



Ganga Water Purity

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government issued a press release to clear the doubts about the purity of [Ganga water](#) in the [Maha Kumbh 2025](#).

Key Points

- **About the issue :**
 - **Claim of purity of Ganga water :**
 - The press release was issued in reference to the data of [the Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#), in which doubts were raised over the quality of Ganga water in **the Maha Kumbh** .
 - **CPCB Report:**
 - The CPCB report had said that at the beginning of the Maha Kumbh, the [Biological Oxygen Demand \(BOD\) of water at Sangam](#) was 3.94 milligrams per litre.
 - On 14th January, it was 2.28 mg per liter and on 15th January, it decreased to 1 mg per liter.
 - However, on 24th January, the BOD increased to 4.08 mg per litre and on 29th January, it was recorded at 3.26 mg per litre.
 - **Research by Dr. Ajay Kumar Sonkar :**
 - [Padmashree Dr. Ajay Kumar Sonkar](#) dismissed doubts with scientific evidence to prove the purity of Ganga water.
 - He collected water samples from various major bathing ghats of the Maha Kumbh and examined them microscopically.
 - They found that **despite millions of devotees taking bath in Ganga water, there was no growth of bacteria in it.**
 - No drop was observed in [the pH level](#) of water either.
- **Presence of natural viruses :**
 - Ganga water contains 1,100 types of natural viruses, called [bacteriophages](#), that eliminate harmful bacteria.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- The CPCB was constituted as a **statutory organisation in September 1974** under the [Water \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1974](#) .
- Thereafter, the Central Pollution Control Board was entrusted with powers and functions under [the Air \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1981](#).
- The Board also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the [Environment \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#) .
- The main functions of the Central Pollution Control Board are described under **the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981** .

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)

- The **amount of oxygen required for the biochemical decomposition of organic matter** in water is called BOD .
- The amount of water pollution is measured through BOD. But **only biodegradable matter can be detected through BOD** and it is a very long process. Hence BOD is not used in measuring pollution.
- It is noteworthy that high levels of BOD means that more oxygen is required to decompose large amounts of organic matter present in water.

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