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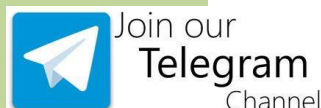
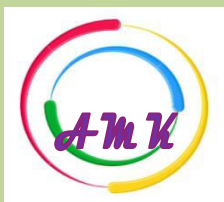


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Indian Rivers and their Origins

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Indian Rivers and their Origin

Rivers in India do not just play a big role in the agriculture and economy of the country. They are also culturally important with many considering some rivers such as the Ganges very holy. All the major rivers of India begin their journeys at one of the three main watersheds – The Himalaya and Karakoram mountain ranges (Northern India); the Sahyadri or the Western Ghats (Western India); or the Vindhya and Satpura mountain ranges (Central India). Most of the major rivers of India end up joining the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea.

The Himalaya and Karakoram Glacier Rivers include:

- Ganga (Ganges)
- Brahmaputra
- Indus (Sindhu)

Ganga is the most sacred river of India and is known around the world for its significance of purity in the Hindu culture. The Ganga and Indus Basin are themselves major river systems featuring 16 important Indian rivers (10 rivers in Ganga basin and 6 major rivers in the Indus basin).

The Ganga River System includes the following rivers (10 major rivers plus Damodar river and Hugli river):

<i>Rivers</i>	<i>Length (KM)</i>	<i>Origin</i>	<i>End</i>
Ganga	2,525	Gangotri Glacier (Bhagirathi), Uttarakhand	Bay of Bengal
Yamuna	1,376	Yamunotri Glacier, Uttarakhand	Merges with Ganga at Allahabad (Triveni Sangam - Kumbh Mela spot)
Brahmaputra	1,800	Himalayan Glacier in Tibet, but enters India in Arunachal Pradesh	Merges with Ganga and ends in Bay of Bengal
Chambal	960	Tributary of Yamuna river, starting at Madhya Pradesh	Joins Yamuna river in UP

Son	784	Tributary of Ganga, starting at Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh	Joins Ganga just above Patna - also considered part of Vindhya river system
Gandak	630	Nepal; Ganges tributary at Indo-Nepal border (Triveni Sangam)	Joins Ganga near Patna
Kosi	720	Starts from Bihar near Indo-Nepal border	Joins Ganga near Katihar district of Bihar
Betwa	590	Tributary of Yamuna, rises at Vindhya region, MP	Joins Yamuna at Hamirpur in UP
Gomti	900	Tributary of Ganga, starting at Gomati Tal, UP	Joins Ganga in Varanasi district
Ghaghra	1080	Himalayan Glacier in Tibet, tributary of Ganga	Joins Ganga in Bihar
Hugli (Hooghly)	260	Tributary of Ganga near West Bengal	Merges with Ganga at Bay of Bengal
Damodar	592	Tributary of Hugli near Chandwar, Jharkhand	Merges with Hugli in West Bengal

Although Hugli and Damodar rivers play a very important role in shaping the local civilisation and local economy, they are not considered as the most important rivers of the Ganga river system.

The Indus River System includes the following 6 major rivers:

Rivers	Length (KM)	Origin	End
Indus	3180	Originates in Tibetan plateau, Enters India in J&K	Merges into Arabian sea near Sindh
Chenab	960	Upper Himalayas in the Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh	Merges with Indus
Jhelum	725	Tributary of Chenab river, Punjab	Merges with Chenab at Jhang (Pakistan)
Ravi	720	Starts from Bara Bhangal, Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh	Joins Chenab in Pakistan
Sutlej	1500	Tributary of Indus river, originates at Rakshastal, Tibet	Meets Beas river in Pakistan and ends at Arabian sea
Beas	470	Rises at Himalayas in central Himachal Pradesh	Joins Sutlej river in Punjab, India

Western Ghats Rivers:

<i>Rivers</i>	<i>Length (KM)</i>	<i>Origin</i>	<i>End</i>
Kaveri	765	Talakaveri in Western Ghats in Karnataka	Ends in Bay of Bengal
Krishna	1400	Originates in the Western Ghats near Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra	Ends in Bay of Bengal near Andhra Pradesh
Godavari	1465	Starts in Maharashtra and passes through 7 Indian states	Empties in Bay of Bengal
Tungabhadra	531	Tributary of Krishna river starting at Karnataka	Joins Krishna river along the border of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

Vindhya and Satpura Ranges rivers:

<i>Rivers</i>	<i>Length (KM)</i>	<i>Origin</i>	<i>End</i>
Tapti	724	Rises in Eastern Satpura Ranges, Madhya Pradesh	Empties into Gulf of Khambat, Gujarat
Mahi	580	Rises in Madhya Pradesh	Flows into Arabian sea from Gujarat
Narmada	1315	Starts from Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh	Drains into Arabian sea via Gulf of Cambay

Other Important notes on Indian rivers to remember:

- River Saraswati is a mythical river and is part of the Hindu triveni Sangam mythology of the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers. Saraswati river is thought to be flowing under the ground and meeting Ganga and Yamuna at the Kumbh mela spot.
- Meghna a major river in Bangladesh is a tributary of Indian Brahmaputra river and also empties in Bay of Bengal.
- River Tapi is a river in Thailand and is not to be confused with Indian river Tapti (Tapati).

