

Terms

Drainage	the term drainage describes the river system of an area
Drainage Basin	the area drained by a single river is called <i>drainage basin</i>
Water Divide	an upland that separates two drainage basins is called water divide
River System	a river along with its tributaries is called a river system

Himalayan rivers

Most of them perennial which means they have water throughout the year

they receive water from rainfall as well as from melted snow from lofty mountains

they cut through mountains making gorges.

have long courses from their source to the sea

they perform intense erosional activity in their upper courses and carry huge loads of silt and sand

in the middle and lower courses they form meanders and ox bow lakes and many other depositional features in their floodplains

also form well developed deltas

Indus River System

Source	rises in Tibet near Lake Mansarovar
Tributaries	Zaskar, nubra, shyok, humza, jhelum, satluj, chenab, ravi, beas
Mouth	Arabian Sea
Basin	ladakh jammu and kashmir himachal pradesh and punjab
Features	flows through baltistan and gilgit and emerges from the mountains of Attock
	the 5 rivers join near Mithankot
	indus plain has a very gentle slope
	has a total length of 2900km

Ganga River System

Source	headwaters of the Ganga BHAGIRATHI is fed by Gangotri glacier and joined by the alaknanda at devprayag in Uttarakhand
Tributaries	yamuna, ghaghara, gandak, kosi
Mouth	Bay of Bengal

Ganga River System (cont)

Features	at haridwar the ganga emerges from the mountain on to the plains
	yamuna rises from yamunotri glacier. it flows parallel to the ganga and as a right bank meets ganga at Allahabad
	GGK rise in Nepal himalayas which floods parts of the northern plain every year
	main tributaries come from peninsular uplands are the chambal, betwa and son. these rise from semi arid areas and do not carry much water in them
	enlarged with the waters from its right and left bank tributaries
	the ganga flows till Farakka in west bengal, this is the northernmost part of the ganga delta . here the river bifurcates and forms the Bhagirathi-hooghly, it flows through the deltaic plains to BOB
	flows southwards into bangladesh and is joined by the brahmaputra
	further down the mainstream is known as meghna
	has a length of 2500 km
	ambala is located between the water divide of Indus and ganga river systems
	the plains from ambala to sunderban stretch over nearly 1800km but the fall is hardly 300m , there is a fall of just one metre for every 6km. Therefore the river develops large meanders

Brahmaputra River System

Source	rises in tibet east of mansarovar lake
slightly longer than the indus , most of its course lies outside India	flows eastwards parallel to Himalayas

Brahmaputra River System (cont)

it is called Dihang and it is joined by the Dibang, Lohit and many other tributaries to form the Brahmaputra in Assam	on reaching the Namcha Barwa 7757m it takes a U turn and enters India in Arunachal through a gorge
in Tibet the river carries a smaller volume of water and silt as it passes through a cold and dry area	in India it passes through a area of high rainfall. here the river contains a large amount of water and silt
has a braided channel in its entire length in Assam and forms many riverine islands	it is marked by huge deposits of silt on its bed causing the riverbed to rise. the river also shifts its channel frequently

Peninsular Rivers

these rivers are seasonal as their flow is dependent on rainfall

during the dry season even the large rivers have reduced flow of water in their channels

have shorter and shallower courses

some of these rivers originate in the central highlands and flow towards the west

most of them originate in western ghats and flow towards the Bay of Bengal

Narmada Basin

rises in Amarkantak hills in MP	flows towards the west in a rift valley formed due to faulting
the Marble rocks where the Narmada flows through a deep gorge and the Dhuadhar falls where the river plunges over steep rocks	all tributaries of Narmada are very short and join the main stream at right angles
covers parts of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat	

Tapi Basin

rises in the Satpura ranges in the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh	flows in a rift valley parallel to Narmada but it is much shorter in length
basin covers most parts of Madhya Pradesh	coastal plains between western ghats and Arabian sea are very narrow due to Gujarat and Maharashtra which the coastal rivers are short
main west flowing rivers are Mahi, Sabarmati, Periyar and Bharat-hpuza	

Godavari Basin

largest peninsular river	it rises from the slopes of the western ghats in the Nashik district of MH
has a length of 1500 km	drains into BOB
drainage basin covers MH(50%), MP, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh	the Purna, Wardha, Pranhita, Manjra, Penganga, Wainganga
Manjra, Wainganga and Penganga are very large due to which its also known as Dakshin Ganga	

Mahanadi

rises in the highlands of Chhattisgarh	flows through Odisha to reach BOB
has a length of 860 km	drainage basin covers MH, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha

Krishna Basin

rises from a spring near Mahabaleswar	has a length of 1400km and reaches BOB
Tungabhadra, Koyana, Musi, Ghatprabha are some of its tributaries	its drainage basin covers parts of MH, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

Kaveri Basin

rises in the Brahmagiri range of the western ghats	reaches BOB in south of Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu
has a length of 760km	Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati and Kabini are its main tributaries
its drainage basin covers parts of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu	

