

LAST MINUTE PRELIMS RECKONER 2025

GEOGRAPHY

RIVERS IN INDIA

RIVERS IN INDIA

Rivers	Origin	State/ UT	Destination	Course-tributaries	Cultural and Natural sites	Current affairs
MAJOR RIVERS						
Indus	It originates from a glacier in Mount Kailash range near Mansarovar lake in Tibet	In India, Indus River flows only through Ladakh UT. Basin States/UTs- Ladakh, J&K, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chandigarh.	It merges into the Arabian sea near the port city of Karachi in Sindh The river runs through the Ladakh region of India, towards Gilgit-Baltistan and then flows in a southerly direction along the entire length of Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the plains, its left bank tributary is the Panjnad (as per 2022 prelims question Chenab is a tributary of Sutlej. So as per UPSC Panjnad is another name of Sutlej after its confluence with Chenab) which itself has five major tributaries, namely, the Chenab, Jhelum, the Ravi, the Beas, and the Sutlej. The Zaskar is its left bank tributary in Ladakh. Its principal right bank tributaries are the Shyok, the Gilgit, the Kabul, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indus valley civilization (Mohenjo-daro located near Indus & Harappa located near the old course of river Ravi) 	

				the Gomol, and the Kurram.		
Ganga	Originates at Gomukh, the terminus of the Gongotri Glacier as Bhagirathi River. As the Bhagirathi River flows down the Himalayas, it joins the Alaknanda River, officially forming the Ganges River.	River Ganga flows through Uttrakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal Basin States/UTs: - Uttrakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal	It creates Sunderbans delta, the world's largest delta before joining the Bay of Bengal	Major left-bank tributaries include Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda Major right-bank tributaries include Yamuna, Son, Punpun, Ajay and Damodar	Several pilgrim sites lie along the banks of the Ganges, including Gangotri, Haridwar, Prayagraj, Varanasi and Kali Ghat in Kolkata.	
Brahmaputra	The source of Brahmaputra is in Angsi Glacier (new finding) which covers the northern slopes of Himalayas in Tibet. (But NCERT identifies Chemayungdung Glacier as the origin)	In India, Brahmaputra flows through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam Basin States - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, West Bengal,	Bay of Bengal	After flowing through Tibet, it enters India through Arunachal Pradesh and flows through Assam and Bangladesh before it joins Padma (name of principle distributary of Ganga after the bifurcation and formation of Bhagirathi-Hoogly River at Farakka in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaziranga National Park • Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve & National Park • Orang National Park • Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary 	In 2020, a gas leak has occurred at Baghjan well in Tinsukia district of Assam following a blowout. The Baghjan well is a purely gas-producing well in Tinsukia district, and is at an aerial distance of 900 metres from the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

		Meghalaya and Nagaland		West Bengal). After the confluence it's called Padma. Padma joins Meghana and Meghana drains out to Bay of Bengal. Left: Dibang, Lohit, Dhansiri, Kopili Right: Subansiri Kameng, Sankosh, Manas, Beki, Raidak, Jaldhaka, Teesta,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National waterway 2 from Sadia to Dhubri (both places located in Assam) 	
Narmada	The source of the Narmada is a small reservoir, known as the Narmada Kund, located at Amarkantak (located in Maikala range of Satpura mountains) in eastern Madhya Pradesh.	Flows through – Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat Basin States- same as above	The Narmada enters the Gulf of Khambhat (Arabian Sea) through an estuary just below Bharuch .	Right Bank: Hiran, Tondoni, Kolar, Uri, Hatni, Orsang Left Bank: Banjar, Sher, Tawa, Ganjal, Chhota Tawa, Karjan, Dudhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Omkareshwar Jabalpur Bagh Caves (on the banks of Baghani river a tributary of Narmada) Kanha National Park (banks of Banjar River) The Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve (Tawa River and Dudhi River) 	The Statue of Unity world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres is located facing the Sardar Sarovar Dam on river Narmada

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sardar Sarovar dam site • Indira Sagar Dam (India's largest reservoir in terms of volume of water stored) • Dhuandhar waterfalls on Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh • All the places located above are in the state of Madhya Pradesh except for Sardar Sarovar Dam Which is located in the state of Gujarat 	
Tapti (Tapi)	The river originates from Gawaligarh range (of Satpura mountains) in	Flows through – Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.	Pours into the Gulf of Khambat in the Arabian Sea.	Girna River, Purna River, Waghur River, and Aner River are the major tributaries of Tapti River.	City of Surat is located on the banks of Tapti River near its mouth.	Par-Tapi-Narmada river-interlinking project: The project is aimed at diverting “surplus”