Quick Facts About Indian Rivers

1. **Tons River** is the largest tributary of Yamuna.
2. **Hirakund Dam**, the largest earthen dam in the world is built on Mahanadi River.
3. **Nagarjuna Sagar Dam**, the world's largest masonry dam and India's largest dam in length is built across Krishna River.
4. **Mettur Dam** on Kaveri River is considered as the oldest dam in India constructed in 1934.
5. **Sardar Sarovar Dam** is built on Narmada River.
6. **Godavari** is the second longest river in India.

7. **Brahmaputra River** is called Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet, Dihang in Arunanchal Pradesh, Brahmaputra in Assam and Jamuna in Bangladesh.
8. Ganges is known as **Padma river** in Bangladesh.

River water disputes and State involved

Dispute	States Involved
Krishna Water dispute	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra
Mahadayi/Mandovi Water dispute	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra
Vansadhara Water dispute	Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
Cauvery Water dispute	Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry
Babhali Barrage issue	Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra
Mulla Periyar Dam issue	Tamilnadu and Kerala

Major Rivers

Tapti River

The Tapti River, also spelled Tapi river in central India, rises in the Gawilgarh Hills near Multani in the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh state.

Length: 724 km

Basin area: 65,145 km²

Source: Satpura Range

Mouth: Gulf of Khambhat

Country: India

Cities: Surat, Burhanpur, Bhusawal, Jalgaon

Brahmaputra River

The Brahmaputra River (also named in Bengali: Jamuna, in Tibetan: Tsangpo, in Chinese: Yarlung Zangbo Jiang), one of the major rivers of the Asian region.

Length: 2,900 km

Discharge: 19,300 m³/s

Source: Himalayas

Mouth: Bay of Bengal

Bridges: Naranarayan Setu, Dhola-Sadia bridge

Countries: India, Bangladesh, China

Cities: Guwahati

Bridges: Saraighat Bridge

Kaveri River

The Great Kaveri River, also written Cauvery in English, rises in the Western Ghats and flows in south and east through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Length: 765 km
Basin area: 72,000 km²
Source elevation: 1,276 m
Source: Western Ghats
Country: India
Cities: Tiruchirappalli, Talakaveri, Thanjavur, Srirangapatna
Bridges: Cauvery Bridge

Mahanadi River

The Mahanadi River, one of the important rivers of Chhattisgarh State in East Central India.

Length: 858 km
Discharge: 2,119 m³/s
Basin area: 141,600 km²
Source: Sihawa
Country: India
Bridges: Second Mahanadi Rail Bridge
Cities: Cuttack, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Odisha, Boudh, Subalaya, Birmaharajpur

Narmada River

The Narmada river, which originates from the Amarkantak hill in Madhya Pradesh in central India and the 5th longest river in the Indian subcontinent.

Length: 1,312 km
Basin area: 98,796 km²
Source: Amarkantak
Mouth: Gulf of Khambhat
Country: India
Cities: Jabalpur, Vadodara
Bridges: Golden Bridge

Yamuna River

The Yamuna river, which is the lifeline of Delhi, also called Jumna, the major river in northern India.

Length: 1,376 km
Basin area: 366,223 km²
Mouth: Triveni Sangam
Country: India
Sources: Yamunotri, Champasar Glacier
Cities: Agra, Allahabad, Mathura, Yamuna Nagar, Noida, Delhi, Etawah, Baghpat, Firozabad, **Kalpi, Hamirpur**
Bridges: New Yamuna Bridge, Allahabad

Krishna River

The Krishna River, one of the longest rivers in central-southern India, rises in the Western Ghats near Mahabaleshwar.

Length: 1,400 km

Source: Mahabaleshwar

Country: India

Bridges: Penumudi–Puligadda Bridge

Mouths: Hamsaladeevi, Bay of Bengal

Islands: Bhavani Island, Vijayawada

Cities: Vijayawada, Hamsaladeevi, Sangli

Godavari River

The Godavari river, one of the sacred rivers of central India, near Nasik in Maharashtra.

Length: 1,465 km

Basin area: 312,812 km²

Source: Brahmagiri Mountain

Country: India

Cities: Rajahmundry

Bridges: Godavari Bridge, Godavari Arch Bridge

The Ganges River

The Ganga river, well known and declared as the National River of India.

Length: 2,525 km

Discharge: 12,020 m³/s

Mouth: Bay of Bengal

Sources: Nanda Kot, Kedarnath, Nanda Devi, Trisul, Satopanth Glacier, Gangotri Glacier, Kamet

Cities: Varanasi, Haridwar, Allahabad, Kolkata, Kanpur, Patna, Ghazipur

Bridges: Mahatma Gandhi Setu, Vidyasagar Setu

Indus River

The Indus River (Sindhu River), one of the longest rivers in Asia.

Length: 3,200 km

Discharge: 6,600 m³/s

Sources: Sênggê Zangbo, Tibetan Plateau, Gar River

Mouths: Arabian Sea, Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary

Countries: India, China, Pakistan

Cities: Karachi, Peshawar, Gilgit, Rawalpindi, Mithankot, Thatta, Jamshoro, Attock

Islands: Bukkur

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