

MAJOR RIVERS, LAKES & PORTS – INDIA & WORLD

Important Rivers of the World – Facts

- The Congo River (former name – Zaire River) crosses the Equator twice.
- The river Limpopo crosses the Tropic of Capricorn twice.
- The river Hwang He or the Yellow River is known as China’s sorrow.
- The river Nile begins south of the Equator, crosses the Tropic of Cancer and then empties into the sea.
- The river Amazon throughout its entire length does not have any bridges across it.
- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar are the countries which do not have any rivers flowing through them.
- River Danube flows through 4 capital cities, Belgrade (Serbia), Budapest (Hungary), Bratislava (Slovakia) and Vienna (Austria). Also, it flows through ten countries namely Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Longest Rivers of The World

River Names	Length (km)	Outflow	Countries Sharing Drainage Basin
Nile– White-Nile –Kagera –Nyabarongo –Mwogo –Rukarara	7,088	Mediterranean	Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan
Amazon–Ucayali–Tambo–En e–Mantaro	6,992	Atlantic Ocean	Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Guyana
Yangtze (Chang Jiang; Long River)	6,418	East China Sea	China
Mississippi–Missouri–Jefferson–Beaverhead–Red Rock–Hell Roaring	6,275	Gulf of Mexico	United States (98.5%), Canada (1.5%)
Yenisei–Angara–Selenge–Ider	5,539	Kara Sea	Russia (97%), Mongolia (2.9%)
Yellow River (Huang He)	5,464	Bohai Sea	China
Ob–Irtysh	5,410	Gulf of Ob	Russia, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia
Río de la Plata–Paraná–Rio Grande	4,880	Río de la Plata	Brazil (46.7%), Argentina (27.7%), Paraguay (13.5%), Bolivia (8.3%), Uruguay (3.8%)
Congo–Chambeshi (Zaire)	4,700	Atlantic Ocean	Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Cameroon, Zambia, Burundi, Rwanda
Amur–Argun–Kherlen (Heilong Jiang)	4,444	Sea of Okhotsk	Russia, China, Mongolia

Lena	4,400	Laptev Sea	Russia
Mekong (Lancang Jiang)	4,350	South China Sea	China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam
Mackenzie–Slave–Peace–Finlay	4,241	Beaufort Sea	Canada
Niger	4,200	Gulf of Guinea	Nigeria (26.6%), Mali (25.6%), Niger (23.6%), Algeria (7.6%), Guinea (4.5%), Cameroon (4.2%), Burkina Faso (3.9%), Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Chad
Brahmaputra–Tsangpo	3,848	Ganges	India (58.0%), China (19.7%), Nepal (9.0%), Bangladesh (6.6%), Disputed India/China (4.2%), Bhutan (2.4%)
Murray–Darling–Culgoa–Balonne–Condamine	3,672	Southern Ocean	Australia
Tocantins–Araguaia	3,650	Atlantic Ocean, Amazon	Brazil
Volga	3,645	Caspian Sea	Russia
Indus–Sênggê Zangbo	3,610	Arabian Sea	Pakistan (93%), India and China
Shatt al-Arab–Euphrates–Murat	3,596	Persian Gulf	Iraq (60.5%), Turkey (24.8%), Syria (14.7%)
Madeira–Mamoré–Grande–Caine–Rocha	3,380	Amazon	Brazil, Bolivia, Peru
Purús	3,211	Amazon	Brazil, Peru
Yukon	3,185	Bering Sea	United States (59.8%), Canada (40.2%)
São Francisco	3,180	Atlantic Ocean	Brazil
Syr Darya–Naryn	3,078	Aral Sea	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan
Salween (Nu Jiang)	3,060	Andaman Sea	China (52.4%), Myanmar (43.9%), Thailand (3.7%)
Saint Lawrence–Niagara–Detroit– Saint Clair–Saint Marys–Saint Louis–North (Great Lakes)	3,058	Gulf of Saint Lawrence	Canada (52.1%), United States (47.9%)
Rio Grande	3,057	Gulf of Mexico	United States (52.1%), Mexico (47.9%)
Lower Tunguska	2,989	Yenisei	Russia
Danube–Breg (Donau, Dunăre, Duna, Dunav, Dunaj)	2,888	Black Sea	Romania (28.9%), Hungary (11.7%), Austria (10.3%), Serbia (10.3%), Germany (7.5%), Slovakia (5.8%),

