

Rivers of Bangladesh

Introduction: Bangladesh is called a land of rivers. Approximately 800 major and minor rivers traverse the nation, encompassing 24,140 kilometers of land. The large rivers are the Padma, Meghna, Jamuna, Karnafuli, Gomati, Brahmaputra, and Shitalakshya. Small rivers are the Tista, the Arial Khan, the Dhaleswari, the Bhairab, and so on. They are all submerged in the Bay of Bengal. The nation is greatly advantaged by all the rivers. Bangladesh is now more attractive. Besides, situated in the heart of Bangladesh, the Sirajganj district boasts a captivating landscape defined by the intricate network of rivers that crisscross its terrain. At the forefront of this aquatic symphony is the majestic Jamuna River and other rivers Boral, Hurasagor, Bangali, locally revered as the lifeblood of the region.

Jamuna River:

The Jamuna River is named after the Hindu goddess Yamuna. Like the goddess for whom she is named, this river is a sacred body of water for the indigenous peoples of Tibet, Bangladesh, and India. Throughout its history, the river has provided food and fresh water to local lands but is now heavily polluted. Nevertheless, the river has a rich history and continues to provide access and transportation of goods to bordering countries.



History of the Jamuna Rives: The Jamuna River originates from glaciers in the Himalayas. The Himalayas are the source of several other major rivers in the region, including the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, a tributary of the Jamuna. The Himalayas were formed about 50 million years ago by the movement of tectonic plates. When the land now known as India collided with mainland Southeast Asia, the violent collision caused the ground to rise and form the Himalayas.

As the climate changed, these glaciers and ice fields melted, sending water south to India and providing a steady supply of water for many rivers. The Jamuna River is considered sacred in both Bangladesh and India. As mentioned above, in India the name (spelled Yamuna) is common with a prominent goddess. According to local religion, Yamuna was originally called Yami, the younger sister of Yama, the god of death. She is personified as the river Yamuna and is believed to free those who bathe in this water from their sins.

Size And Flow of The Jamuna River: The Jamuna River originates in Tibet as Yarlung Tsangpo and begins at the Anshi Glacier in western Tibet. Anshi Glacier, also known as Nansen Glacier, is a large glacier on the northern slopes of the Himalayas. However, there is disagreement as to whether Anshi Glacier or Chemainus Glacier is the real source of the river. Although Chinese scientific research concludes that Anshi Glacier is indeed the source of the river, think locals refer to Cementing Glacier. Its origin is the Yundung Glacier. Most Western sources support the claims of residents, but it is still not clear which glacier is the source of the river. This region of Tibet is known as Prang County and is located within the Tibet Autonomous Region.



This means that the Yarlung Tsangpo River, also known as the Anshi or Nansel River in the Himalayas, is the property of the Chinese government. This river has several tributaries in Tibet and takes on several names on its way to India. The river begins as the Anshi Chu River or Nansel Chu River, passes through Tum Long Lake and joins the Dhankar Chu River. This river then flows into India as Yamuna. The Jamuna River, commonly written as Yamuna in India, flows through the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh before flowing southwest into Bangladesh. The river that passes through India connects with the Brahmaputra and both flow into Bangladesh.

Climate of Jamuna River: The headwaters of the Jamuna River are located high in the Himalayas and are therefore very cold, but the river's flow in Bangladesh is much hotter. Bangladesh has three seasonal cycles known as pre-monsoon, monsoon, and post-monsoon seasons. Temperatures are very hot, ranging from 15 to 34 degrees. Unfortunately, this heat creates many bacteria in the water that can cause digestive problems if ingested.

Biodiversity And Wildlife of jamuna rives: Bangladesh has one of the most diverse landscapes with an abundance of flora and fauna species. Notable large animals that live near the river and nearby forests include Bengal tigers, leopards, sun bears, black bears, and sloths. This river is also a popular fishing spot. The Jamuna River is currently home to 55 species of fish. The most famous are the Bengal loach and Gumti loach, carp, flying barbel, grass carp, and various species of labeo.

