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Topic : Peninsular Rivers



Peninsular Rivers

- The Peninsular Rivers originate in the Deccan Plateau, flowing into the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea. They are seasonal/ephemeral, relying on monsoon rains, with shorter courses and gentler slopes than Himalayan Rivers.
- Based on the direction of flow, they are divided into two categories



East Flowing Rivers

- These rivers flow from West to East due to the natural tilt of the Deccan Plateau and drain into the Bay of Bengal.
- They form delta.

Examples:

- Damodar
- Subarnarekha
- Mahanadi
- Godavari
- Kaveri
- Krishna
- Pennar
- Baitarani
- Brahmani

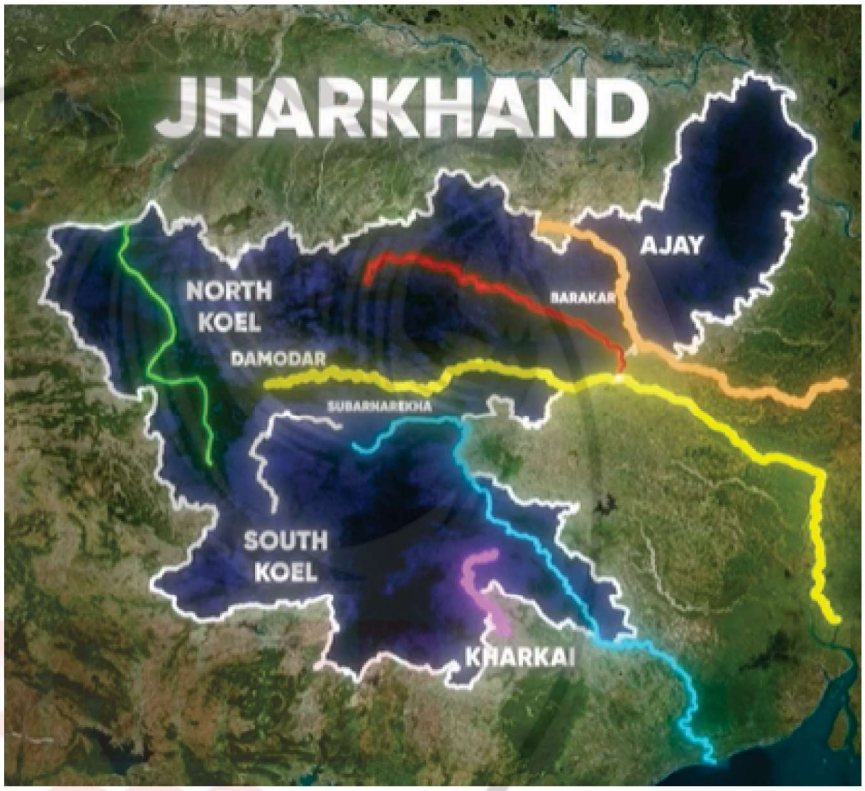


Damodar

- The Damodar River originates and flows through the rift valley in the Chotanagpur Plateau of Jharkhand.
- It is also known as "Sorrow of Bengal" because of devastating floods it causes in West Bengal.
- It flows through Jharkhand and West Bengal before joining the Hugli river (a distributary of the Ganga).
- Tributaries: Bokaro, Barakar, Konar.

Subarnarekha

- Subarnarekha river originates in the Ranchi Plateau of Jharkhand.
- It flows through Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha.
- The river's sand contains gold particle, which is why it is named Subarnarekha (meaning "Streak of Gold")



Baitarani

- Baitarani river originates from Gonasikha/Guptaganga hills in Odisha.

