



## EDITORIAL: INDIAN EXPRESS

**GENERAL STUDIES 3: ENVIRONMENT**

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**TOPIC: POLLUTION**

### What Delhi's Yamuna plan does – and doesn't

#### Yamuna River Pollution in Delhi

- Yamuna flows **only 22 km** through Delhi, but the city contributes **75% of its total pollution**.
- Downstream of **Wazirabad Barrage**, the river **loses its environmental flow** and mostly carries **sewage** from 20+ drains.
- During the **monsoon**, some freshwater flows, but the rest of the year, it's mostly polluted wastewater.
- A **parliamentary report** says the river is virtually **non-existent in Delhi**.

#### New Action Plan by Centre and Delhi Government

- The **Centre and Delhi's new government** have launched a **joint plan to clean the Yamuna**.
- Focus is on **restoring environmental flow** using **Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)**.
- Treated water will be released downstream of **Wazirabad and Okhla** barrages.

#### Challenges in Implementation

- **STP efficiency is poor**: Around **50% of Delhi's STPs** do not meet required standards.
- **Past upgrades failed** due to **Centre-State conflicts**.
- Treated water from STPs **cannot replace freshwater**, which is essential for river health.

#### Gaps in the Plan

- **Rainwater harvesting** is not given due importance; Delhi needs to reduce its **overdependence on the Yamuna**.
- Plan focuses on **floodplain encroachment removal** but not on **wetland and catchment restoration**.
- The new plan is a **positive step**, but **long-term, integrated efforts** are needed to truly revive the river.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/three-messages-from-operation-sindoor-9991130/>



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**P.L. RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY | 1447/C, 3rd floor, 15th Main Road,  
Anna Nagar West, Chennai-40. Ph.No.044-42323192, 9445032221  
Email: plrajmemorial@gmail.com Website: [www.plrajiiasacademy.com](http://www.plrajiiasacademy.com)  
Telegram link: <https://t.me/plrajiias2006> YouTube: P L RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY**