AI in Maha Kumbh 2025 | Uttar Pradesh | 22 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Authorities are using CCTV cameras equipped with **Artificial Intelligence** to **manage the rush of devotees** at the ongoing **Maha Kumbh Mela** and **predict sudden crowd surges.**

Key Points

- **Crowd Statistics:**
    - Approximately **50 to 60 lakh people visit the fair daily.**
    - The number of devotees surges on ritual bathing days:
        - **Paush Purnima**: 1.6 crore people took a dip.
        - **Makar Sankranti (January 14)**: 3.5 crore people participated.
        - **Mauni Amavasya (January 29)**: An estimated 6 to 7 crore people are expected.
- **Surveillance and Monitoring Setup:**
    - Authorities have installed around **2,700 CCTV cameras across Prayagraj** for the festival with **1,800 located in the fair area.**
    - Monitoring is conducted through four **Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC)** within the fair area.
- **Role of AI in Crowd Management:**
    - Out of 1,800 CCTV cameras, approximately 160 are equipped with AI technology.
    - **AI calculates crowd density per square metre** to estimate the number of people in specific areas at specific times.
    - **Authorities use AI data to estimate the number of pilgrims expected on major bathing days** and divert crowds to **prevent overcrowding.**
- **AI in Emergency Response:**
    - **AI facilitates evacuation in emergencies,** such as the recent fire incident that destroyed 40 huts and 60 tents.
    - This is the first time AI has been used for **crowd management** on such a large scale globally.
    - **Challenges and Limitations:**
        - AI models sometimes **face gaps due to low network connectivity and technical issues.**
        - Equipping all CCTV cameras with **AI remains cost-prohibitive**.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- **About:**
    - AI is the ability of a computer, or a robot **controlled by a computer to do tasks that are usually done by humans** because they require human intelligence and discernment.
        - Although there is **no AI that can perform the wide variety of tasks an ordinary human can do**, some AI can match humans in specific tasks.
- **Characteristics & Components:**
    - The ideal characteristic of artificial intelligence is its **ability to rationalize and take actions** that have the best chance of achieving a specific goal. A subset of AI is **Machine Learning (ML).**
        - Deep Learning (DL) techniques **enable this automatic learning** through the absorption of huge amounts of unstructured data such as text, images, or video.

Custodial deaths in Sambhal | Uttar Pradesh | 22 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Recently, a **man died in police custody** in Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh, prompting his family and locals to protest, alleging **custodial torture.**

Key Points

- **About the Incident:**
    - While **police suggested a possible heart attack** as the cause, the victim's **family and locals protested at the outpost**, forcing officials to flee to avoid a **mob attack.**
    - Later, personnel from **the Rapid Action Force (RAF)** restored order by deploying forces in the area.
- **Custodial Torture**
    - **About:**
        - Custodial torture is the **infliction of physical or mental pain or suffering on a person who is in the custody** of the police or other authorities.
        - It is a grave violation of **human rights and dignity** and often leads to **custodial deaths**, which are deaths that occur while a person is in custody.
    - **Types of Custodial Death:**
        - **Death in Police Custody:**
            - Death in police custody can result from excessive force, torture, denial of medical care, or other forms of abuse.
        - **Death in Judicial Custody:**
            - Death in judicial custody may occur due to overcrowding, poor hygiene, lack of medical facilities, inmate violence, or suicide.
        - **Death in the Custody of Army or Paramilitary Forces:**
            - Can happen through torture, extrajudicial killings, encounters, or crossfire incidents.
    - **Challenges in Preventing Custodial Torture in India:**
        - Lack of ratification of the **UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT)**, which India signed in 1997 but has not yet ratified.
            - This prevents India from being bound by international obligations and standards to **prevent and combat custodial torture.**

International Conventions for Human Rights

- **International Human Rights Law, 1948:**
    - The International Human Rights Law contains a provision which **protects people from torture and other enforced disappearances.**
- **United Nation Charter, 1945:**
    - The United Nations Charter calls for **treating prisoners with dignity.** The Charter clearly states that despite being prisoners, their fundamental freedoms and human rights are set out in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights,** the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- **The Nelson Mandela Rules, 2015:**
    - The Nelson Mandela Rules were **adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in**

2015 to treat prisoners with inherent dignity and to prohibit torture and other ill-treatment.