## Haryana-Delhi Yamuna Water Dispute

## Why in News?

The **Haryana-Delhi dispute** over the <u>Yamuna river</u> has once again become a key political issue. Delhi Chief Minister (CM) has accused the **Haryana government** of contaminating the Yamuna with untreated sewage and industrial waste.

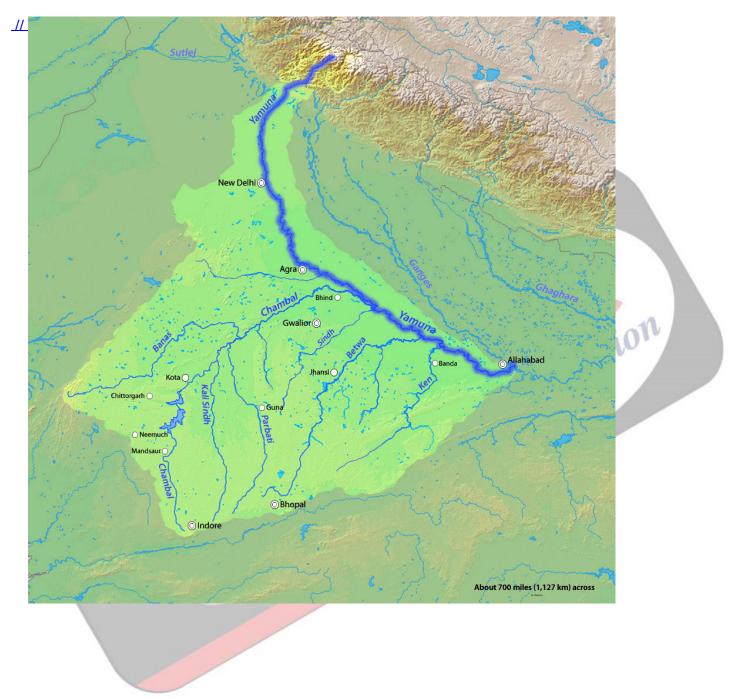
## **Key Points**

- Water Contamination Allegations:
  - Delhi Chief Minister termed Haryana's actions as "water terrorism" and wrote to the Election Commission, citing a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) report that claimed <u>ammonia</u> levels in the Yamuna had surged beyond treatable limits.
    - The **ammonia levels** have steadily increased in the water coming from Haryana to Delhi via **River Yamuna** due to mixing of untreated sewage or industrial waste from Haryana.
- Legal and Political History:
  - The **Yamuna water-sharing dispute** is a long-standing dispute, ongoing since 1995.
  - 1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU): Five states (Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh) signed an MoU in 1994 to regulate Yamuna water distribution.
  - The <u>Supreme Court</u> had intervened in **1995** and **1996** to ensure Delhi's water supply from Haryana. Despite multiple petitions and legal battles, the issue remains unresolved.
    - The Supreme Court has ruled multiple times that Haryana must ensure Delhi's rightful share of water.
- Recent Developments:
  - In 2018, the Supreme Court directed the Chief Secretaries of Delhi and Haryana to resolve water disputes.
  - In 2021, the Delhi government accused Haryana of withholding Yamuna water, Haryana countered that Delhi's crisis was due to "internal mismanagement."
  - In July 2023, floods in Delhi led to fresh accusations, with the Delhi Government claiming Haryana deliberately released excess water from the <u>Hathnikund Barrage</u>.
  - In June 2024, Delhi CM accused Haryana of "conspiring against Delhi" and launched an indefinite hunger strike, which she ended after five days due to health concerns.
- Impact on Delhi Residents:
  - The dispute has led to **severe water shortages** in Delhi, particularly in summer months.
  - Elevated ammonia levels pose a threat to public health, complicating water treatment processes.
- Future Outlook:
  - The dispute remains unresolved despite legal interventions.
  - The upcoming elections could further intensify political rhetoric around the issue.
  - A long-term **sustainable solution** is needed to address Delhi's water security concerns.

## Yamuna

 The river Yamuna, a major tributary of river Ganges, originates from the Yamunotri glacier near Bandarpoonch peaks in the Mussoorie range of the lower Himalayas in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.

- It meets the Ganges at the Sangam in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.
- Length: 1376 km
- Important Dam: Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc.
- Important Tributaries: <u>Chambal</u>, Sindh, <u>Betwa and Ken</u>.



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