

Findings by the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC) on Kumbh Mela 2025

The Institute for Competitiveness (IFC) released its preliminary findings on the preparations for Kumbh Mela 2025, highlighting the large-scale planning, infrastructure, and sustainability initiatives undertaken for this historic event. The report underscores the event's waste management strategies, sanitation efforts, water conservation measures, and overall impact on environmental sustainability.

Sustainable and Circular Waste Management Model

The study highlights a Circular Economy Model, where temporary infrastructure—such as modular STPs and FSTPs used during Maha Kumbh 2025 can be dismantled and reused in rural areas post-event.

- Temporary STPs & FSTPs reduce land use by 70% and eliminate the need for chemical treatment.
- Sludge Recycling: Treated sludge in Temporary FSTP can be used as organic fertilizers, promoting sustainable agriculture
- Minimized Carbon Footprint through reduced sludge transportation and decentralized waste processing.

Swachh Kumbh Initiative: Comprehensive Sanitation Measures

Under the Swachh Kumbh initiative, significant measures have been implemented to maintain cleanliness across the Kumbh Mela grounds:

- 1.5 lakh toilets have been installed across different sectors.
- Over 15,000 sanitation workers and 2,000 'Ganga Seva Doots' are working tirelessly to ensure cleanliness.
- Dedicated street cleaners, equipped with modern waste collection vehicles, facilitate real-time waste disposal.

Water Conservation and Management

Ensuring clean drinking water for millions to be a top priority. The report highlights the installation of:

- 233 Water ATMs providing free, potable water to reduce plastic bottle waste.
- Real-time monitoring and automated maintenance systems to ensure uninterrupted water supply.

- TDS monitoring and compliance with CPHEEO norms to ensure water safety.

Faecal Waste and Wastewater Treatment

To prevent environmental contamination, faecal sludge and wastewater treatment being handled through:

- Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for greywater processing.
- Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) for organic waste, converting it into eco-friendly manure.
- Circular Economy Approach: Waste is converted into fertilizers, reducing pollution and benefiting local farmers.

Enhancing Public Awareness and Hygiene

To ensure active public participation in maintaining hygiene:

- Awareness campaigns were conducted under Swachh Kumbh.
- Sanitary pad distribution was ensured in hospitals for menstrual hygiene.
- Digital grievance redressal through helplines and mobile applications improved sanitation services.

Conclusion: A Model for Sustainable Mega-Events

The preliminary IFC findings underscores Kumbh Mela 2025 as an exemplary model of large-scale event management with an emphasis on sustainability. With initiatives aligned to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, this event showcases how religious and cultural congregations can be transformed into eco-friendly, well-managed gatherings, setting new global benchmarks in sanitation and environmental conservation.