

# THE YAMUNA NETWORK

*is a nonprofit coalition of like-minded organizations and individuals whose sole purpose is to stop Yamuna River's waters from being diverted and prevent industrial and municipal waste from entering her waters, restoring the river to her past glory.*



Bathing in the river is part of everyday life for millions of people

For updates and more information please visit:  
[www.yamunanetwork.com](http://www.yamunanetwork.com)

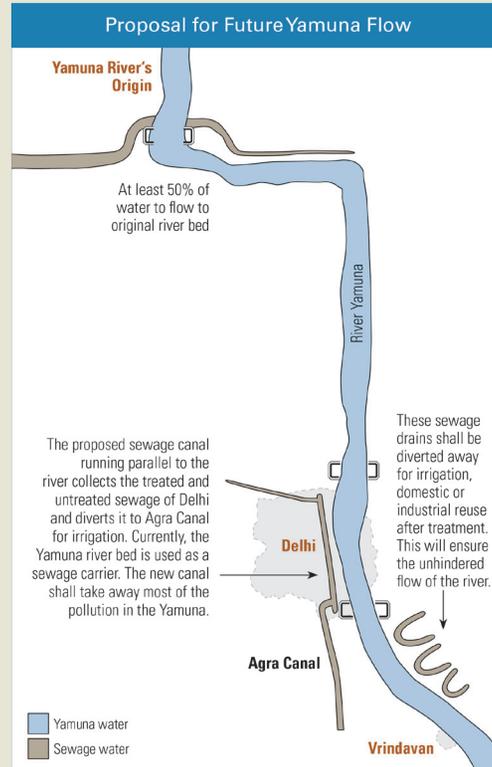
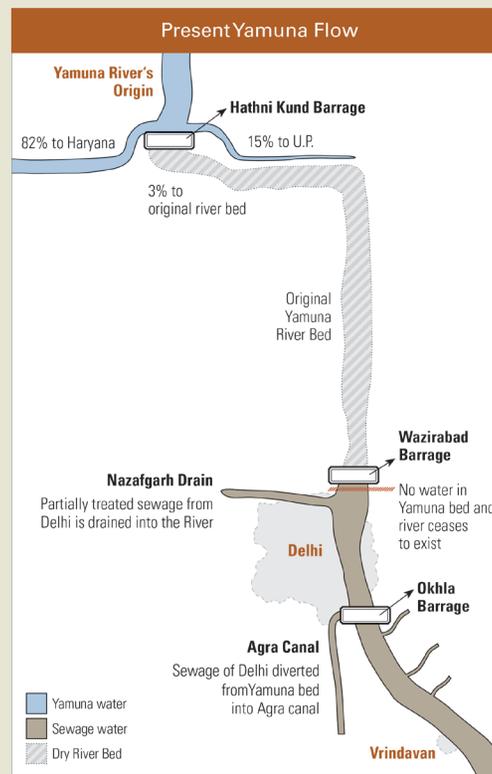
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In collaboration with Ganga Action Parivar  
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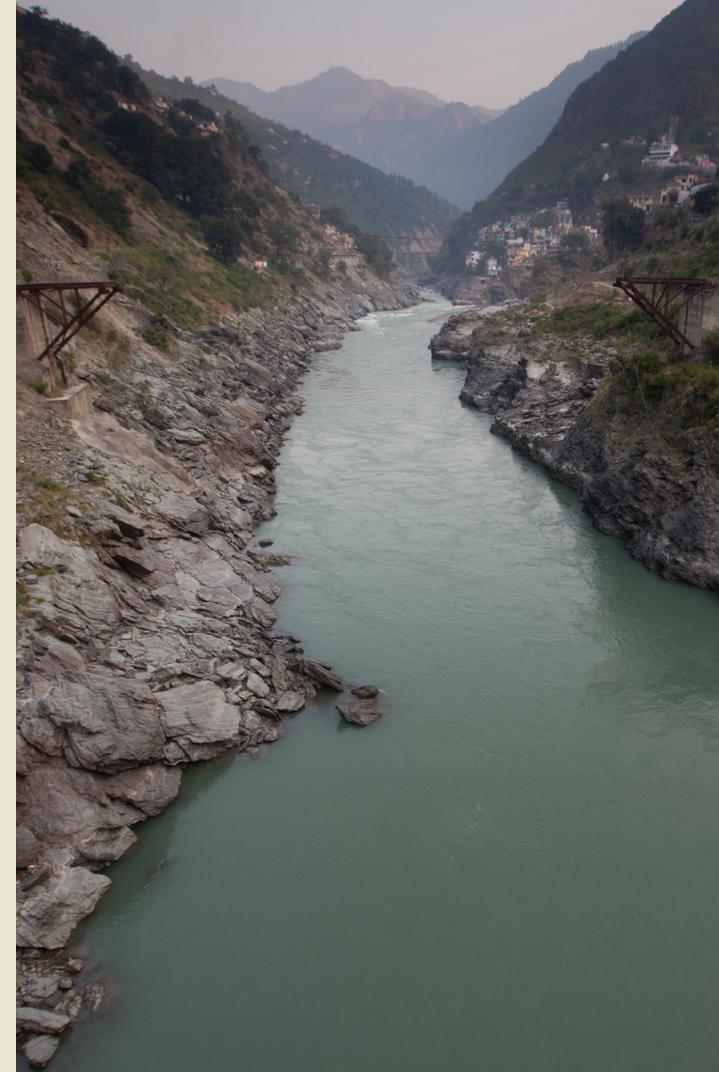


