

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 876

ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

POLLUTION LEVELS IN GANGA RIVER

876. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK

SMT. RANJEET RANJAN

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) conducted continuous water-quality monitoring of the Ganga during Maha Kumbh 2025, if so, the monitoring frequency, specific locations, key parameters tested and finding thereof;
- (b) whether any post-event assessments have been conducted to review the sanitation infrastructure, solid waste disposal and wastewater management deployed during the Maha Kumbh 2025, if so, a summary of findings and corrective actions planned and initiated; and
- (c) the total number of Namami Gange Projects for river Ganga, with details of those sanctioned, completed, under implementation and pending approvals?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has informed that it carried out water quality monitoring at 5 stations (twice a week) from 12th January 2025 to 20th February 2025 during Maha Kumbh 2025 at Shringverpur Ghat, Lord Kurzon Bridge, Nagvasuki Mandir, Sangam and Deeha Ghat, covering auspicious bathing (Amrit Snan) days including pre- and post- days of such auspicious bathing days. Further, three more water quality monitoring locations at Shastri Bridge, Someshwar Ghat and downstream of Delhi Public School with effect from 21.02.2025, thus taking the monitoring locations for river Ganga water quality from 5 to 8.

As per the comprehensive report prepared based on the above monitoring, the median value of pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Faecal Coliform (FC) for all the monitored locations was found within the respective criteria/permissible limits for Primary Bathing Water Quality Criteria.

The Prayagraj Mela Authority had prepared a comprehensive Sanitation Plan for Maha Kumbh 2025 after conducting industry consultations to explore and adopt the latest technologies with following main features:

- i. To ensure accountability and performance, Service Level Benchmarks (SLBs) were included in the contracts with toilet vendors, covering manpower deployment, cesspool operations, and jet spray cleaning.
- ii. Post-Mela Sanitation Measures included the systematic dismantling and removal of all toilets. Hygienic uninstallation was ensured by the sanitation team, using Malathion (5%) and Slaked Lime for effective disinfection and neutralisation of waste.
- iii. Approximately 250 km of temporary drainage lines for collecting wastewater (excluding septage) within the Mela area. The collected water was treated through bioremediation techniques in dedicated ponds. These temporary lines were dismantled post-event and stored for reuse in future events such as the upcoming Magh Mela, and the ponds were subsequently backfilled.
- iv. For septage treatment, three temporary Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) of 500 KLD capacity each were installed at various locations within the Mela premises. Additionally, two Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) of 50 KLD capacity each and one FSTP of 100 KLD were also utilised. These facilities were uninstalled after the event concluded.
- v. The post-event reviews confirmed that sanitation and wastewater management systems functioned effectively. Based on these learnings, corrective actions and planning improvements are being implemented for Maha Kumbh 2025, including enhanced reuse strategies, improved disinfection protocols, and structured redeployment of sanitation infrastructure.

(c) A total of 502 projects have been sanctioned under the Namami Gange Programme for the rejuvenation of the River Ganga and its tributaries. Out of these, 323 projects have been completed, 150 are currently under implementation, and 29 are at the tendering stage.