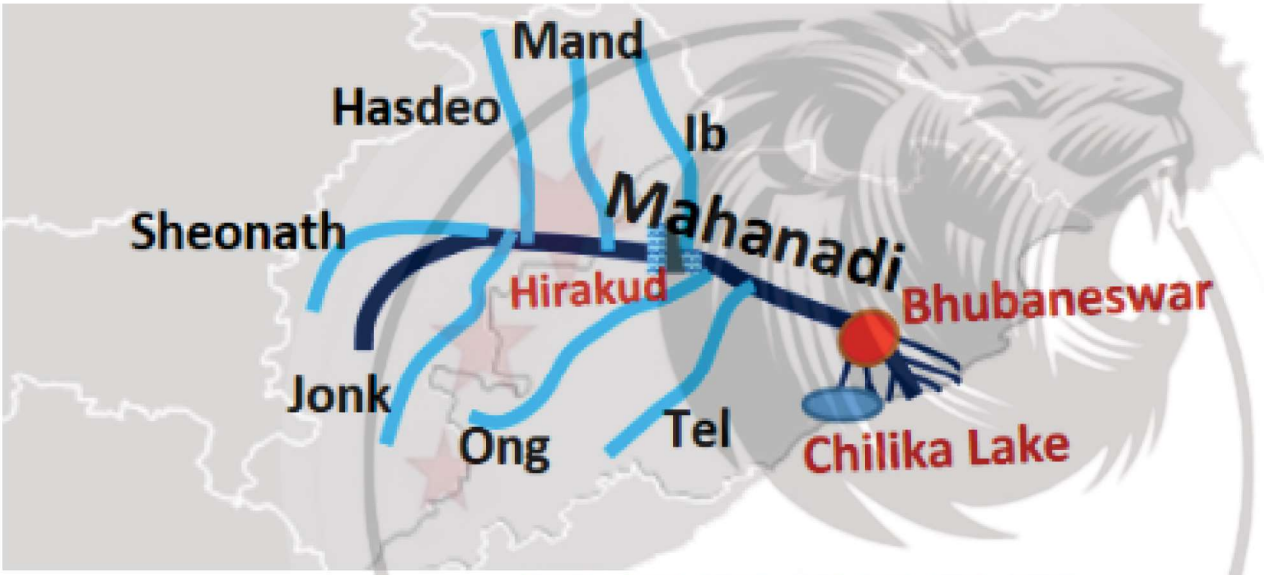
Brahmani

- It is formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers near Rourkela, Odisha (later joins Baitarani to form a delta).



Mahanadi

- Mahanadi river is 900 km in length and is the 3rd largest Peninsular river.
- Mahanadi river originates from Sihawa hills in Chhattisgarh.
- The River flows through Chhattisgarh and Odisha before draining into Bay of Bengal. Its basin extends across Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Tributaries: Tel, Jonk, Ong, Hasdeo, and Mand, Ib, Seonath
- Hirakud Dam (in Odisha) → India's Longest dam.



