

AITC PRESS RELEASE

I Appeal To Central Government To Declare The Gangasagar Mela 'A National Fair', Says Hon'ble Chairperson Mamata Banerjee

"KUMBH MELA IN UTTAR PRADESH RECEIVES FUNDS FROM CENTRE, BUT FOR GANGASAGAR MELA, BENGAL GOVT. DOESN'T RECEIVE A SINGLE PENNY. THE STATE GOVERNMENT BEARS ALL COST FOR THE GANGASAGAR MELA. WE HAVE WRITTEN TO THE CENTRE TIME-AND-AGAIN, BUT HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE"

Kolkata, 04.01.2023

- I would like to extend my wishes for the upcoming Gangasagar Mela. We hope that all of you have a fruitful and prosperous time visiting the Gangasagar Mela
- Like every year, **I am visiting Gangasagar Mela to take stock of the preparations.** A number of delegates have been invited to the mela, and so we have to make sure no mishap takes place. I will request everyone to be careful and act responsibly
- **I have inaugurated three permanent helipads today.** These will be used by the public in the days to come. Air Ambulance facility will also be available from these helipads
- At Gangasagar Mela, a new initiative has been taken up this time. We have introduced live streaming of Dakshineswar Mandir, Kali Mandir, Tarapith, Tarakeshwar and Johorakali
- The State government has also inaugurated a guest house, which has been built at a cost of Rs 65 lakh. Tourists can avail staying at the guest house
- At Kakdwip, a New Bridge has been inaugurated, which will immensely benefit the people of this region. Our aim is to connect all these *aanchals*
- **From 8th - 17th January, the Gangasagar Mela will be held. On the intervening night of 15th and 16th January, we will have the Sagar Snan (Holy dip).** This will be held at the middle of the night
- We have instituted **life insurance for policemen, officials, media, tourists, general public and travellers to the Gangasagar Mela. In case of any death, Rs 5 lakh insurance amount will be given to the deceased's family members**

- Apart from that, all civic amenities are being provided by the State administration, including water, proper roads, lighting, housing, over 10 lakh toilets, a laser show, a mural park, a scheme park, a permanent food court. I hope the people enjoy their stay at Gangasagar
- We have also readied a new Jetty at Lot 8 of Kakdwip Island for the easy commute of travellers
- To improve the law and order situation, Sunderbans Police Zilla has been created and new police stations have come up at Gangasagar Coastal and Kakdwip. We have also built a welcome gate at Kachuberia
- At Muriganga, the State is providing launch services for 20 hours a day during the duration of the Gangasagar Mela
- The Kumbh Mela is a renowned event, and it is well-connected with civil aviation facility and Railways. **Gangasagar Mela, too, is a massive affair and People often say, “Sob Mela Bar Bar, Gangasagar Ek Baar”**
- However, the commute to Gangasagar Mela is extremely tough. **Every person reaching the Gangasagar Mela has to wade through the water to reach the site, and lakhs and lakhs of people visit the Mela**
- **We have written to the Centre time-and-again to declare the Gangasagar Mela, a national fair, but we have not received any response from them**
- The State government is now preparing phase-wise DPR for the construction of a bridge at Muriganga. We need Rs 10,000 crore for the project, but since the Central Government is not responding to our request, we are working to find a way to build the bridge
- **We would wish to reiterate this again, we want the Gangasagar Mela to be declared as a National Event. We appeal to the Centre to approve our request**
- **Kumbh Mela in Uttar Pradesh receives funds from the Centre, but for Gangasagar Mela, the State has to bear all the cost, and not one penny is received from the Centre. We want Gangasagar Mela to be on the international map so that more international tourists visit the mela**