

The Himalayan River Systems

Chapter 8: Drainage · Topic 1

Key Concept

These rivers originate from glaciers high in the Himalayas, meaning they receive water from melting snow even during the dry season, ensuring a steady year-round flow.

The Ganga river system includes major tributaries like the Yamuna, Gomti, and Ghaghara, together forming one of the most fertile and densely populated river basins in the world.

The Brahmaputra, originating in Tibet, flows through a difficult, mountainous terrain before entering India, known for significant flooding during the monsoon season.

These river systems support massive populations through agriculture, drinking water, transportation, and hydroelectric power generation, making them vital to India's economy and daily life.

Quick Revision Notes

- Himalayan rivers are perennial, fed by snowmelt and monsoons.
- They originate from glaciers high in the Himalayas.
- The Ganga has tributaries like the Yamuna, Gomti and Ghaghara.
- The Ganga basin is densely populated and fertile.
- The Brahmaputra originates in Tibet.
- The Brahmaputra often floods during the monsoon.
- These rivers support agriculture and drinking water.
- They also support hydroelectric power generation.

Practice Questions

- 1 Name three tributaries of the Ganga.
- 2 Discuss why Himalayan rivers are perennial.
- 3 Research where the Brahmaputra originates.
- 4 Explain why the Ganga basin is densely populated.
- 5 Discuss how rivers support hydroelectric power generation.
- 6 Create a simple map showing the Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems.