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# יאמונה

**יאמונה נגר - ויקיבידיה, الموسوعة الحرة**

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**יאמונה** נגר رمزها «YN» (بالإنجليزية: Yamuna Nagar) ، هو تقسيم إداري لدولة الهند ... هو مدينة **יאמונה** נגר (بالإنجليزية: Yamuna Nagar) عدد سكانها حسب تعداد سنة 2001 هو ...

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فنادق في مدينة **יאמונה** فيهار، في الهند – قارن بين أسعار الغرف في فنادق **יאמונה** فيهار، وابحث عن أحدث ... بحث. Yamuna Vihar, India. عرض فنادق **יאמונה** فيهار على خريطة ...

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وأنقذت الحكومة الهندية الملايين لتنظيف نهر **יאמונה**، لكنه يظل واحدا من الممرات المائية الأكثر تلوثا في العالم، التي تتدفق من خلال رأس المال و...

# יאמונה

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[YAMUNA](#) यमुना f [Indian](#)

From the name of an Indian river, which is possibly derived from the name of the goddess [YAMI](#).

<http://www.behindthename.com/names/usage/indian/2>

YAMI....

... [यमी](#) (Hindi, Sanskrit)....

Means "pair" in [Sanskrit](#). In Hindu belief this is the name of the first woman, the twin sister of the first man Yama.

<http://www.behindthename.com/name/yami>

# Yamuna in Hinduism

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Yamuna** is a sacred river in Hinduism and the main tributary of the Ganges (Ganga), the holiest river of Hinduism. The river worshipped as a Hindu goddess called Yamuna.<sup>[1]</sup> In the Vedas, Yamuna is known as **Yami**, while in later literature, she is called **Kalindi**.

In the Vedas, Yami is associated with her twin brother and partner Yama, the god of death. Later, she is associated with the god Krishna as one of Ashtabharya,<sup>[2]</sup> his consort as well and plays an important role in his early life as a river. Bathing and drinking Yamuna's waters is regarded to remove sin.

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- 1 Iconography
- 2 Family and names
- 3 Vedic association with Yama
- 4 Puranic association with Krishna
- 5 Religious significance
- 6 References
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## Iconography

Yamuna's iconographic depiction is seen on temple doorjambs, along with that of Ganga (the goddess of the Ganges), since the Gupta era.<sup>[1]</sup> The *Agni Purana* describes Yamuna's iconography. She is depicted as black in complexion and stands on her mount, the tortoise, holding a water pot in her hand.<sup>[3]</sup> In an ancient painting she is shown as a beautiful maiden standing on the banks of the river.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Family and names

Yamuna is described as the daughter of the sun god Surya and his wife Saranyu (Sanjna in later literature), the goddess of dawn and the clouds, and the twin sister of Yama, the god of death. Her other brothers include Vaivasvata Manu, the first man and the twin Ashvins, divine doctors.<sup>[4]</sup><sup>[1]</sup> She is described as Surya's favourite child.<sup>[5]</sup> As the daughter of Surya, she is also called as Suryatanaya, Suryaja and Ravinandini.<sup>[1]</sup>

As a companion of Yama, Yamuna is often called Yami in the Vedas. Yama/Yami probably originates the Sanskrit word meaning twins of both sexes.<sup>[6]</sup> In later literature, she is known as Yamuna and Kalindi ("the dark

**Yamuna**



Yamuna (left) with attendant

<b>Sanskrit</b>	Yamu a
<b>Transliteration</b>	
<b>Affiliation</b>	Devi, river
<b>Consort</b>	Yama (Vedic), Krishna (Puranic)
<b>Mount</b>	tortoise

one").<sup>[4]</sup>

A tale explains her name Yamuna: Sanjna was unable to bear her husband, the sun's heat and light and closed her eyes in his presence. Surya felt insulted and said that her son will be known as Yama ("restraint"), due to the restraint she showed. Thereafter, Sanjna tried her best to keep her eyes open, however she flickered them angering Surya again who proclaimed that her daughter would be Yamuna. Since Sanjna had tried to keep the eyes open, Yamuna was blessed that she would worshipped as a goddess and remembered throughout time.<sup>[7]</sup>

The name *Kalindi* may be derived from her association with Yama, the Lord of death and darkness as Kala.<sup>[4]</sup> Another source suggests that she derives the name *Kalindi* from her "earthly" source, the mountain Kalinda.<sup>[8]</sup> Some legends also explain Yamuna's darkness and thus her name *Kalindi*. The *Vamana Purana* narrates the tale how the originally clear waters turned black. Distraught by the death of his wife Sati, Shiva wandered the whole universe. The god of love Kamadeva shot Shiva with the arrow *Unmadastra*, that made Shiva restless and excited. Ever thinking of Sati, an excited Shiva jumped into Yamuna to overcome the sexual urge in his mad frenzy, turning her waters into black by his sorrow and unfulfilled desire.<sup>[3]</sup> Another legend describes that Krishna defeated and banished the serpent Kaliya in the Yamuna. While the dark serpent entered the waters, the river became dark.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Vedic association with Yama

