



Stampede at Maha Kumbh 2025 | Uttar Pradesh | 30 Jan 2025

Why in News?

A tragic stampede took place at the [Triveni Sangam](#) (confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati) in [Prayagraj](#) as thousands of devotees gathered for the **Mauni Amavasya 'Amrit Snan'** at the [Maha Kumbh](#).

- The massive crowd surge created chaos, leading to a **stampede** that caused **multiple casualties** and **injuries**.

Key Points

- **Significance of Amrit Snan:**
 - The **Amrit Snan on Mauni Amavasya** is the most significant ritual of the Maha Kumbh 2025, and event held even greater importance due to the **rare celestial alignment of 'Triveni Yog,'** which occurs once every **144 years**.
 - Nearly **five crore devotees** had already arrived a day before the Amrit Snan, with the number expected to reach **10 crore** on the day itself.
- **Mauni Amavasya:**
 - **About:**
 - **Mauni Amavasya**, also known as **Maghi Amavasya** or **Magh Amavasya**, is an important day that occurs during the **Magha month** on the **new moon (Amavasya)**.
 - This spiritually significant day is deeply rooted in the traditions of the North Indian calendar.
 - It is marked by **introspection, silence, and soul purification** through sacred rituals, with the **holy dip in the Ganges River** being one of its most prominent practices.
 - **Significance of Mauni Amavasya 2025:**
 - "**Mauni**" is derived from the **Sanskrit word "Mauna,"** meaning "**silence**".
 - Observing a vow of silence on this day is a common practice among devotees, promoting **spiritual discipline** and **inner peace**.
 - Silence is seen as a powerful tool for **self-purification** and **spiritual growth**.
 - A **holy dip** in the **Triveni Sangam** during the **Kumbh Mela** is believed to cleanse devotees of past sins and lead them toward **salvation** or **Moksha**.
 - Additionally, performing rituals to **honour ancestors** on **Mauni Amavasya** is thought to bring happiness and blessings, as well as help alleviate [Pitru Dosha](#), offering relief to those facing ancestral karmic imbalances.

Infrastructure Development For 38th National Games | Uttarakhand | 30 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The roads connecting [Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium](#) in Raipur, Dehradun, will be widened to manage traffic more efficiently.

- The decision comes after **severe traffic congestion** during the **opening ceremony of the 38th National Games**.

Key Points

- **Future Events Consideration:** Since more sporting events will be held at the stadium in the future, the government aims to improve infrastructure and streamline traffic management.
- **National Games Closing Ceremony:** The closing ceremony is scheduled for **14 February 2025**.
- **National Games 2025:**
 - Into its **38th edition, the National Games**, India's own multi-sport event inspired by the Olympics, will see athletes from **28 states, eight Union Territories** and the **Services Sports Control Board (SSCB)** compete for medals in **32 different sports**.
 - The 2025 National Games kicked off with the **triathlon events on 26 January**.
 - The overall winner of the **National Games** is awarded the **Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy** for each edition.
 - The champion state is judged based on points scored which are earned based on finishing positions in the events.
 - The **National Games 2025** will feature some top athletes from India, including **Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain (boxing), Swapnil Kusale, Sarabjot Singh and Vijay Kumar (shooting)**.

Web Portal for Registering Live-in Relationships | Rajasthan | 30 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The [Rajasthan High Court](#) has directed the **state government** to launch a **web portal** for **registering live-in relationships**.

Key Points

- **Reason for the Order:** Several live-in couples face threats from family and society, leading them to file petitions under [Article 226](#) seeking protection under [Article 21](#).
 - **Article 226** provides the **High Courts** the authority to bring a lawsuit against a **government entity** if any **citizen's rights and freedoms** are violated.
 - The High Court has **broad powers to issue orders and writs** to any person or authority under Article 226 of the Indian Constitution.
- The court noted that while **live-in relationships** are not explicitly addressed in Indian law, SC has ruled in several cases such as [Khushboo vs Kanniammal \(2010\)](#), [Lata Singh vs State of UP \(2006\)](#) and [Indira Sarma vs V.K. Sarma \(2013\)](#) that such relationships are **not criminal** and fall under the **right to life and personal liberty guaranteed by Article 21**.
- **Necessity to Regulate:** The court highlighted the need to regulate **live-in relationships**, noting that they **lack social approval** and may create legal complications, especially for women and children.
- **Establishment of Authority:** Until a law is enacted, the court ordered the creation of a

competent authority in each district to register and address grievances of live-in couples.

- The government must submit a compliance report by **1st March, 2025**, outlining the steps taken.
- **Legal Clarification on Married Persons:** The court referred to a larger bench the issue of whether married individuals in live-in relationships, without divorce, can seek protection.
- **New Legal Format for Live-in Couples:**
 - The court's order also included the preparation of a formal registration format that all couples entering into live-in relationships must complete. The document would require couples to agree to specific terms before entering such relationships. Key provisions in the format would include the following:
 - **Child Support:** Both partners would be obligated to agree on a “**child plan**” outlining their respective responsibilities for the **education, healthcare, and general upbringing** of any children born from the relationship.
 - **Maintenance:** The male partner would be held responsible for financially supporting the non-earning female partner and any children resulting from the relationship, ensuring their economic security.

