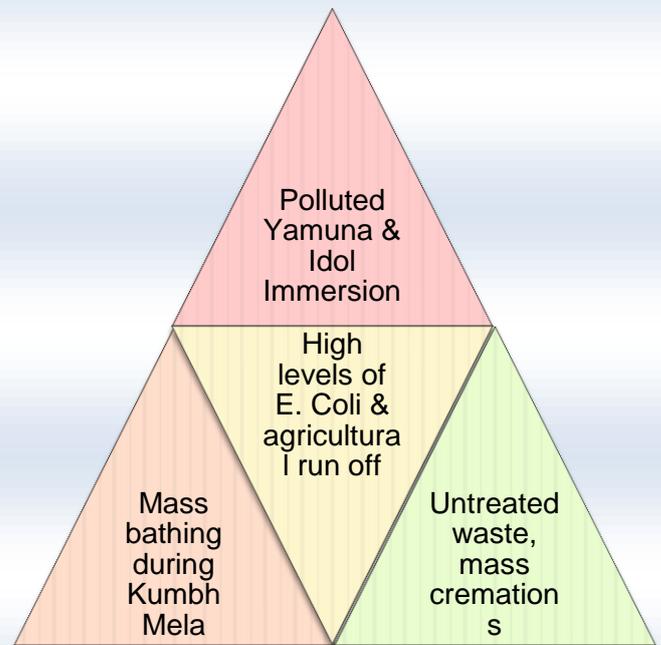


# FROM HOPE TO ACTION

## Allahabad

Allahabad or Prayag is also called the "Tirth Raj", the king of all pilgrimage centers. The *Triveni Sangam* in Allahabad, confluence of three rivers- the Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati is the venue of many sacred fairs and rituals attracting thousands of pilgrims throughout the year. During Kumbh Mela millions of people from all around the globe gather at Prayag to take a holy dip at Sangam.

At Allahabad with population of more than a million, municipal wastes are the major contributor to river pollution. Yamuna whose water is highly polluted joins Ganga at Sangam. The absence of perennial flow in the river Yamuna and the huge quantity of waste it receives have together given it the dubious distinction of being one of the most polluted rivers of the country. Mass bathing is also frequently held during *Kumbh* and *Ardh-Kumbh*. Thereby, water quality is severely deteriorating leading to causes of poor conditions of health of the people taking a dip and the population downstream which use the river as a source of water for drinking and bathing. High levels of E.coli (a sign of human excreta) found in river Ganga also makes the water unfit for drinking and other rituals. Untreated waste, plastics and mass cremations further contaminates the Ganges. Sand mining, illegal quarrying and ill-planned urbanization are choking Ganga leading to a major cause of pollution in the river.



### IMPACT

- Significant rise in water borne diseases
- Water becomes unfit for drinking & household use.
- Loss of biodiversity.
- Drop in the number of fishes, few have even become extinct.

### SOLUTIONS

- Effective & efficient cleaning of Yamuna
- Raising awareness amongst the pilgrims & banning idol immersion.
- Encroachment of the river should be banned & operational sewage treatment plants.

**About Bancroft Arnesen Explore (BAE):** BAE has launched the 'Access Water Journey' in 2015 which is a two-month expedition along the river Ganga and is spearheaded by two two powerful women explorers who hope to ignite global conversations towards a safe and abundant world, starting with clean water.

**About The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI):** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a not-for-profit institution actively engaged in a number of research and grassroots activities on environment and Sustainable Development.