Boral River:

The Boral River is one of the tributaries of the Ganges River and originates from Charchat district in Rajshahi district of Bangladesh. The Boral River flows through Natore and Pabna, joins the Gumani river east of Bangla, joins the Kartoya river south of Shahjampur. The Boral Riverly joins the Khurasagar river. The river is approximately 147 kilometers (91 miles) long, 120 meters (410 feet) wide, and has an average depth of 6 meters (20 feet). The river receives water from the Ganges only during the monsoon season. Local runoff and water from Charan Beel keep the river flowing throughout the year. The basin area is approximately 230 square kilometers. Important locations on the banks of the Barar river include his Sharchat, Balaigram, Bagatipara, Gurdaspur, Chatmohar, Bhangura and Bela districts of Bangladesh. Boral Bridge is located on this river in Bhangura upozila.



History of Baral River: The Baral River also originates from the Padma River in Charghat, Rajshahi District, and immediately after entering Pabna District, it receives water from the Atrai River through a canal called Gumani. The river flows through the northern part of Sadar sub-district, passing through the large village of Chatmohar, which is the headquarters of Chatmohar sub-district, and continues flowing in a south-easterly direction.

The Baral river also originates from the Padma River in Charghat, Rajshahi district and receives water from the Atrai river through a canal at. The Barar River joins the Gumani River (an extension of the Atrai River) near Faridpur village in Pabna district (not to be confused with the Atrai River). The combined waters join the Khurasagar River in the south of Shahjadpur district.

Karatoya:

The karatoya known as Puljur, rises above the jungles of Baikuntapur in the northwesternmost part of Jalpaiguri district (West Bengal, India) and for some time formed the boundary between Dinajpur and Rampur districts. It then meanders through Rampur and Bogra. It joins the Halharia river in the south of Bogra district and the merged river is called Puljufur. It leaves Bogra at Chanda Kona and flows south through Raiganj and Shujapur before joining the Ichamati River at Narka. The Puljour River then flows south, past the important village of Urapara, and a few miles below it, after a course of approximately 64 kilometers (40 miles), joins the Hurasagar River near Narnia in the district. After this confluence, named Khurasagar, it joins the Jamuna River near Bela near Shahzadpur and Bera.



Karatoya is mentioned in the Puranas and has a great reputation for holiness. It was the eastern border of the ancient kingdom of Pundravardhana, the land of Poundra. During the Classic period, it formed the western border of Kamarupa, and later the kingdom of Kamata. Van Den Brouk's Map of Bengal (C, 1660) shows that Bengal flows into the Ganges. Before the disastrous flood of 1787, it released large quantities of Teesta water into the Atrai and Ganga rivers. Since the mainstream of the Teesta was diverted to the east in 1787, the Karatoya and Purjur rivers have been gradually silted up. And those are less important rivers today. A canal that flows into the Barar River, 48 kilometers east of Pabna is still indifferently called Buri Teesta or Old Teesta, Khat or Karatoya. Traces of an ancient canal, for which the name Karatoya is claimed, have also been noted at Chatmohar Thana, where it was apparently destroyed by the Barals.

Hurasagor:

The Hurasagar River is the confluence of the Atrai Barar River and the Purjhar River (Bangar Karatya River). The Gumani River joins the Gulu River at Chanchikoia, east of Charan Bir, and flows as the Gumani River. East of Chatmohar, the river joins the Barar river and flows further as Barar (Atrai Barar). The Atrai Barar river receives the Purjhar river as its left tributary, located 48 km south-east of Chatmohar near Bagabari, and a common river named Furasagar which flows further south-east near Bera district, the Hurasagar river receives the Ichamati river on its right bank and falls into the Jamuna River. Construction of the Bela Irrigation Project, a large-scale multi-purpose riverside irrigation project, is underway northwest of Bela Bazaar and just downstream of Baghabari. During the dry season, water from Hurasagar is diverted to the command area of the project via the Ichamati River, which serves as the main supply channel for the irrigation project. Even in monsoon, excess water will be diverted from the project area to Hurasagar through this main canal.

Earlier, there was no direct route from Ichamati to Furasagar. To overcome this limitation, ship locks were constructed to allow local small boats to pass despite the water level difference between the two rivers. Currently, the outflow of Hurasagar has decreased significantly and it dries up during the off-season. This situation may pose a threat to the normal functioning of the Bela irrigation project.

