

Indian Rivers

With a land area of 3,287,263 km² (1,269,219 sq mi) consisting of diverse ecosystems, India has many rivers systems and perennial streams. The rivers of India can be classified into four groups –

1. Himalayan,
2. Deccan,
3. Coastal, and
4. Inland drainage.

The Himalayan rivers, mainly fed by glaciers and snow melt, arise from the [Himalayas](#). The Deccan rivers system consists of rivers in [Peninsular India](#), that drain into the [Bay of Bengal](#) and the [Arabian Sea](#). There are numerous short coastal rivers, predominantly on the [West coast](#). There are few inland rivers, which do not drain into sea.



Most of the rivers in India originate from the four major [watersheds](#) in India. The Himalayan watershed is the source of majority of the major river systems in India including the three longest rivers—the [Ganges](#), the [Brahmaputra](#) and the [Indus](#).^{[3][4]} These three river systems are fed by more than 5000 glaciers.^[5] The [Aravalli range](#) in the north-west serves the origin of few of the rivers such as the [Chambal](#), the [Banas](#) and the [Luni](#) rivers.

The [Narmada](#) and [Tapti](#) rivers originate from the [Vindhya](#) and [Satpura](#) ranges in [Central India](#). In the peninsular India, majority of the rivers originate from the [Western Ghats](#) and flow towards the Bay of Bengal, while only a few rivers flow from east to west from the [Eastern Ghats](#) to the Arabian sea.

The largest of the peninsular rivers include the [Godavari](#), the [Krishna](#), the [Mahanadi](#) and the [Kaveri](#).

North Indian rivers and their Tributaries :

- Indus and its tributaries Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej.
- The Ganga and its tributaries mainly Yamuna, Gharghara, Gandak, Ram Ganga, Ramganga, Kosi, Mahananda, Chambal.
- The Brahmaputra and its tributaries like Manas, Subarnasri, Tista, etc.

Here are some interesting facts about Indian rivers:

- Ganga is known as Padma river when it enters Bangladesh.
- Godavari is also known as Dakshin Ganga.
- Chambal is probably the cleanest river in North India.
- Thamirabarani is the only perennial river in South India.
- India has over 400 rivers.
- [Brahmaputra river](#) is the deepest river in India with depths reaching up to 380 feet.
- The [Arvari River](#), considered the smallest river in India, is located in (Alwar dist.)Rajasthan.
- The Ganges River is the longest river in India, measuring 2,525 kilometers (1,569 miles). It originates from the Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas and flows through the Gangetic Plain before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.
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