

CENTRE TARGETS DELHI GOVT. OVER YAMUNA POLLUTION

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Environmental Pollution - Air, Water, Soil & E-waste

The Centre has accused Delhi of being a “habitual offender” in polluting the waters of the Yamuna. File photo

The Centre on Tuesday accused Delhi of being a “habitual offender” in polluting the waters of the Yamuna.

The State of Haryana, on the other hand, objected to Delhi’s accusations about it releasing untreated effluents into the river due to faulty treatment plants, saying the “problem is not with Haryana, but within Delhi”.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde gave Haryana a week’s time to file its affidavit. The Centre has also been asked to place on record its views.

The Bench was hearing an urgent petition filed by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), represented by advocate Shadan Farasat, to “immediately stop” Haryana from discharging pollutants into the Yamuna, which is causing an alarming increase in ammonia levels in the water. The Board said the increased ammonia level has impaired its water treatment plants and a drinking water and health crises loom large in Delhi.

The DJB said the national capital’s woes were made worse with Haryana not releasing the full quantity of water entitled to Delhi at Wazirabad. Instead of releasing at least 450 cusecs downstream from Wazirabad, only 330 cusecs have been released.

“Due to lesser water being released, the concentration of ammonia in the water reaching Delhi has increased,” the DJB said.

Sparring neighbours

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, for Haryana, said the DJB petition was not “maintainable at all”. “We are supplying from our share of water far more than what is required. What DJB is saying is completely incorrect. I need a week’s time to put in a response,” he submitted.

The DJB petition had said the “actions/inactions constitute a violation of the principle of cooperative federalism. It amounts to an upper riparian State taking undue advantage of a shared river for irrigation and industrial purposes while effectively not allowing a lower riparian State to access water for drinking”.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Centre, said Delhi was a “habitual offender”.

Senior advocate and amicus curiae Meenakshi Arora intervened to say that the case should focus on “what States are doing as regards the pollution of water” rather than restrict itself to the quantum of water shared between Haryana and Delhi.

Ms. Arora said the amount of ammonia in the Yamuna has considerably lowered to .3 ppm as of January 18. The tolerable level is .9 ppm.

Subscribe to The Hindu digital to get unlimited access to Today's paper

Already have an account ? [Sign in](#)

Start your 14 days free trial. [Sign Up](#)

Find mobile-friendly version of articles from the day's newspaper in one easy-to-read list.

Enjoy reading as many articles as you wish without any limitations.

A select list of articles that match your interests and tastes.

Move smoothly between articles as our pages load instantly.

A one-stop-shop for seeing the latest updates, and managing your preferences.

We brief you on the latest and most important developments, three times a day.

*Our Digital Subscription plans do not currently include the e-paper, crossword and print.

You can support quality journalism by turning off ad blocker or purchase a subscription for unlimited access to The Hindu.

[Sign up for a 30 day free trial.](#)

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

Crack