

The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE

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The Supreme Court criticised high courts for routinely staying bail orders, highlighting a threat to personal liberty and due process. Justices emphasised that stays should be rare and justified, reserving judgement on the issue following Parvinder Khurana's case.

- ✚ The Supreme Court highlighted a concerning trend where higher courts frequently stall bail, posing a threat to personal liberty and due process.
- ✚ They emphasised that bail should only be stayed in rare and exceptional cases, such as evident legal perversity or cases involving terrorists.

Right to Default Bail: Supreme Court Decision

- ✚ **Default Bail Defined:** A right under Section 167(2) of the CrPC, where an accused is granted bail if the investigation isn't completed within the stipulated period—90 days for serious offences, 60 days for others.
- ✚ **Statutory and Fundamental Right :** The Supreme Court in the Ritu Chhabaria case emphasised that default bail is not just statutory but a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ✚ **Purpose:** This right prevents the State from exercising arbitrary power and ensures timely investigation.
- ✚ **Police Custody Limit :** An accused can be held in police custody for up to 15 days; further detention requires judicial custody.
- ✚ **Incomplete Charge Sheets :** Filing an incomplete or supplementary charge sheet within the 60/90-day period does not negate the right to default bail.
- ✚ **Ritu Chhabria Case Impact :** The court ruled that such practices by investigating authorities to prevent default bail are invalid, reaffirming the protection against prolonged detention without proper investigation completion.

Stay on bail should only be granted in rare cases, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said an inclination seen among higher courts to stall bail creates a real and present danger to the rights of personal liberty and due process.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said the propensity to stay reasoned bail orders passed by trial courts was “shocking”. “Stay on bail should not be granted except in very rare and exceptional cases. Stay of a bail order should be given only if there is apparent perversity or if provisions of law mandating the satisfaction of certain special conditions were not satisfied or if the person is a terrorist,” Justice Oka said, adding that High Courts cannot pass them mechanically.

The court said it would formally address in a judgment the issue of “casual” orders passed by High Courts staying or suspending bail granted by trial courts. The court was reserving for judgment an appeal filed by Parvinder

Khurana, an accused in a money laundering case, whose bail was stayed by the Delhi High Court for more than a year.

“This is shocking. What signals are we sending by passing such stay orders? Can bail be stayed as a matter of course like this? How can bail be stayed for a whole year? Was he a terrorist? What was the reason to stay his bail?” Justice Oka asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Justice Oka said bail conditions set by the trial court were safeguard enough to prevent an accused from absconding or influencing witnesses.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the ED, said bail conditions work only as long as the accused remains within the jurisdiction of the court. There were cases in which the accused got bail and flew the coop to places which did not have an extradition treaty.

Mr. Mehta suggested that the top court, in its judgment, could insist that High Courts give reasons while staying a bail order.

The Union government declared June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to honour those who suffered during the 1975 Emergency.

- The day aims to remind citizens of the importance of upholding the Constitution and democracy.
- The Gazette notification cited the Emergency's proclamation and subsequent abuses of power, stating the observance would honour the victims and prevent future abuses.

About Emergency

- It refers to legal measures and clauses within a country's constitution or laws that enable the government to respond swiftly and effectively to extraordinary situations, such as war, rebellion, or other crises that threaten the nation's stability, security, or sovereignty and democracy of India.

Provisions of Emergency in Constitution:

- These provisions are outlined in Article 352 to Article 360 under Part XVIII of the Constitution.
- The emergency provisions in the Indian Constitution draw inspiration from Germany's Weimar Constitution.

Articles	Subject Matter
Article 352	Proclamation of Emergency

Centre declares June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas'

It will commemorate the massive contributions of all those who endured the inhuman pains of the 1975 Emergency, says Shah; Congress dismisses it as a 'headline-grabbing exercise' in hypocrisy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has decided to observe June 25 – the day Emergency was imposed in 1975 – as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas', Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Friday.

"This day will commemorate the massive contributions of all those who endured the inhuman pains of the 1975 Emergency," Mr. Shah posted on X.

The Gazette notification on the decision does not provide any English translation for the name of the day, simply using the Hindi words in Roman script. A literal English translation, however, would be 'Constitution Assassination Day'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the day would serve as a reminder of what happens when the Constitution of India is trampled over.

"It is also a day to pay homage to each and every person who suffered due to the excesses of the Emergency, a Congress-un-



Home Minister Amit Shah said the observance of the day will help keep alive the eternal flame of individual freedom. PTI

leashed dark phase of Indian history," Mr. Modi said.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the announcement was "yet another headline-grabbing exercise in hypocrisy by the non-biological Prime Minister who had imposed an undeclared Emergency for 10 long years before the people of India handed him a decisive personal, political, and moral defeat on June 4, 2024 – which will go down in history as Modi Mukti Diwas [or Liberation from Modi Day]".

The Gazette notification issued on Friday said that a

proclamation of Emergency was made on June 25, 1975, following which "there was gross abuse of power by the government of the day and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities".

It added that the people of India have abiding faith in the Constitution and the power of India's resilient democracy.

