



## Pollution in River Sutlej

### Why in News?

Residents of **Sri Ganganagar district in Rajasthan** are increasingly expressing anger over alleged [pollution in the Sutlej River](#), which **they attribute to factories in neighboring Punjab**.

### Key Points

- Markets across Sri Ganganagar district were closed as **residents protested against alleged pollution** in the Sutlej River.
- Despite efforts by the Punjab government to treat the water with [STP \(Sewage Treatment Plant\) facilities](#), the water's quality remains harmful, allegedly **causing health issues in local communities**.
- **National Green Tribunal Actions:**
  - In 2018, the [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) **imposed a Rs 50 crore fine on the Punjab government** for “**uncontrolled industrial discharge**” into the Sutlej and Beas rivers.
  - **In 2021**, the NGT again reprimanded Punjab and directed both Punjab and Rajasthan to submit quarterly compliance reports to the [Union Ministry of Jal Shakti](#), detailing measures to curb industrial effluent discharge into the rivers.

### Sutlej River

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- The ancient name of Sutlej River is **Zaradros (Ancient Greek) Shutudri or Shatadru (Sanskrit)**.
- It is the longest of the five tributaries of the [Indus River](#) that give the Punjab (meaning “Five Rivers”) its name.
  - Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Satluj are main tributaries of Indus.
- It rises on the north slope of the Himalayas in **Lake La’nga in southwestern Tibet**.
  - Flowing northward and then west-southwestward through Himalayan gorges, it enters and crosses Himachal Pradesh before beginning its flow through the Punjab plain near Nangal.
  - Continuing southwestward in a broad channel, it receives the Beas River (and forms 65 miles (105 km) of the India-Pakistan border before entering Pakistan and flowing another 220 miles (350 km) to join the Chenab River west of Bahawalpur.
    - Sutlej River meets the Beas River in **Harike in the Ferozpur district before entering Pakistan**.
  - The combined rivers then form the Panjnad, the link between the Five Rivers and the Indus.
- [Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project](#) is located on River Satluj in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh.

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