

# World's largest religious gathering

More than 400 million visitors are expected in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh for the Maha Kumbh Mela – Great Pitcher Festival – at the confluence of the Jamuna, Ganges and mythical Saraswati rivers

150,000	4,000 ha	3,000	145,000	40,000	3,300
Tents	Tent city	Kitchens	Restrooms	Policemen	Extra trains



Holy rivers  
Jamuna

Ganges

New  
Delhi

Shipra

Godavari

400km  
250 miles

Gods and  
demons  
"churning  
the waters",  
Vishnu in  
form of tortoise

Hindu mythology  
says that god **Vishnu**  
fought with demons for  
12 divine days – 12 human  
years – over golden pitcher  
holding nectar of immortality.  
Four drops of nectar fell to  
earth, one in each mela town

## KUMBH MELA SITES

- 1 Prayagraj
- 2 Haridwar
- 3 Ujjain
- 4 Nashik

Festival held every  
three years, location  
based on astrological  
position of Sun, Moon  
and Jupiter. Every  
12th year designated  
Maha or Great

**Sadhu**, or holy man,  
washes away past  
sins to end process  
of reincarnation