Yami was the first woman, along with her twin brother, Yama in Vedic beliefs.<sup>[9]</sup> Yama and Yami are a bisexual divine pair of creator deities.<sup>[10]</sup> While Yama is depicted as the Lord of Death, Yami is said to be the Lady of life.<sup>[11]</sup>

The *Rig Veda*, in the tenth Mandala, contains a hymn in which they sing to each other. Yami proposes marriage to Yama but Yama flatly refuses as he considers it incest. The *Atharva Veda* also has a variant of the tale. In both texts, Yami argues that since they have slept together inside their mother's womb together, it was not wrong to sleep together outside it. However, the hymns abruptly end, without the final output being known.<sup>[12][13]</sup> In later version of the tale, they are depicted as the first human beings and it is conjectured that Yami was successful in becoming Yama's wife.<sup>[13]</sup>

Yami also addresses a hymn to Yama in the *Rig Veda*, describing various drinks offered to dying sacrificers in the after-life. The Brahmana text *Taittiriya Samhita* says that Yama is Agni (fire) and Yami is the earth. Yami's association with the earth relates her to the goddess of evil Nirriti, another partner of Yama in the Vedas.<sup>[14]</sup> Like Nirriti, she becomes malignant in the Brahmanas; however retains the central role of being Yama's twin sister in the Samhita texts. In the Purushamedha rite in the *Shatapatha Brahmana*, a mother of twins is sacrificed to Yami, while twins are offered in the *Taittiriya Brahmana*.<sup>[15]</sup>

The Brahmana text *Maitrayani Samhita* narrates: As the partner of Yama, Yami grieved instantly the death of Yama, the first mortal to die. As there was continuously daytime at the start of creation, Yami was unable to understand the lapse of time since Yama's death. The gods created night separating two days so that Yami understood that time was passing and slowly recovered from her sorrow.<sup>[5][14]</sup> The concept of the pair of twins with Yami weeping over her brother Yama's death has parallels with Norse mythology where Nanna mourns her



Krishna defeats Kaliya, dwelling in the Yamuna.

twin brother Baldr's death, in the Isis–Osiris twin of the Egyptian mythology and twins of Nergal and Ereshkegal of Sumerian mythology.<sup>[14]</sup>

The festival of Bhau-beej, celebrated by a brother and a sister, honours the divine siblings. A prayer recited by the sister to her brother requests him to enjoy her offerings of food and eat them to please Yama and Yamuna.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Puranic association with Krishna

The river is called Yamuna and the goddess generally Kalindi in sources related to Krishna.

In an myth related to Krishna's birth, Krishna's father Vasudeva was carrying the new-born Krishna to safety was crossing the Yamuna River, he asked Yamuna to make a way for him to cross the river, which she did by creating a passage. This was the first time that she saw Krishna whom she marries in later life.<sup>[16]</sup> Yamuna wanted to touch the feet of the baby which she did at deeper depths of the river and as a result the river became very calm.<sup>[17]</sup>

Krishna also spent most of youth in Vrindavan on the banks of Yamuna, playing the flute and playing with his lover Radha and the gopis on the banks.<sup>[4]</sup>



Krishna being carried over Yamuna by Vasudeva just after his birth.

The *Bhagavata Purana* narrates: Once, an adult Krishna visited his cousins – the five Pandava brothers with their common wife Draupadi and their mother Kunti in their capital Indraprastha (modern-day Delhi), located on the banks of the Yamuna. The eldest Pandava Yudhishtira requests Krishna to stay with them for a couple of days. One day, Krishna and the middle Pandava Arjuna go for hunting in the forest. During their hunting, Arjuna was tired. He and Krishna went to the Yamuna and bathed and drank the clear water. There, a lovely girl was strolling along the river bank. Krishna who saw her and asked Arjuna to meet her to know who she was. When Arjuna inquired, the girl told him that she was Kalindi, the daughter of Surya, and that she was living in a house constructed by her father in the river where she has been performing austerities with intent to have Vishnu as her husband and would remain there, until she finds him. Arjuna conveys Kalindi's message to Krishna, the avatar of Vishnu, who readily agreed to marry the beautiful damsel. Then they traveled to Indraprastha with Kalindi in the chariot and met Yudhishtira. After a stay of few days there, Krishna and Kalindi returned to his capital Dwarka with their entourage and duly married each other.<sup>[16][18][19]</sup> According to *Bhagavata Purana* she had ten sons: Shruta, Kavi, Vrsa, Vira, Subahu, Bhadra, Santi, Darsa, Purnamasa and the youngest, Somaka.<sup>[20]</sup> The *Vishnu Purana* mentions that she had many sons headed by Shruta.<sup>[21]</sup>

