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Understanding Temporal Urbanism of Ghats of Godawari-[Kumbh Mela]

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Abstract: *“This research paper tends to develop guideline for the development of core infrastructure which will be built in Kumbh mela time. Thus, the ghat area will act as a centre for different cultural activities and will also promote various art forms and knowledge. The idea is to distinguish the transformative change in the city at festival time and normal time. And also, how it creates social spaces with in the city? Which can be used during festival time as well as normal time.*

Develop the public activities along the reverend infrastructure those become public gathering space and automatically use during Kumbh mela time and other time it become use for something else. If there is another way to think about river, if we look at the whole stretch of the river its cutting right through the heart of the entire city. So, we can think this site as the new public space or public land, where we are actually kind of focusing on energies along the river rather than look at the periphery. The process proceeds with thinking of stitching of all this ghats together so it become like a continuous thing on both the side. Which means creating a large public space to the city which is situated at the river front”

Keywords: *Temporal urbanism, Kumbh mela, Ghats of Godavari, Urban space.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The Kumbh Mela is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, attracting millions of pilgrims from all over India and beyond. The Nashik Kumbh Mela of 2015 was held between July 14th and September 25th in Nashik, Maharashtra, India. During this time, it is estimated that around 60 million people visited Nashik to take part in the festivities.

Each day of the festival was filled with a variety of religious activities and rituals. Some of the most significant events included the holy dips in the Godavari River, religious processions, and spiritual discourses. On specific days, such as the day of the full moon, the number of pilgrims visiting the festival grounds was particularly high, leading to large crowds and heavy traffic.

To accommodate the large number of pilgrims, the government of Maharashtra set up several temporary camps and facilities in and around Nashik. The Akharas, which are groups of Hindu holy men, had their own separate accommodations, which were typically large tents or temporary structures. Many pilgrims also stayed in makeshift camps along the banks of the Godavari River.

The journey of the pilgrims to Nashik was typically a long and arduous one, as many traveled from distant parts of India and beyond. Many of the pilgrims traveled by foot, following a traditional path that led from their hometowns to Nashik. This journey often took several days or even weeks, and was seen as a spiritual pilgrimage in and of itself.

The rituals performed during the Kumbh Mela were diverse and varied, reflecting the wide range of Hindu beliefs and traditions. The most significant of these was the holy dip in the Godavari River, which was believed to cleanse the soul and bring blessings and good fortune. There were also many other rituals performed, such as the lighting of lamps, offering of prayers, and singing of devotional songs. Despite the religious significance of the Kumbh Mela, the festival presented a number of challenges for the city of Nashik and the state government. The sheer size of the event put a strain on the city's infrastructure, and there were concerns about sanitation, health, and safety. There were also problems related to traffic and transportation, as the roads were congested with pilgrims and vehicles. Additionally, there were instances of crime, theft, and other incidents, which put a further strain on the city's resources. In conclusion, the Nashik Kumbh Mela of 2015 was a major event that brought together millions of pilgrims from all over India and beyond. Despite the challenges posed by the sheer scale of the event, the festival was an important opportunity for people to come together to celebrate their religious beliefs and traditions.

A. Background

The Kumbh Mela is one of the largest human gatherings in the world, attracting millions of Hindu pilgrims to the banks of the Godavari River in Nashik, India. The festival is held every 12 years and is considered a sacred opportunity for spiritual cleansing and renewal. The festival has a rich history and is based on astrological alignments, with the exact location and timing of the event determined by Hindu scholars.

During the festival, pilgrims take a sacred bath in the river, which is believed to purify the body and soul.

The festival has a significant impact on the local environment and creates a temporary urbanism that poses several challenges, including environmental degradation and safety issues for the pilgrims. The temporal urbanism during the Kumbh Mela results in the overcrowding of the riverbanks, leading to the degradation of the natural ecosystem and water quality. The temporary structures and large crowds also pose a significant safety risk, with incidents of stampedes and drowning reported in the past. The lack of proper infrastructure and waste management systems contributes to the environmental degradation and creates a health hazard for the pilgrims.

In this research paper, we explore the temporal urbanism of the Godavari River during the Kumbh Mela, focusing on observations and solutions to make the journey safer.

B. Literature Review

1) Temporal Urbanism

- ✚ Temporary, or tactical, urbanism is one of the most significant global movements in urban renewal.
- ✚ The term broadly refers to short-term, low-cost initiatives on underutilized, vacant or public space, that aims to revitalize local life for economic or social gain.
- ✚ These initiatives can range from more formal projects, such as street makeovers and neighborhood gardens,
- ✚ Any temporary event which aims for social, spiritual, economic activity which creates temporary gathering of society for that specific purpose which is time bound and people have faith in those activities, festivals, examples Ganesh festival, Navratri, Kumbh mela, Pandharpur Wari

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2) Nashik city and Kumbh mela as Temporal activity

Nashik is a city in the northern region of the Indian state of [Maharashtra](#). Situated on the banks of river [Godavari](#), Nashik is the third largest city in Maharashtra, after [Mumbai](#) and [Pune](#). Nashik is well known for being one of the [Hindu pilgrimage sites](#) of the [Kumbh Mela](#), which is held every 12 years. Nashik is located about 190 km north of state capital [Mumbai](#). The city is called the "Wine Capital of India" as more than half of India's vineyards and wineries are located here. Around 90% of all [Indian wine](#) comes from the Nashik Valley.

Nashik city is one of the main tourist attractions as it is considered as pilgrimage city. Kumbh- mela which takes place in nashik is a mass Hindu pilgrimage where people bath in sacred river. The main aim behind developing project based on Kumbhmela is to provide all sort of information related to Kumbhmela as well as other pilgrimage centers present in Nashik. An Android application will be created which will be offline as well as online so Once the person download it from internet he/she will get to know all sort of information of nashik city and the kumbhmela which will be taking place. The images will be clearly visible on any mobile and also on tablet versions. Kumbhmela signifcance, divine sangam, kumbh parva chakra, rituals of kumbh and history, astrological, mythological aspects and all sort of information will be provided. Utility services information will be provided to the tourist like train, bus, hospitals, nearby hotels etc.

The river Godavari is considered to be a sacred source of water, and there are various cultural and religious activities that take place along its banks throughout the year.

Here are some examples of temporal activities that take place along the River Godavari in Nashik city:

- ✚ Kumbh Mela: Nashik is one of the four cities in India that hosts the Kumbh Mela, a major Hindu festival that takes place once every 12 years. During this festival, millions of pilgrims from all over India come to Nashik to take a dip in the holy waters of the Godavari. The festival lasts for about a month and is a major attraction for tourists.
- ✚ Ganga Dussehra: This is a festival that is celebrated in Nashik and other parts of India to mark the day when the River Ganga (also known as the Ganges) descended from heaven to earth. The festival is celebrated by taking a dip in the river and

performing various religious rituals along its banks.

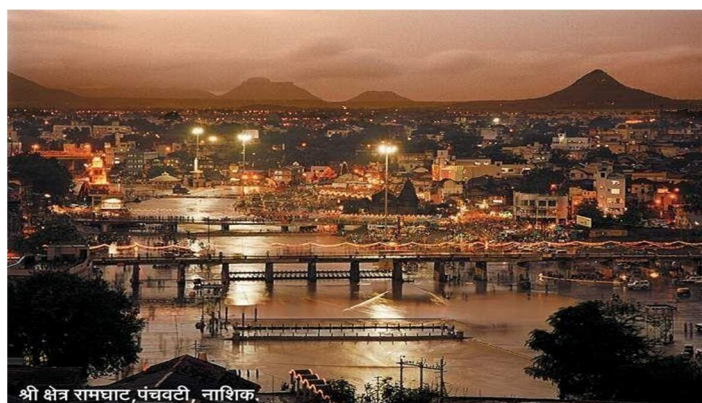
- ✚ Ganesh Visarjan: This is a festival that is celebrated in Nashik and other parts of India to mark the end of the 10-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival. During this festival, large processions carrying idol of Lord Ganesh are taken to the river and immersed in the water, symbolizing the return of Lord Ganesh to his heavenly abode.
- ✚ Boat Rides: Boat rides along the River Godavari are a popular activity in Nashik, and visitors can enjoy the scenic views of the river and its surroundings while cruising along its waters.
- ✚ Nature walks: Nashik is surrounded by lush green forests and hills, and there are many nature trails and trekking routes along the river that allow visitors to explore the natural beauty of the area.
- ✚ Picnics: The banks of the River Godavari provide an ideal location for picnics and family outings, and many people visit the river to relax and enjoy the scenic views.

Overall, the River Godavari plays a significant role in the cultural and social life of Nashik, and there are various temporal activities that take place along its banks throughout the year

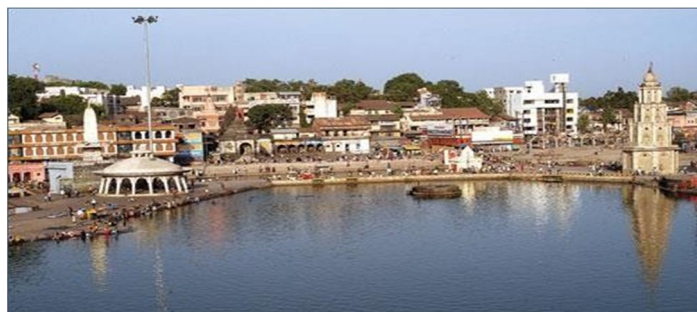
Nashik City Map



CITY GROWTH



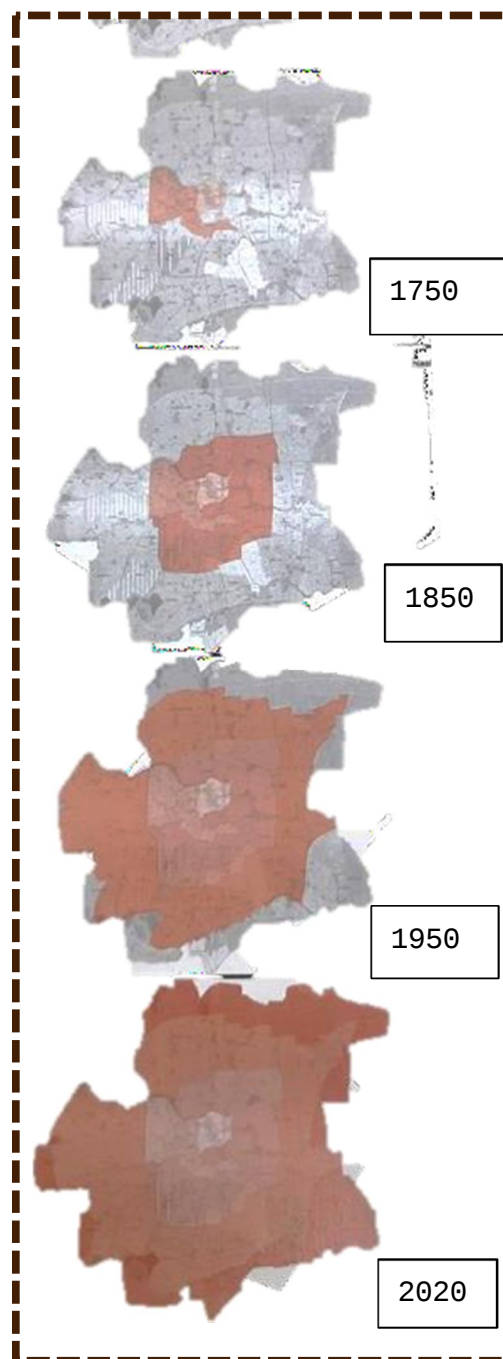
