Rising Water Levels in the Yamuna River

Source: TH

Why in News?

Delhi is currently experiencing a severe **waterlogging crisis due to the rising water levels of the** Yamuna River. The water level has surged to **208.13 meters,** marking the highest recorded level since **1963.**
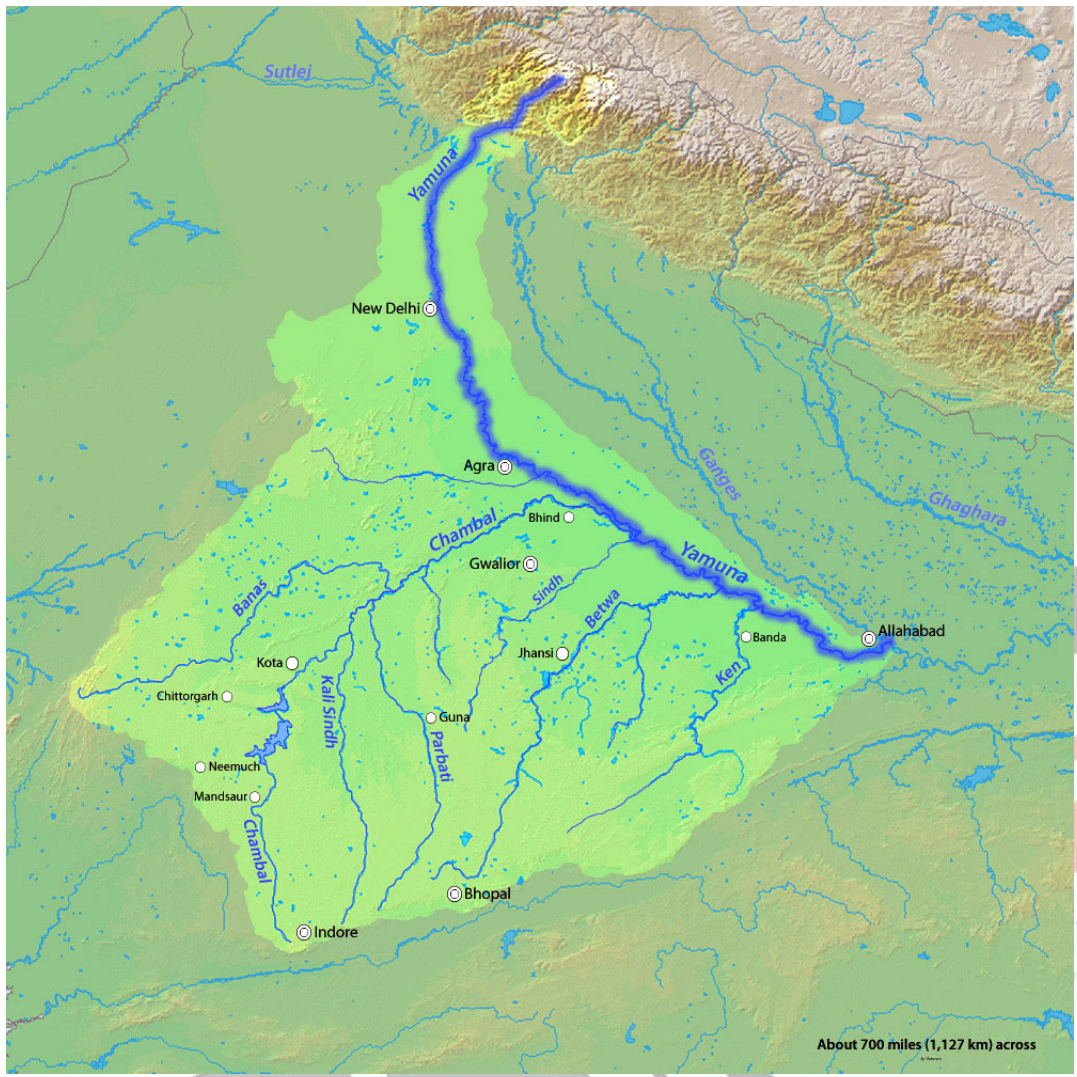
What is the Cause and Impact of Increasing Water Level of Yamuna?

- **Cause:**
    - Recent **heavy rainfall** in upstream states like **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, and Punjab** are believed to be the main cause of the rising Yamuna River level.
    - The Hathnikund barrage in Haryana, responsible for **regulating the flow of the Yamuna into Delhi,** has released a substantial amount of water due to the rainfall.
- **Impact:**
    - The increased water level of the Yamuna has **resulted in flooding in low-lying areas of Delhi,** affecting a significant number of people and disrupting transportation and water supply.
    - **Water supply in Delhi is also impacted as** Delhi government decided to cut down supply by **25%** following the **closure of three water treatment plants due to the rising level of the Yamuna.**

Yamuna River

- **About:** The Yamuna River is one of the major tributaries of the Ganges in Northern India.
    - It forms an integral part of the **Yamuna-Ganga Plain**, one of the world's most extensive alluvial plains.
- **Source:** It has its source in the **Yamunotri Glacier at an elevation of 6,387 meters** on the southwestern sides of **Banderpooch crests** in the lower **Himalayan ranges.**
- **Basin:** It meets the **Ganges at the Sangam (where Kumbh mela is held)** in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.**
- **Important Dam:** Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc.
- **Important Tributaries:** Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken.
- **Government Initiatives Related to Yamuna River:**
    - **Yamuna Action Plan**
    - **Delhi Government's Six-Point Action Plan to Clean Yamuna by February 2025**

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