The *Bhagavata Purana* also narrates: Krishna's elder brother Balarama was staying in Ambadi on Yamuna's banks for a few months. Once, he was frolicking with the gopis on the river banks and desired to play in the waters. Intoxicated with liquor and experiencing heat of the alcohol, Balarama felt to take a bath in the river. However, he refused to walk to the waters and called upon the river to come near him, but the chaste Yamuna refused despite repeated orders from Balarama. An angry Balarama dragged the river by his weapon – the plough and changed its course, hurting the river goddess. Terrified, the river assumed her form as a goddess and bowed to Balarama and asked his forgiveness. A calmed Balarama ordered the river to flood the forest so he could bathe and play in her waters, and the river complied.<sup>[8][22]</sup>

## Religious significance

Yamuna is one of the holiest rivers in Hinduism. Yamuna is only second to the Ganges (Ganga), the holiest river in Hinduism.<sup>[4]</sup> Her confluence with the Ganges and the mythical Sarasvati rivers, Triveni Sangam, is very holy pilgrimage spot.<sup>[8]</sup> Other pilgrimage sites along the river banks include Yamuna's source Yamunotri, Mathura and Bateshvar.<sup>[23]</sup>

The *Mahabharata* mentions Yamuna being one of the 7 tributaries of the Ganges. Drinking its waters is described to absolve sin. The river is mentioned many times in the epic as backdrop for events like yajnas (sacrifices), austerities and even a suicide by a defeated minister Hamsa of Jarasandha.<sup>[8]</sup>

Various Puranas narrate the greatness of bathing in the Yamuna. The *Padma Purana* narrates the story of two brothers, who lived a life of indulgence and lust and gave up the virtuous ways. They finally plunged in poverty and resorted to robbery and were killed by beasts in the forest. Both of them reached Yama's court for judgement. While the elder brother was sentenced to Naraka (hell), the younger was granted Svarga (heaven). Astonished, the younger brother asked the reason for it, as both lived similar lives. Yama explained that the younger brother had lived in the ashram of a sage on Yamuna's banks and bathed in the sacred river for two months. The first month absolved him of sins and the second one granted him place in heaven.<sup>[3]</sup>



A temple dedicated to Yamuna at Yamunotri on the banks of the river Yamuna

## References

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- <sup>^</sup> Mani, Vettam (1975). *Puranic Encyclopaedia: a Comprehensive Dictionary with Special Reference to the Epic and Puranic Literature*. Motilal Banarsidass Publishers. p. 62. ISBN 978-0-8426-0822-0.
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> Mani p. 894
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> <sup>d</sup> <sup>e</sup> <sup>f</sup> Bhattacharji 1998, p. 9.
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> Bhattacharji 1998, p. 11.
- <sup>^</sup> Bhattacharji 1970, p. 108.
- <sup>^</sup> Bhattacharji 1998, pp. 9–10.
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> <sup>d</sup> Mani p. 375
- <sup>^</sup> O'Flaherty 1980, p. 28.
- <sup>^</sup> Bhattacharji 1970, p. 177.
- <sup>^</sup> Conway 1994, p. 64.
- <sup>^</sup> Bhattacharji 1970, pp. 93–94.
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Ushanas 1997, p. 207.
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> Bhattacharji 1970, p. 96.
- <sup>^</sup> Bhattacharji 1970, p. 98.
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Veena Shekar. "The 'Ashta Bharyas' of Krishna" (<http://www.chitralakshana.com/ashtabharyas.html>). Chitralakshana.com.
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18. ^ "Five Ques married by Krishna" (<http://krsnabook.com/ch58.html>). Krsnabook.com. Retrieved 25 January 2013.
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22. ^ Bhattacharji 1998, pp. 10–11.
23. ^ Dalal 2010, p. 399.

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Categories: Hindu goddesses | Death goddesses | Underworld goddesses | Sea and river goddesses  
People related to Krishna

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# Yamuna


From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Yamuna** (Pron: jəˈmʊnɑː<sup>ⓘ</sup>) (Sanskrit and Hindi: यमुना), sometimes called **Jamuna** (Hindi: जमुना; Pron: d̪əˈmʊnɑː<sup>ⓘ</sup>), is the largest tributary river of the Ganges,(Ganga) in northern India. Originating from the Yamunotri Glacier at a height of 6,387 metres on the south western slopes of Banderpooch peaks in the uppermost region of the Lower Himalayas in Uttarakhand, it travels a total length of 1,376 kilometers (855 mi) and has a drainage system of 366,223 square kilometres (141,399 sq mi), 40.2% of the entire Ganges Basin, before merging with the Ganges at Triveni Sangam, Allahabad, the site for the Kumbha Mela every twelve years .

