering "Arghya" to the Sun God, and performing "Deepdan" (lighting lamps) to seek liberation and spiritual upliftment.
- It is considered the second-largest religious gathering in India after the Kumbh Mela.
- The fair is historically mentioned in the Mahabharata's Vana Parva and Raghuvamsa (by Kalidasa), with evidence of the pilgrimage dating back to 1500-2000 BC, and is associated with the sage Kapilmuni and the Pala dynasty's King Devapala.



Read More: <u>Bangla for Classical Language, GangaSagar Mela for National Status</u>

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