

# Rivers of India



- India is a home to various rivers which plays an important role in human's life in many different ways.
- River plays an important role in life and ecology of people and environment of India.
- Indian rivers can be classified in 2 types according to its origin.

## **1) The Himalayan River Systems**

## **2) The Peninsular River Systems**

### **1) The Himalayan River Systems**

- The 3 important rivers originating from the Himalaya are:

Source of Origin

a) The Indus System (Sindhu)

**Mansarovar Lake**

b) The Ganges System

**Gomukh (Uttarakhand)**

c) The Brahmaputra System

**Chemayungdung glacier**

- These rivers are long and are joined by many tributaries.

## 2) The Peninsular River Systems

- These river systems can further be classified in 2 types:

### East flowing rivers

- Rivers **form delta**
- Drains into the **Bay of Bengal**
- Examples

**Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna,  
Cauvery/ Kaveri**

### West flowing rivers

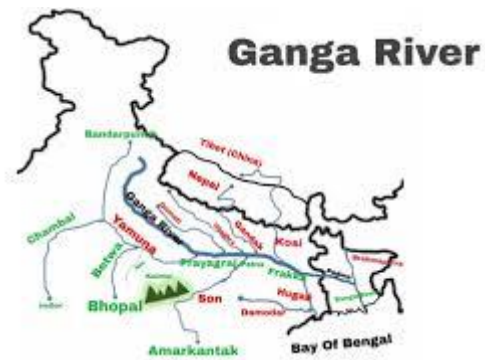
- Rivers **do not form delta**
- Drains into the **Arabian Sea**
- Examples

**Sabarmati, Mahi, Narmada,  
Tapi/ Tapti**

- Let us discuss in brief about these rivers:

## Himalayan River System

### 1) Ganga River (2525 km long)



- Ganga river is considered to be the most pious rivers in India. It is the most important river in terms of the drainage system and also in terms of its cultural significance.
- It is one of the “longest river in the world”.
- The “Ganga-Brahmaputra river basin” is one of the **world’s major river systems**.
- It originates from the **Gangotri river at Gomukh (3,900m) in Uttarakhand**.

- It flows through the states of **Uttarakhand, U.P, Bihar & Jharkhand.**
- It is the allocation of two rivers- **Bhagirathi & Alaknanda.**
- The following are the **5 prayags (Panchprayags)** where other rivers meet the Alaknanda.

Prayags	Rivers
Vishnuprayag	<b>Alaknanda meet Dhaul Ganga</b>
Nandprayag	<b>Alaknanda meet Nandakini river</b>
Karnaprayag	<b>Alaknanda meet Pinder river</b>
Rudraprayag	<b>Alaknanda meet Mandakini river</b>
Devprayag	<b>Alaknanda meet Bhagirathi river</b>

- The point of merging with Alaknanda at Devprayag is referred as the **Ganga river.**

#### Tributaries of Ganga river (from North)

1) Yamuna- It is the **longest tributary of Ganga**

a) It originates from the **Yamunotri Glacier.**

b) Yamuna meets the Ganga at **Prayagraj**

Right tributary of Yamuna

Left tributary of Yamuna

**Sind, Chambal, Betwa, Ken**

**Hindon, Rind, Sengar, Varuna**

2) Ghaghara river

3) Punpun river

4) Gomti river

5) Kosi river

6) Ramaganga river

7) Mahananda river – it is the final **left bank tributary of Ganga at**

**West Bengal**

## **Indus River (3180 km long)**



- Indus river is of the longest and most important rivers in the India subcontinent.
- The Indus river is also called **Sindhu river system** and is a part of the India's most fertile land in the Indian subcontinent.
- This river existed way back from the "Indus Valley Civilization" era.
- In 1960, India & Pakistan signed a treaty for water sharing called as Indus water treaty.
- It originates from the **Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet**.
- It flows through the state of **Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh**.

### Tributaries of Indus river

- 1) Satluj river - It is the **largest tributary of Indus river**.
  - a) It originates from **Mansarovar- Rakas Lake** and falls into **Chenab river**.
  - b) It flows through the states of **Himachal Pradesh, Punjab & Pakistan (where it meets Chenab river)**
  - c) The Satluj river enters India through **Shipki La Pass**.
- 2) Jhelum river- a) It originates from the **Chashma Verinag glacier** and joins the **Chenab river in Pakistan**
- 3) Chenab river - a) It originates from the **Bara Lacha Pass** and flows into **Indus river**.
  - b) It flows through the states of **Himachal Pradesh & Jammu & Kashmir**.