	Betul district of Madhya Pradesh in the Satpura range	Basin States- same as above				water from parts of west flowing rivers like Par, Nar, Ambika and Auranga basins in Maharashtra and south Gujarat to feed the command area of the Miyagam branch of Sardar Sarovar Project
Mahanadi	Mahanadi originates from Sihawa Mountain in Chhattisgarh.	It flows through Chattisgarh & Odisha Basin States – Chattisgarh and Odisha (A very small portion (less than 1%) lies in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh)	The main stream of Mahanadi gets divided into several distributaries such as Paika, Birupa, Chitartala, Genguti and Nun and form the Mahanadi Delta.	The major tributaries of Mahanadi are Seonath, Jonk, Hasdo, Mand, Ib, Ong, Tel etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hirakud Dam • Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary (situated near Hirakud dam) • Satkosia Tiger Reserve 	Sukapaika river is one of the several distributaries of the mighty Mahanadi River in Odisha. The construction of embankments has killed Odisha's Sukapaika river that was the lifeline of over 0.5 million people.
Godavari	Rises from Trimbakeshwar (Nashik district) in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra.	Godavari flows through Maharashtra, Telangana Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh and Yanam (part of UT of Puducherry) Basin States- Maharashtra, Telangana,	The river empties into the Bay of Bengal in Andhra Pradesh and Yanam.	Tributaries: Pravara, Purna, Manjira, Penganga, Wardha, Waiganga, Pranhita (combined flow of Waiganga, Penganga, Wardha), Indravati, Maner and the Sabri.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coringa wildlife sanctuary • Papikonda National Park • Isapur Dam & Reservoir in Penganga River 	Godavari-Cauvery link project: The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has circulated a draft Detailed Project Report (DPR) on Godavari-Cauvery link project to the concerned states to elicit their views. The Godavari - Cauvery link comprises three

		Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka (only very small area in Karnataka)				components namely, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Godavari (Inchampalli/Jana mpet) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar), • The Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) and • The Pennar (Somasila)–Cauvery.
Krishna	It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara District) in Western Ghats of Maharashtra.	It runs through four states namely, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Basin States- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh.	Bay of Bengal	Tributaries: Tungabhadra, Bhima, Malprabha, Koyna, Dudhganga, Ghatprabha, Yerla, Varna, Dindi and Musi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagarjunasagar dam • Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve • Chandoli National Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telangana State Assembly passed a resolution against proposed Uranium mining in Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR), located in Nallamala forest area of the State. • The proposed exploration may contaminate Krishna River on which Hyderabad depends for drinking water.
Cauvery (Kaveri)	The river rises from Talakaveri in Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka.	Flows through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Basin States/UTs- Karnataka,	Before emptying into the Bay of Bengal south of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, the river breaks into a large number of distributaries	It flows in a South-Easterly direction through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and descends the Eastern Ghats in a series of great falls.	Mettur Dam (its reservoir is Stanley reservoir) Krisnharajasgara Dam and Brindavan Gardens	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have strongly objected to Karnataka's bid to seek approval for the Mekedatu dam project at the fifth Cauvery Water Management

		Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry	forming a wide delta called the “garden of southern India.”	Tributaries: Arkavathi , Hemavathi, Lakshmantirtha, Shimsa, Kabini, Harangi, Noyyal(Noyil), Bhavani and Amaravati	Hoganekkal falls Bhavani Dam & its reservoir Bhavani Sagar in Bhavani River (tributary of Cauveri)	Authority (CWMA) meeting in New Delhi. A multi-purpose balancing reservoir project over Makedatu, was aimed at solving the drinking water problems of Bengaluru and Ramnagar district.
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MEDIUM SIZED INDEPENDENT RIVERS

Rivers	Origin	States/UT	Destination	Course-tributaries	Cultural and Natural sites	Current affairs
Pennar (Penneru)	Nandi Hills, Karnataka	It flows through Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Basin States – Same as above	Bay of Bengal	The fan shaped basin is bounded by the Erramala range on the north, by the Nallamala and Velikonda ranges of the Eastern Ghats on the east, by the Nandidurg hills on the south and by the narrow ridge separating it from the Vedavati valley of the Krishna Basin on the west	Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve is located in Pennar basin Gandikota Canyon is formed by Penner River while it crosses Erramala range	
Subarnarekha	Ranchi Plateau in Jharkhand	It flows through Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha Basin States – Same as above	Joins Bay of Bengal forming an estuary between the Ganga and Mahanadi deltas	The Kharkai river , an important tributary meets Subarnarekha at Jamshedpur Hundru Waterfall located in the state of Jharkhand	Industrial city of Jamshedpur is located along the banks of Subarnarekha	
Brahmani	Comes into existence by the confluence of the	Its basin primarily falls in two states	Baitarani river joins Brahmani River near its	The basin is bounded in the North by Chhotanagpur	Industrial city of Rourkela is	

