



# The Status of Yamuna river in the ancient to modern days

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**Abstract:** Human culture derives largely from its first culture, which is agriculture and our ability to work the land. This depends largely on fresh water that is found in rivers and flat land that can be easily irrigated. Water is one of the essential resources needed on the earth for the survival of humans. River Yamuna is highly venerated in Hinduism in the form of a river and as the Goddess Yamuna. It is also called Jumna, a major river of northern India. The Rig Veda includes the Yamuna as one of the seven sacred rivers along with Ganges. In ancient times the water of Yamuna was clear and clean with its benefits in the form of drinking water, recreation, transport, food and aesthetics. Many water plants such as weeds, algae and shrubs grow in water along the bank of the river. These plants were the main source of food for aquatic creatures. Yamuna river plays a vital role over Indian society as well as culture. The people of ancient India were very much aware of their own impact on nature and of pollution problems. But this majestic river is extremely polluted with domestic waste, silt and industrial waste in modern days. About 2000 million liters of sewage is pumped into the river Yamuna every day and its water are now unfit to support any life. The color of the Yamuna was blue but now it is in black due to pollution. The river Yamuna is one of the most polluted rivers in India. The aim of this paper is to understand the journey of purity to impurity of water of the Yamuna river in the ancient to modern days.

**KeyWords:** Agriculture, Civilization, Creatures, Ecosystem, Rig Veda, Pollution, Yamuna river.

## Introduction

Rivers play an important role in the lives of Indian people. Human culture derives largely from its first culture, which is agriculture and our ability to work the land. This depends largely on fresh water that is found in rivers and flat land that can be easily irrigated. Water is one of the essential resources needed on the earth for the survival of humans. River Yamuna is highly venerated in Hinduism in the form of a river and as the Goddess Yamuna. It is also called Jumna, a major river of northern India. The Rig Veda includes the Yamuna as one of the seven sacred rivers along with Ganges. In ancient times the water of Yamuna was clear and clean with its benefits in the form of drinking water, recreation, transport, food and aesthetics. Many water plants such as weeds, algae and shrubs grow in water along the bank of the river. These plants were the main source of food for aquatic creatures. Yamuna river plays a vital role over Indian society as well as culture. The people of ancient India were very much aware of their own impact on nature and of pollution problems. But this majestic river is extremely polluted with domestic waste, silt and industrial waste in modern days. About 2000 million liters of sewage is pumped into the river Yamuna every day and its water are now unfit to support any life. The color of the Yamuna was blue but now it is in black due to pollution. The river Yamuna is one of the most polluted rivers in India. The aim of this paper is to understand the journey of purity to impurity of water of the Yamuna river in the ancient to modern days.

Yamuna is a sacred river in Hinduism and the main tributary of the Ganga River. The river is also worshipped as a Hindu goddess called Yamuna. In Hindu scriptures, she is the daughter of Surya, the sun god and Sanjana cloud goddess. She is the twin sister of Yama, god of death. Yamuna plays an important role in Krishna's early life as a river simply hearing her glories can ignite the spark of love for Krishna in our barren hearts. Yamuna beauty is like a blue lotus flower garland, a sapphire necklace, or a blue sash worn by the goddess of Vrindavan. According to Hindu scriptures, bathing in or drinking Yamuna's water removes immorality. The

Yamuna also called Jamuna, originated from the Yamunotri glacier at the Bandarpoonch peak in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. It is the longest tributary of the river Ganges and it merges with the river Ganga at Sangam in Prayag Raj, Uttar Pradesh. Hindon, Sharda, Chambal, Betwa, Ken, Sindh and Tons are the tributary rivers of Yamuna. The major states through which the river Yamuna flows are Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Socioeconomically it helps to create the highly fertile alluvial Yamuna in the Indo-Gangetic plain. The people who live along the banks of the Yamuna River hunt for coins and anything valuable they can collect. The Rig Veda includes the Yamuna as one of the seven sacred rivers along with Ganges. In ancient times the water of Yamuna was clear and clean with its benefits in the form of drinking water, recreation, transport, food and aesthetics. Many water plants such as weeds, algae and shrubs grow in water along the bank of the river. These plants were the main source of food for aquatic creatures. Yamuna river plays a vital role over Indian society as well as culture. The people of ancient India were very much aware of their own impact on nature and of pollution problems. But this majestic river is extremely polluted with domestic waste, silt and industrial waste in modern days. About 2000 million litres of sewage is pumped into the river Yamuna everyday and its water is now unfit to support any life. The river Yamuna is one of the most polluted river in India. The color of the Yamuna was blue but now it is in black due to pollution.

### Objective of the study

Ancient Indians were very much aware of their own impact on nature and of pollution problems but unfortunately our modern generation has forgotten our ancient culture and literature. The main objective of this paper is to shed some light on the awareness of purity to pollution of river Yamuna in the ancient to modern days. But the Yamuna is getting more polluted every minute and this is the saddest concern.

### Methodology

The study is totally based on secondary data which has been collected from websites. The water quality in upper Yamuna, as the 375 km long stretch of Yamuna is called from its origin Yamunotri to Okhla barrage is of reasonably good quality till Wazirabad barrage in Delhi. The main causes of Yamuna's pollution in Delhi are poor quality of water released by the effluent treatment plants, household and municipal disposal sites, soil erosion resulting from deforestation occurring to make way for agriculture, and chemical wash-off from fertilizers, herbicides and run-off from commercial and industrial sites. There has been great loss of aquatic flora and fauna due to dams, hydro and other projects on Yamuna. Alarmed at the rate at which the Yamuna was deteriorating, the Supreme Court banned industries in Delhi and Haryana from discharging effluents into the river and all drains leading to the river. But the Yamuna is getting more polluted every minute and this is the saddest concern. Under such circumstances the future of Yamuna remains bleak. Shri G. Ashok Kumar, Director General, Namami Gange, Ministry of Jal Shakti also graced Yamunaostav 2022 with his presence and deliberation. He recounted the efforts of the state government to clean the river through several projects. Yamunaostav 2022 was marked with activities like classical-music, singing, street-plays, painting and posters that were key to the programme.

River = Life + Conservation = Human Future

### Conclusion

The main source The lack of coordination between different ministries and agencies concerned with water resources, agriculture, industry, environment, urban planning, transport and watershed development is a major factor responsible for the present state of the Yamuna. It's important to create awareness among the people regarding the way river pollution is occurring and its consequences. Therefore, prevention of Yamuna river pollution cannot be achieved without people's participation. Today the Indian Government is running many campaigns for the cleanliness of Yamuna. We should also support the government in these campaigns and fulfill

our duty of being a good citizen by keeping the rivers clean. People take pledge for not allowing dirty water to flow into Yamuna. In spite of all efforts, it will be quite some time before we see it again in its former glory.

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