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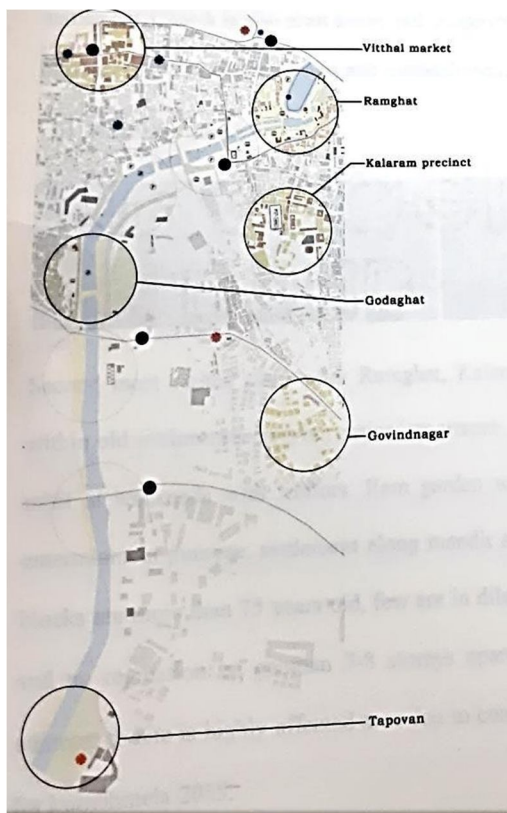
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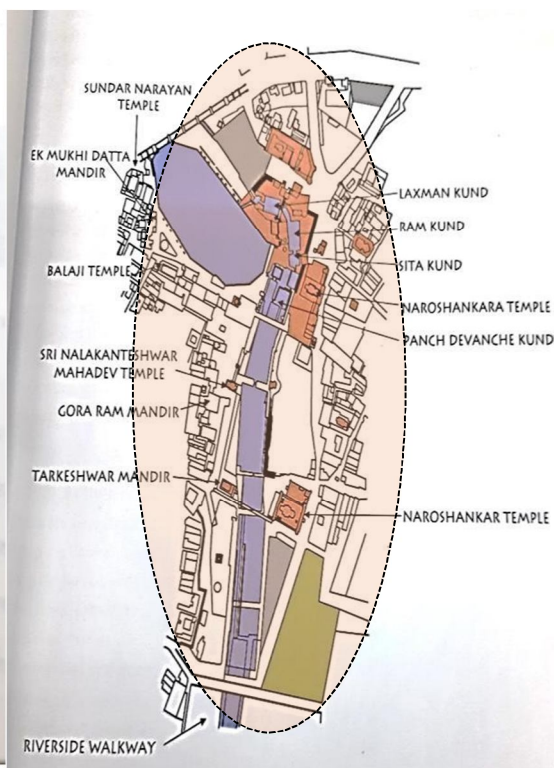
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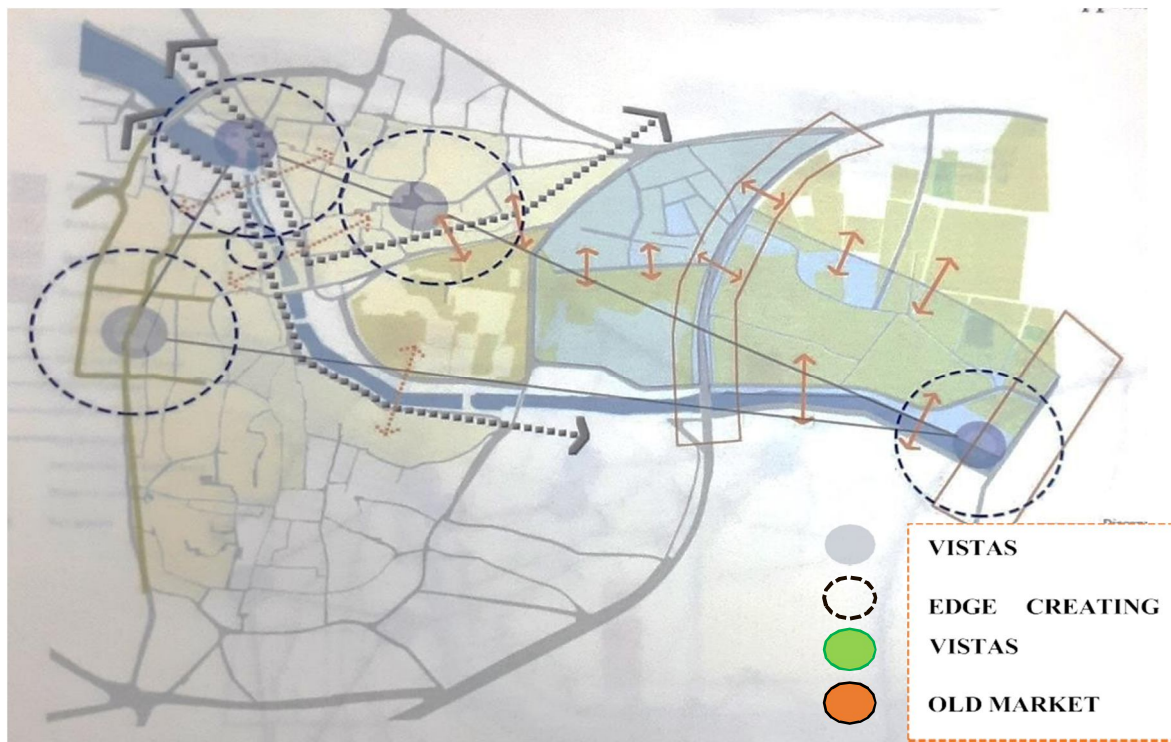
Important Site Near River

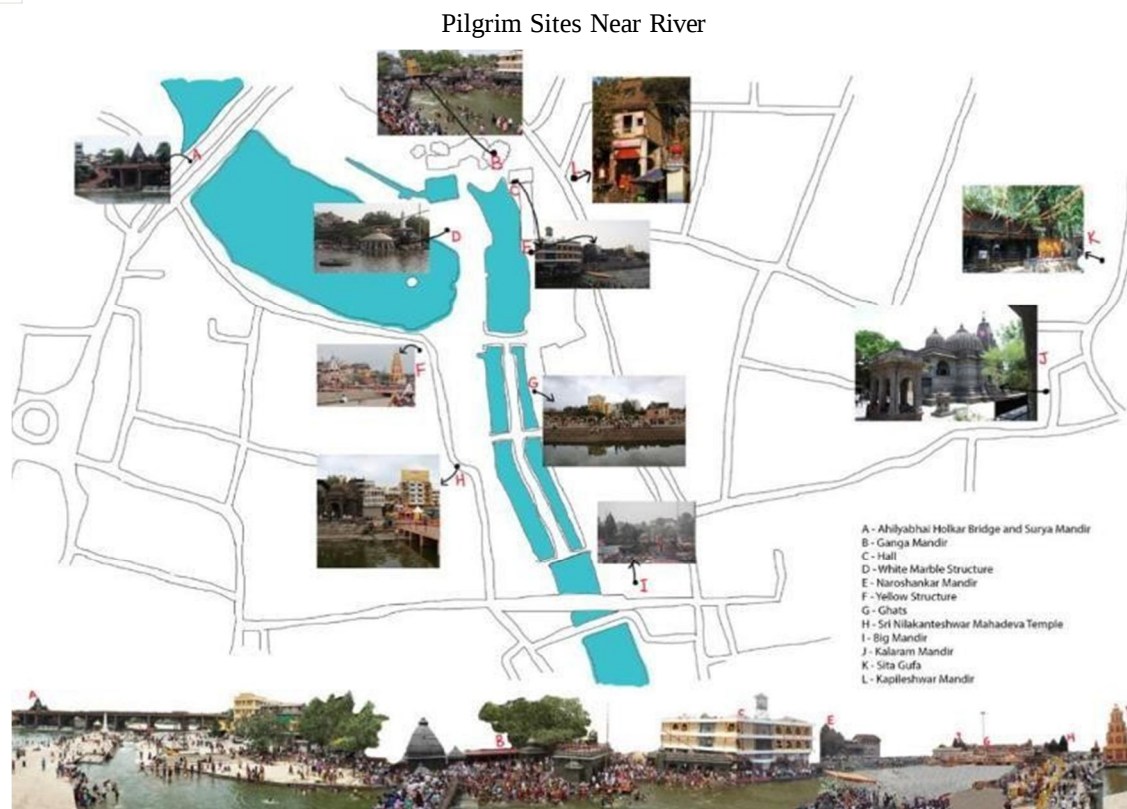


Pilgrim Sites Near River



Kumbh Mela Site





3) Issues Due To Temporal Activities In City

- In Nashik, Kumbh bath is one such mass gathering of Hindus, such mass gathering has issues on city level like bad health because of bad sanitation, seasonal factors, compromised diet-quality, noise-pollution and overcrowding.
- To avoid such problems of Kumbh-gatherings, which is largest mass gathering in the world infrastructure is needed
- This observational study is aimed to evaluate the health hazards/ benefits of one of these Kumbh in the city
- Issues related accommodation of such large no of people in millions.

C. Need Of Project In Nashik City

- To study the history of Nashik city and its journey from evolution to transformation with temporal activity of Kumbh mela
- To identify the difference between the situation of city when there is Kumbh Mela time and non-Kumbh Mela time
- To map the transformative change in the city. Specially the Ram Kund area and Sadhu gram area.
- To develop guideline for the development of the core infrastructure which will be used in Kumbha Mela time
- To understand the religious and social background of Kumbh Mela massive gathering

D. Need or Justification of Topic

In approach to urban design perspective by studying this topic we will know that how the area with Temporal urbanism will affect the development pattern of the area and also how its changes in its land use and we can also study before and after uses age of particular area which lead us to some spaces that carter the huge population along the site area. As urban designers how we can improve the development or the infrastructure of the city considering its temporal urbanism by boosting its social value and creating spaces that are required for social gathering spaces with respect to its cultural and social value of the city.

E. Scope and Limitations of Local Area Planning

The scope of the temporal urbanism during the Kumbh Mela results in the overcrowding of the riverbanks, leading to the degradation of the natural ecosystem and water quality. The temporary structures and large crowds also pose a significant safety risk, with incidents of stampedes and drowning reported in the past. The lack of proper infrastructure and waste management systems contributes to the environmental degradation and creates a health hazard for the pilgrims.

F. Case Study

KUMBH MELA 2015 , NASHIK

The Nashik Kumbh Mela of 2015 was held between July 14th and September 25th in Nashik, Maharashtra, India. During this time, it is estimated that around 60 million people visited Nashik to take part in the festivities.

Each day of the festival was filled with a variety of religious activities and rituals. Some of the most significant events included the holy dips in the Godavari River, religious processions, and spiritual discourses. On specific days, such as the day of the full moon, the number of pilgrims visiting the festival grounds was particularly high, leading to large crowds and heavy traffic.

To accommodate the large number of pilgrims, the government of Maharashtra set up several temporary camps and facilities in and around Nashik. The Akharas, which are groups of Hindu holy men, had their own separate accommodations, which were typically large tents or temporary structures. Many pilgrims also stayed in makeshift camps along the banks of the Godavari River.

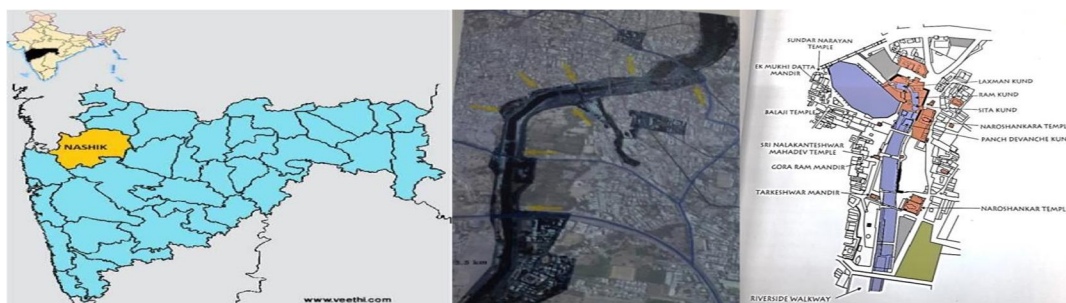
The journey of the pilgrims to Nashik was typically a long and arduous one, as many traveled from distant parts of India and beyond. Many of the pilgrims traveled by foot, following a traditional path that led from their hometowns to Nashik. This journey often took several days or even weeks, and was seen as a spiritual pilgrimage in and of itself.

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Despite the religious significance of the Kumbh Mela, the festival presented a number of challenges for the city of Nashik and the state government. The sheer size of the event put a strain on the city's infrastructure, and there were concerns about sanitation, health, and safety. There were also problems related to traffic and transportation, as the roads were congested with pilgrims and vehicles. Additionally, there were instances of crime, theft, and other incidents, which put a further strain on the city's resources.