It crosses several states, Uttarakhand, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, passing by Himachal Pradesh and later Delhi, and meets its tributaries on the way, including Tons, its largest and longest tributary in Uttarakhand, Chambal, which has its own large basin, followed by Sindh, the Betwa, and Ken. Most importantly it creates the highly fertile alluvial, Yamuna-Ganges Doab region between itself and the Ganges in the Indo-Gangetic plain. Nearly 57 million people depend on the Yamuna waters. With an annual flow of about 10,000 cubic billion metres (cbm) and usage of 4,400 cbm (of which irrigation constitutes 96 per cent), the river accounts for more than 70 per cent of Delhi's water supplies. Just like the Ganges, the Yamuna too is highly venerated in Hinduism and worshipped as goddess Yamuna, throughout its course. In Hindu mythology, she is the daughter of Sun God, Surya, and sister of Yama, the God of Death, hence also known as Yami and according to popular legends, bathing in its sacred waters frees one from the torments of death.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

The water of Yamuna is of "reasonably good quality" through its length from Yamunotri in the Himalayas to Wazirabad in Delhi, about 375 km, where the discharge of waste water through 15 drains between Wazirabad barrage and Okhla barrage renders the river severely polluted after Wazirabad. One official describes the river as a "sewage drain" with biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) values ranging from 14 to 28 mg/l and high coliform content.<sup>[4]</sup> There are three main sources of pollution in the river, namely households and municipal disposal sites, soil erosion resulting from deforestation occurring to make way for agriculture along with resulting chemical wash-off from fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides and run-off from commercial activity and industrial sites.

Coordinates: 25°25′11.44″N 81°53′5.80″E﻿ / ﻿25.420000°N 81.884139°E﻿ / 25.42; 81.884139

<b>Yamuna</b> River	
	
Taj Mahal in Agra on the banks of Yamuna	
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>States</b>	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana
<b>Tributaries</b>	
<span> </span> - left	Hindon, Sharda, Kunta, Gir, Rishiganga, Hanuman Ganga, Sasur Khaderi, Tons
<span> </span> - right	Chambal, Betwa, Ken, Sindh, Banas, Dhansan
<b>Cities</b>	Yamuna Nagar, Delhi, Mathura, Agra, Etawah, Kalpi, Allahabad
<b>Source</b>	Yamunotri
<span> </span> - location	Banderpooch peaks, Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand, India
<span> </span> - elevation	3,293 <span> </span> m (10,804 <span> </span> ft)
<span> </span> - coordinates	<span><span><span><span><span>31°01′0.12″N</span> <span>78°27′0″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>31.016978°N 78.450000°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>31.016978; 78.45</span></span></span></span></span>
<b>Mouth</b>	Triveni sangam
<span> </span> - location	Allahabad, India
<span> </span> - elevation	74 <span> </span> m (243 <span> </span> ft)
<span> </span> - coordinates	<span><span><span><span><span>25°25′11.44″N</span> <span>81°53′5.80″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>25.420000°N 81.884139°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>25.42; 81.884139</span></span></span></span></span>
<b>Length</b>	1,376 <span> </span> km (855 <span> </span> mi)
<b>Basin</b>	366,223 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> (141,399 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi)
<b>Discharge</b>	mouth
<span> </span> - average	2,950 <span> </span> m <sup>3</sup> /s (104,178 <span> </span> cu <span> </span> ft/s) <sup>[1]</sup>

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Map

## Course



Banderpooch peak, the source of Yamuna, as seen from Mussoorie

The source of Yamuna lies in the Yamunotri Glacier at a height 6,387 metres, on the south western slopes of Banderpooch peaks, which lie in the Mussoorie range of Lower Himalayas, in the Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand, north of Haridwar.<sup>[2]</sup> Yamunotri temple, a shrine dedicated to the goddess, Yamuna is one of the holiest shrines in Hinduism, and part of the Chota Char Dham Yatra circuit. Also standing close to the temple, on its 13 km trek route, that follows the right bank of the river, lies the *Markendeya Tirtha*, where the sage Markandeya wrote the Markandeya

Purana.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

From here it flows southwards, for about 200 km through the Lower Himalayas and the Shivalik Hills Range and morainic deposited are found in its steep Upper Yamuna village, highlighted with geomorphic features such as interlocking spurs, steep rock benches, gorges and stream terraces. Large terraces formed over a long period of time can be seen in the lower course of the river, like ones near Naugoan. An important part of its early catchment area totalling 2,320 square kilometres (900 sq mi) lies in Himachal Pradesh, and an important



The Yamunotri temple on the river, dedicated to Goddess Yamuna.

tributary draining the Upper Catchment Area is the Tons, Yamuna's largest and longest tributary, which rises from the Hari-ki-dun valley and holds water more than the main stream, which it merges after Kalsi near Dehradun. The entire drainage system of the river stretches all the way between Giri-Sutlej

