

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3422**  
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

**KUMBAKONAM MAHAMAGAM FESTIVAL AS NATIONAL CULTURAL EVENT**

3422. Km. SUDHA R:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has declared the famed KumbakonamMahamagam festival as a National Cultural Event in view of the fact that it is called Kumbh Mela of the South, and 50 lakh devotees are expected to take part in 2028 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any special cultural promotion of this once-in-12 year temple festival will be made through central agencies, and special budget be allocated for KumbakonamMahamagam to be held in 2028 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether special package, special teams and special promos be done by the Government for the KumbakonamMahamagam to be held in 2028, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) Kumbakonam Kumbha Mela is actually known as the Mahamaham festival connected with Vishnu temples and is held every 12 years in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu. It's a significant Hindu pilgrimage and bathing festival, attracting millions of devotees, particularly from South India.

The Mahamaham festival has been described as the "Tamil Kumbh Mela" due to its similarities with the Kumbh Mela held in North India. Kumbakonam festival is a distinct event with its own unique traditions and cultural significance.

Government of India has set up South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC) at Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu) to promote the rich cultural heritage of its member States including Tamil Nadu. SZCC organizes various cultural activities & programmes in its member States for which annual grant-in-aid is provided to them.

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