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Water Pollution from mass Bathing in Ganga River During Kumbha Mela Foreword

Mass bathing is frequently held in India. On certain religious occasions, special importance is assigned to it and a very large number of people take bath during a short period in specific stretches of rivers, lakes, tanks and sea coast. 'Kumbh' and 'Ardh-Kumbh' are such occasions when millions take dip at sacred spots.

Water quality is severely affected by mass bathing. Deterioration of river water quality may injure health of the people taking the dip and also the population downstream which use the river as a source of water for drinking and bathing. To ascertain the deterioration of water quality, changes due to mass bathing have to be observed through monitoring before, during and after the mass bathing event and taking appropriate actions at all stages. The Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water pollution in the above context had sent its team of scientists and



engineers to several religious congregations to monitor water quality changes. This report provides details of such monitoring during Kumbh Mela at Haridwar in 1986, Aradh Kumbh Mela of 1980 at Haridwar and Ardh Kumbh Mela of 1982 at Allahabad. Recommendations to minimise adverse health impacts, likely to be caused by mass bathings, are suggested..

It is hoped that the report shall found to be useful both for the information and guidance it contajns.

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