



Gangasagar Mela

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Rising Sea Levels threatens **Gangasagar Mela** on **Sagar Island in West Bengal**, highlighting the intersection of **climate change and pilgrimage**.

- **Gangasagar Mela:** It is the world's second-largest human congregation, after the **Kumbh Mela**, held at the confluence of the holy river **Ganga** and the **Bay of Bengal**, celebrated on the eve of **Makar Sankranti**.
- **Sagar Island:** Also known as **Ganga Sagar** or **Sagardwip**, Sagar Island is located about 120 km from Kolkata and is the **largest in the Sundarbans archipelago**, with a population of around two lakh (2011 Census).
 - Classified under the **sand group category**, it is accessed by crossing the **Muriganga River**.
- **Impact of Climate Change:** **Rising sea levels** and **soil erosion** threaten the **Kapil Muni temple** (once a central site of the mela), with the **sea encroaching closer**.
 - **Mangrove destruction** for construction for mela worsens exposure to tidal surges, highlighting the need for natural barriers.

Read more: [Right to Protection from Climate Change Impacts](#)

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