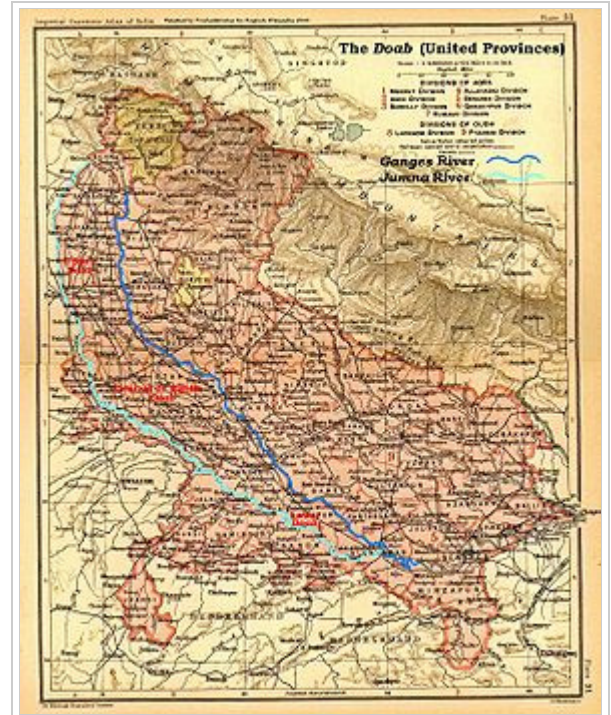
catchment in Himachal and Yamuna-Bhilangna catchment in Garhwal, indeed the southern ridge of Shimla is also drained into this system. Kalanag (6,387 metres (20,955 ft)) is the highest point of the entire Yamuna basin.

Other tributaries in the region are the Giri, Rishi Ganga, Kunta, Hanuman Ganga and Bata tributaries, which drain the Upper Catchment Area of the vast Yamuna basin.<sup>[7]</sup>

Thereafter the river descends on to the plains of Doon Valley, at Dak Pathar near Dehradun. Here through the Dakpathar

Barrage, the water is diverted into a canal for power generation, little further down where Yamuna is met by the Assan River, lies the Assan Barrage, which hosts a Bird Sanctuary as well. After passing the Sikh pilgrimage town of Paonta Sahib, it reaches Tajewala in Yamuna Nagar district, of Haryana, where a dam built in 1873, is the originating place of two important canals, the Western Yamuna Canal and Eastern Yamuna Canal, which irrigate the states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The Western Yamuna Canal (WYC) crosses Yamuna Nagar, Karnal and Panipat before reaching the Haiderpur treatment plant, which supplies part of municipal water supply to Delhi, further it also receives waste water from Yamuna Nagar and Panipat cities. Yamuna is replenished again after this by seasonal streams and groundwater accrual, in fact during the dry season, it remains dry in many stretches from Tajewala till Delhi, where it enters near Palla village after traversing 224 kilometres (139 mi).

The Yamuna also creates natural state borders between the Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand states, and further down between the state of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. Along with the Ganges to which run almost parallel after it touches the Indo-Gangetic plain, the largest alluvial fertile plain in the world, it creates the Ganges-Yamuna Doab region spread across 69,000 square kilometres (27,000 sq mi), one-third of the entire plain, and today known for its agricultural outputs, prominent among them is the cultivation of Basmati Rice. The plain itself supports one-third of India's population through its farming.<sup>[8]</sup>



The Doab, United Provinces, 1908 map

State	Catchment area (km <sup>2</sup> )	% of catchment area
Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	74,208	21.5 %
Himachal Pradesh	5,799	1.6
Haryana	21,265	6.5
Rajasthan	102,883	29.8
Madhya Pradesh	14,023	40.6
Delhi	1,485	0.4

Subsequently, it flows through the states of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, before merging with the Ganges at a sacred spot known as Triveni Sangam in Allahabad after traversing a distance of 1,376 kilometers (855 mi). Here pilgrims travel by boats to platforms erected mid stream to offer prayers. During the Kumbh Mela, held every 12 years, the ghats around the Sangam are venue of large congregation of people, who take dip in the sacred waters of the confluence.<sup>[9]</sup> The cities of Baghpat, Delhi, Noida, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad, Etawah, Kalpi, Hamirpur, Allahabad lie on its banks. At Etawah, it meets it another important tributary, Chambal, followed by a host of tributaries further down, including, Sindh, the Betwa, and Ken.<sup>[3][10]</sup>



Course of Yamuna, in the Indo-Gangetic Plain

## Important tributaries

- Tons River, Yamuna's largest and longest tributary, rises in the 20,720 ft (6,315 m) high Bandarpoonch mountain, and has a large basin in Himachal Pradesh. It meets Yamuna below Kalsi near Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- Hindon River, originates in the Saharanpur District, from Upper Shivalik in Lower Himalayan Range, is entirely rainfed and has a catchment area of 7, 083 km<sup>2</sup>, traverses 400 km through Muzaffarnagar District, Meerut District, Baghpat District, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, before joining Yamuna just outside Delhi.
- Ken River, flows through Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, it originates near village Ahirgawan in Jabalpur district and travels a distance of 427 km, before merging with the Yamuna at Chilla village, near Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh, and has an overall drainage basin of 28,058 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Chambal River, known as *Charmanvati* in ancient times, flows through Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, with a drainage basin of 143,219 km<sup>2</sup> and traverses a total distance of 960 km, from its source in Vindhya Range, near Mhow and support hydro-power generation at Gandhi Sagar dam, Rana Pratap Sagar dam and Jawahar Sagar dam, before merging into the Yamuna south east of Sohan Goan, in Etawah district, shortly thereafter followed by another tributary, the Sindh River.
- Sasur Khaderi River, known as Sasur Khaderi is a tributary located in Fatehpur district.

