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## **30 million bathe in Ganges for Kumbh Mela**

**11<sup>th</sup> February, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

The world's biggest gathering of humanity took place yesterday on the banks of India's River Ganges. Up to 30 million people took part in a pilgrimage known as the Kumbh Mela. Hindu devotees have been travelling across India since the opening day of the festival on January the 14th. Then, just a modest eight million took a dip in the holy waters at a town called Sangam. This is where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers merge. Up to 100 million people will make their way to Sangam to bathe in the sacred waters during the 55-day event. This year is a special one, known as a Maha Kumbh Mela, which happens only once every 144 years. Hindus believe that bathing in the rivers will cleanse their sins and bring salvation.

Security has been particularly tight during this Kumbh Mela due to record numbers of attendees and the execution on Saturday of one of those who attacked the Indian parliament in 2001. Kashmiri Afzal Guru was hanged in the capital New Delhi for his part in the attack. Militants had promised to disrupt the Mela by causing a stampede. As a precaution, Indian police laid on thousands of extra officers to look for suspected terrorists. They also set up increased numbers of surveillance cameras. Meanwhile, a request went out to Indian celebrities to not visit the Mela at the busiest time. A police spokesman said the excitement created by a leading Bollywood actor or a popular singer could have resulted in a potentially deadly surge.

Sources: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Mahakumbh-Over-3-crore-devotees-expected-to-take-holy-dip-on-Mauni-Amavasya/articleshow/18416257.cms>  
<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/UttarPradesh/Mauni-Amavasya-at-Maha-Kumbh-today/Article1-1009356.aspx>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-21395425>

# WARM-UPS

**1. RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about religious festivals. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*gathering / humanity / River Ganges / pilgrimage / rivers / cleanse the sins / salvation / security / execution / militant / stampede / precaution / surveillance / celebrities*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. GATHERINGS:** What problems are there for organisers of huge gatherings of people? Complete this table with your partner(s) and share what you wrote often.

	Potential problems	Effective solutions
transport		
toilets		
security		
food		
water		
lost kids		

**4. SINS:** Students A **strongly** believe our sins can be taken away ; Students B **strongly** believe they can't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. GATHERINGS:** Rank these gatherings - put the one you'd most likely attend at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a religious festival
- a presidential inauguration
- an open-air concert
- a march for human rights
- a world-record picnic
- New Year celebrations
- a royal wedding
- a movie premiere

**6. HUMANITY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'humanity'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Almost 3 million people attended a festival on the banks of the Ganges. T / F
- b. Eight million people attended the opening day of the festival. T / F
- c. As many as 100 million people in total will attend the festival. T / F
- d. This year is a special festival that only happens once every 144 years. T / F
- e. Security was tight because of the trial of a suspected terrorist. T / F
- f. Terrorists threatened to disrupt the Mela by starting a stampede. T / F
- g. Police asked celebrities to stay away from the Mela in the busiest day. T / F
- h. A Bollywood star went to the Mela and caused a near-deadly surge. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. gathering  | a. mankind          |
| 2. humanity   | b. bathed           |
| 3. devotees   | c. putting to death |
| 4. took a dip | d. upset            |
| 5. sins       | e. assembly         |
| 6. execution  | f. lethal           |
| 7. militants  | g. wrongdoing       |
| 8. disrupt    | h. ended            |
| 9. resulted   | i. extremists       |
| 10. deadly    | j. followers        |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The world's biggest gathering | a. surveillance cameras    |
| 2. a modest eight million took a | b. every 144 years         |
| 3. bathe                         | c. and bring salvation     |
| 4. happens only once             | d. leading Bollywood actor |
| 5. cleanse their sins            | e. particularly tight      |
| 6. Security has been             | f. in the sacred waters    |
| 7. disrupt the Mela by           | g. deadly surge            |
| 8. increased numbers of          | h. of humanity             |
| 9. the excitement created by a   | i. causing a stampede      |
| 10. resulted in a potentially    | j. dip in the holy waters  |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

The world's biggest gathering of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ took place yesterday on the banks of India's River Ganges. Up to 30 million people took part in a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ known as the Kumbh Mela. Hindu devotees have been travelling across India since the opening day of the festival on January the 14th. Then, just a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ eight million took a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in the holy waters at a town called Sangam. This is where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Up to 100 million people will make their way to Sangam to bathe in the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ waters during the 55-day event. This year is a special one, known as a Maha Kumbh Mela, which happens only once every 144 years. Hindus believe that (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in the rivers will cleanse their (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and bring salvation.