- 4) Ravi river - a) It originates from the **Rohtang pass** & flows into **Chenab river**.  
b) It runs through the states of **Himachal Pradesh & Jammu & Kashmir**.
- 5) Beas river - a) It originates from the **Rohtang Pass** and falls into **Satluj river**.  
b) It flows through the states of **Himachal Pradesh & Punjab**.

Other Tributaries - **Zanskar, Dras, Gartang, Gilgit, Panjnad, Shyok**

### 3) Brahmaputra River (3848 km long)



- Brahmaputra river is the trans-boundary river in Asia and is the **6<sup>th</sup> longest river in Asia**.
- Brahmaputra river originates from the **Chemayungdung glacier In the Tibet**. In Tibet, the river is called "**Tsangpo river**".
- It flows through the **China, India & Bangladesh**.

- It enters India through the state of **Arunachal Pradesh** where it is called **“Siang river.”**
- In Bangladesh, the Brahmaputra river is joined by **Teesta river** where it is called **Jamuna.**
- It merges with Ganga river in lower part named as **Padma** & finally in the final part (south) named as **Meghna.**

#### Tributaries of Brahmaputra

- 1) Manas
- 2) Dhubri
- 3) Teesta
- 4) Subhansiri
- 5) Lohit
- 6) Kameng
- 7) Kobili
- 8) Meghna
- 9) Sankosh

## Peninsular River System

(East Flowing Rivers)

### 4) Mahanadi River (900 km)



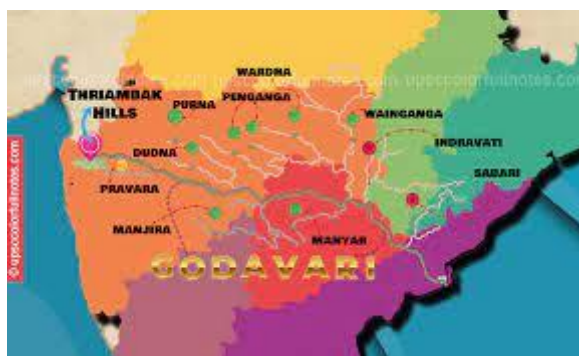
- Mahanadi river is one of the major **East flowing Peninsular river** in India.
- It originates from a place **near Sihawa** located in **Raipur (Chattisgarh)**

- The longest Dam of India **Hirakud Dam** is built on Mahanadi river.
- It flows through the states of **Odisha & Chattisgarh**.
- Bhubaneshwar the capital city of Odisha is situated on the **Mahanadi river**.

#### Tributaries of Mahanadi

- 1) Ib    2) Seonath    3) Hasdeo    4) Ong  
5) Telen 6) Mand    7) Jong    8) parry

#### 5) Godavari River (1500 km long)



- Godavari river is an example of **East flowing peninsular river**.
- It is the **largest Peninsular river system** in India.
- It is the **Second longest river of India** after river Ganga. It is also known as the “**Vridha Ganga**.”
- It originates from the **Trimbakeshwar near Nashik (Maharashtra)**.

### Tributaries of Godavari

- 1) Wainganga      2) Penganga      3) Wardha
- 4) Manjira      5) Bindusara      6) Pravara      7) Indravati
- 8) Sabari      9) Kanhan      10) Pench

### 6) Krishna River (1400 km long)



- It is an **Eastern flowing perennial river** in India and originates from the **Mahabaleshwar near Western Ghats**.



- it is the **2<sup>nd</sup> largest peninsular river in India** after the Godavari river.
- It is also known as “**Ganga of the South**” or “**Dakshin Ganga**.”
- It flows through the states of **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh** and then falls into the Bay of Bengal.
- Krishna river basin is extensively **used for agricultural purposes**.

### Tributaries of Krishna

1) Bhima (**861 km**) – It is the **longest tributary of Krishna**

b) It originates from the **Bhimashankar hills in Maharashtra.**

c) It merges into Krishna river in **Karnataka.**

2) Tungabhadra- It is the **largest tributary of Krishna.**

b) It originates from the **Gangamula in Karnataka.**

c) It merges into Krishna river in **Andhra Pradesh**

3) Musi river

4) Ghataprabha river

5) Malaprabha river

6) Penner river

7) Munneru river

### 7) Kaveri/ Cauvery River (805 km)



- Kaveri river is an **Eastern flowing peninsular river** in India.
- It originates from the **Brahmagiri hills in Karnataka** and drains into the Bay of Bengal.
- It is the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest river of South India** after the Godavari & Krishna river.
- It is also called as “**Ganga of the South**” or “**Dakshin Ganga.**”

