

KUMBH



- Kumbh Mela, also called Kumbha Mela, in Hinduism is a religious festival that is celebrated four times over the course of 12 years.
- The Mela was included in the list of “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO in 2017.
- The largest crowd in Kumbh Mela gathers on Mauni Amavasya.
- Depending on what position the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter hold in that period in different zodiac signs, the venue for Kumbh Mela is decided.

The normal Kumbh Mela is held every 3 years,

The Ardh (half) Kumbh Mela is held every six years at Haridwar and Allahabad (Prayag)

The Purna (complete) Kumbh mela takes place every twelve years, at four places Prayag (Allahabad), Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik, based on planetary movements.

The Maha Kumbh Mela is celebrated at Prayag after 144 years (after 12 'Purna Kumbh Melas').

- The festival is traditionally credited to the 8th-century Hindu philosopher and saint Adi Shankara, as a part of his efforts to start major Hindu gatherings for philosophical discussions and debates.
- In Kumbh Mela, the first bath is lead by the Saints which is known as Shahi Snan of Kumbh and it starts at 3 AM.
- After the royal bath of the Saints, common people get permission to take a bath in the holy river.



Written Evidence of Kumbh Mela

- The first written evidence of the Kumbh Mela is mentioned in **Bhagvat Purana**.
- Another written evidence of Kumbh Mela is mentioned in the works of Chinese traveller **Hsuan Tsang (or Xuanzang) who visited India in 629-645 AD**, during the reign of Harshavardhana.