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# THE YAMUNA NETWORK

## *River in Peril*



## FACTS ON YAMUNA RIVER

- ✦ The Yamuna River, one of the greatest rivers on the planet, is rich in history and culture and has provided nourishment to the people residing near her banks for thousands of years.
- ✦ The Yamuna River is the largest tributary of the Ganges River and constitutes 40 percent of the total Ganga River Basin.
- ✦ The river is 1,376 km (855 miles) long and passes through seven states and some of India's most significant attractions, including the capital New Delhi, with a population of almost fourteen million; Vrindavan, an international pilgrimage site visited by tens of millions annually; and the Taj Mahal, a World Heritage site and one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
- ✦ Over fifty million people rely on the Yamuna for their daily needs, using the water for religious observances, agricultural needs, and bathing, washing, and cooking.
- ✦ In addition to benefiting the human population, the Yamuna has supported a vast ecosystem of wildlife, such as fish, turtles, crocodiles, river dolphins, and aquatic plants.
- ✦ The Yamuna River has long been regarded as a cultural icon and defining symbol of India. Ancient scriptures, traditional and contemporary art, music, festivals, and even the Indian National Anthem, demonstrate the reverence in which the river is held.
- ✦ Now the Yamuna is in dire need of help: The United Nations has declared the river downstream of New Delhi to be officially "dead."
- ✦ The levels of pollution in the water flowing through and out of Delhi are so high that even bathing in the water is dangerous. The water from the river is also replenishing groundwater in the area, resulting in highly polluted well water, which threatens the health of millions of people. Many accounts of severe illness and death have been attributed to the toxic state of the river's water quality downstream of New Delhi.

## PROBLEM

### 1. DIVERSION

The states north of Delhi, especially Haryana, are diverting 97 percent of the river's water for domestic, industrial, and agricultural needs.

### 2. POLLUTION

Raw and partially treated sewage and industrial wastes are poured into Yamuna's riverbed between Delhi and Agra.

### 3. LACK OF AWARENESS

The most significant challenge is the lack of awareness and understanding of the factors contributing to the river's condition.

The result is that because of diversion, no Yamuna water reaches the cities and towns downstream of New Delhi, which has an adverse impact on the environment, ecosystem, and local residents. The pollution farther downstream renders the water unusable.



Raw sewage is dumped into the Yamuna River

## SOLUTION

### 1. RELEASE THE YAMUNA

A substantial and sufficient amount of water from the Yamuna must be allowed to enter her riverbed and not be redirected at Haryana. (Government can enact policies that encourage less wasteful agricultural production without creating hardship. The System of Rice Intensification [SRI], for example, enables farmers to cultivate rice using fewer seeds and less water.)

### 2. DIVERT SEWAGE AND WASTE

The sewage and industrial waste poured into the Yamuna at New Delhi and other towns must be treated and directed away from the river's bed. There are several effective solutions that have been established on other rivers.

### 3. EDUCATION

Education is a key initiative for the Yamuna Network. Cooperating with environmental engineers, scientists, activists, cinematographers, photographers, and writers, the Yamuna Network will create powerful and informative documentaries and publications focused on education within India as well as internationally.



Worship of the Yamuna River