

Class XIth. Subject Geography Date 4.3.2021.

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Answer the following questions in not more than 125 words.

Question 4(i).

What are the important characteristic features of north Indian rivers? How are these different from Peninsular rivers?

Answer:

Important characteristics of north Indian rivers are as follows:

- Origin: They originate in Himalayan mountain covered with glaciers.
- Nature of flow: These are perennial because they receive water from glacier and rainfall.
- Drainage pattern: These are antecedent and consequently lead to dendritic pattern in plains.
- Nature of river: It has long course, flowing through the rugged mountains experiencing headward erosion and river capturing; In plains it exhibits meandering and shifting of course.
- Catchment area: Its catchment areas include very large basins.
- Age of river: These rivers are young and youthful. These are active and deepening in the valleys.

These are different from peninsular rivers because these have following features:

- Place of origin: Peninsular plateau and central highland.
- Nature of flow: Seasonal as it is dependent on monsoon rainfall.
- Type of drainage: Super imposed, rejuvenated resulting in trellis, radial and rectangular patterns.
- Nature of river: Smaller, fixed course with well-adjusted valleys.
- Catchment area: Relatively smaller basin.
- Age of the river: Old rivers with graded profile, and have almost reached their base levels.

Question 4(ii).

Suppose you are travelling from Haridwar to Siliguri along the foothills of the Himalayas. Name the important rivers you will come across. Describe the characteristics of any one of them.

Answer:

While travelling from Haridwar to Siliguri along the foothills of the Himalayas, we shall come across Tons, Gomti, Saryu, Ramganga, Sharda, Gandak, Old Gandak, Kamla, Bagmati, Kosi and Ganga.

The Ganga is the most important river of India both from the point of view of its basin and cultural significance. It rises in the Gangotri glacier near Gaumukh which is 3,900 m high from sea level in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. It is known as

the Bhagirathi in this region. At Devaprayag, the Bhagirathi meets the Alaknanda; hereafter, it is known as the Ganga. The Ganga enters the plains at Haridwar. From here, it flows first to the south, then to the south-east and east before splitting into two distributaries, namely the Bhagirathi and the Hugli.

The river has a length of 2,525 km. It is shared by Uttarakhand (110 km) and Uttar Pradesh (1,450 km), Bihar (445 km) and West Bengal (520 km). The Ganga basin covers about 8.6 lakh sq. km area in India alone. The Ganga river system is the largest in India having a number of perennial and non-perennial rivers originating in the Himalayas in the north and the Peninsula in the south, respectively.

Yamuna joins the Ganga at Prayag (Allahabad). It is joined by the Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa and the Ken on its right bank which originates from the Peninsular plateau while the Hindan, the Rind, the Sengar, the Varuna, etc. join it on its left bank. Much of its water feeds the western and eastern Yamuna and the Agra canals for irrigation purposes.