1 **Supporting Information**

2 **Environmental reservoirs for Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli in* South Asian Gangetic riverine**

3 **system**

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Description of sampling sites

Nine sites (Figure S1) exhibiting distinct anthropogenic activities (Site-1 : Ghaila Bridge : prior to entrance of river in Lucknow city ; Site-2 : Upstream of Gaughat ; Site-3: Gaughat (raw water intake point for Aishbagh Water Work) s; Site-4: Shaheed Smarak (recreational point); Site: 5: Laxaman Mela Ground (recreational point, domestic water discharge point); Site-6: La Martiniere College (a big drain carrying untreated sewage merges in river); Site- 7 : Pipraghat (recreational point); Site- 8 : Chandiamau (untreated sewage discharges into river in upstream of sampling site); Site – 9: Indira Jal setu (recreational point) were selected in the vicinity of Lucknow city for the collection of surface water, aquatic flora and leafy vegetables cultivated on banks.
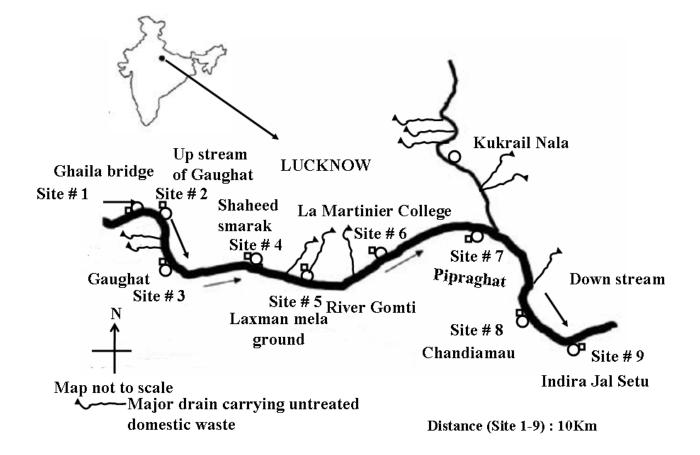
36 **Figure S1.** Locations of sampling sites along the bank of the river Gomti in vicinity of the Lucknow City for

37 collection of surface water, aquatic flora and leafy vegetables to detect Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* through

38 culture- free MB based real-time PCR.

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Table S1. Correlation of Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* number in surface water to water quality parameters observed at the time of sampling.

Parameter	Correlation coefficient (r)*
pH	-0.588*
Electrical conductivity	0.432
Total solids	0.796**
Total dissolved solids	0.782**
Total suspended solids	0.835***
Dissolved oxygen	-0.233
Biochemical oxygen demand	0.243
Phosphates	0.445
Sulphate	0.353
Chlorides	0.498

* significant at $p< 0.10$ (df =7, Tabular value : 0.582); ** significant at $p< 0.02$ (df =7, Tabular value : 0.750); ***significant at $p< 0.01$(df =7, Tabular value : 0.798)

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