"Therefore, Government of India declares 25th June as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to pay tribute to all those who suffered and fought against the gross abuse of power during the period of Emergency and

to recommit the people of India to not support in any manner such gross abuse of power, in future," the notification said.

'Dictatorial mindset'

Mr. Shah said the government's decision was "intended to honour the spirit of millions who struggled to revive democracy despite facing inexplicable persecution at the hands of an oppressive government".

He added that "the observance of the day will help keep the eternal flame of individual freedom and the defence of our democracy alive in every Indian, thus preventing dictatorial forces like the Congress from repeating those horrors".

"On June 25, 1975, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in a brazen display of a dictatorial mindset, strangled the soul of our democracy by imposing the Emergency on the nation. Lakhs of people were thrown behind bars for no fault of their own, and the voice of the media was silenced," Mr. Shah said.

Daily News Analysis

Article 353	Effect of Proclamation of Emergency
Article 354	Application of provisions relating to the distribution of revenues while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation
Article 355	Duty of the Union to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance
Article 356	Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in States
Article 357	Exercise of legislative powers under proclamation issued under Article 356
Article 358	Suspension of provisions of Article 19 during Emergencies
Article 359	Suspension of the enforcement of the rights conferred by Part III during Emergencies
Article 360	Provisions as to Financial Emergency

Approval, Duration & Revocation of National Emergency

Since, Emergency leads to incredible centralisation of powers, utmost care has been taken in the Indian constitution, to create checks and balances.

- ✚ **Cabinet's Consent Required:** The President can declare the Emergency only on the written concurrence of the Cabinet and his satisfaction regarding the prevailing situation.
 - The 44th Constitutional Amendment added this safeguard to ensure that the Prime Minister alone cannot make the decision regarding this, as was the case in the Emergency declared in 1975; Earlier written concurrence was not required.
- ✚ **Parliament's approval:** Every Proclamation of National Emergency must be laid before each house of the Parliament. If either of the houses do not approve the Proclamation within the expiry of 1 month, the Emergency will cease to operate.
 - The original duration was two months, which was reduced to one month by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.

Daily News Analysis

- + **Duration:** If approved by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the Emergency remains operative for 6 months.
- + **Continuation beyond 6 months:** It can be extended indefinitely with the approval of Parliament every 6 months. The 44th Constitutional Amendment added the Provision of the requirement of Parliamentary approval every 6 months.
- + **Special Majority:** Every resolution concerning the Emergency, either for approval or for continuation, must be passed by a special majority, i.e. a majority of the total members of the house and the majority of 2/3rd of the members present and voting.
- + **In case of dissolution of Lok Sabha:** If the Proclamation of Emergency is declared when the Lok Sabha is dissolved or gets dissolved before the expiry of the one-month duration of Emergency, then the Emergency continues till the 30 days of the first sitting of Lok Sabha after its reconstitution, provided that the Rajya Sabha, in the meantime has approved it.
- + **Judicial review:** The **38th Constitutional Amendment** Act of 1975 made the declaration of emergency immune from judicial review.
 - o However, this Provision was repealed by the **44th Amendment**.
 - o Further, in the **Minerva Mills judgement of 1980**, the apex court held that the Proclamation of Emergency could be challenged in the Court on the grounds of malafide intention or the declaration was based on irrelevant, absurd or perverse reasons.
- + **Revocation:** The President (on council of ministers' advice) can revoke the Proclamation of Emergency at any time by a subsequent proclamation; it does not require Parliamentary approval. However, Parliament too has power to revoke an Emergency:
- + The Emergency can also be revoked if the Lok Sabha passes a resolution (by simple majority) disapproving the continuation of the Emergency. This Provision was added by the 44th Constitutional Amendment.
- + The Amendment also added that if **1/10th of the total members of the Lok Sabha** give notice to the Speaker (or President in case the house is not in session), a special sitting of the house must be convened for the consideration of disapproving the resolution.

Daily News Analysis

Amendment In National Emergency Provisions

ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION		AFTER 44 TH AMENDMENT	
PROCLAMATION	On President's (CoM's) satisfaction	Written concurrence of the Cabinet	
PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL	Necessary within 2 months	Necessary within 1 month	
CONTINUATION	No Limitation mentioned	Parliament's approval every 6 months	
JUDICIAL REVIEW	38 th Amendment restricted Judiciary (Original Constitution is silent on this)	Repealed the Provision against Review (that was introduced via 38 th Amendment)	
REVOCATION	Parliament had No power	- Parliament resolution by simple Majority - Special session if 10% MPs demand	

Effects of National Emergency

- ✚ The effects of the National Emergency can be discussed in the following sub-topics:
 - Effects on Centre-state relations
 - Term of Lok Sabha and state assemblies
 - Effect on Fundamental Rights

Effects on Centre-State Relations

- ✚ The effects of Emergency on centre-state relations in administrative, legislative and financial matters have been dealt with in detail in the centre-state relations chapter .
- ✚ The Parliament can legislate on state subjects, and the Union can give directions to the state on 'any' matter.
- ✚ However, such central laws on state subjects remain operative till the expiration of 6 months after the emergency ceases to operate.