## History

The name Yamuna seems to be derived from the Sanskrit word "yama", meaning 'twin', and it may have been applied to the river because it runs parallel to the Ganges. The Yamuna is mentioned at many places in the Rig Veda, which was composed during the Vedic period between ca. 1700–1100 BC, and also in the later Atharvaveda, and the Brahmanas including Aitareya Brahmana and Shatapatha Brahmana.<sup>[11]</sup> In Rig Veda, the story of the Yamuna describes her "excessive love" for her twin, Yama, who in turn asks her to find a suitable match for herself, which she does in Krishna. The tale is further detailed in the 16th century Sanskrit hymn, *Yamunashtakam*, an ode by the philosopher Vallabhacharya. Here the story of her descent to meet her beloved Krishna and to purify the world has been put into verse. The hymn also praises her for being the source of all spiritual abilities. And while the Ganges is considered an epitome of asceticism and higher knowledge and can grant us *Moksha* or liberation, it is Yamuna, who, being a holder of infinite love and compassion, can grant us



Vasudev carrying baby Lord Krishna across the Yamuna, an important legend of Bhagavata Purana

freedom, even from death, the realm of her elder brother. She rushes down the Kalinda Mountain, and verily describes her as the daughter of Kalinda, giving her another name, *Kalindi*, the backdrop of Krishna Leela. The text also talks about her water being of the colour of Lord Krishna, which is dark (Shyam).<sup>[12][13]</sup> The river is referred as Asita in some historical texts.<sup>[14]</sup>

It is mention as Iomanes (Ioames) in the surveys of Seleucus I Nicator, an officer of Alexander the Great and one of the Diadochi, who visited India in 305 BC, later Megasthenes, a Greek traveller and geographer, visited India, sometimes before 288 BC, the date of Chandragupta's death, also mention the river in his text *Indica*, where he described the region around it as the land of Surasena.<sup>[15]</sup> In *Mahabharata*,

Indraprastha, the capital of Pandavas was also situated on the banks of Yamuna, it is considered to the modern day city of Delhi.

Geological evidence indicates that in the distant past the Yamuna was a tributary of the Ghaggar River (also known as the Vedic Sarasvati River), but that it later changed its course eastward due to a tectonic event, becoming a tributary of the Ganges. This may have led to the Sarasvati River drying up, the end of many Harappan civilization settlements, and creation of the Thar desert.<sup>[16][17][18]</sup> However, recent geological research suggests that the diversion of the Yamuna to the Ganges may have occurred during the Pleistocene, and thus could not be connected to the decline of the Harappan civilization in the region.<sup>[19]</sup>

The importance of the Ganges–Yamuna river basin, and the Doab region as traditional the seat of power, can be derived from the fact, in much of early history of India, most of great empires, which ruled over majority of India, until the Chalukyas King, Vinayaditya, were based in the highly fertile Ganges–Yamuna basin, including the Magadha (ca 600 BC), Maurya Empire (321–185 BC), Sunga Empire (185–73 BCE), Kushan Empire (1st–3rd centuries CE), Gupta Empire (280–550 CE), and many had their capitals here, in cities like Pataliputra or Mathura. These rivers were revered throughout these kingdoms that flourished on their banks, in fact ever since the period of Chandragupta II (r. 375–415 CE), statues both the Ganges and Yamuna became common throughout the Gupta Empire. Further to the South, images of the Ganges and Yamuna are found amidst shrines of the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas (753–982), as well as on their royal seals, and prior to them, the Chola Empire too added the river into their architectural motifs. The Three River Goddess shrine, next of famous Kailash rock-cut Temple at Ellora, built by Rashtrakuta King, Govinda III, shows the Ganges flanked by the Yamuna and Saraswati.<sup>[20]</sup>

## Religious significance

The goddess of the river, also known as Yami, is the sister of Yama, god of death, and the daughter of Surya, the Sun god, and his wife Saranyu.<sup>[21]</sup> Yamuna, referred to respectfully as Yamunaji, holds a very important position in Pushti Marga, a sect of Hinduism based on the ShuddhAdvaita, in which Shri Krishna is the main deity, propagated by VallabhAcharya / MahaPrabhuji, and having a large following in India.

The river Yamuna is also connected to the religious beliefs surrounding Krishna and various stories connected with Him are found in Hindu religious texts, especially the Puranas, like that of *Kaliya Daman*, the subduing of Kaliya, a poisonous *Nāga* snake, which had inhabited the river and terrorized the people of Braja.<sup>[22][23]</sup> Yamuna, according to the legends, is closely related to Lord Krishna and Mahabharata. Krishna was taken across the Yamuna on the night of his birth. Kansa, Krishna's maternal uncle planned to kill all his nephews, as

his eighth nephew was predicted to be his Kāla. When Vasudeva, carrying Krishna in a basket, reaches the river Yamuna, on the extremely turbulent, rainy night of Krishna's birth, Yamuna is said to have parted to make way for Vasudeva.