#### Tributaries of Kaveri

- |             |                    |              |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1) Amravati | 2) Hemavati        | 3) Bhavani   |
| 4) Shimsha  | 5) Honnuhole       | 6) Arkavathy |
| 7) Noyyal   | 8) Lakhmana Kabini | 9) Tirtha    |

### West Flowing Rivers

#### 8) Narmada River (1312 km long)



- Narmada river is the largest **Western flowing peninsular river** of India.
- It originates from the **Amarkantak Plateau near Maikal Range in Madhya Pradesh** and drain into the **Arabian Sea**.
- It runs through the States of **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Gujarat**
- It passes through the 2 mountain ranges of India

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| a) Vidhyan Range | b) Satpura Range |
|------------------|------------------|

#### Tributaries of Narmada

- |            |           |         |            |          |
|------------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| 1) Burhner | 2) Banjar | 3) Sher | 4) Shakhar | 5) Halon |
|------------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|

- 6) Heran    7) Dudhi    8) Ganjal    9) Tawa

9) Tapi/ Tapti River (724 km long)

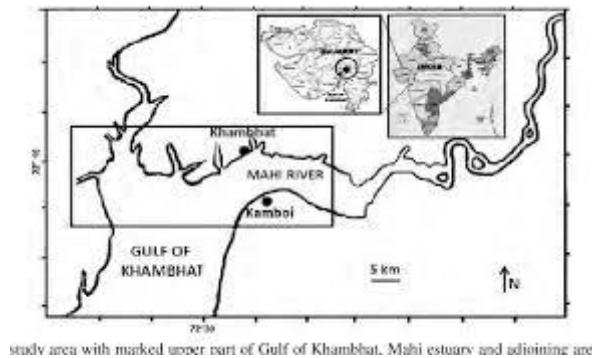


- Tapi river or Tapi river is a river in **Central India** to the south of the Narmada river.
- It has its source from **Mahadeo hills in Satpura Range** and drains into **The Arabian Sea**.
- It flows through the states of **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Gujarat**.

Tributaries of Tapti

- 1) Purna    2) Girna    3) Panjra

## 10) Mahi River (580 km long)

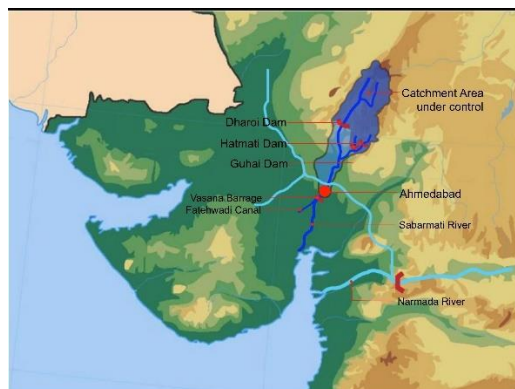


- The Mahi river is a **West flowing river Peninsular river** of India.
- It originates from the **Vindhyas Range near Madhya Pradesh** and flows into the **Gulf of Khambhat (Arabian Sea)**
- It flows through the state of **Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat & Rajasthan.**

### Tributaries of Mahi

- 1) Som
- 2) Anas
- 3) Panam

## 11) Sabarmati River (370 km long)



- Sabarmati river is a major **West-flowing river** of India.
- It flows through the states of **Rajasthan and Gujarat.**
- It rises from the **Aravalli Range near Rajasthan** and falls into **The Arabian Sea.**

### Tributaries of Sabarmati

- 1) **Watrak**
- 2) **Wakal**
- 3) **Hathmati**
- 4) **Harnav**
- 5) **Sai**

### Other Important Rivers

River	States Covered	Source
Periyar river (244 km)	<b>Kerala</b>	<b>Sivagiri hills</b>
Luni river	<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>Pushkar Valley of Aravalli Range (near Ajmer)</b>
Subarnarekha river	<b>Jharkhand, Orissa &amp; West Bengal</b>	<b>Chhota Nagpur Plateau</b>
Mandovi river	<b>Goa</b>	<b>Bhimgad</b>
Zuari river	<b>Goa</b>	
Shravati	<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>Ambutheertha</b>
Bharathapuzha	<b>Kerala</b>	<b>Annamalai hill</b>

Rivers in Maharashtra - **Vaitarna, Ulhas, Savitri, Vashisti**