Effect on Term of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

- ✚ Extension of term of Lok Sabha: While the National Emergency is in operation, the duration of Lok Sabha can be extended by one year at a time (indefinitely). However, this extension becomes void beyond a period of 6 months after the Emergency is revoked. For instance, the term of Lok Sabha was extended two times during the National Emergency of 1975.
- ✚ Extension of term of state assemblies: In a similar fashion, the terms of state legislatures can be extended by one year at a time for indefinite time. However, this extension discontinues beyond a period of 6 months after the Emergency is revoked.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Consider the following statements with reference to Emergency provisions in the Constitution:

1. The President can suspend any fundamental right during the proclamation of emergency.
2. The Presidential order on suspension of fundamental rights should be laid before each House of Parliament for approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

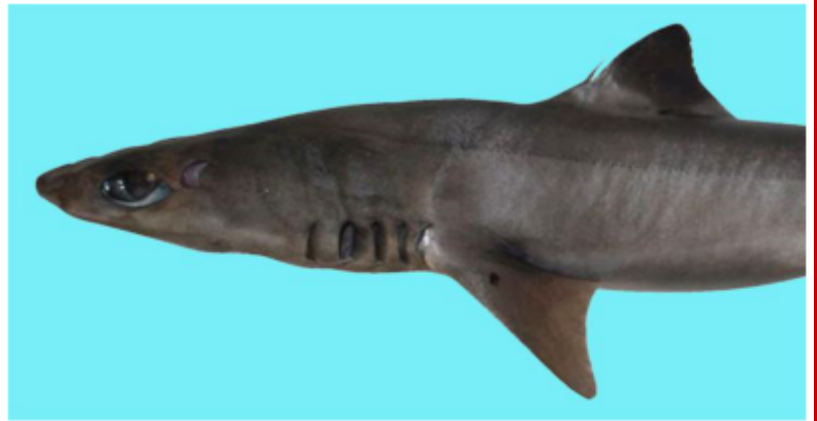
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : b)

Page 05 : Prelims Fact

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India, led by Bineesh K. K, discovered a new deep-water dogfish shark species, *Squalus hima*, in Kerala. Published in the journal *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, the species highlights the demand for liver oil in the pharmaceutical industry.

- ✚ It is a new species of dogfish shark discovered from the southwest coast of India.
- ✚ *Squalus* is a genus of dogfish sharks in the family *Squalidae*, commonly known as spurdogs and are characterized by smooth dorsal fin spines.
- ✚ They also have an angular short snout, a small mouth almost as wide as the snout, a first dorsal fin origin behind the pectoral fins, and a body without any spots.
- ✚ They are exploited for their liver oil, which contains high levels of squalene (or squalane when it is processed for products).
- ✚ It is in high demand in the pharmaceutical industry, particularly for making high-end cosmetic and anti-cancerous products.
- ✚ On the Indian coast, two species of *Squalus* are found from the southwest coast of India, and the new species, *Squalus hima* n.sp., is very similar to *Squalus lalandei*, but differs in many characteristics.
- ✚ The newly discovered *Squalus hima* differs from other species by the number of precaudal vertebrae, total vertebrae, teeth count, trunk & head heights, fin structure, and fin colour.



New species of dogfish shark discovered in Kerala harbour

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India have discovered a new species of deep-water dogfish shark, *Squalus hima*, from the Sakthikulangara fishing harbour in Kerala. *Squalus* is a genus of dogfish sharks in the family *Squalidae*, commonly known as spurdogs, and are characterised by smooth dorsal fin spines. The discovery, made by a team of scientists led by scientist Bineesh K. K, was published in the journal *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*. The shark species from the genus *Squalus* and *Centrophorus* are often exploited for their liver oil which is in high demand in pharmaceutical industry, Dr. Bineesh said.

Daily News Analysis

UPSC Prelims PYQ : 2024

Ques : Certain species of which one of the following organisms are well known as cultivators of fungi?

- (a) Ant
- (b) Cockroach
- (c) Crab
- (d) Spider

Ans : a)



Page 05 : GS 2 & 3 – Governance & Indian Economy

NITI Aayog's fourth evaluation report on India's progress towards the 16 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) shows an improved score of 71 out of 100 in 2023, up from 57 in 2018, highlighting gains in health, education, and reductions in inequality.

- ✚ The report highlighted declines in income and gender inequality scores.

What is Sustainable Development?

- ✚ 'Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.
- ✚ This most widely accepted definition of Sustainable Development was given by the Brundtland Commission in its report Our Common Future (1987).

About Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- ✚ **Adopted:** In 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly, comprising 17 goals aimed at addressing global challenges by 2030.
- ✚ **Scope:** Covering social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.
- ✚ **Importance:** Provide a universal framework for global cooperation towards sustainable development, encouraging governments, businesses, and civil society to take action.
- ✚ **Progress:** Regular monitoring and reporting mechanisms track progress at national and international levels to ensure accountability and transparency.
- ✚ **Goals Include:**
 1. No Poverty
 2. Zero Hunger
 3. Good Health and Well-being
 4. Quality Education
 5. Gender Equality
 6. Clean Water and Sanitation
 7. Affordable and Clean Energy
 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
 10. Reduced Inequality
 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
 12. Responsible Consumption and Production
 13. Climate Action
 14. Life Below Water
 15. Life on Land

India shows good progress on SDGs: NITI Aayog report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog on Friday released its fourth evaluation report of India's progress on the 16 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 by all United Nations member countries, giving India a score of 71 out of 100, as compared to 57 in 2018.

