

# **The Vulnerable State of Yamuna river**

## **Objectives:**

- The primary focus of the research is to study and detect the variations in the pollutant concentration of the water found in the Yamuna & the Hindon river.
- To draw the attention of policymakers & stakeholders of India.
- To make the citizens aware about the various policies & schemes adopted by the current Government of India regarding preventing environmental pollution.
- To critically analyse the working of the current government with respect to controlling river pollution.

## **Introduction:**

**The Yamuna** is one of the most important rivers of India. At times, it was the lifeline for the people of the area, but today it is the most polluted river of the country and the part of the critically polluted stretch. River originates from Yamunotri at Uttarakhand & passes through Haryana, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh. It merges with the Ganga at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. The total length of Yamuna is 1,376 kilometres (855 mi) and has a drainage system of 366,223 square kilometres.

According to the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems has been degraded more than any other ecosystem, including tropical rainforests (Nema, 2007). Water pollution is a serious problem in India as almost 70 per cent of its surface water resources are contaminated by biological, toxic, organic, and inorganic pollutants.

In 1995, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) identified severely polluted stretches on 18 major rivers in India. Not surprisingly, a majority of these stretches were found in and around large urban areas. The high incidence of severe contamination near urban areas indicates that the industrial and domestic sectors' contribution to water pollution is very high.

*“Surprisingly, though Delhi constitutes only 2% of the catchment area, it is responsible for 80% of the pollution of the rivers.”*

Thus, here we have compiled a report on the current pollution scenario of the rivers Yamuna & Hindon which play an important role in fulfilling the needs of the citizens of Delhi & its surrounding areas. Along with this, we have also critically analysed the working & steps being taken by the current Government in limiting the pollution levels and have jotted down the preventive measures that everyone must follow in order to put a check on the wastage and degradation of the natural resources.

## **Background Survey:**

In order to collect information and gain a practical experience to analyse about the current standards of pollution in the Yamuna and Hindon rivers which flow through the Delhi NCR region, we visited -

- Banks of Yamuna river at Agra.
- Banks of Hindon river at Ghaziabad.

We tried to look around the places near the banks to find any industry which is disposing off its sewage and hazardous waste in the river body and also

interrogated the locals around it regarding the changing state of the river and the reasons for the change according to them.