

Top 10 Longest Rivers in India 2026, List, Largest, Widest, Origin

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Top 10 Longest Rivers in India: India, known for its rich network of rivers, depends on these waterways for both its environment and economy. Indian rivers are broadly classified into two types: Himalayan Rivers, which are fed year-round by melting glaciers, and Peninsular Rivers, which rely on seasonal rainfall. Leading them all, the Ganga stretches over 2,525 km, making it the Longest River in India. In this article, we'll explore the Top 10 Longest Rivers in India List and their importance.

Longest Rivers in India

The Ganges River, or Ganga, stands as the longest river in India, spanning roughly 2,525 kilometers from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. Beyond its length, the Ganga holds deep cultural and spiritual significance, impacting the lives and beliefs of millions across the country. The Ganges River originates high in the Himalayas, beginning its journey at the Gangotri Glacier in Uttarakhand, India. The Ganges River travels through multiple states, starting from Uttarakhand and flowing through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, before merging with the Bay of Bengal. A detailed map of the Ganges highlights its path and the diverse regions it nourishes along the way.

Longest Rivers of India 2026

The Top 10 Longest Rivers of India ranked by their length order:

Top 10 Longest Rivers of India 2026					
S.No	River	Length in India (km)	Total Length (km)	Origin	Drains Into
1	Ganga	2,525	2,525	Gangotri Glacier, Uttarakhand	Bay of Bengal
2	Godavari	1,464	1,465	Trimbak, Maharashtra	Bay of Bengal
3	Krishna	1,400	1,400	Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra	Bay of Bengal
4	Yamuna	1,376	1,376	Yamunotri Glacier, Uttarakhand	Confluence with Ganga
5	Narmada	1,312	1,312	Amarkantak Plateau, Madhya Pradesh	Arabian Sea
6	Indus	1,114	3,180	Tibet (near Lake Mansarovar)	Arabian Sea
7	Brahmaputra	916	2,900	Angsi Glacier, Tibet	Bay of Bengal
8	Mahanadi	890	890	Sihawa Hills, Chhattisgarh	Bay of Bengal

9	Cauvery	800	800	Brahmagiri Hills, Karnataka	Bay of Bengal
10	Tapi (Tapti)	724	724	Satpura Range, Madhya Pradesh	Arabian Sea

Top 10 Longest Rivers in India 2026

Top 10 Longest Rivers of India each tell a unique story as they flow across the country, sustaining its people, culture, and rich history. From the mighty Ganga, the longest, to the more modest Tapi, these rivers shape India’s landscapes and heritage. Here’s a closer look at the **Top 10 Longest Rivers of India 2026**:

1. Ganga River

The **Ganga River**, with a total length of 2,525 kilometers, holds the title of the **Longest River in India**, flowing entirely through the mainland. It originates from the Gangotri Glacier in Uttarakhand and travels across multiple states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal, before merging with the Bay of Bengal. Along its journey, the Ganga is fed by numerous tributaries. On the left bank, it receives waters from the Ramganga, Garra, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Koshi, and Mahananda rivers. Its right bank tributaries include the Yamuna,

Tamsa, Son, Punpun, Kiul, Karmanasa, and Chandan rivers.

2. Godavari River

The **Godavari River**, spanning a length of 1,464 kilometers, holds the title of the **Longest Rivers in India in Peninsular Region** and **2nd Longest River in India**. It originates from the Triambakeshwar region near Nashik in Maharashtra. The river flows through the states of Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh before emptying into the **Bay of Bengal**. Along its journey, the Godavari is joined by several tributaries: the left bank tributaries include the Banganga, Kadva, Shivana, and Purna rivers, while the right bank tributaries are Nasardi, Darna, and Pravara.

3. Krishna River

The **Krishna River** spans 1,400 kilometers, originating from the Western Ghats at an elevation of approximately 1,337 meters, just north of Mahabaleshwar, about 64 kilometers from the Arabian Sea. It is the **3rd Longest River in India**. Its left bank tributaries include the Bhima, Dindi Musi, Paleru, and Munneru rivers, while the right bank is fed by the Vienna, Koyna, and Panchganga rivers. The Krishna River ultimately flows into the Bay of Bengal. Known for its vital role in irrigation, it is a major water source for the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.

4. Yamuna River

The **Yamuna River**, spanning a length of 1,376 kilometers, originates from the Yamunotri Glacier, located at the Banderpoonch Peak in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand. It is the **4th Longest River in India**. As one of the primary tributaries of the Ganges, the Yamuna's tributaries include Hindon, Sharda on the left bank, and Chambal, Betwa, and Ken on the right. The river flows through several key states, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

5. Narmada River

The **Narmada River**, stretching over 1,312 kilometers, originates from the Amarkantak Peak in Madhya Pradesh. It is the **5th Longest River in India**. Its left-bank tributaries include Burhner, Banjar, Sher, and Karjan, while the right bank tributaries consist of Hiran, Tendoni, and Choral. The river flows westward, ultimately emptying into the Arabian Sea. Often referred to as the "Lifeline of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat," the Narmada plays a crucial role in the agricultural and economic development of both states.