Kumbh Melas are one of the most sacred and possibly among the largest religious events of India. According to mythology and religious scholars, it is believed that when Gods and demons were having fight over the Amrut (nectar of life), then Lord Vishnu flew away with the pot of nectar spilling drops of nectar at four different places; these are where the Kumbh Melas are held. These places were Haridwar, Nashik, Ujjain and Prayag Sangam, Allahabad. Since then, "Kumbh Mela" is celebrated once every 12 years in each of the four places, on the banks of river Godavari in Nashik, river Kshipra in Ujjain, river Ganges in Haridwar, and at the Prayag Sangam in Allahabad which is the meeting point of the three rivers- Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati. Kumbh Mela is celebrated with great extravagance - devotees congregate and perform several rites and rituals at the Mela site and numbers of ceremonies are performed, religious discussions and devotional singing is held; mass feeding for devotees, pilgrims and holy men are also organised. Among all the rituals performed at the Kumbh Mela, taking a dip in the river during the mela is considered as most sacred. This event takes place through the day, in batches, where devotees take a dip the bank of river where the Kumbh is celebrated. In 2015, Nashik has hosted the Kumbh Mela known as "Sinhastha Kumbh Mela" from July 14 to September 25, 2015. The overall Sinhashta Kumbh Mela includes a collaboration of over 22 Government Departments. This includes the departments of Collectorate Nashik (Kumbhamela Cell), Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC), Trimbakeshwar Municipal Council, Nashik City Police, Nashik Rural Police, Public Works Department, Irrigation Department, Maharashtra Jivan Pradhikarn, Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation, Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (City), Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (Rural), Civil surgeon (For Nashik and Trimbakeshwar), District Health Officer, National Highway Division, Disaster Management Cell, Central Railway, District Information office, Deolali Cantonment Board, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, Forest Department, State Archaeology and Central Archaeology.

LOCATION



FOLLOWING IS THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS TO BE FOLLOWED:

Following is the schedule of events to be followed:

Date	Day	Event
14 July, 2015	Tuesday	Mela inauguration, hoisting of flag and main ceremony at Ramkund
19 August, 2015	Friday	Hoisting of flag (Akhara) at Sadhugram
15 August, 2015	Saturday	1st day of Shravan (Amavasyant Lunar Calendar)
26 August, 2015	Wednesday	Shravan Shudha – First Holy Dip
29 August, 2015	Saturday	Shravan Shudha Purnima – First Shahi Snan/Holy
13 September, 2015	Sunday	Bhadrapad Shravan Krushana – Second Shahi Snan/Holy Dip
25 September, 2015	Friday	Bhadrapad Shukla Dwadashi – Third Shahi Snan/Holy Dip

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III. METHODOLOGY

A. Introduction

The research paper aims to study and analyse the temporal urbanism of ghats of Godavari in Nashik city The study will provide a comprehensive understanding about the problems during temporal activities around the river and finding out the solution for it.

B. Research Design

The research design adopted for this study is a qualitative research design, using a combination of secondary data analysis and semi-structured interviews.

C. Data Collection

The study will use both secondary data sources and primary data sources. Secondary data sources include government reports, academic journals, and online resources. Primary data sources will include semi-structured interviews with planning professionals, community leaders, and local residents. The semi-structured interviews will be conducted using openended questions to elicit rich and in-depth responses about the experiences, perceptions, and opinions of the respondents.

D. Data Analysis

The collected data will be analyzed using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a qualitative data analysis method that involves identifying recurring themes in the data and categorizing them into distinct themes. The data will be read and reread multiple times, and relevant quotes and incidents will be noted. The data will be sorted into categories and themes, and the themes will be further refined and developed.

E. Sample Size

The sample size for the study will be determined based on the data saturation principle, which states that data collection should continue until no new themes or patterns emerge. The sample size will be adjusted accordingly and will include a minimum of [number of participants].

F. Ethical Considerations

The study will be conducted in accordance with ethical research principles, including obtaining informed consent from participants, protecting participant privacy, and ensuring confidentiality. All participants will be informed about the purpose of the study, the data collection methods, and their rights as participants.

G. Conclusion and solution

To address the environmental and safety concerns, it is necessary to implement sustainable solutions that balance the needs of the pilgrims and the local ecosystem. These solutions could include:

- 1) Development of proper infrastructure and waste management systems to reduce environmental degradation and improve the health and safety of the pilgrims.
- 2) Implementing a river conservation plan to maintain the ecological balance and improve water quality.
- 3) Promoting sustainable travel options, such as public transportation, to reduce the carbon footprint and congestion on the riverbanks.
- 4) Improving crowd management strategies to prevent stampedes and ensure the safety of the pilgrims.
- 5) Engaging local communities in the planning and implementation of the festival to ensure their needs are taken into account and to promote a sense of ownership and responsibility.

In conclusion, the temporal urbanism of the Godavari River during the Kumbh Mela presents significant environmental and safety challenges, but it is possible to address these issues through sustainable solutions that balance the needs of the pilgrims and the local ecosystem

H. Introduction

The results and discussions section of the research paper presents the findings of the study on temporal activities of ghats of Godavari. The findings are based on the analysis of both secondary data sources and primary data sources collected through semi structured interviews.

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