			Bulgaria (5.2%), Croatia (4.5%), Ukraine (3.8%)
Irrawaddy River–N'Mai River–Dulong River–Kelaoluo–Gada Qu	2,727	Andaman Sea	China, Myanmar
Zambezi (Zambesi)	2,693	Mozambique Channel	Zambia (41.6%), Angola (18.4%), Zimbabwe (15.6%), Mozambique (11.8%), Malawi (8.0%), Tanzania (2.0%), Namibia, Botswana
Vilyuy	2,650	Lena	Russia
Araguaia	2,627	Tocantins	Brazil
Ganges–Hooghly–Padma (Ganga)	2,620	Bay of Bengal	India, Bangladesh, Nepal
Amu Darya–Panj	2,620	Aral Sea	Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan
Japurá (Rio Yapurá)	2,615	Amazon	Brazil, Colombia
Nelson–Saskatchewan	2,570	Hudson Bay	Canada, United States
Paraguay (Río-Paraguay)	2,549	Paraná	Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina
Kolyma	2,513	East Siberian Sea	Russia
Pilcomayo	2,500	Paraguay	Paraguay, Argentina, Bolivia
Upper Ob–Katun	2,490	Ob	Russia
Ishim	2,450	Irtys	Kazakhstan, Russia
Juruá	2,410	Amazon	Peru, Brazil
Ural	2,428	Caspian Sea	Russia, Kazakhstan
Arkansas	2,348	Mississippi	United States
Colorado (western U.S.)	2,333	Gulf of California	United States, Mexico
Olenyok	2,292	Laptev Sea	Russia
Dnieper	2,287	Black Sea	Russia, Belarus, Ukraine
Aldan	2,273	Lena	Russia

Major Indian River Systems

Most of the rivers discharge their waters into the Bay of Bengal. Some of the rivers flow through the western part of the country and merges into the Arabian Sea. The northern parts of the Aravalli range, some parts of Ladakh, and arid regions of the Thar Desert have inland drainage. All major rivers of India originate from one of the three main watersheds:

- The Himalaya and the Karakoram range
- The Chota Nagpur plateau and Vindhya and Satpura range
- The Western Ghats

Indian River Systems		
River System	Total length	Length in India
Indus River System	3180 km	1114 km
Brahmaputra River System	2900 km	916 km
Ganga River System	2510 km	2510 km
Yamuna river System	1376 km	1376 km
Narmada River System	1312 km	1312 km
Tapi River System	724 km	724 km
Godavari River System	1465 km	1465 km
Krishna River System	1400 km	1400 km
Cauvery River System	805 km	805 km
Mahanadi River System	851 km	851 km

Major River System – The Indus River System

The Indus arises from the northern slopes of the Kailash range in Tibet near Lake Mansarovar.

- It has a large number of tributaries in both India and Pakistan and has a total length of about 2897 km from the source to the point near Karachi where it falls into the Arabian Sea out of which approx 700km lies in India.
- It enters the Indian Territory in Jammu and Kashmir by forming a picturesque gorge.
- In the Kashmir region, it joins with many tributaries – the Zaskar, the Shyok, the Nubra and the Hunza.
- It flows between the Ladakh Range and the Zaskar Range at Leh.
- It crosses the Himalayas through a 5181 m deep gorge near Attock, which is lying north of Nanga Parbat.
- **The major tributaries of the Indus River in India are Jhelum, Ravi, Chenab, Beas, and Sutlej.**

Major River System – The Brahmaputra River System

The Brahmaputra originates from Mansarovar Lake, which is also a source of the Indus and Sutlej.

- It is 3848kms long, a little longer than the Indus River.
- Most of its course lies outside India.

- It flows parallel to the Himalayas in the eastward direction. When it reaches Namcha Barwa, it takes a U-turn around it and enters India in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Here it is known as the **Dihang River**. In India, it flows through the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and is connected by several tributaries.
- The Brahmaputra has a braided channel throughout most of its length in Assam.
- The river is known as the **Tsangpo in Tibet**. It receives less volume of water and has less silt in the Tibet region.
- But in India, the river passes through a region of heavy precipitation, and as such, the river carries large amounts of water during rainfall and a significant amount of silt.
- It is considered one of the largest rivers in India in terms of Volume. It is known for creating the calamity in Assam and Bangladesh.