6. Indus River

The **Indus River** holds the distinction of being the longest river in terms of the total distance it covers, stretching over 3,180 kilometers. However, within India, it flows for approximately 1,114 kilometers, with the majority of the river's course running through present-day Pakistan. It is considered as the **6th Longest River in India**. Originating from the northern slopes of the Kailash Range in Tibet, near Lake Manasarovar, the river traverses vast regions. Prominent cities situated along its banks include Leh and Skardu. The river is fed by several tributaries, with the left bank contributing Zaskar, Suru, Soan, Jhelum, Chenab, and Luni, while the right bank is nourished by

Shyok, Hunza, Gilgit, Gomal, and Zhob. Ultimately, the Indus River empties into the Arabian Sea.

7. Brahmaputra River

The **Brahmaputra River**, stretching 2,900 kilometers from Tibet's Kailash Ranges, flows 916 kilometers through India, entering via Arunachal Pradesh. It is the Widest River in India and the **7th Longest River in India**. Its left bank tributaries include Dibang, Lohit, and Dhansiri, while the right bank is fed by Kameng, Manas, Jaldhaka, Teesta, and Subansiri. In Bangladesh, it becomes the Jamuna River, merging with the Padma (Ganges) before emptying into the **Bay of Bengal**. Majuli, an island in Assam's Brahmaputra, became India's first river island district in 2016, once covering 880 square kilometers at the turn of the 20th century.

8. Mahanadi River

The **Mahanadi River**, stretching 890 km, begins its journey in the Raipur district of Chhattisgarh. It is the **8th Longest River in India**. Its left bank tributaries include the Mand, Ib, and Hasdeo rivers, while its right bank tributaries are the Ong and Parry. The river ultimately empties into the Bay of Bengal. Due to its impact on Odisha, it has historically been referred to as "the distress of Odisha." However, the construction of the Hirakud Dam has significantly changed the situation, providing much-needed regulation and flood control.

9. Cauvery River

The Cauvery River, spanning 800 km, originates from the Brahmagiri Range in the **Western Ghats**, located in the Coorg District of Karnataka. It is the **9th Longest River in India**. On its left bank lies the Harangi Reservoir, while its primary right bank tributary is the Lakshmana Tirtha. The river ultimately flows toward the Grand Anicut in the south, before branching into numerous distributaries. These tributaries form a vast delta, often referred to as the "Garden of Southern India," before the Cauvery empties into the Bay of Bengal, in Tamil Nadu.

10. Tapi River

The **Tapi River**, stretching over 724 kilometers, begins its journey from the **Satpura Range**. It is the **10th Longest River in India**. It flows through the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat before emptying into the Gulf of Khambhat, part of the **Arabian Sea**. The river is fed by six tributaries, including Purna and Girna.

Largest River in India 2026

- **The Ganga is the Longest and the Largest River in India By Length 2026**, stretching for about 2,525 kilometers entirely within the country's main drainage. However, the Indus (3,180 km total and only 1,114 km in India) and Brahmaputra (2,900 km total and only 916 km in India) are longer overall before leaving India's borders.
- **The Brahmaputra is the Largest River in India By Volume 2026** with water discharging roughly 59,000 m³/sec at its peak.

Widest River in India 2026

The Brahmaputra is the Widest River in India 2026. It originates in the Tibet region of Himalayas. Its width is approximately 8 to 10 km which eventually extends during monsoon season. The river forms a massive braided channel with numerous islands.

Importance of Rivers in India

Rivers are the lifeline of India, supporting agriculture, livelihoods, ecosystems, industries, and cultural traditions across the country.

- **Provide Water for Agriculture** by irrigating millions of hectares of farmland and supporting food production.
- **Supply Drinking Water** to urban and rural populations for domestic use.
- **Generate Hydroelectric Power** through dams and river valley projects, contributing to energy security.
- **Support Industries** by providing water for manufacturing, processing, and other industrial activities.
- **Facilitate Transportation** through inland waterways, reducing transportation costs and promoting trade.
- **Sustain Biodiversity** by providing habitats for numerous aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal species.
- **Recharge Groundwater** through seepage and natural water infiltration processes.
- **Prevent Soil Degradation** by depositing fertile alluvial soil, especially in river plains.
- **Promote Economic Development** by supporting agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and various river-based activities.
- **Hold Cultural and Religious Significance** as many rivers are considered sacred and are central to festivals, rituals, and pilgrimages.
- **Help Maintain Ecological Balance** by regulating water cycles and supporting natural ecosystems.
- **Support Fisheries and Livelihoods** for millions of people dependent on river resources for income and sustenance.

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