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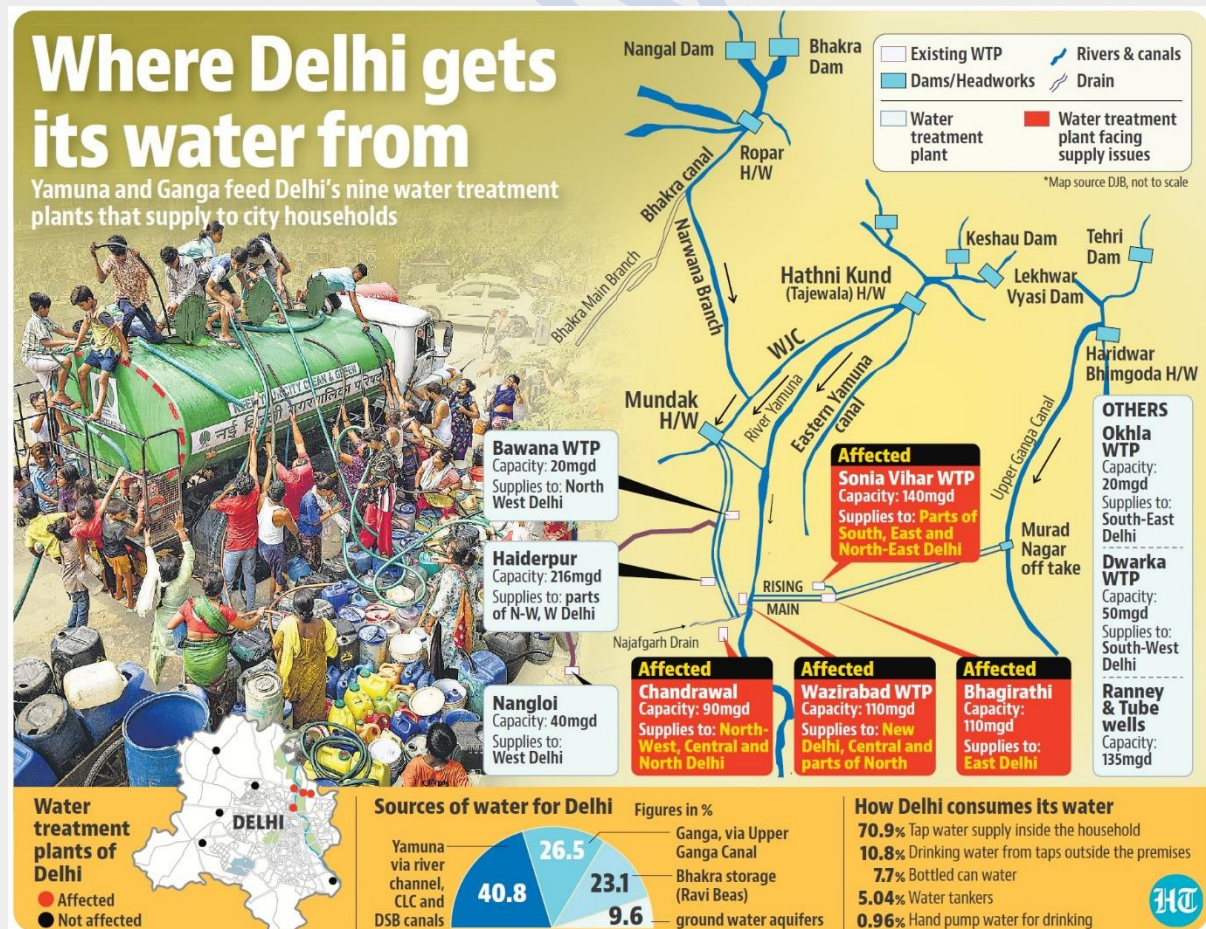
1. Delhi govt moves Supreme Court: Legal history of Delhi’s water dispute with other states

Why in News?

The Delhi government recently approached the Supreme Court seeking urgent directions to Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to release more water into the National Capital Territory (NCT) region. The move has come due to an unprecedented surge in temperatures, leading to the rising demand for water. This is not the first time that the Delhi government has approached the SC over its water woes.

Why has the Delhi government approached the SC?

Despite taking several measures, the Delhi government has not been able to tackle the water shortage issue. This has precipitated an emergency in the form of a full-fledged water and sanitation crisis and has necessitated an emergent solution, according to the government’s petition.



The AAP government has also said that Himachal Pradesh has agreed to share its surplus water with Delhi, but the water will have to be transported through the Wazirabad barrage with the Haryana government's cooperation, which isn't being provided currently.

Adding that the water levels in the Sonia Vihar and Bhagirathi barrages, the other primary sources for Delhi-NCR, are operating at full capacity, the government contended that an increase can only be considered at the Wazirabad barrage. However, despite requests to Haryana to release surplus water, there has been no positive response.

Stating that additional water supply is necessary due to Delhi-NCR's large workforce and migrant population, the government added that it was only seeking relief as a "stop-gap arrangement" until the monsoon season's arrival.

Allocation of Yamuna waters

The order said, "Delhi which is in dire need of water is to be given its allocation of water with immediate effect. We, therefore, direct all the parties to the Memorandum of Understanding to assure that sufficient water, which... is about 2 ½ times of the seasonal allocation, is released from Tajewala Head so that Delhi gets 0.076 BCM [It is this quantity of water, Delhi has to get under the MoU, between March to June.] for its consumption during the period March to June 1995."

