

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3076
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

Impact of high level of excreta in Mahakumbh

3076. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the serious consequences and impacts of high levels of microbes from excreta around major bathing days at Mahakumbh at Prayagraj, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has taken adequate steps to control water pollution with high levels of microbes from excreta due to paucity of toilets and water and huge crowd at Mahakumbh and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the total funds allocated by Central Government and Government of Uttar Pradesh for creating facilities and making the arrangements at Mahakumbh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c)

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) carried out regular water quality monitoring at seven locations (twice a week) in the stretch from Shringverpur ghat (upstream of Prayagraj) to Deehaghat (downstream of Prayagraj) including at Sangam nose (confluence point of river Ganga and Yamuna) since 12th January, 2025 covering auspicious bathing (Amrit Snan) days including pre and post days of such auspicious bathing days.

Thereafter, CPCB submitted its initial monitoring report dated 03.02.2025 before Hon'ble NGT wherein, the river water quality data collected during 12th – 26th January, 2025 including monitoring data of 10 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) installed at Prayagraj and 07 Geosynthetic Dewatering Tubes (Geo-tube) filtration was reported.

Further, CPCB added three more water quality monitoring locations and increased monitoring frequency to twice daily with effect from 21.02.2025 to augment availability of water quality data, thus taking the total number of water quality monitoring locations to 10. As per the comprehensive report prepared based on the above monitoring, median value of pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biochemical Oxygen demand (BOD) and Faecal Coliform (FC) for all the monitored locations was within the respective criteria/permissible limits for bathing water.

Initiatives taken by State Government of Uttar Pradesh to maintain the water quality for Green Maha Kumbh 2025 were as follows:

- i. 10 STPs were installed to treat wastewater ensuring that effluents meet environmental standards before being released.
- ii. 07 geotubes were installed as interim remedial measure for waste water treatment of 21 untapped drains.
- iii. Three pre-fabricated temporary STPs were installed, each with capacity of 500 KLD in the Mela area.
- iv. Three Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) with total capacity 200KLD (100 KLD, 50 KLD, 50 KLD) were installed.
- v. The UP Jal Nigam used advanced oxidation techniques to treat wastewater, preventing untreated water from entering the Ganga River.
- vi. Adequate number of toilets and urinals were established across the Mela area to accommodate the large number of pilgrims.
- vii. Adequate number of dustbins, each equipped with liner bags were strategically placed and were available for waste disposal.
- viii. The event was supported by a dedicated team of sanitation staff and a fleet of adequate number of tippers, hoppers and refuse compactors were deployed for efficient waste transportation.
- ix. Two Bio-composting plants of 600 TPD and 300 TPD capacity were in operation.
- x. Campaigns like 'Plastic Unmulan Mahaabhiyan' and 'Arambh ' were undertaken with the aim to eliminate single-use plastics.
- xi. Eco-friendly alternatives, such as 10 lakh traditional leaf plates (dona-pattal), were distributed to replace plastic items.
- xii. A 'one bag, one thali' drive was undertaken to encourage pilgrims to use reusable cloth bags and steel plates, distributing 1.5 million steel plates and 2 million cloth bags to reduce waste generation.
- xiii. Jute and cloth bags were made available free of cost in the Mela area. Further clay kullad, dona pattal plates, dona pattal bowl, bio-degradable disposable cups, plates & bowls are provided in the area.
- xiv. Every local shop was provided with 02 dustbins under drive- 'Every Shop A Touch'. Bag vending machines were placed along with plastic bottle crushers.

The overall budget to organize the Mahakumbh-2025 was Rs 7109 crore for the implementation of 550+ projects. The Sanitation Plan was one of the major components of the Mahakumbh, hence, a comprehensive budget was allocated to sanitation facilities. An amount of 390.47 crore was allocated by State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the sanitation projects.

Further, under the Namami Gange Programme, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved projects with estimated costs of Rs.299.10 crore for interventions related to Mahakumbh-2025 (**Annexure I**).

Annexure I**Amount sanctioned for projects/interventions related to MahaKumbh 2025 by NMCG**
Rs. in crore

S.No.	Project Name	Sanctioned Amount
(i)	Sanitation Infrastructure for MahaKumbhMela 2025 at Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh	152.37
(ii)	Remediation of 22 untapped Drains during MahaKubhMela 2025 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh	55.57
(iii)	IPSA Kumbh: Mapping Impact of Floating Population on Sewerage during MahaKumbhMela 2025 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh	3.02
(iv)	IEC activities during MahaKumbhMela 2025 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh	30.14
(v)	Development of Ghat at 7 locations in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh	58.00
	Total	299.10

* up to 03 March 2025