"SDGs are directly linked to people's welfare, well-being and quality of life," B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, NITI Aayog's CEO, told presspersons at the report's launch.

Health conditions have improved, he said, thanks to better public health and insurance coverage. Education was helped by high teacher-student ratios but teacher quality needed targeted interventions, Mr. Subrahmanyam added.

Income and gender inequality were the SDGs which have seen a drop in the score.

The report noted a slight drop from 0.75 last year to 0.73 in the ratio of women's earnings compared to men.

The report's release comes ahead of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held under UN auspices in New York on July 18.

Daily News Analysis

16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

17. Partnerships for the Goals



UPSC Prelims PYQ : 2016

Ques : Consider the following statements:

1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the 'Club of Rome'.
 2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : b)

Exercise In News : Pitch Black

Daily News Analysis

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent is participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2024 which is scheduled to be conducted from 12 July 24 to 02 August 24 in Australia.



About Exercise Pitch Black:

- ✚ It is a biennial and multi-national exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
 - The name 'Pitch Black' was derived from the emphasis on night time flying over large unpopulated areas.
- ✚ The 2024 edition is slated to be the largest in the 43-year-long history of Ex Pitch Black, which includes participation by 20 countries, with over 140 aircraft and 4400 military personnel of various air forces.
- ✚ The exercise will focus on Large Force Employment warfare aimed at strengthening international cooperation and shall facilitate experience enhancement with the IAF Su-30 MKI operating alongside the F-35, F-22, F-18, F-15, Gripen and Typhoon fighter aircraft.
- ✚ The IAF contingent comprises over 150 highly skilled Air Warriors including pilots, engineers, technicians, controllers and other subject matter experts, who will be operating the formidable Su-30 MKI multirole fighters, with the C-17 Globemaster and the IL-78 Air-to-Air Refuelling aircraft in combat enabling roles.
- ✚ The exercise would provide IAF with an opportunity towards force integration with participating nations and mutual exchange of best practices.
- ✚ **Significance:** The exercise provides an excellent opportunity for strengthening the ability of the participating nations to deploy over large distances, support integrated operations in the Indo-Pacific region and build strong aviation associations in a highly challenging environment.
- ✚ **Previous participation of India:** The IAF has previously participated in the 2018 and 2022 editions of this exercise.

Other Exercises:

- ✚ **Bilateral:**
 - Ex AUSTRA HIND (Army)
 - Ex AUSINDEX (Navy)
- ✚ **Multilateral:**
 - Malabar Exercise (With the Navies of USA, India, Australia and Japan)

UPSC Prelims PYQ : 2024

Ques : Which of the following statements about 'Exercise Mitra Shakti-2023' are correct?

1. This was a joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh.
2. It commenced in Aundh (Pune).
3. Joint response during counter-terrorism operation was a goal of this operation.
4. Indian Air Force was a part of this exercise.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 2 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

Ans : d)

The PDS impact on household expenditure

The Public Distribution System (PDS) is an important social security programme in India. Its objective is to ensure food security. Today, up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population are eligible for subsidised foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. If the cost of consuming foodgrains from the PDS is subsidised, this then frees up resources for a household to spend on other items such as vegetables, milk, pulses, egg, fish, meat and other nutrient and protein-rich food items. It is an empirical question whether households indeed diversify their food consumption. With the release of data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES):2022-23, there will be renewed interest in the above line of inquiry, i.e., the impact of consumption of free food items from the PDS on expenditure on items other than foodgrains.

On representativeness

To the extent possible, the HCES:2022-23 canvassed information on food and non-food items received by households free of cost through various social welfare programmes. In the HCES:2022-23 report published by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and available on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation website, there is detailed information on pages 15 to 18. The objective of the survey is not to provide precise estimates of the proportion of households receiving benefits under every scheme. In most cases, survey estimates of coverage of a programme will be lower than that suggested by the administrative data. A common conjecture in the literature on the PDS is inclusion error (when an ineligible household consumes from the PDS) and exclusion error (when an eligible household is not consuming foodgrains from the PDS). For this purpose, researchers will compare the proportion of households consuming PDS items with the coverage under the NFSA. While care should be exercised in terms of interpreting the estimates, one advantage of the survey data is that it allows us to examine the characteristics of households that report benefits from the programmes.



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The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey Data offers the scope to analyse the impact of social transfers

Unless detailed information is sought on the nature of an ailment or disease in the case of health shocks, and waiver of fees or reimbursement in school or college, imputing the value of free medical services and education services received by the households is not possible. In the case of education and health, the NSSO conducts separate surveys where detailed information is canvassed on out-of-pocket expenditure and free services that are availed by a household. One might ask why one cannot use data on information paid by households to impute the value of medical services. Insurance products are treated as an investment and not consumption. The relevant information is sought as part of the All India Debt & Investment Survey, and not as part of the HCES.

