

7. SACRED KUMBH MELA-A LARGEST HUMAN GATHERING

Kumbh Mela (the festival of the sacred pitcher) is a religious pilgrimage that is celebrated four times over a course of 12 years. Kumbh Mela is anchored in Hindu mythology and is the largest public gathering and collective act of faith, anywhere in the world. The Mela draws tens of millions of pilgrims over the course of 48 days to bathe at the sacred confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the mystical Saraswati. Primarily this congregation includes ascetics, saints, sadhus, sadhis, kalpvasis and pilgrims from all walks of life.



The **Yamuna**, also known as the **Jumna** or **Jamuna**, is the second largest tributary river of the Ganges (Ganga) and the longest tributary in India. Originating from the Yamunotri Glacier at a height of 6,387 metres (20,955 ft) on the south-western slopes of Banderpooch peaks of the Lower Himalaya in Uttarakhand, it travels a total length of 1,376 kilometres (855 mi) and has a drainage system of 366,223 square kilometres (141,399 sq mi), 40.2% of the entire Ganges basin. It merges with the Ganges at Triveni Sangam, Prayagraj (Allahabad), which is a site of the Kumbh Mela, a Hindu festival held every 12 years.



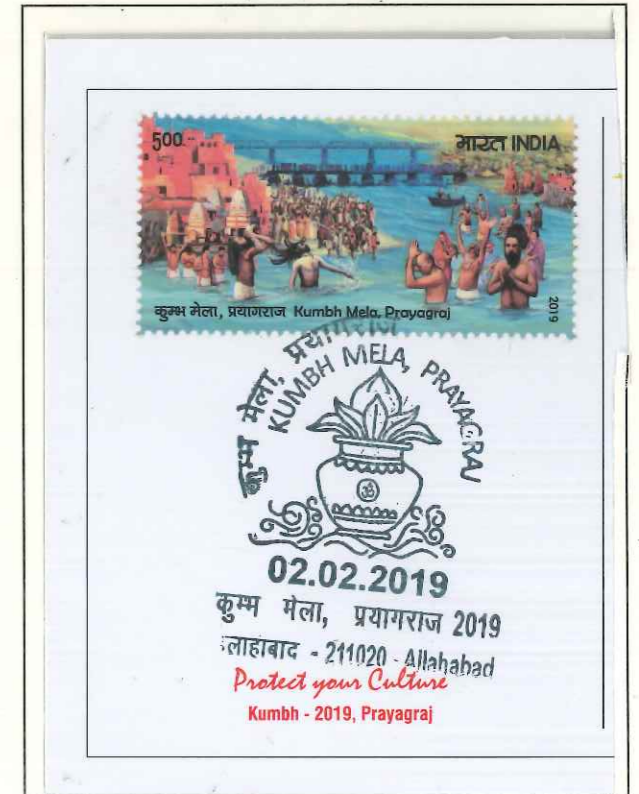
Maa Ganga



Maa Yamuna



Maa Saraswati



Kumbh-Prayagraj