Krishna and the Gopis also used to play on the banks of the Yamunaji as children.

## Management

The stretch of the river from its origin to Okhla in Delhi is called “Upper Yamuna”. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed amongst the five basin states, namely Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi, on 12 May 1994 for sharing of the water of Upper Yamuna. This led to the formation of Upper Yamuna River Board under Ministry of Water Resources, whose primary functions are regulation of the allocation of available flows amongst the beneficiary states and also for monitoring the return flows; monitoring conserving and upgrading the quality of surface and ground water; maintaining hydro-meteorological data for the basin; over viewing plans for watershed management; monitoring and reviewing the progress of all projects up to and including Okhla barrage.<sup>[24]</sup>

Flood forecasting systems are established at Poanta Sahib, where Tons, Pawar and Giri tributaries meet, followed by Tajewala, Kalanaur, Haryana and Mawai before Delhi, the river take 60 hours to travel from Tajewala to Delhi, thus allowing a two-day advance flood warning period.<sup>[2][25][26]</sup> The Central Water Commission started flood-forecasting services in 1958 with the setting up of its first forecasting station on Yamuna at Delhi Railway Bridge,India.<sup>[27]</sup>

## Irrigation

The importance of Yamuna in the Indo-Gangetic Plains is enhanced by its many canals, some dating back to as early as 14th century CE by the Tughlaq dynasty, which built the *Nahr-i-Bahisht* (Paradise), parallel to the river. The *Nahr-i-Bahisht* was later restored and extended by the Mughals in the first half of the seventeenth century, by engineer Ali Mardan Khan, starting from Benawas where the river enters the plains and terminating near the Mughal capital, Shahjahanabad, the present city of Delhi.<sup>[28]</sup>

As the Yamuna enters the Northern plains near Dakpathar at a height of 790 meters, the Eastern Yamuna Canal commences at the Dakpathar Barrage and pauses at the Asan and Hathnikund Barrages before continuing south. The Hathnikund was built in 1999 and replaced the downstream Tajewala Barrage which had been completed in 1873.

## Western Yamuna Canal



The goddess Yamuna.



Taj Mahal is situated on the banks of river Yamuna.



Agra Canal headworks at Okhla barrage, Delhi. 1871.

The Western Yamuna Canal begins at the Hathnikund Barrage about 38 kilometers from Dakpathar and south of Doon Valley. The canals irrigate vast tracts of land in the region. Once it passes Delhi, the river feeds the Agra Canal built in 1874, which starts from Okhla barrage beyond the Nizamuddin bridge, and the high land between the Khari-Nadi and the Yamuna and before joining the Banganga river about 32 km (20 mi) below Agra. Thus, during the summer season, the stretch above Agra resembles a minor stream.<sup>[3]</sup>

The *Sunder Branch of Western Yamuna Canal* passes through Hansi and goes to Kanwari and beyond in Hisar (district).

## The Sutlej–Yamuna Link

A heavy freight canal, known as the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL), is being built westwards from near the Yamuna's headwaters through the Punjab region near an ancient caravan route and highlands pass to the navigable parts of the Sutlej-Indus watershed. This will connect the entire Ganges, which flows to the east coast of the subcontinent, with points west (via Pakistan). When completed, the SYL will allow shipping from India's east coast to the west coast and the Arabian sea, drastically shortening shipping distances and creating important commercial links for north-central India's large population. The canal starts near Palla village near Delhi, and is designed to transfer Haryana's share of 4.3 km<sup>3</sup> (3,500,000 acre·ft) from the Indus Basin.

Though the state of Haryana has completed its portion, Punjab is against its construction, and the state legislature passed the *Punjab Termination of Agreement Act 2004*, which declared earlier agreements null and void.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Conservation Zone

On 25 April 2014, The National Green Tribunal recommended the Government to declare a 52 km stretch of the Yamuna in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh as a conservation zone. A report has been prepared by the ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) panel and submitted to the NGA on the same day.<sup>[29]</sup>

## Geography and wildlife

The catchment area of the river, especially till it touches the plains, is replete with alpine, semi alpine, temperate and sub-tropical vegetation, and vast areas are under forest cover, and supports extensive animal life.

Yamuna is the frontier of the Asian Elephant. West of the Yamuna, there are no elephants to be found over 900 km of the western Himalayas and their foothills. The forests of the lower Yamuna offer ideal corridors for elephant movement. The principal forests to be found here are of sal, *khair* (acacia), and *sissoo* (rosewood) trees, and the Chir Pine forests of the Shivalik Hills.



The Yamuna, seen from the Taj Mahal at Agra in Uttar Pradesh

## Pollution

In 1909 the waters of the Yamuna were distinguishable as "clear blue", as compared to the silt-laden yellow of the Ganges.<sup>[30]</sup> However, due to high density population growth and rapid industrialization today Yamuna is one of the most polluted rivers in the world, especially around New Delhi, the capital of India, which dumps about 58% of its waste into the river.

