

Prayagraj, India

Deadly stampede: A huge crowd trampled Hindu pilgrims sleeping on a riverbank at India's Kumbh Mela religious festival this week, killing at least 30 people and injuring dozens. "There was no chance for escape, there was pushing from all sides," one survivor told the Press Trust of India.

The massive festival, held every 12 years, draws millions of Hindus to bathe at the confluence of the sacred Ganges and Yamuna rivers. This year, after heavy promotion by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government, organizers expected a record 450 million people over six weeks, and some 90 million people were present the day of the stampede. Indian religious events have

a history of such tragedies, but this time authorities had spent two years planning ways to avoid a crush. Some 50,000 security personnel were on site to monitor and direct crowd movement.



Dense crowds everywhere