	South Koel (originates in Jharkhand. Flows through Jharkhand and Odisha) and the Sankh (originates in Jharkhand. Flows through Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha) rivers near Rourkela in Odisha. So, Brahmani River (Brahmani proper) flows only through the state of Odisha.	Jharkhand and Odisha. A very small portion falls in Chhattisgarh	mouth. After the confluence it's called Dhamra river and drains out to Bay of Bengal	plateau, in the West and South by the Mahanadi basin and in the East by the Bay of Bengal. Bhitarkanika Mangroves & Wildlife Sanctuary is located near the mouth of Brahmani River. Gahirmatha Beach and Marine Sanctuary are to the east of Bhitarkanika, separates the swamp region and mangroves from the Bay of Bengal .	located near Brahmani River.	
Vamsadhara	Originates in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha.	It flows through Odisha and Andhra Pradesh Basin States – Same as above	Bay of Bengal at Kalingapatnam, Andhra Pradesh			Vamsadhara River water Dispute (between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha)
Sabarmati	Aravalli hills, Rajasthan.	It flows through Rajasthan and Gujarat Basin States – Same as above	Drains into the Arabian Sea through the Gulf of Khambhat.	The basin is bounded by Aravalli hills on the north and north-east, by Rann of Kutch on the west and by Gulf of Khambhat on the south.	Sabarmati reservoir (Dharoi) Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad are the important urban centres	

Mahi	Northern slopes of Vindhyas in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.	It flows through MP, Rajasthan & Gujarat Basin States – Same as above	Drains into the Arabian Sea through the Gulf of Khambhat.	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.		
Luni	Western slopes of the Aravalli ranges.	It flows through Rajasthan and Gujarat Basin States – Same as above	Rann of Kutch	Luni river forms the largest inland drainage basin of India. The river flows south-west and enters the Thar Desert before dissipating into the Rann of Kutch so it does not meet Arabian Sea.		
Ghaggar	Rises on the lower slopes of the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh and forms boundary between Haryana and Punjab.	It flows through Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. Basin States – Same as above	It gets lost in the dry sands of Rajasthan near Hanumangarh			

Nagavali	Originates in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha.	It flows through Odisha and Andhra Pradesh Basin States – Same as above	Joins Bay of Bengal in Andhra Pradesh			
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RIVERS IN NEWS

Teesta	Zemu Glacier, Great Himalayas, Sikkim.	In India, it flows through Sikkim & West Bengal Basin States – Same as above	Tributary of the Brahmaputra	River Teesta flows south (from Sikkim) entering West Bengal then Bangladesh and finally joins Brahmaputra. River Rangeet (Sikkim, its part forms boundary between Sikkim & WB) is an important tributary.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has opened a 360 feet long bailey suspension bridge over Teesta River in Munshithang, Sikkim. The construction was commenced in October 2019 under Project Swastik. The bridge will help the state tourism in growing and facilitate the movement of logistics for the Armed Forces deployed in the state.
Sharda River/Ka	Kalapani in the Himalayas.	In India, it flows through	Joins Ghaghra River,		Tanakpur hydro-electric	Sharda/Kali River demarcates the border

li River/Mahakali River		Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Basin States – Same as above	tributary of the Ganges		project, Chameliya hydro-electric project, Sharda Barrage. Lipulekh pass is located near its origin	between India and Nepal (Western boundary of Nepal with India). At its northern extremity, multiple small rivulets join together to form Kali River. So, India considers a ridge to the east of Kalapani region as the boundary while Nepal considers Lipu Gad, a small tributary of Kali River as the source stream of Kali River and thus the boundary. Triangular region formed by overlapping claim is called the Kalapani region The Kalapani territory has become the bone of contention between India and Nepal. On 20 May 2020, Nepal released a new map of its own territory that expanded its claim an additional 335 square kilometres. It includes Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura. In its
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						new claim Nepal considers Kuthi Yankti river a river originating near Limipiyadhura as Kali rivers origin
Galwan River	Originates from Eastern side of Karakoram range in Aksai Chin	It flows through Ladakh UT.	It flows from the east to Ladakh, where it meets the Shyok river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The valley is strategically located between Ladakh in the west and Aksai Chin in the east At its western end are the Shyok river and the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulet Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road. 		The deterioration in India-China relationship in recent past because of violence in Galwan Valley



GLACIERS OF INDIA	RIVER ORIGINATING
Union Territory of Ladakh	
Siachin Glacier (Karakoram Range)	The Nubra River (Tributary of Shyok river)
Chong Kumdan & Rimo Glacier	Shyok river (Tributary of Indus)
Hispar Glacier	Hispar River (Tributary of Indus)
Himachal Pradesh	
Beas Kund glacier	Beas
Bara Singri Glacier	Chenab
Uttarakhand	
Gangotri Glacier	River Bhagirathi which later becomes River Ganges.
Bandarpunch Glacier/Yamunotri Glacier	Yamuna
Milam Glacier	Goriganga River (a tributary of Kali River)
Mana glacier	Jadh Ganga also called Jahanvi Ganga that joins Bhagirathi
Alakapuri Glacier/Santopant Glacier	River Alaknanda
Sumeru Glacier	Mandakini
Pindari Glacier	Pindar River which meets the Alakananda at Karnaprayag
Sikkim	
Zemu Glacier	Teesta
Lonak glacier	Lonak River (a tributary of the Teesta River)