*merge*  
*bathing*  
*pilgrimage*  
*sins*  
*dip*  
*humanity*  
*sacred*  
*modest*

Security has been particularly (9) \_\_\_\_\_ during this Kumbh Mela due to record numbers of attendees and the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on Saturday of one of those who attacked the Indian parliament in 2001. Kashmiri Afzal Guru was (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in the capital New Delhi for his part in the attack. Militants had promised to disrupt the Mela by causing a (12) \_\_\_\_\_. As a precaution, Indian police laid on thousands of extra officers to look for (13) \_\_\_\_\_ terrorists. They also set up increased numbers of (14) \_\_\_\_\_ cameras. Meanwhile, a request went out to Indian (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to not visit the Mela at the busiest time. A police spokesman said the excitement created by a leading Bollywood actor or a popular singer could have resulted in a potentially deadly (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*hanged*  
*celebrities*  
*surge*  
*execution*  
*suspected*  
*tight*  
*stampede*  
*surveillance*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

- 1) The world's biggest \_\_\_\_\_ took place yesterday
  - a. gather ring for humanity
  - b. gather ringer humanity
  - c. gather link off humanity
  - d. gathering of humanity
- 2) Up to 30 million people took \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. part in a pilgrimage
  - b. parting a pilgrimage
  - c. part in a pilgrim age
  - d. partying a pilgrimage
- 3) Then, just a modest eight million \_\_\_\_\_ holy waters
  - a. took a dipping the
  - b. talk a dip in the
  - c. took a dip in the
  - d. took the dip in the
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ waters during the 55-day event
  - a. bath in the sacred
  - b. bathing the sacred
  - c. bathe in a sacred
  - d. bathe in the sacred
- 5) bathing in the rivers will \_\_\_\_\_ bring salvation.
  - a. cleanse the sins and
  - b. lens their sins and
  - c. cleanse their sins and
  - d. cleanse their sinners and
- 6) Kashmiri Afzal Guru was hanged in the capital New Delhi for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. his party in the attack
  - b. his parting the attack
  - c. his part in the attacks
  - d. his part in the attack
- 7) Militants had promised to disrupt the Mela by \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. causing a stampede
  - b. cause in a stampede
  - c. causing a stamp aid
  - d. causing the stampede
- 8) They also set up increased \_\_\_\_\_ cameras.
  - a. numbers of surveillance
  - b. number of surveillance
  - c. numbers of survey lance
  - d. numbers of ambulance
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ to Indian celebrities to not visit the Mela at the busiest time
  - a. the request went out
  - b. a request went out
  - c. a request when tout
  - d. a Rick West went out
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_ could have resulted in a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. potentially deadly surge
  - b. potentially deathly surge
  - c. potentially deadly sarge
  - d. potential deadly surge

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

The world's biggest (1) \_\_\_\_\_ place yesterday on the banks of India's River Ganges. Up to 30 million people took part in a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Kumbh Mela. Hindu devotees have been travelling across India since the opening day of the festival on January the 14th. Then, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ million took a dip in the holy waters at a town called Sangam. This is where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers merge. Up to 100 million people (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Sangam to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ during the 55-day event. This year is a special one, known as a Maha Kumbh Mela, which happens only once every 144 years. Hindus believe that bathing in the rivers will cleanse their (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Security has been (7) \_\_\_\_\_ this Kumbh Mela due to record numbers of attendees (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday of one of those who attacked the Indian parliament in 2001. Kashmiri Afzal Guru (9) \_\_\_\_\_ New Delhi for his part in the attack. Militants had promised to disrupt the Mela by causing a stampede. As a precaution, Indian police laid on thousands of extra officers to look (10) \_\_\_\_\_. They also set up increased numbers (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Meanwhile, a request went out to Indian celebrities to not visit the Mela at the busiest time. A police spokesman said the excitement created by a leading Bollywood actor or a popular singer could have resulted in (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