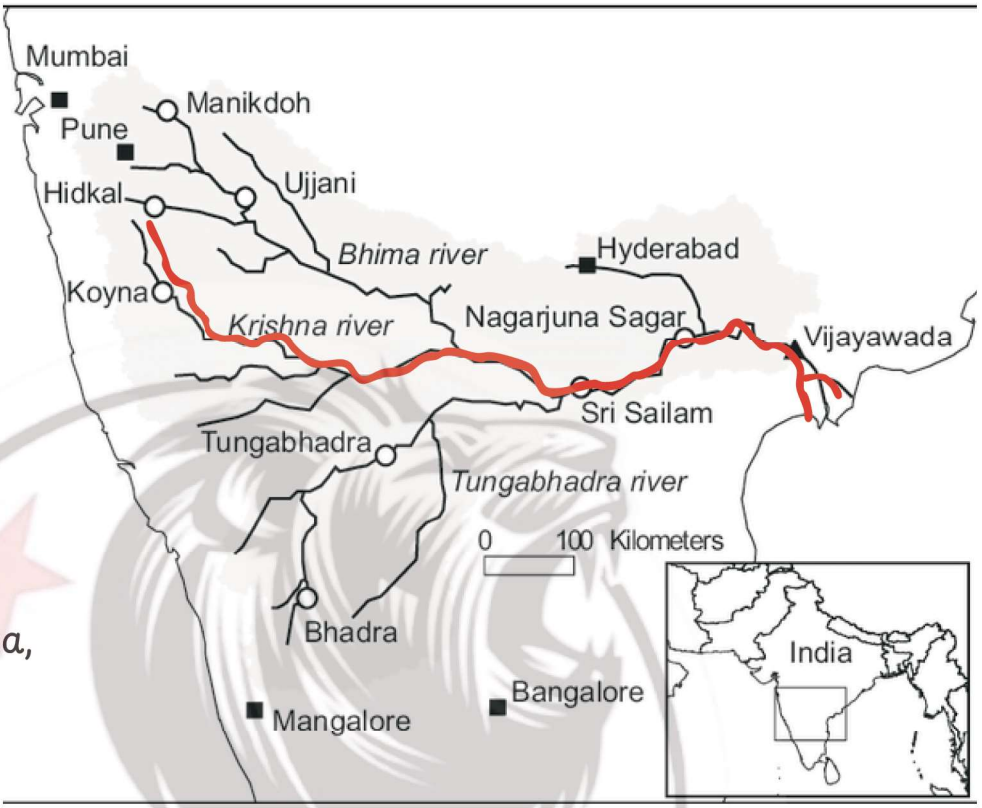
Godavari

- The length of Godavari river is 1465 km and is the largest Peninsular river of South India.
- It is also known as "Dakshin Ganga" or "Vridha Ganga".
- The Godavari river originates from Trimbakeshwar Plateau (Western Ghats) in Nasik, Maharashtra.
- **Pravara, Purna, Manjira, Pranhita, Indravati, and Sabari are main tributaries of Godavari**
- It flows through Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.
- The decommissioned Havelock Bridge has been built over Godavari River
- Gautami river is a branch of Godavari that joins Bay of Bengal through Yanam enclave.



Krishna

- The length of Krishna river is 1400 km and is the second longest river of South India.
- It originates from the Western Ghats at Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.
- It flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- Tributaries: Bhima, Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Musi, Koyna, Dudhganga, Yerla, Warna and Dindi.



Pennar

- The Pennar river originates from Nandi Hills, Karnataka (Chikkaballapura).
- It is also known as 'Uttara Pinakini'.
- It is an independent flowing river of Andhra Pradesh.



Kaveri / Cauvery



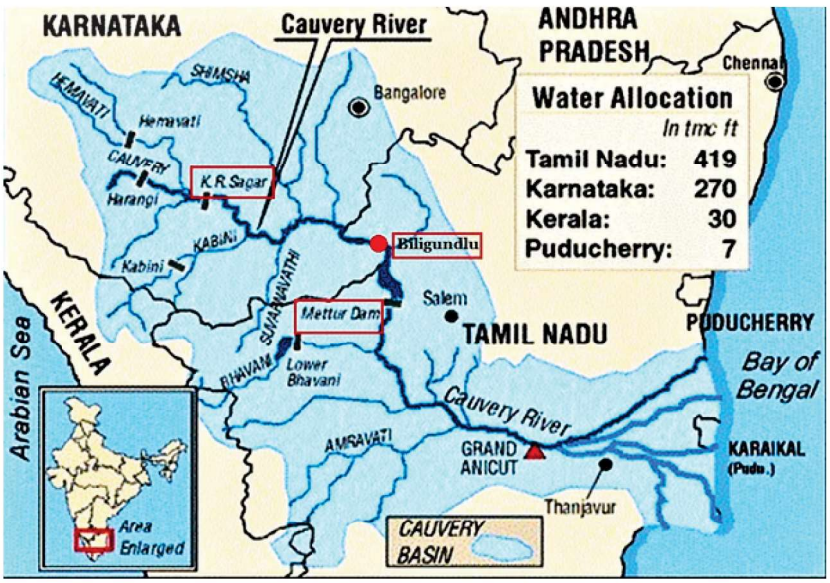
- The length of Kaveri river is 800 km.
- It originates from Brahmagiri Hills, Kodagu district, Karnataka.
- It flows through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.
- It is the only river of South India that flows throughout the year (Perennial river).
- It is known as "Ganga of South India" (the flow of the river is like Ganga and the tributaries resemble Ganga).
- Tributaries: Hemavati, Kabini, Bhavani, Shimsha, Amaravati.
- The Kaveri delta is known as "Granary of South India".
- It is known as "Ponni" in Tamil Nadu.

The Cauvery water dispute

- It is a long-standing conflict primarily between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the sharing of the Cauvery River's water, which also involves Kerala and Puducherry.