Ichamati River:

The Ichamati River, an ancient waterway, was formerly regarded as the principal waterway west of Dhaka. The river rises near the mouth of the HURASAGAR near Nathpur Factory in the southern part of Jafarganj and flows towards Joginighat in Munshiganj. There are five pilgrimage ghats (Panchatirtha ghat) along the river: Tirthaghat, Agla, Solepur, Barunighat, and Joginighat. Joginighat is located at the meeting point of the Ichamati and the BRAHMAPUTRA. Another watercourse, called Ichamati, rises from the Ganges at Rayta, northwest of Bheramara in Kushtia. The river passes through Kushtia in a southerly direction after first flowing west. At Darshana, the transboundary river Ichamati enters India.

After there, it runs south along the boundary between Bangladesh and India, where it is renamed the Kalindi in the Satkhira district's Debhata upazila. As the Hariabhanga, it is a part of the Bay of Bengal. The James Rennel map indicates that the Ichamati of Dhaka and the Ichamati of Dinajpur are the same river. However, there is another river with the same name in Dinajpur. Numerous hydrologists claim that these three Ichamati rivers were formerly a one watercourse.

Bangali River:

North Bengal, or northern Bangladesh, is home to one of the principal rivers, the Bangali River. In 2007, there was talk about the river becoming part of the Jamuna River, which would create significant changes to the region's topography.

After a significant flood in 1787, the modern-day Jamuna and Teesta streams were formed. The flood had a significant effect on the region's river geography; numerous rivers altered their flow, and these alterations persisted for the following 40 years. Before the flood, the Meghna River was met by the Brahmaputra River after passing through Mymensingh and Bhoirob Bazaar. The Brahmaputra altered its course after 1787 and now empties into the Padma River. After the flood of 1787, the Jamauna and Teesta not only changed their course but also produced new distributaries. It is believed that the Jamuna and Teesta's altered courses are what gave rise to the Bangali River.

Gumani River:

Bangladesh has a river called the Gumani River. It rises in the Padma River and empties into the Barani River close to Morkal Bazar. Gurnai and Baranai run together in a southeasterly direction, known as the Gurnai[citation needed]. It meets the Gurudaspur near Chanchkoir, Gurudaspur Upazila, east of the Cholon Bil, and continues as the Gumani. The river meets the Boral once more as it runs east of Bhangura and continues as the Boral (Atrai-Baral).

Gumani River Beginning in the Manda Beel in Tanore upazila, Rajshahi district, the Shiba river travels 45 km southward, forming a large meander close to Naohata, where it becomes the Baranai and goes northeast. The river bends southeast after receiving the Fakirni, an atrai distributary, on its left bank close to Bagmara. It then takes a convoluted path up to Belgharia before splitting into two branches. The Musa Khan River's right arm flows southwest to meet the baral at Arani. Near Morkal Bazar, another arm flows that has the name Baranai meets the Gurnai. The Gurnai and Baranai combined flow reaches the Gumani river at Kalamnagar Para, flowing southeast as the Gurnai. Once more, the Gurnai and Gur rivers flow together and progress a little distance before joining the Gumani River and eventually entering the HURASAGAR. The Gumani river is almost 130 km long and has no tidal impact throughout its entire course.

Old Dhaleshwari River:

In the center of Bangladesh, the Dhaleshwari River is a distributary of the Jamuna River, spanning 160 km (99 mi). It splits out from the Jamuna close to Tangail District's northwest corner. Subsequently, it splits into two branches: the northern branch, which continues to go by the name Dhaleshwari, unites with the southern branch, the Kaliganga River, in the Manikganj District. The Shitalakshya River is finally reached by the combined flow close to Narayanganj District. The Meghna River is formed by the merging of its combined flow southward. The river's highest depth is 265 feet (81 meters), with an average depth of 122 feet (37 meters).

Conclusion: The rivers of Bangladesh's Sirajganj district serve as the district's lifeblood. These rivers are more than just bodies of water; they are the unsung builders of Sirajganj's development. They are vital to the district's ability to maintain agriculture, provide necessary transportation, and preserve the historical accounts that have shaped it. The rivers of Sirajganj are more than just important topographical features; they are essential strands woven throughout the community. They represent the people's tenacity as the silent witnesses to the hardships and victories that have occurred along their banks. When we consider the significance of these rivers, it is clear that they are more than just bodies of water—rather, they are vital connections that support the district's economy and way of life. Their impact extends beyond the surface, delving deep into the cultural, economic, and historical roots of Sirajganj.

References:

- 1.<https://www.rivers//jamuna-river>.
- 2.https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamuna_River
- 3.https://en.wikipedia.wiki/Joint_River_Commission
4. National River Conservation Commission, Bangladesh.