1. Where on the Ganges did the Kumbh Mela take place?

---

2. What kind of followers joined the Kumbh Mela?

---

3. When was the opening day of the Kumbh Mela?

---

4. How many people in total are expected to attend the Kumbh Mela?

---

5. How often does the Maha Kumbh Mela occur?

---

6. Why was there tighter security this year?

---

7. What did extremists threaten to do to the Kumbh Mela?

---

8. Why were extra police officers sent to the Kumbh Mela?

---

9. What was increased in addition to extra numbers of police?

---

10. Who were told to stay away?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

1. Where did the Kumbh Mela take place?
  - a) at the source of the Ganges
  - b) at the Ganges Bank
  - c) on the banks of the Ganges
  - d) at the mouth of the River Ganges
2. How many people attended the opening day of the event?
  - a) 8,000,000
  - b) 800,000
  - c) 80,000,000
  - d) 8,888,888
3. How many people are likely to attend in total?
  - a) 100 million
  - b) 80 million
  - c) 75 million
  - d) 40 million
4. How long is the Kumbh Mela?
  - a) a whole year
  - b) 55 days
  - c) 144 days
  - d) 2 weeks
5. Why do people bathe in the Ganges?
  - a) it's great fun
  - b) it's refreshing
  - c) the river is good for the hair
  - d) to make their sins go away
6. What was tighter at this year's Kumbh Mela?
  - a) money
  - b) security
  - c) pants
  - d) gun control
7. Where is Afzal Guru from?
  - a) Kashmir
  - b) New Delhi
  - c) Madras
  - d) Rawalpindi
8. What did extremists want to create at the Kumbh Mela?
  - a) promises
  - b) a statue
  - c) a stampede
  - d) a celebratory stamp
9. Who did police tell to stay away at the busiest time?
  - a) terrorists
  - b) people on their second pilgrimage
  - c) children
  - d) famous Indians
10. What could have been very dangerous?
  - a) the visit of a top actor
  - b) rain
  - c) a lack of toilets
  - d) freezing weather

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

## **Role A – Devotee**

You think the Kumbh Mela is the greatest event on Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. You think everyone should visit once. You are sure they will leave a better person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell everyone who disagrees with you that they are wrong.

## **Role B – Police chief**

You would like to limit the numbers of people attending the Kumbh Mela. Tell the others three reasons why. It's too unsafe for 30 million people to be in the same place at the same time. You think water special Kumbh Mela centres could open all over India.

## **Role C – Tourist**

This is your second Kumbh Mela. You have travelled the world and you think the Mela is unbeatable. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the police chief he needn't worry about safety because everything is so well organised. You disagree with the organiser.

## **Role D – Organiser**

You want fewer people visit the Kumbh Mela and no tourists. Tell the others three reasons why. The police chief doesn't know what (s)he is talking about. The Mela can only be held on the banks of the Ganges. Tell the tourist there are other events around the world (s)he can visit.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'holy' and 'water'.

<b>holy</b>	<b>water</b>
-------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• humanity</li><li>• travelling</li><li>• eight</li><li>• 100</li><li>• 55</li><li>• 144</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• tight</li><li>• 2001</li><li>• promised</li><li>• extra</li><li>• busiest</li><li>• deadly</li></ul>
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# RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

Write five GOOD questions about religious festivals in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'festival'?
- c) What's your favourite festival?
- d) Are religious festivals better than non-religious ones?
- e) Would you like to attend a festival along with 30 million other people?
- f) Do you think such a festival could change you as a person?
- g) What's the best festival in your country?
- h) Do you think water has spiritual or healing powers?
- i) Is India a more spiritual place than most other countries?
- j) Would you like to attend the Kumbh Mela?

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## RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Would you feel safe at the Kumbh Mela with so many people?
- c) Is there an (another) important pilgrimage in your religion?
- d) Should the execution of Afzal Guru have been moved to another day?
- e) Are the police more or less ineffective in a gathering of 30 million?
- f) What's the biggest event you've ever attended and how was it?
- g) What would you do in a stampede?
- h) What world festival would you really love to attend?
- i) Was it wise to ask celebrities to stay away?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the Kumbh Mela organiser?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

The world's biggest (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of humanity took place yesterday on the banks of India's River Ganges. Up to 30 million people took part in a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ known as the Kumbh Mela. Hindu devotees have been travelling across India since the opening day of the festival on January the 14th. Then, just a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ eight million took a dip in the holy waters at a town called Sangam. This is where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Up to 100 million people will make their way to Sangam to bathe in the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ waters during the 55-day event. This year is a special one, known as a Maha Kumbh Mela, which happens only once every 144 years. Hindus believe that bathing in the rivers will (6) \_\_\_\_\_ their sins and bring salvation.

