

7. SACRED KUMBH MELA-A LARGEST HUMAN GATHERING

Classical elements typically refer to the concepts of earth, water, air, fire and space. The concept of the five elements formed a basis of analysis in both Hinduism and Buddhism. Chemical compound of water contains one molecule of Hydrogen and one atom of Oxygen. In Hinduism, it is believed that all of creation, including the human body, is made up of these five essential elements and that upon death, the human body dissolves into these five elements of nature, thereby balancing the cycle of nature. In most religious traditions, water is basic to physical and spiritual life, symbolizing purification, rebirth, and fertility and rivers fulfil this. In Hinduism, the river Ganges is considered sacred and is personified as the goddess *Gangā*. She is worshiped by Hindus who believe that bathing in the river causes the remission of sins and facilitates Moksha (liberation from the cycle of life and death), and that the water of the Ganges is considered very pure. Pilgrims immerse the ashes of their kin in the Ganges, which is considered by them to bring the spirits closer to moksha. Kumbha mela provides a sacred occasion to pray Ganga and wash away sin.



Elements of Nature

