

Sutlej River, Origin, Tributaries, Course, Dam & Importance

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With the Sutlej swelling due to incessant rain in its catchment areas and heavy releases from dams, evacuation in several low-lying villages of Fazilka and Ferozepur districts began late Tuesday afternoon.

About Sutlej River

- It is an important **tributary of the Indus** River.
- It is the **longest of the five big rivers that flow through the Punjab region** in northern India and Pakistan.
- It is also known as “**Satadree**”.
- It is located **north of the Vindhya Range**, **south of the Hindu Kush** segment of the Himalayas, and in Pakistan.
- **Course:**
 - **Origin:** It rises on the **north slope of the Himalayas in Lake Rakshastal** in southwestern **Tibet** at an elevation above 15,000 feet (4,600 metres).

- It is **one of only three Trans-Himalayan rivers originating in the high Tibetan Plateau that cuts** across the mighty **Himalayan ranges**. The other two are the Indus and the Brahmaputra.
- The Sutlej **enters India** by flowing west and south-westwards **through the Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh** at an altitude of 6,608 metres.
- The river then **flows through Punjab** near Nangal **before meeting the Beas River**. The **merger** of these two rivers **goes on to form 105 Km of the India-Pakistan border**.
- The river continues to flow for another 350 Km before **joining the Chenab River**.
- The **combination of the Sutlej and Chenab Rivers forms the Panjnad**, which **finally flows into the Indus River**.
- **Length:** It has a total length of **1550 km**, out of which **529 km is in Pakistan**.
- The hydrology of the Sutlej is controlled by spring and summer snowmelt in the Himalayas and by the South Asian monsoon.
- **Tributaries:** **Spiti River, Baspa River, Soan River**, and the **Nogli Khad** are the major tributaries of the Sutlej River.
- The **waters** of the Sutlej are **allocated to India under the Indus Waters Treaty** between India and Pakistan, and are mostly diverted to irrigation canals in India.
- There are many hydroelectric and irrigation projects across the river, such as the **Bhakra-Nangal Dam, Kol Dam, Nathpa Jhakri Project, and Baspa Hydel Scheme**.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/key-facts-about-sutlej-river/>

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