In order to provide guidance to analysts and researchers, the NSSO, for the first time, decided to impute the value figures of selected food and non-food items which were received free. This allows us to compute two metrics. The first is the Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) of a household, which is the ratio of monthly consumption expenditure to household size. The second metric is the value of household consumption in a month considering the imputed value of free food and non-food items, i.e., 'MPCE with imputation'. Both metrics are published by the NSSO in its report.

Imputation of values

The NSSO has suggested two sets of values for each State and by sector (rural, urban) for imputation of food and non-food items received free of cost – modal unit price and the 25th percentile unit price. Consumption expenditure refers to out-of-pocket expenditure while value of consumption would include free and subsidised items consumed by households. In the report published by the NSSO, imputation has been done using the modal price only for items received free. The operative word is free and not subsidised. Thus, no imputation is done for the purchase of food items from the PDS at nominal regulated prices.

The main item that a large proportion of households received free was foodgrains from the PDS. Not surprisingly, at the all-India level, we

find that in rural and urban India, about 94% and 95%, respectively, of the value of imputed items is attributable to food items. When we consider all the households, i.e., even those who did not receive any free items, the imputed value for food is ₹82 and ₹59 in rural and urban areas, respectively.

The report published by the NSSO has the average value of MPCE among those in the bottom 5% of distribution by the MPCE, 5-10, 10-20, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, 70-80, 80-90, 90-95 and top 5% of distribution. Each interval is called a fractile class. The average MPCE of those in the bottom 5% of MPCE distribution is ₹1,373 in rural and ₹2,001 in urban. This means that the MPCE of 5% of Indians is less than this cut off. When we focus on the imputed value of consumption of those in the bottom end of the rural distribution, we find that 20% of those in this fractile class, or about 1% of India's rural population is actually in the next fractile class, i.e., 5%-10%. In absolute terms this is about 86 lakh individuals in rural India. Similar patterns are observed till the sixth fractile class. In urban areas too, we see upward movement. There are different patterns observed across the major States. Needless to say, depending on their use case, researchers can impute the modal value for calculations for purchases from the PDS at the subsidised rate. This will increase the average MPCE with imputation. In short, there is evidence that even a limited imputation exercise establishes that in-kind social transfers help increase the value of consumption of poorer households.

Implications for poverty

Ever since the release of the report, there have been calls for a larger discussion on where the poverty line should be drawn. Among the issues that need to be considered is whether one needs to estimate the number of poor households based on the expenditure or based on the total value of consumption which includes the value of free items consumed. Needless to say, in-kind social transfers have implications for the well-being of households that are at the bottom end of consumption or income distribution.

The views expressed are personal

GS Paper 01 : Indian Society – Poverty

GS Paper 02 : Governance – Government Policies

GS Paper 03 : Economics – PDS, Buffer Stock & Food Security

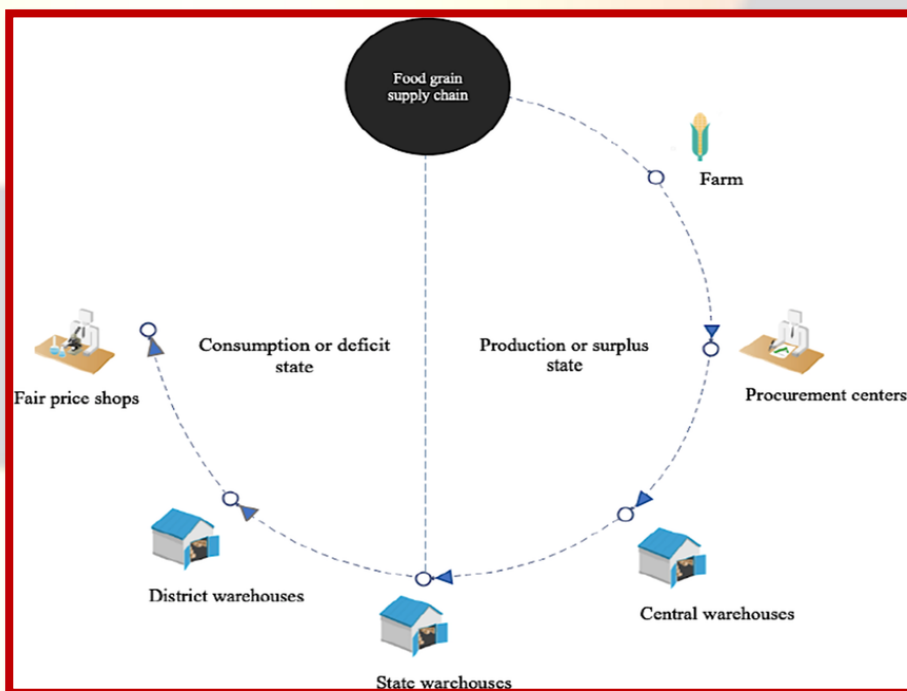
PYQ: (UPSC CSE (M) GS-3 2022) What are the major challenges of Public Distribution

Context

- ✚ **The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES):** 2022-23 examines the impact of India's Public Distribution System (PDS) on household spending patterns.
- ✚ It includes imputed values of free items received, providing insights into consumption diversification and poverty estimation implications based on comprehensive data.