Security has been particularly tight during this Kumbh Mela (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to record numbers of attendees and the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ on Saturday of one of those who attacked the Indian parliament in 2001. Kashmiri Afzal Guru was hanged in the capital New Delhi for his part in the attack. Militants had promised to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the Mela by causing a stampede. As a precaution, Indian police laid (10) \_\_\_\_\_ thousands of extra officers to look for suspected terrorists. They also set up increased numbers of surveillance cameras. Meanwhile, a request went (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to Indian celebrities to not visit the Mela at the busiest time. A police spokesman said the excitement created by a leading Bollywood actor or a popular singer could have resulted in a potentially deadly (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                  |               |                |               |
|-----|------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) gathering    | (b) garnering | (c) gartering  | (d) gating    |
| 2.  | (a) hermitage    | (b) suffrage  | (c) pilgrimage | (d) frontage  |
| 3.  | (a) model        | (b) modicum   | (c) modest     | (d) mode      |
| 4.  | (a) conglomerate | (b) takeover  | (c) buyout     | (d) merge     |
| 5.  | (a) scary        | (b) scarred   | (c) sacred     | (d) scared    |
| 6.  | (a) bleach       | (b) cleanse   | (c) disinfect  | (d) saturate  |
| 7.  | (a) because      | (b) due       | (c) up         | (d) down      |
| 8.  | (a) elocution    | (b) execution | (c) excretion  | (d) extension |
| 9.  | (a) disrespect   | (b) disarray  | (c) disrupt    | (d) dismal    |
| 10. | (a) into         | (b) in        | (c) over       | (d) on        |
| 11. | (a) down         | (b) up        | (c) in         | (d) out       |
| 12. | (a) purge        | (b) verge     | (c) merge      | (d) surge     |

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# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. The world's biggest rtagnegih
2. took part in a lpregiimag
3. Hindu dsveteeo
4. a sdoetm eight million
5. in the rcsade waters
6. cneleas their sins

## Paragraph 2

7. Security has been tralpyariulc tight
8. Afzal Guru was dengah
9. promised to rduspti the Mela
10. causing a aspetdem
11. suepsdcet terrorists
12. resulted in a paietyoltln deadly surge



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) Security has been particularly tight during this Kumbh Mela due to record numbers of attendees and the
- ( ) causing a stampede. As a precaution, Indian police laid on thousands of extra officers to look for suspected
- ( ) terrorists. They also set up increased numbers of surveillance cameras. Meanwhile, a request went
- ( **1** ) The world's biggest gathering of humanity took place yesterday on the banks of India's River Ganges. Up
- ( ) waters at a town called Sangam. This is where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers merge. Up to 100 million people will make
- ( ) bathing in the rivers will cleanse their sins and bring salvation.
- ( ) their way to Sangam to bathe in the sacred waters during the 55-day event. This year is a special
- ( ) execution on Saturday of one of those who attacked the Indian parliament in 2001. Kashmiri Afzal Guru was
- ( ) out to Indian celebrities to not visit the Mela at the busiest time. A police spokesman said the excitement created
- ( ) to 30 million people took part in a pilgrimage known as the Kumbh Mela. Hindu devotees have been travelling across India since
- ( ) one, known as a Maha Kumbh Mela, which happens only once every 144 years. Hindus believe that
- ( ) hanged in the capital New Delhi for his part in the attack. Militants had promised to disrupt the Mela by
- ( ) by a leading Bollywood actor or a popular singer could have resulted in a potentially deadly surge.
- ( ) the opening day of the festival on January the 14th. Then, just a modest eight million took a dip in the holy

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

1. of The humanity world's took biggest place gathering.

---

2. took part in a pilgrimage Up to 30 million people.

---

3. devotees Hindu India across travelling been have.

---

4. modest A waters holy the in dip a took million eight.

---

5. salvation rivers their bring The cleanse and will sins.

---

6. Indian . those One parliament the who of attacked

---

7. the Delhi in in Hanged part N. his capital attack for the.

---

8. to Mela a Promised the causing disrupt by stampede.

---

9. of numbers increased up Set cameras surveillance.

---

10. deadly resulted surge in a Could potentially have.

