



Fecal Coliform Bacteria

Why in News?

According to a report by the [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#), the level of **faecal coliform bacteria** in the **Ganga and Yamuna at Prayagraj Sangam** is far higher than the safe limit of **2,500 units per 100 ml of water**.

Key Points

- The water of the **Yamuna and Ganga at Prayagraj Sangam** is entirely unfit for **drinking and bathing**, posing serious health risks.
- The [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) is hearing the issue and a report is being sought from the concerned authorities.
- NGT has already given instructions to the Uttar Pradesh government regarding the **sewage management plan** during the **Maha Kumbh Mela**.
- **Fecal Coliform Bacteria:**
 - **About**
 - It is a collection of [microorganisms](#) which are mainly found in the feces or waste excreted by warm-blooded animals **and humans**.
 - These are usually considered as indicators of **potential pollution** in the water. Other coliform bacteria include **Escherichia, Klebsiella, and E. coli**.
 - **Effects on health**
 - This bacteria can cause many diseases such as **gastrointestinal infections, skin and eye infections, typhoid, hepatitis A** and **respiratory problems**.

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](#).