Final Allocated Shares:

- Karnataka: 284.75 TMC
- Tamil Nadu : 404.25 TMC
- Kerala : 30 TMC
- Puducherry : 7 TMC



Vaigai River

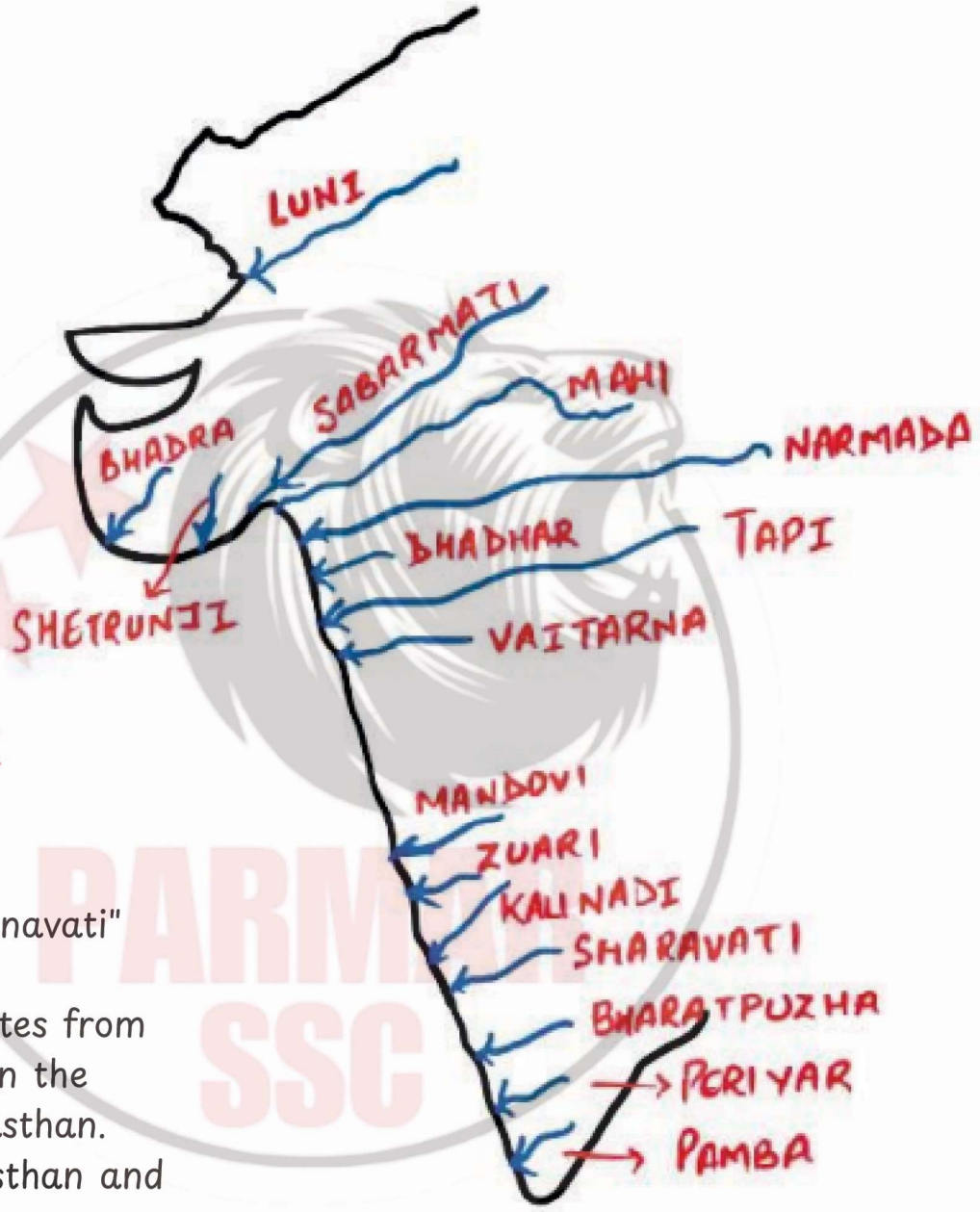
- It is the southernmost river of India.

