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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
6146	15.04.2021	15.04.2021	Haridwar Uttarakhand	The Times of India English Newspaper 15 th April, 2021/Page No. 01 & 10
Title:	Over 1200 at Kumbh test Covid+ in 5 days, 14L turn up on 3rd shahi snan in Haridwar, Uttarakhand			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Haridwar, SSU-Uttarakhand			

At the Haridwar Maha Kumbh, 1,278 people have tested positive for Covid-19 since April 10, among them 18 seers (nine tested positive on Tuesday and nine earlier), according to chief medical officer (CMO), Haridwar, Dr SK Jha. The figures exclude RT-PCR reports of tests done on Kumbh attendees on April 13 and 14 as those are pending.

According to the state health department data, in Haridwar district, some parts of which come under the Kumbh Mela site, 2,167 have tested positive in the same time period.

According to the CMO, since April 10, the health department has conducted a total of 2,28,650 tests at the mela site, including antigen, RT-PCR and TrueNat.

The CMO added that tests are being done at Haridwar, Pauri, Dehradun and Tehri. As per directives of the Centre and Uttarakhand high court, a minimum of 50,000 Covid-19 tests need to be done at the Kumbh site every day and pilgrims need to

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
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show a negative RT-PCR report to enter mela premises. It's a different matter that on the ground this is almost impossible to be implemented.

But at 14 lakh, Wednesday's shahi snan saw the lowest footfall among all three shahi snans (the figure was upwards of 30 lakh on each day). Inspector-general of police Sanjay Gunjaya, in charge of the Kumbh, said the low footfall had been a blessing of sorts as crowd management was easier. "Compared to the scuffles and stampedes of shahi snans at the earlier Haridwar Kumbhs in 1986, 1998 and 2010, this one was more organized. In the 2010 Kumbh, a total of 1.60 crore pilgrims had descended on Haridwar," Gunjaya said. He added that security forces were now preparing for the next shahi snan and other events of the Kumbh.

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