Introduction to Public Distribution System (PDS) and National Food Security Act (NFSA)

- ✚ The Public Distribution System (PDS) aims to ensure food security by providing subsidized foodgrains to economically vulnerable sections of society. Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population are eligible for subsidized foodgrains.



Daily News Analysis

- ✚ Foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) are distributed through a network of Fair Price Shops (FPS).

Impact of PDS on Household Expenditure

- ✚ **Empirical Inquiry:** The HCES: 2022-23 provides data on how households allocate resources when receiving free food items from the PDS.
- ✚ **Diversification of Consumption:** It investigates whether households indeed diversify spending on items beyond food grains, such as vegetables, pulses, and proteins.

Its structural mandate:

- ✚ **Procurement and Distribution:** The PDS operates through the procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) from farmers at Minimum Support Prices (MSP). These foodgrains are then allocated to states and union territories based on their requirements and distributed to Fair Price Shops (FPS), which deliver subsidized foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries.
- ✚ **Identification and Subsidy:** Beneficiaries are identified based on the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data, classifying households into Priority Households and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households. Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, eligible households receive rice at ₹3 per kg, wheat at ₹2 per kg, and coarse grains at ₹1 per kg. The system aims to ensure that food security is maintained for the economically vulnerable sections of society.

Key Findings from HCES:2022-23

- ✚ The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 provides insights into the coverage of social welfare programs, including the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- ✚ The survey highlights discrepancies between administrative data and survey estimates due to inclusion and exclusion errors, offering detailed characteristics of households benefiting from these programs.

Imputation of values for food and non-food items

- ✚ **Note:** Imputation of values for food and non-food items refers to the process of assigning a monetary value to items received by households for free or at a subsidised rate through social welfare programs like the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India.
- ✚ **Purpose:** Imputation is done to estimate the total consumption expenditure of households more accurately. It accounts for the fact that households receive goods (such as foodgrains from PDS) without directly paying for them, thus impacting their overall consumption.

Daily News Analysis

- ✚ **Details on Imputation Methodology:** The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and other agencies use statistical methods to assign a value to these items. This involves determining the modal (most common) or percentile prices of the items received, which may vary by state and rural/urban classification.
- ✚ **Types of Items Imputed:** Imputation covers both food and non-food items. In the context of the PDS, it primarily includes foodgrains but can extend to other essential commodities provided through government schemes.
- ✚ **Data Sources:** Data for imputation can come from surveys like the HCES, where households report receiving these items. NSSO surveys typically provide detailed guidelines on how imputation values are derived and applied in their reports.
- ✚ **Impact on Analysis:** Imputing values allows analysts to compute metrics like the Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) accurately, reflecting the true economic status and welfare impact of households.

Implications for Poverty Estimation

- ✚ **Economic Relief for Poorer Households:** By providing foodgrains at highly subsidized rates, the PDS reduces the financial burden on poorer households, allowing them to allocate their limited resources to other essential needs.
- ✚ **Enhanced Measurement of Poverty:** Imputing the value of free or subsidised items received through programs like the PDS allows for a more comprehensive assessment of household consumption. Including these imputed values in poverty measurements provides a more accurate reflection of the economic well-being of households.
- ✚ **Policy Insights and Targeting:** Understanding how imputed values impact poverty metrics helps policymakers in targeting social welfare programs more effectively.
- ✚ **Diversification of Diet:** Access to subsidized foodgrains from the PDS allows households to free up resources, potentially enabling them to purchase a more diverse range of nutrient and protein-rich foods such as vegetables, milk, pulses, eggs, fish, and meat.

Conclusion and Policy Considerations

- ✚ **The HCES:** 2022-23 underscores the critical role of PDS in improving food security and potentially enhancing overall household welfare.

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- ✚ It calls for nuanced poverty estimation discussions based on comprehensive consumption data, reflecting the impact of social welfare programs.

Poverty

Introduction

- ✚ According to World Bank, Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life.
- ✚ In India, 21.9% of the population lives below the national poverty line in 2011.

Types of Poverty: There are two main classifications of poverty:

- ✚ **Absolute Poverty:** A condition where household income is below a necessary level to maintain basic living standards (food, shelter, housing). This condition makes it possible to compare between different countries and also over time. It was first introduced in 1990, the "dollar a day" poverty line measured absolute poverty by the standards of the world's poorest countries. In October 2015, the World Bank reset it to \$1.90 a day.
- ✚ **Relative Poverty:** It is defined from the social perspective that is living standard compared to the economic standards of population living in surroundings. Hence it is a measure of income inequality.