West Flowing Rivers

- These rivers flow from East to West and drain into the Arabian Sea. They form estuary.

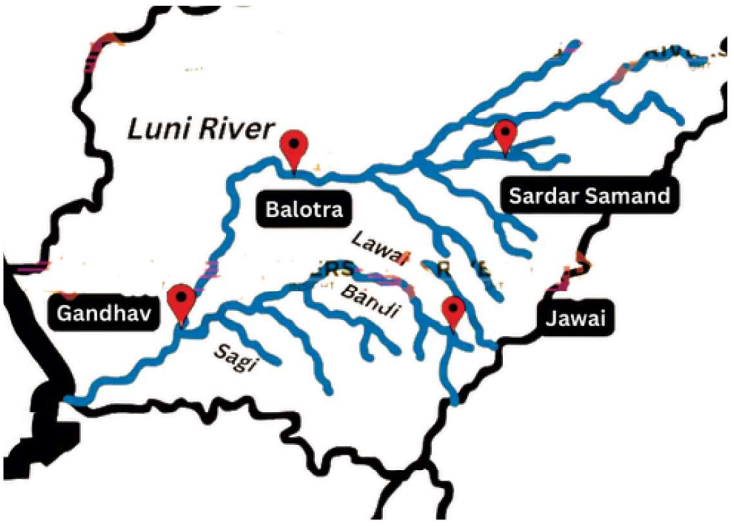
Examples:

- Narmada
- Tapti
- Mahi
- Sabarmati
- Luni



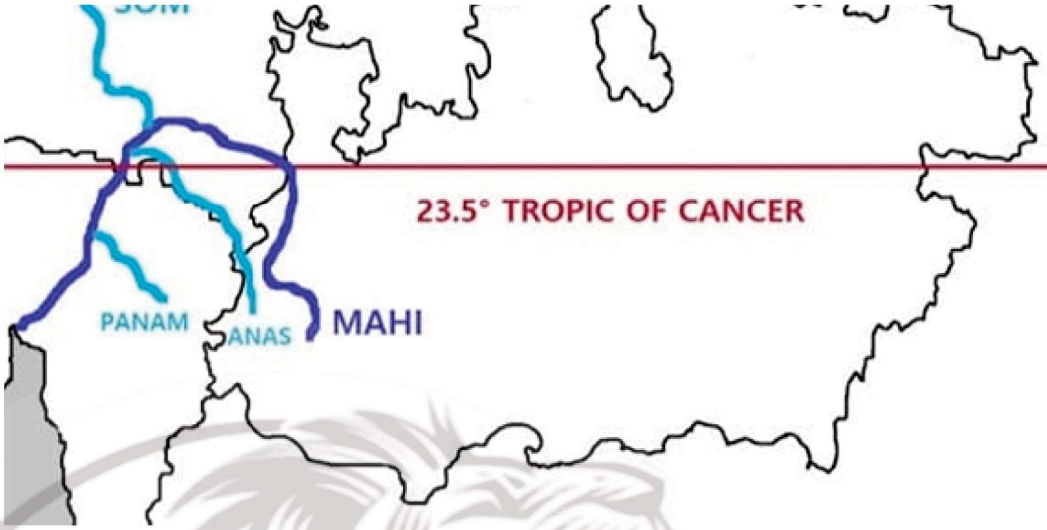
Luni River

- It is also known as "Lavanavari" or "Lavanavati" river.
- The Luni river originates from Nag Pahar/Nag hills in the Ajmer district of Rajasthan.
- It flows through Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- The Luni River is an endorheic river, meaning it drains into an inland basin and does not reach the sea. Instead, it ends in the Rann of Kutch.
- It is the only major river in India that contains saline water due to its high rate of evaporation.



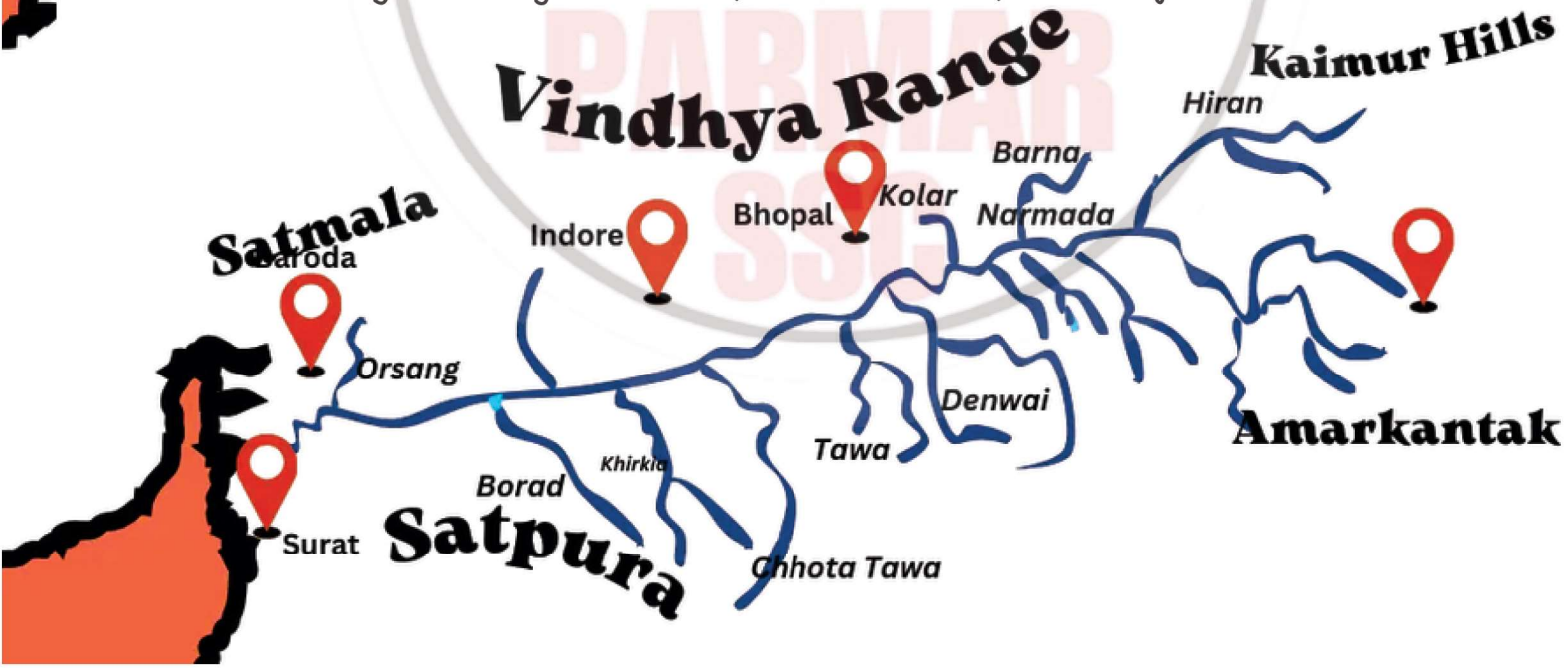
Mahi River

- Mahi river originates from the Vindhya mountains
- It flows through Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- It crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice.



