

Kumbh Mela festival explainer

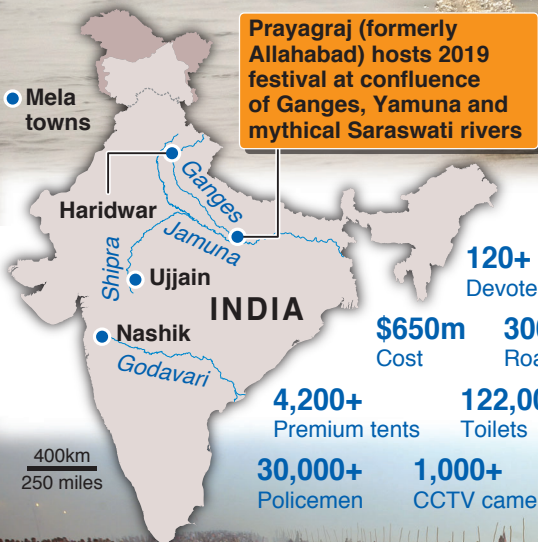
■ **Kumbh Mela** is held four times in 12 years, alternating between cities of Prayagraj, Nasik, Ujjain and Haridwar.

Celebration at each site is based on astrological positions of sun, moon, and Jupiter

■ **According to Hindu mythology, gods and demons fought over pitcher of elixir of immortality.**

Four drops of elixir fell – one in each of four mela towns – during battle which lasted 12 divine days, equalling 12 human years

■ **Devotees believe dip in sacred waters washes away sins and helps attain “moksha” – liberation from cycle of birth and death**



2019 KUMBH MELA BY THE NUMBERS

120+ million Devotees	32 sq km Pilgrimage site
\$650m Cost	300km Roads laid
4,200+ Premium tents	20,000+ Beds
30,000+ Policemen	20,000+ Dustbins
1,000+ CCTV cameras	15,000+ Sanitation workers