Landmark Judgments Upholding Constitutional Morality

- **Lata Singh vs State of UP (2006):**
 - Directed protection for inter-caste and inter-religious couples from harassment and violence.
- **S. Khushboo vs Kanniammal & Anr. (2010):**
 - Declared sexual relations between **consenting adults outside marriage** as legal and within the right to privacy.
- **Naz Foundation vs Government of NCT of Delhi (2009):**
 - Decriminalized consensual homosexual acts between adults, declaring **Section 377** of the Indian Penal Code as a violation of rights.
- **Joseph Shine vs Union of India (2018):**
 - Decriminalized **adultery** and **declared it a violation of the rights to equality, dignity, privacy, and autonomy.**
- **Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India (2018):**
 - Affirmed the **rights of LGBTQ+** individuals to express their sexual orientation and identity with dignity.
- **Shafin Jahan vs Asokan K.M. (2018):**
 - Upheld the right to marry a person of one's choice regardless of religion or caste, nullifying the annulment of a Hindu-Muslim marriage.
- **Shakti Vahini vs Union of India (2018):**
 - Condemned honour killings and violence against inter-caste and inter-religious couples, issuing guidelines for prevention and protection.

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Case Filed Against Poison Remark on Yamuna Water | Haryana | 30 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The Haryana government filed a case against the **political party leader** in **Sonipat Chief Judicial Magistrate Court** under the [Disaster Management Act, 2005](#) over his claim that **Yamuna** water from Haryana contained "poison."

Key Points

- **Complaint Filed Under:**
 - **Section 54, Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Punishment for creating false alarms about disasters (up to **1-year imprisonment or fine**).
 - **Sections 353 & 356 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023:** Public mischief and defamation.
- **Election Commission's Involvement:** The [Election Commission](#) sought evidence regarding the claim, asking for a factual and legal basis.

Disaster Management Act, 2005

- **About:**
 - The **Disaster Management Act, 2005** was passed by the government of India in **2005** for the 'efficient [management of disasters](#) and other matters connected to it. However, it came into force in **January 2006**.
- **Objective:**
 - To **manage disasters**, including preparation of **mitigation strategies, capacity-building**.
 - Definition of a **"disaster"** in **Section 2 (d)** of the **Disaster Management Act, 2005** states that a disaster means a **"catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence** in any area, arising from natural or man made causes.
- **Major Features of the Act:**
 - **Nodal Agency:** The Act designates the **Ministry of Home Affairs** as the **nodal ministry** for steering the overall national disaster management.
 - **Institutional Structure:** It puts into place a **systematic structure of institutions** at the **national, state and district levels**.
 - **National Level Important Entities:**
 - **The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):** It is tasked with laying down disaster management policies and ensuring timely and effective response mechanisms.
 - **The National Executive Committee (NEC):** It is constituted under **Section 8** of the Act to assist the [National Disaster Management Authority](#) in the performance of its functions.
 - The NEC is responsible for the preparation of the **National Disaster Management Plan** for the whole country and to ensure that it is reviewed and updated annually.
 - **The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM):** It is an institute for training and capacity development programs for managing natural calamities.
 - **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF):** It refers to trained professional units that are called upon for specialized response to disasters

Transfer Policy (Amendment), 2025 | Madhya Pradesh | 30 Jan 2025

Why in News?

There is currently a ban on transfers at the state and district levels in Madhya Pradesh. The government had issued the **Transfer Policy (Amendment), 2025** for these levels on **24 June 2021**.

- The amendment was approved in a **Cabinet meeting** chaired by **Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav** in **Maheshwar**.

Key Point

- The state government has now amended **Clause 9 of Transfer Policy (Amendment), 2025** to allow ministers to make transfers in exceptional circumstances.
 - **General Administration Department** released the **Transfer Policy (Amendment), 2025**.
- **Ministerial Authority for Transfers:**
 - **Secretary-level approvals** can now be made for high-priority cases, following **administrative approval** from the **Chief Minister's office**.
- **Departmental Discretion:**
 - In cases where transfers are deemed inappropriate according to departmental policy, the **department secretary** must obtain approval from the **department minister**.
 - The transfer proposal will then be forwarded to the **Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary**, with reasons for the transfer, for final approval.
- **Conditions for Transfer:**
 - Transfers can only occur under **special circumstances**, such as:
 - **Health Reasons:** Transfers can be granted due to serious health conditions like **cancer**, stroke, **heart attack**, etc.
 - **Court Orders:** If mandated by a court order, transfers will be processed, provided there are no departmental actions pending against the employee.
 - **Serious Complaints or Irregularities:** If a government employee faces serious complaints or negligence, and disciplinary action has been initiated by the department.
 - **Criminal Cases:** If the employee is involved in a criminal case registered by the **Lokayukta** or police, and there is no obstruction in the investigation, a transfer may be implemented.
 - **Vacancy Fulfillment:** In cases where an employee's position becomes vacant due to suspension, resignation, retirement, or death, and the department deems it necessary to fill that position, a transfer may be ordered.
- **Importance of the Amendment:**
 - The transfer policy is aimed at **streamlining** the process and ensuring **fairness** while considering special circumstances.
 - The amendment also allows more **flexibility** in handling urgent and critical cases, such as health-related transfers or addressing complaints and criminal issues.
 - By ensuring that the vacancies at the transferred position are proportionate, the policy aims to maintain **balance** across departments and locations.
 - This **amendment to the transfer policy** will ensure that transfers are carried out with due diligence, especially when addressing sensitive issues like health problems, legal matters, or departmental irregularities. It also allows for the **efficient management** of government resources, while providing flexibility for urgent or special cases.

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