Narmada

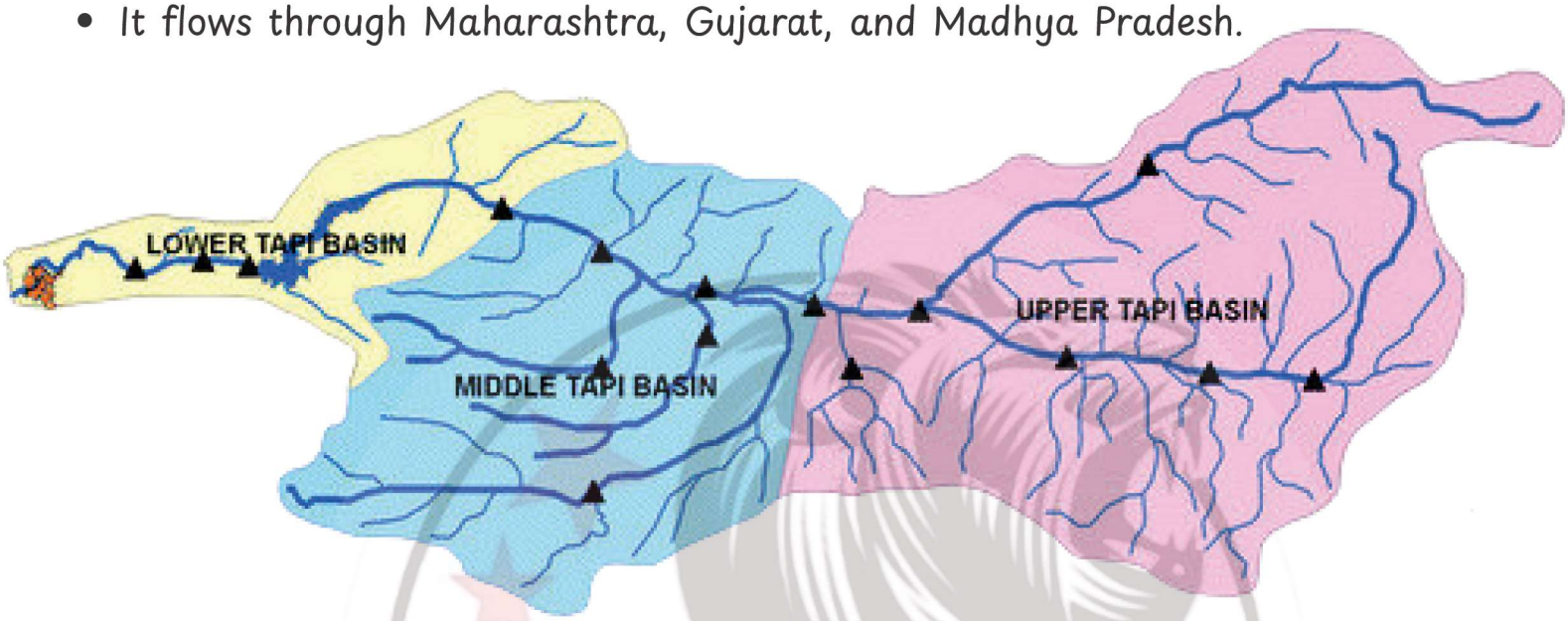
- The length of Narmada river is 1312 km. It is the longest west flowing river that drains itself into the Arabian Sea (flows into Gulf of Khambhat).
- It originates from Amarkantak Plateau in Madhya Pradesh.
- It flows through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.



- The Narmada River flows through a rift valley between the Vindhya and Satpura mountain ranges in India.
- Tributaries: Banjar, Tawa, Shakkar, Halon.
- Narmada River forms Dhuandhar Fall in Bhedaghat, Jabalpur District of Madhya Pradesh

Tapi / Tapti

- The length of Tapi river is 724 km.
- It originates from Multai in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh in the Satpura Range and 80% of its basin lies in Maharashtra.
- It flows through Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.



- Tapti river flows through a rift valley alongside Narmada (2nd longest westward flowing river).
- Tributaries: Aner, Gomai, Purna, Bori, Girna, Arunawati.
- Surat is located on the banks of this river.

Rivers of Goa

- **Zuari river**: It forms an estuary that meets Arabian Sea at Mormugao Bay in Goa.
- **Mandovi river**: It is known as "lifeline of goa". It forms an estuary and the city of Panaji is located on the bank of this river.