Major River System – Ganga River System

- The Ganga originates as the Bhagirathi from the Gangotri glacier.
- Before it reaches Devprayag in the Garhwal Division, the Mandakini, Pindar, the Dhauliganga and the Bishenganga rivers merge into the Alaknanda and the Bheling drain into the Bhagirathi.
- The Pindar River rises from East Trishul and Nanda Devi unite with the Alaknanda at Karan Prayag. The Mandakini meets at Rudraprayag.
- The water from both Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda flows in the name of the Ganga at Devprayag.

The concept of Panch Prayag

1. **Vishnuprayag**: where the river Alaknanda meets river Dhauli Ganga
2. **Nandprayag**: where river Alaknanda meets river Nandakini
3. **Karnaprayag**: where river Alaknanda meets river Pinder
4. **Rudraprayag**: where river Alaknanda meets river Mandakini
5. **Devprayag**: where river Alaknanda meets river Bhagirathi -GANGA

The principal tributaries of the Ganga are Yamuna, Damodar, Sapta Kosi, Ram Ganga, Gomati, Ghaghara, and Son. The river after travelling a distance of 2525 km from its source meets the Bay of Bengal.

Yamuna River System

- The Yamuna River is the largest tributary of the Ganga River.
- It originates from the **Yamunotri** glacier, at the Bandarpooch peak in Uttarakhand.
- The main tributaries joining the river include the Sin, Hindon, Betwa Ken, and Chambal.
- The **Tons** is the largest tributary of the Yamuna.
- The catchment of the river extends to the states of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.

The Narmada River System

- The Narmada is a river located in central India.

- It rises to the summit of the Amarkantak Hill in Madhya Pradesh state.
- It outlines the traditional frontier between North India and South India.
- It is one of the major rivers of peninsular India. Only the Narmada, the Tapi, and the Mahi rivers run from east to west.
- The river flows through the states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
- It drains into the Arabian Sea in the Bharuch district of Gujarat.

The Tapi River System

- It is a central Indian river. It is one of the most important rivers of peninsular India with the run from east to west.
- It originates in the Eastern Satpura Range of southern Madhya Pradesh state.
- It flows in a westward direction, draining some important historic places like Madhya Pradesh's Nimar region, East Vidarbha region and Maharashtra's Khandesh in the northwest corner of the Deccan Plateau and South Gujarat before draining into the Gulf of Cambay of the Arabian Sea.
- The River Basin of Tapi River lies mostly in eastern and northern districts Maharashtra state.
- The river also covers some districts of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat as well.
- **The principal tributaries of Tapi River are Waghur River, Aner River, Girna River, Purna River, Panzara River and Bori River.**

The Godavari River System

- The Godavari River is the second-longest course in India with brownish water.
- The river is often referred to as the Dakshin (South) Ganga or Vriddh (Old) Ganga.
- It is a seasonal river, dried during the summers, and widens during the monsoons.
- This river originates from **Trimbakeshwar**, near Nasik in Maharashtra.
- It flows southeast across south-central India through the states of Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Orissa, and drains into the Bay of Bengal.
- The river forms a fertile delta at Rajahmundry.
- The banks of this river have many pilgrimage sites, Nasik (MH), Bhadrachalam (TS), and Trimbak. Some of its tributaries include Pranahita (Combination of Penuganga and Warda), Indravati River, Bindusara, Sabari, and Manjira.
- Asia's largest rail-cum-road bridge which links Kovvur and Rajahmundry is located on the river Godavari.

The Krishna River System

- Krishna is one of the longest rivers of India, which originates from Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.
- It flows through Sangli and drains the sea in the Bay of Bengal.
- The river flows through the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Tungabhadra River** is the main tributary which itself is formed by the Tunga and Bhadra rivers that originate in the Western Ghats.
- Dudhganga Rivers, Koyna, Bhima, Mallaprabha, Dindi, Ghataprabha, Warna, Yerla, and Musi are some of the other tributaries.

The Cauvery River System

- The Cauvery is also known as Dakshin Ganga.
- It originates from Talakaveri located in the Western Ghats.
- It is a famous pilgrimage and tourist place in the Kodagu district of Karnataka.
- The headwaters of the river are in the Western Ghats range of Karnataka state, and from Karnataka through Tamil Nadu.
- The river drains into the Bay of Bengal. The river supports irrigation for agriculture and is considered as a means of support of the ancient kingdoms and modern cities of South India.
- The river has many tributaries called Arkavathy, Shimsha, Hemavati, Kapila, Shimsha, Honnuhole, Amaravati, Lakshmana Kabini, Lokapavani, Bhavani, Noyyal, and Tirtha.

