

Indus River and Division of River System

River System



A river system is a way of describing the larger networks of streams, lakes and rivers that are part of a larger river's network of tributaries and distributaries; for example, multiple rivers, including the Ohio, Red and Missouri rivers empty into the Mississippi River, serving as tributaries and are part of the Mississippi River's system. These waterways are interconnected and the health of one of these rivers can have an impact on other waterways in the same river system. Additionally, land can be part of a river system, such as the flood plains and wetlands that are impacted by a main river and its tributaries and distributaries.

The Indus River System

- The River Indus originates near Lake Mansarovar in Tibet. It enters India in the Ladakh district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- With a total length of about 2900 km, the River Indus is one of the longest rivers in the world.
- It has many tributaries such as Zaskar, Nubra, Shyok and Hunza which join it in the Kashmir region.
- The Satluj, Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum join and flow into the River Indus in Pakistan.
- About one-third of the River Indus flows through Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. The rest of the river flows through Pakistan.

- The Indus then flows southwards and drains into the Arabian Sea.

The Ganga River System

The Ganga River System

- The River Ganga originates from the Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas. It is joined by Alaknanda at Devprayag in Uttarakhand. It is at Haridwar that the River Ganga emerges from the mountains on to the plains.
- Some tributaries of the River Ganga are the Yamuna, Ghaghara, Gandak and Kosi.
- Yamuna is a major tributary of Ganga. It originates from the Yamunotri Glacier in the Himalayas and meets the River Ganga at Allahabad.
- Rivers such as the Kosi, Gandak and Ghagra rise in the Himalayas in Nepal. They cause floods in the northern plains almost every year. They enrich the soil and make the region agriculturally very productive during the process.



- Chambal, Betwa and Son are some tributaries of the River Ganga which rise in the peninsular uplands.
- The River Ganga flows till Farakka in West Bengal and divides here. Its distributary Bhagirathi– Hooghly flows through the deltaic plains into the Bay of Bengal.
- The main River Ganga flows into Bangladesh where it joins the River Brahmaputra. It is also known as Meghna further downstream. These rivers form the Sundarban delta, home to the royal Bengal tiger.

Brahmaputra River System

The Brahmaputra River System

- The River Brahmaputra rises east of the Mansarovar Lake in Tibet. Most of its course lies outside India.
- The River Brahmaputra at Namcha Barwa takes a 'U' turn and enters Arunachal Pradesh through a gorge. It is joined by many tributaries such as the Dibang and Lohit to form the River Brahmaputra in Assam, where it is also known as Dihang.
- In India, the river passes through a region of high rainfall, and thus, the volume of water and silt increases.
- The River Brahmaputra makes many riverine islands in Assam. Majuli is the largest riverine island formed by the Brahmaputra. The river shifts its channel frequently.
- During the rainy season every year, the River Brahmaputra floods its bank and causes huge loss of lives and property.

The Peninsular Rivers

The Western Ghats acts as a main water divide in Peninsular India. Some important peninsular rivers are the Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna and Kaveri. These rivers make deltas at their mouths. While most rivers drain into the Bay of Bengal, the Narmada and the Tapi drain into the Arabian Sea forming estuaries.

The Narmada Basin

- The River Narmada originates in the Amarkantak Hills in Madhya Pradesh.
- The river creates many scenic locations on its way into the Arabian Sea. The 'Marble Rock' and the Dhuandhar Falls are some picturesque locations.
- The Narmada basin covers parts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- The tributaries of Narmada are very short.

The Tapi Basin

- It originates in the Satpura ranges in the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is much shorter in length compared to River Narmada. It flows through Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The Godavari Basin

- The River Godavari is the largest of all peninsular rivers. It originates from the slopes of the Western Ghats in the Nashik district of Maharashtra.
- Its length is about 1500 km, and it drains into the Bay of Bengal. Because of its length, it is also known as Dakshin Ganga.
- About half of the river's basin lies in Maharashtra. The river also

flows through Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Some of its tributaries are the Purna, Wardha, Manjra and Penganga.

The Mahanadi Basin

- It originates in the highlands of Chhattisgarh. The river drains into the Bay of Bengal.
- The river mainly drains Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

The Krishna Basin

- It rises from a spring near Mahabaleshwar and drains into the Bay of Bengal.
- Some of its tributaries are the Musi, Koyana, Bhima and Ghatprabha.
- It drains Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

WEST FLOWING RIVERS

- The **Sabarmati** is the name given to the combined streams the **Sabar and Hathmati**. Sabarmati originates from Aravalli hills at an elevation of 762 m near village Tepur, in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. The total length of river from origin to outfall into the Arabian Sea is 371 km. Left bank tributaries: the Wakal, the Hathmati, and the Vatrak. Right bank tributaries: the Sei.
- The **Mahi** basin extends over states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat having total area of 34,842 sq km. It is bounded by Aravalli hills on the north and the north-west, by Malwa Plateau on the east, by the Vindhyas on the south and by the Gulf of Khambhat on the west. Mahi is one of the major interstate west flowing rivers of India. It originates from the northern slopes of Vindhyas at an altitude of 500 m in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. The total length of Mahi is 583 km. It drains into the Arabian Sea through the Gulf of Khambhat.
- The **Sharavathi** originates at Ambuthirtha in Thirthahalli Taluk, flows north-west through the Western Ghats. It forms the famous Jog Falls before joining the Arabian Sea at Honavara.