



Pact to Share Yamuna Water

Why in News?

Haryana signed an agreement with Rajasthan to share water from [Sutlej Yamuna Link \(SYL\)](#) canal, with it excess water flowing from its [Hathnikund barrage](#), especially during the rainy days.

Key Points

- According to the agreement, the two states will prepare a detailed project report for **laying pipelines from Western Yamuna Canal of Hathnikund barrage**.
- Three pipes would be meant for **Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Churu districts**, while an additional pipe will be laid to take water towards southern Haryana through **Dadri district**.

Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal

- The Issue stems from a controversial **1981 water-sharing agreement drawn up when Haryana was carved out of Punjab in 1966**.
- **Punjab:**
 - Punjab vehemently **opposes sharing any additional water** with neighboring states. They stress that Punjab lacks surplus water and highlights the reduction in their water allocation over the years.
 - Many areas in Punjab may **go dry after 2029** and the state has already **over-exploited its groundwater** for irrigation purposes as it fills granaries of the Centre by growing wheat and paddy worth Rs 70,000 crore every year.
 - Water in about **79% of the state's area is over-exploited** and in such a situation, the government says sharing water with any other state is impossible.
- **Haryana:**
 - Haryana strongly advocates for the canal's completion, **citing a looming water crisis and asserting that Punjab** has been utilizing Haryana's share of water.
 - It says that providing irrigation is tough for the state and there was a problem of drinking water in **southern parts of Haryana**, where groundwater has depleted up to 1,700 feet.
 - Haryana has been **citing its contribution to the central food pool** and arguing that it is being **denied its rightful share in the water as assessed by a tribunal**.