



UP Declares Maha Kumbh Area a New District

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has declared the [Maha Kumbh area in Prayagraj](#) as a **new district**.

- It was made to streamline the management and administration of the upcoming [Kumbh Mela](#) scheduled for **January 2025**.

Key Points

- The notification was issued under Section 2 (th) of the **Uttar Pradesh Prayagraj Mela Authority, Prayagraj Act, 2017**.
 - It officially declares the Mahakumbh Mela District for organizing the Mahakumbh 2025.
 - The **Mela Adhikari** was made the **administrative authority of the new district**.
- Powers and Responsibilities of Mela Adhikari:
 - The Mela Adhikari, Kumbh Mela, Prayagraj, will hold powers of the Executive Magistrate, District Magistrate, and Additional District Magistrate under Section-14 (1) and relevant sections of the [Indian Civil Defense Code, 2023](#).
 - The Mela Adhikari will also possess all the powers of the District Magistrate and Collector under the **Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006 (amended in 2016)**, for handling all cases.
 - The Mela Adhikari has the authority to appoint an Additional Collector for the district.

Maha Kumbh

- Kumbh Mela comes under [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation \(UNESCO\)'s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#).
- It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
 - It takes place on the banks of the [Godavari river in Nashik](#), the [Shipra river in Ujjain](#), the [Ganges](#) in Haridwar, and the confluence of the Ganges, [Yamuna](#), and the mythical [Saraswati river in Prayagraj](#). The confluence is referred to as the 'Sangam'.
- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a **culturally diverse festival**.
- The **over month-long fair** is marked by the construction of a massive tented township, complete with cottages, huts, platforms, civic facilities, administrative and security measures.
 - It is organised immaculately by the government, the local authorities and the police.
- The mela is especially **renowned for the presence of an extraordinary array of religious ascetics** enticed from remote hideaways in forests, mountains and caves.

