

54/13.

GANGES TRAGEDY.

To Hindus, the river Ganges is a sacred river. They will travel many hundreds of miles, journeying, if necessary, by foot so that they may bathe in its waters. It was during a festival that is held only once every twelve years near Allahabad, that tragedy occurred. Seers had forecast that, because of the position of the sun and stars, one day was the most important of all. It was on that day that about four million Hindus rushed to the water's edge, in a panic, trampling more than 400 men, women and children to death.

A sudden wave of almost fanatical religious fervour seems to have begun the stampede to the Ganges, though the exact cause of the tragedy has yet to be officially revealed. This is the worst disaster ever to have taken place on the banks of India's sacred river.

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