## Causes

New Delhi generates 1,900 million litre per day (MLD) of sewage. Though numerous attempts have been made to process it, the efforts have proven to be futile. Although the government of India has spent nearly \$500 million to clean up the river, the Yamuna continues to be polluted with garbage while most sewage treatment facilities are underfunded or malfunctioning. In addition, the water in this river remains stagnant for almost nine months in a year, aggravating the situation. Delhi alone contributes around 3,296 MLD of sewage in the river. The government of India over the next five years has prepared plans to rebuild and repair the sewage system and the drains that empty into the river. To address river pollution, certain measures of river cleaning have been taken by the Government's Ministry of Environment and Forests in twelve towns of Haryana, eight towns of Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi, under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) which has been implemented since 1993 by the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation is participating in the Yamuna Action Plan in 15 of the above 21 towns (excluding 6 towns of Haryana included later on the direction of Supreme Court of India) with soft loan assistance of 17.773 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to about Rs. 700 crore INR) while the Government of India is providing the funds for the remaining 6 towns added later. In 2007 the Indian government's plans to repair sewage lines were predicted to improve the water quality of the river 90% by the year 2010.<sup>[31][32][33]</sup>

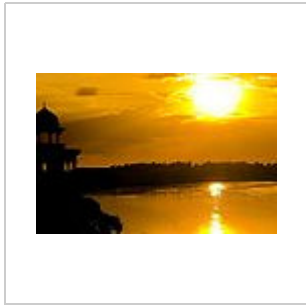
However in 2009, the Union government admitted to the Lok Sabha (Indian Parliament), the failure of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) and the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP), saying that "rivers Ganga and Yamuna are no cleaner now than two decades ago" despite spending over Rs 1,700 crore to control pollution. According to a CSE official, these plans adopted the Thames model, based on a centralized sewage treatment system. This meant that huge sum of money and a 24-hr power supply were needed to manage the treatment plants, while only an 8-hr power supply was available, contributing to the failure of both river plans.<sup>[34]</sup> In August 2009, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) initiated its plan for resuscitating the Yamuna's 22 km stretch in Delhi by constructing interceptor sewers, at the cost of about Rs 1,800 crore.<sup>[35]</sup>

## Gallery



The Yamuna near the Himalayas, just as it reaches the plains, beyond Dehradun in Uttarakhand.





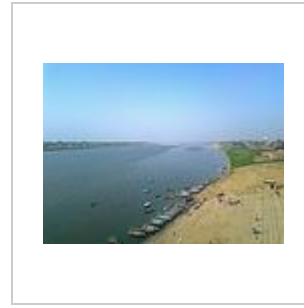
The Yamuna, seen from the Taj Mahal at Agra in Uttar Pradesh



Madan Mohan temple, on the Yamuna at Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh, 1789: the river has shifted further away since then.



'Keshi Ghat' on the Yamuna at Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh



The Yamuna near Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh, just a few kilometers before it meets the Ganges



The Yamuna near Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh, in the rainy season

## Quotes on Yamuna

- "Simply by bathing in the Yamuna, anyone can diminish the reactions of his sinful activities." (Krishna Book, Chap 38)
- "By taking bath in the Yamuna River people are liberated and become Krishna conscious." (Caitanya Caritamrita Antya 4.98 purport)
- "There are many devotees in Vrindavana who regularly bathe in the Yamuna, and this cleanses all the contamination of the material world." (Srimad Bhagavatam 5.8.31)
- "One should not give up the process of austerity. If possible, one should bathe in the water of the Yamuna. This is an item of austerity. Therefore, our Krishna consciousness movement has established a center in Vrindavana so that one may bathe in the Yamuna, chant the Hare Krishna mantra and then become perfect and return back to Godhead." (Srimad Bhagavatam 6.5.28 purport)
- "The Yamuna River washed Krishna's lotus feet when the Lord appeared in Vrindavana five thousand years ago. Lord Krishna sported daily with His boys and girlfriends in the Yamuna River and

consequently that river is also caranamrita." (Srimad Bhagavatam 11.6.19)

- "According to the Varaha Purana as quoted by Srila Jiva Gosvami there is no difference between the water of the Ganges and the Yamuna but when the water of the Ganges is sanctified one hundred times, it is called the Yamuna. Similarly, it is said in the scriptures that one thousand names of Vishnu are equal to one name of Rama and three names of Lord Rama are equal to one name of Krishna." (Srimad Bhagavatam 1.19.6 purport)

## See also

- List of rivers of India

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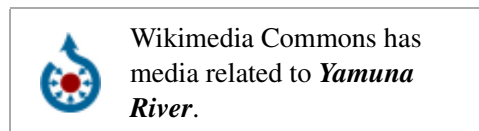
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## External links

- The Geography of the Rigveda (<http://www.tri-murti.com/ancientindia/rigHistory/ch4.htm>)
- Yamuna Action Plan (<http://yap.nic.in/yamuna.asp>)



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