



Plankton Crash

[Source: TH](#)

Recently, the [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) panel has attributed the cause of the **sea turning red** in Puducherry to the phenomenon of the **plankton crash**.

- **Ruling out algal bloom and contamination** due to effluents, the NGT panel suggested
- that there was a **high iron concentration**, which favoured plankton bloom.
- A significant portion of a specific **unicellular phytoplankton species, *Noctiluca scintillans***, was responsible for the **discharge of red pigment** into the water.
- The **environmental parameters** such as sea surface temperature, water salinity, pH, and dissolved oxygen were conducive to the phytoplankton crash.

Algal Bloom:

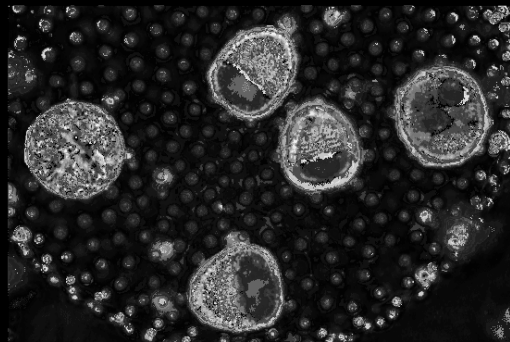
- An [algal bloom](#) can be defined as a **rapid increase in the population of algae** in an aquatic ecosystem.
- It is usually recognised by the **discolouration** on the surface of the water due to the introduction of a nutrient (such as **nitrogen or phosphorus**) into an aquatic ecosystem.

What Is Plankton?

Plankton consists of organisms that drift with tides and currents.

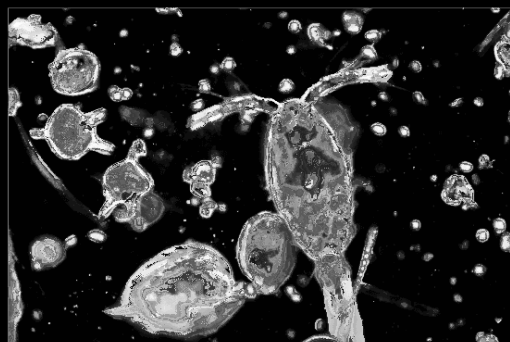
Phytoplankton

Photosynthetic plants, algae, and cyanobacteria.



Zooplankton

Animals, such as krill, protozoa, larvae, and jellyfish



Read More: [Harmful Algal Bloom](#), [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/plankton-crash>