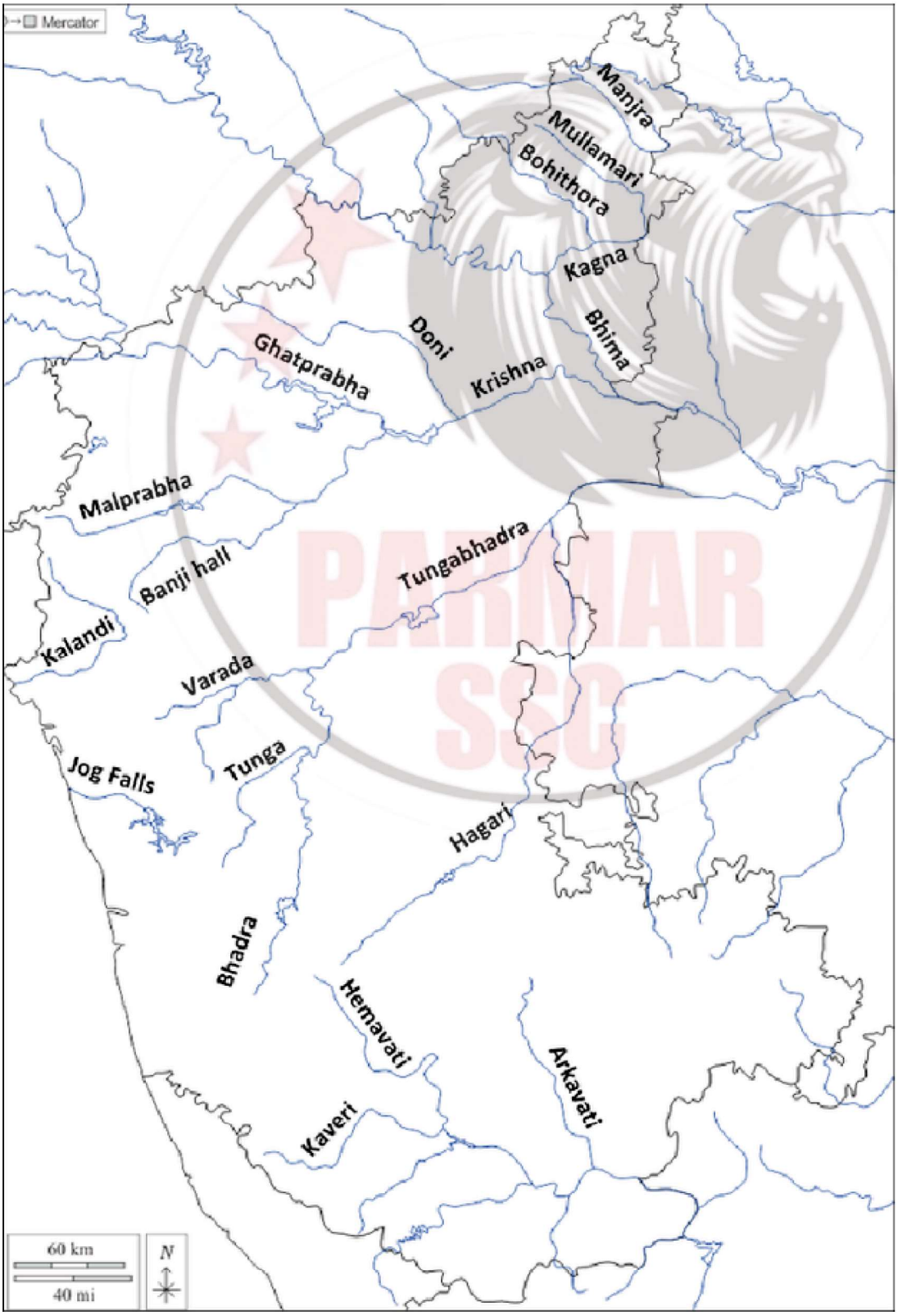


- **Bharathappuzha**: It is also known as Ponnani river.
- **Periyar**: It is known as "lifeline of Kerala" and is the longest river in Kerala.
- **Pamba**: Pamba river drains into Vembanand lake.



Rivers of Karnataka

- **Kali**: It is also known as Kalinadi river.
- **Sharavati**: Jog waterfalls is on the Sharavati river.
- **Varahi**: Kunchikal waterfalls (highest waterfall in India) is on the Varahi river.
- The Drainage Basin of a river covers the entire area drained by that river as well as its tributaries and distributaries.



Some Important Facts

- APJ Abdul Kalam Islands (formerly known as Wheeler Islands) is located near the mouth of Dhamra river (the confluence of Baitarani and Brahmani).
- Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha is located in the delta of the Brahmani, Baitarani, and Dhamra rivers.
- Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary (world's largest) and Rushikulya beach (second largest) are the largest nesting site for Olive Ridley Turtles in India.
- **Olive Ridley turtles** in Odisha lay eggs (Arribada) primarily at the **Rushikulya river** mouth and Gahirmatha Beach.

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