

UPSC Preparation

Godavari River

The Godavari river is the largest river system in Peninsular India. The Godavari basin extends over the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Puducherry (Yanam) having a total area of approximately 3 lakh Sq.km.

The river is 1,465 km long and is considered the second-longest river in the country (after the Ganges).

Facts about Godavari River for UPSC

Brief Facts about Godavari River - UPSC Prelims	
What are the other names for Godavari River?	Vridhdh (Old) Ganga or the Dakshin (South) Ganga.
Where does Godavari river drain into?	Bay of Bengal
In which State does Godavari River originate?	Maharashtra (Nashik)
Is Godavari River west-flowing or east-flowing?	It is an East flowing river
Which is the longest tributary of Godavari River?	Manjira
Which is the largest tributary of Godavari River?	Pranahita
Which is the biggest city on the riverbanks of Godavari?	Rajahmundry

About Godavari River

- **Origin** - The River rises in the Sahyadris, near **Trimbakeshwar** in the Nashik district of Maharashtra.
- Godavari river originates from Bramhagiri mountains at Trimbakeshwar.
- The Godavari River drains about 10% of India's total geographical area. The drainage basin of the river is present in seven states of India. They are:

States	Percentage (%)
Maharashtra	48.66
Telangana	19.87
Chhattisgarh	10.69
Madhya Pradesh	10.17
Odisha	5.67
Andhra Pradesh	3.53
Karnataka	1.41
Puducherry	0.001

Source - Ministry of Jal Shakti

- The river Godavari rises at an elevation of 1,067 m in the Western Ghats.
- The main river forms the inter-State boundary between the States of Telangana and Maharashtra; and Telangana and Chhattisgarh.
- The delta of the Godavari is of **lobate** type with a round bulge and many distributaries.

What is the course of the Godavari River?

The river flows across the Deccan Plateau from the Western to the Eastern Ghats. The river flows in a southeast direction across south-central Indian states. After flowing for about 1,465 km., in a generally southeast direction, it falls into the Bay of Bengal. At Rajahmundry, 80 km from the coast, the river splits into two streams, thus forming a very fertile delta.

Tributaries of Godavari River



Source - Ministry of Jal Shakti

The Godavari river system has been divided into twelve sub-basins by Krishna - Godavari Commission. The important tributaries along with their facts related to their important tributaries, catchment areas are tabled below:

Sub-basins of Godavari River	Important facts
Upper Godavari (G-1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source to Manjira confluence; • Drainage area - Maharashtra
Pravara (G-2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originates in the Western Ghats;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flows in an easterly direction; • Important tributary - Mula; • Drainage area - Maharashtra
Purna (G-3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originates in the Ajanta Range of hills; • Flows in south-easterly direction; • Drainage area - Maharashtra
Manjira (G-4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The longest tributary of Godavari; • Drainage areas - Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana; • Originates in Balaghat range of hills; • Joining Manjira from right side: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Terna, ○ Karanja and ○ Haldi • Joining Manjira from left side: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lendi ○ Maner
Middle Godavari (G-5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an inter-State sub-basin between the States of Telangana and Maharashtra; • Located between confluence points Manjira and Pranhita
Maner (G-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right bank tributary; • Originates in Rajanna Sirisilla district of Telangana; • Catchment area - Telangana
Penganga (G-7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important tributaries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kayadhu, ○ Pus, ○ Arunavati, ○ Waghadi, ○ Khuni • It is an inter-State sub-basin between the States of Telangana and Maharashtra;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It forms an inter-State boundary between the two States.
Wardha (G-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interstate sub-basin - Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana. • The important tributaries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bembla • Wunna
Pranahita (G-9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the largest tributary of the Godavari. • It covers about 34% of its drainage basin. • Inter-state sub-basin - Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Telangana; • Important tributaries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bagh, ○ Wainganga, ○ Bawanthadi, ○ Pench, ○ Kanhan, ○ Chulband, ○ Garvi, ○ Andhari, ○ Kobragarhi, ○ Dina nadhi and ○ Peddavagu.
Lower Godavari (G-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interstate river - Telangana, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh; • Important tributaries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taliperu, ○ Lakhnawarm, ○ Peddvagu, ○ Kinnerasani
Indravati (G-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originates on the western slopes of the Eastern Ghats in Odisha.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interstate river - Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.• Its important tributaries are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Right side<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Narangi,▪ Boardhig,▪ Kotri,▪ Nibra▪ Bandia○ Left side<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nandiraj▪ Dantewara
Sabari (G-12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Originates in Sinkaram hill range of the Eastern Ghats in Odisha.• Potteru is another important tributary of Sabari joining on the left side.• Machkund or Sileru is the major tributary of Sabari on the left bank.

Rainfall pattern

- The Godavari basin receives its maximum rainfall in the Southwest monsoon.
- All parts of the basin receive the maximum rainfall in the period from June to September.
- January and February are almost entirely dry in the Godavari basin, the rainfall during these two months being less than 15 mm.
- The basin receives 84% of the annual rainfall on an average during Southwest monsoon.

To know more about [Monsoon](#), check the linked article.

Geography of the basin

The Godavari basin is bounded by different physical features. They are:

1. North - Satmala hills, the Ajanta range and the Mahadeo hills
2. South - Balaghat and the Mahadeo ranges
3. East - Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal

4. West - Western Ghats

The interior part of the Godavari basin lies in Maharashtra Plateau.

Religious Importance

- Apart from Ganga and Yamuna, Godavari also holds special religious importance in India.
- Godavari is considered one of the sacred rivers in India.
- The major bathing festival called **Pushkaram (Kumbh Mela)** is celebrated on the banks of Godavari River.
- The two bathing ghats, Ramkund and Kushavarta holy reservoirs situated in the Godavari river holds high significance as thousands of sadhus, holy men and millions of pilgrims take dips in the holy river on the specific date and at a specific time during Kumbh Mela.
- Apart from Kumbh Mela, the Hindus perform many other religious rituals at the river Godavari.

FAQ about Godavari River

What is a tributary?

A stream or river that flows into a larger river.

What are the tributaries of Pranhita river?

The Pranhita River System consists of mainly four major tributaries namely a) Wainganga b) Wardha c) Penganga d) Peddavagua river. Pranhita is composed of all these rivers.

What is the significance of Trimbakeshwar?

Triambakeshwar, is a place where the Godavari originates and is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas in India. Triambakeshwar is one of the four places where the Kumbh Mela takes place every twelve years.