The Mahanadi River System

- The Mahanadi originates from the Satpura Range of central India and it is a river in eastern India.
- It flows east to the Bay of Bengal. The river drains of the state of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Orissa.
- The largest dam, the Hirakud Dam is built on the river.

Major Lakes in India

Important Facts about Lakes

- **Wular lake** is one of the biggest freshwater lakes in Asia and it was formed as a result of tectonic activity.
- **Chilika Lake** in Odisha is the largest saline water lake in India.
- **Vembanad Lake** in Kerala is the longest lake in India.
- **Cholamu Lake** in Sikkim is the highest lake in India.
- **Lonar Lake** is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument, saline, soda lake, located at Lonar in Buldhana district, Maharashtra.

Top 10 largest Lakes in India

List of largest Lakes (Decreasing order of area covered)	State/UT
Vembanad Lake	Kerala
Chilika Lake	Odisha
Shivaji Sagar Lake	Maharashtra
Indira Sagar lake	Madhya Pradesh
Pangong Lake	Ladakh
Pulicat Lake	Andhra Pradesh
Sardar Sarovar Lake	Gujarat
Nagarjuna Sagar Lake	Telangana
Loktak Lake	Manipur
Wular lake	Jammu and Kashmir

List of Important Lakes in India

Lakes in India	State/UT
Pulicat lake	Andhra Pradesh
Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh
Haflong Lake	Assam
Deepor Beel	Assam
Chandubi Lake	Assam
Kanwar lake	Bihar
Hamirsar Lake	Gujarat
Kankaria Lake	Gujarat
Badkhal Lake	Haryana
Brahma Sarovar	Haryana
Chandra Taal	Himachal Pradesh
MaharanaPratap Sagar	Himachal Pradesh
Dal Lake	Jammu Kashmir
Wular Lake	Jammu Kashmir
Agara Lake	Karnataka
Ulsoor Lake	Karnataka
Kuttanad Lake	Kerala
Sasthamkotta	Kerala
Bhojtal	Madhya Pradesh
Shivsagar	Maharashtra
Loktak lake	Manipur
Umiam Lake	Meghalaya
Tam Dil	Mizoram
Chilika Lake	Odisha
Harike	Punjab
Kanjli	Punjab
Sambhar Lake	Rajasthan
Tsomgo Lake	Sikkim
Chembarambakkam	Tamil Nadu
Hussain Sagar	Telangana
Govind Bhallabh Pant Sagar	Uttar Pradesh
Belasagar	Uttar Pradesh
Bhimtal	Uttarakhand

Kaliveli	Tamil Nadu
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Major Ports in India

All ports in India are situated in the 9 coastal states of India namely Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. India's extended coastline forms one of the major portions of land that juts out into a water body. Thirteen major ports in the country handle a lot of volume of container and cargo traffic.

On the west coast, there are the ports of Mumbai, Kandla, Mangalore, JNPT, Mormugao, and Cochin. The ones on the east coast are the ports at Chennai, Tuticorin, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, Kolkata, and Ennore. The last one, Ennore is a registered public company with the government owning a 68% stake. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, there is Port Blair. Mumbai is the largest natural port in India.

Zone	State	Port	Features
Eastern Coast	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Artificial Port Second busiest port
Western Coast	Kerala	Kochi	Sited in the Vembanad lake Exports of spices and salts
Eastern Coast	Tamil Nadu	Ennore	India's First corporatized port
Eastern Coast	West Bengal	Kolkata	India's only major Riverine port Situated on Hugli river Known as Diamond Harbour
Western Coast	Gujarat	Kandla	Known as Tidal Port Acknowledged as Trade Free Zone Largest port by volume of cargo handled.
Western Coast	Karnataka	Mangalore	Deals with the iron ore exports
Western Coast	Goa	Mormugao	Situated on the estuary of the river Zuari
Western Coast	Maharashtra	Mumbai Port Trust	Largest Natural Port and harbour In India The busiest port in India
Western Coast	Maharashtra	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) also known as Nhava Sheva, Navi Mumbai	Largest Artificial Port It is the Largest Container Port in India.
Eastern Coast	Odisha	Paradip	Natural Harbor deals with the export of iron and aluminium
Eastern Coast	Tamil Nadu	Tuticorin	A major port in south India deals with the fertilizers and petrochemical products
Eastern Coast	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	Deepest port of India deals with the export of iron ore to

			Japan. Amenities for building and fixing of ships are available
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