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# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

The world's biggest *gathered/ gathering* of humanity took place yesterday *on / in* the banks of India's River Ganges. Up to 30 million people took part in a *pilgrimage / pilgrim* known as the Kumbh Mela. Hindu devotees have been travelling across India *for / since* the opening day of the festival on January the 14th. Then, just a *modest / modestly* eight million took a dip in the holy waters at a town called Sangam. This is where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers *surge / merge*. Up to 100 million people will *have / make* their way to Sangam to bathe in the *scared / sacred* waters during the 55-day event. This year is a special one, known as a Maha Kumbh Mela, which happens only once *every / each* 144 years. Hindus believe that bathing in the rivers will cleanse their *sins / sinuses* and bring salvation.

Security has been *particularly / particulars* tight during this Kumbh Mela due to record numbers of *attendees / attends* and the execution on Saturday of one of *them / those* who attacked the Indian parliament in 2001. Kashmiri Afzal Guru was *hanged / hung* in the capital New Delhi for his *partner / part* in the attack. Militants had promised to *disrespect / disrupt* the Mela by causing a stampede. As a precaution, Indian police *lain / laid* on thousands of extra officers to look for *suspects / suspected* terrorists. They also set up increased numbers of *surveillance / survey* cameras. Meanwhile, a request went out to Indian celebrities to not visit the Mela at the busiest time. A police spokesman said the excitement created by a leading Bollywood actor or a popular singer could have resulted in a potentially deadly *merge / surge*.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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Th\_ w\_rld's b\_gg\_st g\_th\_r\_ng \_f h\_m\_n\_ty t\_\_k pl\_c\_ y\_st\_rd\_y \_n th\_ b\_nks \_f \_nd\_\_'s R\_v\_r G\_ng\_s. \_p t\_ 30 m\_ll\_\_n p\_\_pl\_ t\_\_k p\_rt\_n \_p\_lgr\_m\_g\_ kn\_wn\_s th\_ K\_mbh M\_l\_. H\_nd\_ d\_v\_t\_\_s h\_v\_ b\_\_n tr\_v\_ll\_ng \_cr\_ss\_nd\_\_s nc\_th\_ \_p\_nng d\_y \_f th\_ f\_st\_v\_l\_n J\_n\_\_ry th\_ 14th. Th\_n, j\_st \_m\_d\_st \_\_ght m\_ll\_\_n t\_\_k \_d\_p \_n th\_ h\_ly w\_t\_rs \_t \_t\_wn c\_ll\_d S\_ng\_m. Th\_s \_s wh\_r\_ th\_ G\_ng\_s \_nd Y\_m\_n\_r\_v\_rs m\_rg\_. \_p t\_ 100 m\_ll\_\_n p\_\_pl\_ w\_ll m\_k\_ th\_\_r w\_y t\_ S\_ng\_m t\_ b\_th\_ \_n th\_ s\_cr\_d w\_t\_rs d\_r\_ng th\_ 55-d\_y \_v\_nt. Th\_s y\_\_r\_s \_sp\_c\_\_l\_n\_, kn\_wn\_s \_M\_h\_ K\_mbh M\_l\_, wh\_ch h\_pp\_ns \_nly \_nc\_ \_v\_ry 144 y\_\_rs. H\_nd\_s b\_l\_\_v\_ th\_t b\_th\_ng \_n th\_ r\_v\_rs w\_ll cl\_\_ns\_ th\_\_r\_s\_ns \_nd br\_ng\_s\_lv\_t\_\_n.