Signed by the Chief Ministers of five basin states on May 12, 1994, including Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh, the memorandum dealt with the allocation of Yamuna water amongst the co-basin states of the Upper Yamuna Basin by the Board under the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. It stated that when the availability of water is less than the assessed quantity, the drinking water allocation of Delhi has to be met first, while the balance will be distributed among the remaining states in proportion to their allocations.

What did the SC rule in 1996?

The matter was earlier taken before Supreme Court in 1995. On February 29, 1996, Supreme Court ruled, "Delhi shall continue to get as much water for domestic use from Haryana through River Yamuna which can be consumed and filled in the two water reservoirs and treatment plants at Wazirabad and Hyderpur. Both the Wazirabad and Hyderpur reservoirs shall remain full to their capacity from the water supplied by Haryana through River Yamuna."

The court also directed Haryana not to obstruct the supply of water to Delhi as directed by it, while adding that its order was independent of the MoU signed between the states.

"We, therefore, close the proceeding by requiring Haryana to make available the aforesaid quantity of water to Delhi throughout the year. Let it be made clear that any violation of this direction would be viewed seriously and the guilty persons would be dealt with appropriately," the court said.

However, in 2021, when the water level in the Wazirabad pond, which supplies water to treatment plants in the city, dipped to 667 feet, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) filed a petition before the top court alleging willful disobedience of the 1996 ruling by the Haryana government.

What was Delhi's case against Haryana?

In its plea, the DJB said that the Haryana government was stopping the water supply to the national capital and not releasing 120 million gallons of water per day. However, the Haryana government said that the situation in Delhi was caused by "internal mismanagement."

On July 23, 2021, the Supreme Court dismissed the batch of contempt pleas filed by the Delhi Jal Board, seeking action against the Haryana government.

The court said the Delhi government couldn't resort to the same now owing to the large-scale infrastructural developments that have taken place since February 1996. For instance, the court noted that since the 1996 order, three additional water treatment plants have been set up at Bawana, Dwarka, and Okhla.

Dismissing the Delhi government's case, the court said, "The Petitioner has failed to make out any case for contempt against the Respondents. The Petitioner is cautioned to be careful in filing petitions repeatedly for a relief which has been rejected by this Court on earlier occasions."

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

2. European Parliament elections this week: what happens & how?

Why in News?

Around 373 million citizens across the 27 member states of the European Union are eligible to vote on June 6-9 in elections to the European Parliament, which is the only directly elected body of the EU.



What is the European Parliament?

The European Parliament (EP) represents the citizens of its member states. Its primary functions include negotiating EU laws with the member state governments, which are represented by the European Council.

The EP also approves the EU budget and votes on international agreements and enlargements of the bloc. It also has the power to approve or reject the appointment of the European Commission president — currently Germany's Ursula von der Leyen — and the commissioners.

Unlike national parliaments, the EP does not have the right to propose laws but can only negotiate those proposed by the executive European Commission. The EP comprises 720 Members (MEPs) elected every five years. The MEPs then elect their president for a term of two and a half years.

Who can vote in the elections?

In 21 member states, people aged 18 and above can vote. In Belgium, Germany, Austria and Malta, the minimum voting age is 16. In Greece, people who turn 17 during the election year can vote, and in Hungary, married individuals can vote regardless of age.

Citizens living in another EU country can choose to vote for candidates either from their country of origin or from their country of residence.

How is voting done?

In some member states, voters can only choose closed lists that do not allow change of order for preferred candidates, while in others they can select individual candidates in a preferential system.

Who can run?

All candidates must be EU citizens. Voters may choose from individual candidates or political parties' delegates, depending on the country. Once elected, politicians from each nation will flow into the European groups that form the Parliament, based on political orientations.

Elected individuals cannot hold functions in national governments or other political bodies such as the EU Commission.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Organisations

Source: Indian Express

3. Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo makes history as Mexico's first woman President

First women President

Claudia Sheinbaum will become the first woman President in Mexico's 200-year history. She is a climate scientist and former Mexico City Mayor.

Ms. Sheinbaum, the favoured successor of outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, vowed to continue in the direction set by the populist leftist leader.



Election Results

The National Electoral Institute's president said Ms. Sheinbaum had between 58.3% and 60.7% of the vote, while opposition candidate Xóchitl Gálvez had between 26.6% and 28.6% and Jorge Álvarez Máynez had between 9.9% and 10.8% of the vote. Ms. Sheinbaum's Morena party was also projected to hold its majorities in both chambers of Congress.

Six-year term

Ms. Sheinbaum will also be the first person from a Jewish background to lead the overwhelmingly Catholic country. She will start her six-year term October 1. Mexico's

Constitution does not allow re-election.

Leftist

The Leftist has said she believes the government has a strong role to play in addressing economic inequality and providing a sturdy social safety net, much like her political mentor.

Mr. López Obrador's anointed successor, the 61-year-old Ms. Sheinbaum consistently led in the polls despite a spirited challenge from Ms. Gálvez. This was the first time in Mexico that the two main opponents were women.

Relevance: GS Prelims; International Relations

Source: The Hindu

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