

City Water & Waste Profiles

Yamunanagar, Haryana

- **Money invested:** *Rs 28.8 crore under Yamuna Action Plan (September 2005)*
- **Capacity created:** *35 mld (sewage treatment plants)*
- **Untreated waste:** *10-18 mld (27-39 per cent of the waste generated)*

Yamunanagar, located 220 km upstream of Delhi (including Jagadhri, an industrial town of Haryana), is the second largest urban agglomeration in Haryana after Faridabad. The population was 3.29 lakh in 2004. The city is not situated on the banks of Yamuna but on the Western Yamuna Canal (WYC). At the Hathnikund barrage (HKB), about 40 km upstream of the town, the river bifurcates between the Western and Eastern Yamuna Canals. The WYC, which passes through Yamunanagar, feeds two of Delhi's water treatment plants at Haiderpur and Nangloi. The water of this canal is the heart of the water quality in Delhi.

Yamunanagar is unique; it is not crisscrossed by the river Yamuna but by the WYC. Its entire domestic and industrial effluent -- treated, partially treated and untreated -- is discharged into the WYC and the impact is visible even 22 km downstream of the town. In other words, the WYC (and not the river) gets affected directly by the pollution from Yamunanagar.

State of the river

The CPCB monitors the Yamuna at Tajewala — some 40 km upstream of Yamunanagar and Kalanaur — where the river enters the city limits. After this point the river flows parallel to the city. Though the website of the project monitoring consultants (PMC) appointed by NRCDC for YAP claims to carry out monitoring at five locations including one in the WYC immediately downstream of Yamunanagar, the data isn't made public. NRCDC does not provide any such data in its management information systems (MIS) reports either. But it does publish data for the river at Tajewala and Kalanaur. It would be a grave mistake to assume that the water quality at Kalanaur is the same as the water quality in the WYC as it passes by Yamunanagar.

Expenditure on river clean-up

In Yamunanagar and Jagadhri, Rs 28.35 crore was spent under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) programs. Of this, Rs 26.72 crore (or 89 per cent) was spent on sewerage and STPs, with 42 per cent of the resources utilised for sewerage and the remaining 47.74 per cent on STPs. Crematoria and community toilets received a little more than two per cent of the funds.

Water supply

Officially there are 81 tubewells — 59 in Yamunanagar and 22 in Jagadhri — interlinked and used for water supply. Strangely, according to PHED sources as on March 31,

2006, water supply to the twin towns reduced to 34 mld from 47 mld in 2004 even though the number of tubewells increased.

Waste generation

As is the case in any other city, the quantum of waste generated by Yamunanagar and Jagadhri is the sum of industrial and domestic sewage. D P Mittal, executive engineer and head of the Yamuna Pollution Control Unit of the PHED says that the domestic sewage generation is about 35 mld and hence no untreated sewage is discharged. But is Mittal right? According to documents obtained by CSE, it is clear that the PHED considers 180 lpcd the norm for designing water supply systems. According to this norm, the water demand appears to have increased from 40 to 59 mld during 1993-2005.

Accordingly, the waste generation during the same period has changed from 32 to 47 mld. The figures arrived at by the CPCB are close. During a survey in 2003 the CPCB found that the STPs received 45.7 mld sewage. It also found that the treated discharge from the 25 mld-STP was 36 mld and that from the 10 mld-STP was 9.7 mld. This could be a mixture of industrial and domestic effluents as the waste is intercepted from the drains.

Sewerage issues

Officially, 55 per cent of the population has access to sewerage in Yamunanagar and Jagadhri. Yet there are only 8,733 sewer connections. Assuming that each serves eight persons, the number of persons connected to sewers is less than 70,000. In other words, more than 75 per cent of the sewage is not collected by this system.

The National River Conservation Directorate has blindly agreed to allot more money for sewerage new areas under YAP-II, despite the fact that several houses in sewerage areas remain unconnected. Clearly, no one is interested in learning from past mistakes.

Sewage treatment capacity

In 2000, an STP capacity of 35 mld was commissioned. Even if the STPs were operating at full capacity in 2005, the untreated waste from Yamunanagar and Jagadhri would be 4 to 12 mld respectively. This is when we assume that the water supply is 150 and 180 lpcd respectively. Untreated waste will increase to 10-18 mld if the PHED's argument that STPs are operating at 29 mld capacity is correct -- that is, 27-39 per cent of the total waste generated remains untreated.