S\_c\_r\_ty h\_s b\_\_n p\_rt\_c\_l\_rly t\_gh\_t d\_r\_ng th\_s K\_mbh M\_l\_ d\_\_t\_r\_c\_r\_d n\_mb\_rs \_f \_tt\_nd\_\_s \_nd th\_ \_x\_c\_t\_\_n \_n S\_t\_rd\_y \_f \_n\_ \_f th\_s\_ wh\_ \_tt\_ck\_d th\_ \_nd\_\_n p\_rl\_\_m\_nt \_n 2001. K\_shm\_r\_ \_fz\_l G\_r\_ w\_s h\_ng\_d \_n th\_ c\_p\_t\_l N\_w D\_lh\_ f\_r h\_s p\_rt \_n th\_ \_tt\_ck. M\_l\_t\_nts h\_d pr\_m\_s\_d t\_ d\_sr\_pt th\_ M\_l\_ by c\_\_s\_ng \_st\_m\_p\_d\_. \_s\_ \_p\_r\_c\_\_t\_\_n, \_nd\_\_n p\_l\_c\_l\_d \_n th\_s\_nds \_f \_xtr\_ \_ff\_c\_rs t\_l\_\_k f\_r\_s sp\_ct\_d t\_rr\_r\_sts. Th\_y \_ls\_s\_t \_p \_ncr\_s\_d n\_mb\_rs \_f s\_rv\_\_ll\_nc\_ c\_m\_r\_s. M\_\_nwh\_l\_, \_r\_q\_\_st w\_nt \_\_t t\_ \_nd\_\_n c\_l\_br\_t\_\_s t\_n\_t\_v\_s\_t th\_ M\_l\_ \_t th\_ b\_s\_\_st t\_m\_. \_p\_l\_c\_ sp\_k\_sm\_n\_s\_d th\_ \_x\_c\_t\_m\_nt cr\_\_t\_d by \_l\_d\_ng B\_llyw\_\_d \_ct\_r \_r \_p\_p\_l\_r\_s\_ng\_r c\_\_ld h\_v\_r\_s\_l\_t\_d \_n \_p\_t\_nt\_\_lly d\_\_dly s\_rg\_.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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the world's biggest gathering of humanity took place yesterday on the banks of india's river ganges up to 30 million people took part in a pilgrimage known as the kumbh mela hindu devotees have been travelling across india since the opening day of the festival on january the 14th then just a modest eight million took a dip in the holy waters at a town called sangam this is where the ganges and yamuna rivers merge up to 100 million people will make their way to sangam to bathe in the sacred waters during the 55-day event this year is a special one known as a maha kumbh mela which happens only once every 144 years hindus believe that bathing in the rivers will cleanse their sins and bring salvation

security has been particularly tight during this kumbh mela due to record numbers of attendees and the execution on saturday of one of those who attacked the indian parliament in 2001 kashmiri afzal guru was hanged in the capital new delhi for his part in the attack militants had promised to disrupt the mela by causing a stampede as a precaution indian police laid on thousands of extra officers to look for suspected terrorists they also set up increased numbers of surveillance cameras meanwhile a request went out to indian celebrities to not visit the mela at the busiest time a police spokesman said the excitement created by a leading bollywood actor or a popular singer could have resulted in a potentially deadly surge

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130211-kumbh-mela.html>

The world's biggest gathering of humanity took place yesterday on the banks of India's River Ganges. Up to 30 million people took part in a pilgrimage known as the Kumbh Mela. Hindu devotees have been travelling across India since the opening day of the festival on January the 14th. Then, just a modest eight million took a dip in the holy waters at a town called Sangam. This is where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers merge. Up to 100 million people will make their way to Sangam to bathe in the sacred waters during the 55-day event. This year is a special one, known as a Maha Kumbh Mela, which happens only once every 144 years. Hindus believe that bathing in the rivers will cleanse their sins and bring salvation. Security has been particularly tight during this Kumbh Mela due to record numbers of attendees and the execution on Saturday of one of those who attacked the Indian parliament in 2001. Kashmiri Afzal Guru was hanged in the capital New Delhi for his part in the attack. Militants had promised to disrupt the Mela by causing a stampede. As a precaution, Indian police laid on thousands of extra officers to look for suspected terrorists. They also set up increased numbers of surveillance cameras. Meanwhile, a request went out to Indian celebrities to not visit the Mela at the busiest time. A police spokesman said the excitement created by a leading Bollywood actor or a popular singer could have resulted in a potentially deadly surge.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about religious festivals. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS:** Make a poster about religious festivals. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. KUMBH MELA:** Write a magazine article about the Kumbh Mela. Include imaginary interviews with people who were there.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to the organiser of the Mela. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b T    c T    d T    e F    f T    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. gathering  | a. assembly         |
| 2. humanity   | b. mankind          |
| 3. devotees   | c. followers        |
| 4. took a dip | d. bathed           |
| 5. sins       | e. wrongdoing       |
| 6. execution  | f. putting to death |
| 7. militants  | g. extremists       |
| 8. disrupt    | h. upset            |
| 9. resulted   | i. ended            |
| 10. deadly    | j. lethal           |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The banks
2. Hindu devotees
3. January 14
4. 100 million
5. Every 144 years
6. Record numbers of people and a security alert after a terrorist was hanged
7. Cause a stampede
8. To look for suspected terrorists
9. Surveillance cameras
10. Celebrities

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c    2. a    3. a    4. b    5. d    6. b    7. a    8. c    9. d    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)