Poverty Estimation in India

- ✚ Poverty estimation in India is carried out by NITI Aayog's task force through the calculation of poverty line based on the data captured by the National Sample Survey Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).
- ✚ Poverty line estimation in India is based on the consumption expenditure and not on the income levels.
- ✚ Poverty is measured based on consumer expenditure surveys of the National Sample Survey Organisation. A poor household is defined as one with an expenditure level below a specific poverty line.
- ✚ The incidence of poverty is measured by the poverty ratio, which is the ratio of the number of poor to the total population expressed as a percentage. It is also known as head-count ratio.

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- ✚ Alagh **Committee** (1979) determined a poverty line based on a minimum daily requirement of 2400 and 2100 calories for an adult in Rural and Urban area respectively.
- ✚ Subsequently different committees; **Lakdawala Committee** (1993), **Tendulkar Committee** (2009), **Rangarajan committee** (2012) did the poverty estimation.
- ✚ As per the Rangarajan committee report (2014), the poverty line is estimated as Monthly Per Capita Expenditure of Rs 1407 in urban areas and R. 972 in rural areas.

Causes of Poverty in India

- ✚ Population Explosion
- ✚ Low Agricultural Productivity
- ✚ Inefficient Resource utilisation
- ✚ Low Rate of Economic Development
- ✚ Price Rise
- ✚ Unemployment
- ✚ Lack of Capital and Entrepreneurship
- ✚ Social Factors
- ✚ Colonial Exploitation
- ✚ Climatic Factors

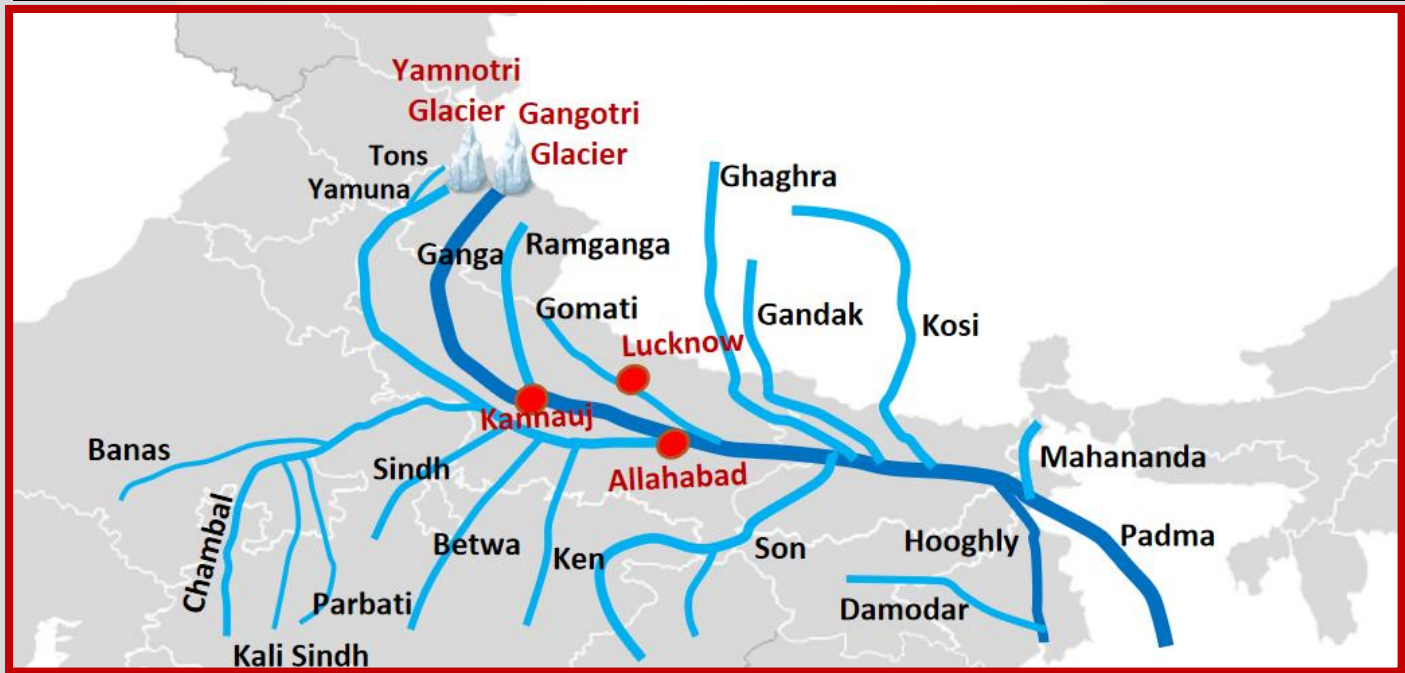
Poverty Alleviation Programs in India

- ✚ Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
- ✚ Jawahar Rozgar Yojana/Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana
- ✚ Rural Housing – Indira Awaas Yojana
- ✚ Food for Work Programme
- ✚ National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)
- ✚ Annapurna Scheme
- ✚ Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- ✚ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005
- ✚ National Rural Livelihood Mission: Aajeevika (2011)
- ✚ National Urban Livelihood Mission
- ✚ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- ✚ Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
- ✚ Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana

Mapping : The Ganga River System

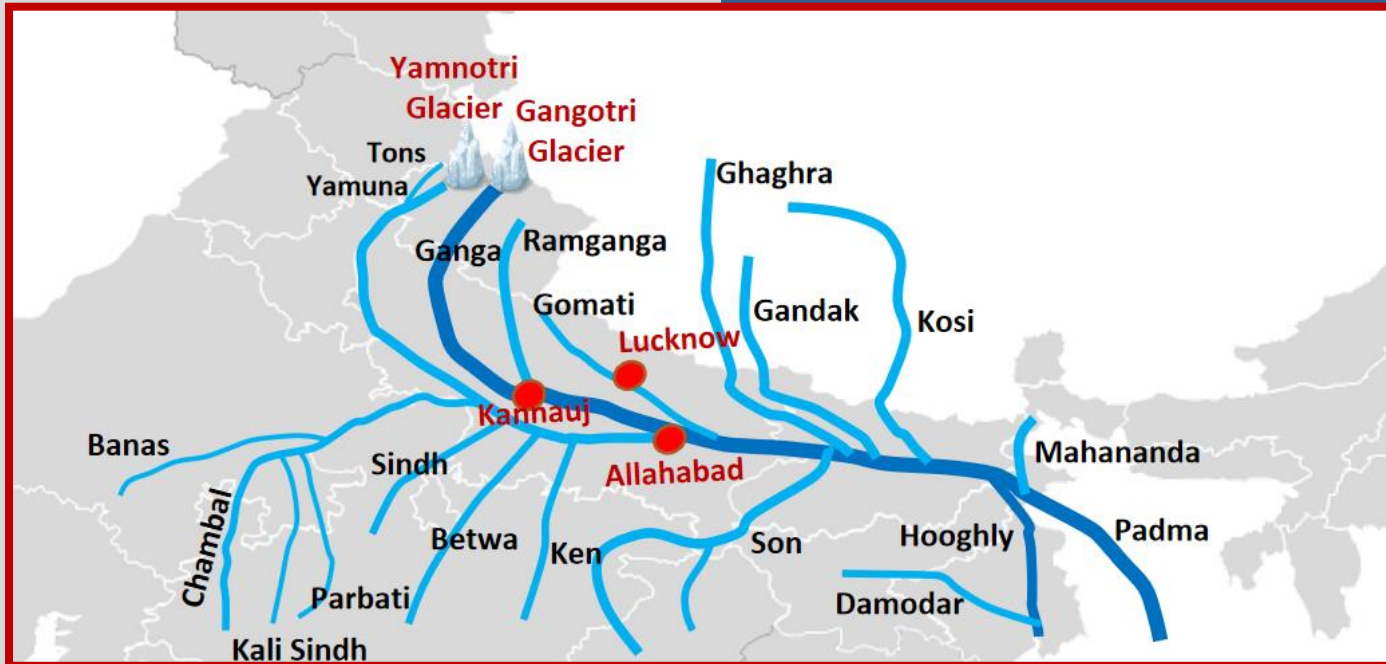
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Origin	Gangotri Glacier
Length	2,525 km
Catchment Area	8.61 lakh sq. km



Tributaries of Ganga

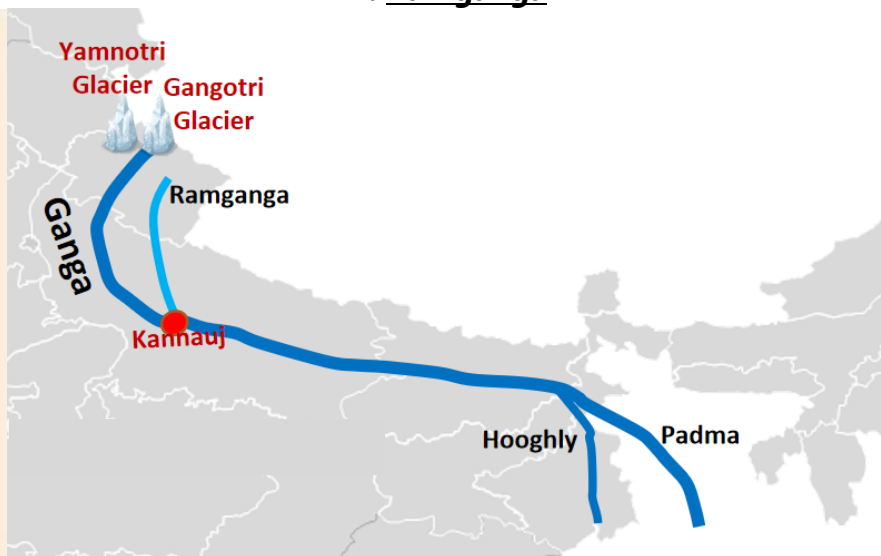
Numerous tributaries join Ganga, both on the left and the right. Most of them have their origins in the Himalayan Mountains, although some originate from the Peninsular Plateau.



Left bank tributaries of Ganga

Left bank tributaries of Ganga include Ramganga, Gomati, Ghaghra, Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda.

1. Ramganga



Origin

Garhwal district of Uttarakhand

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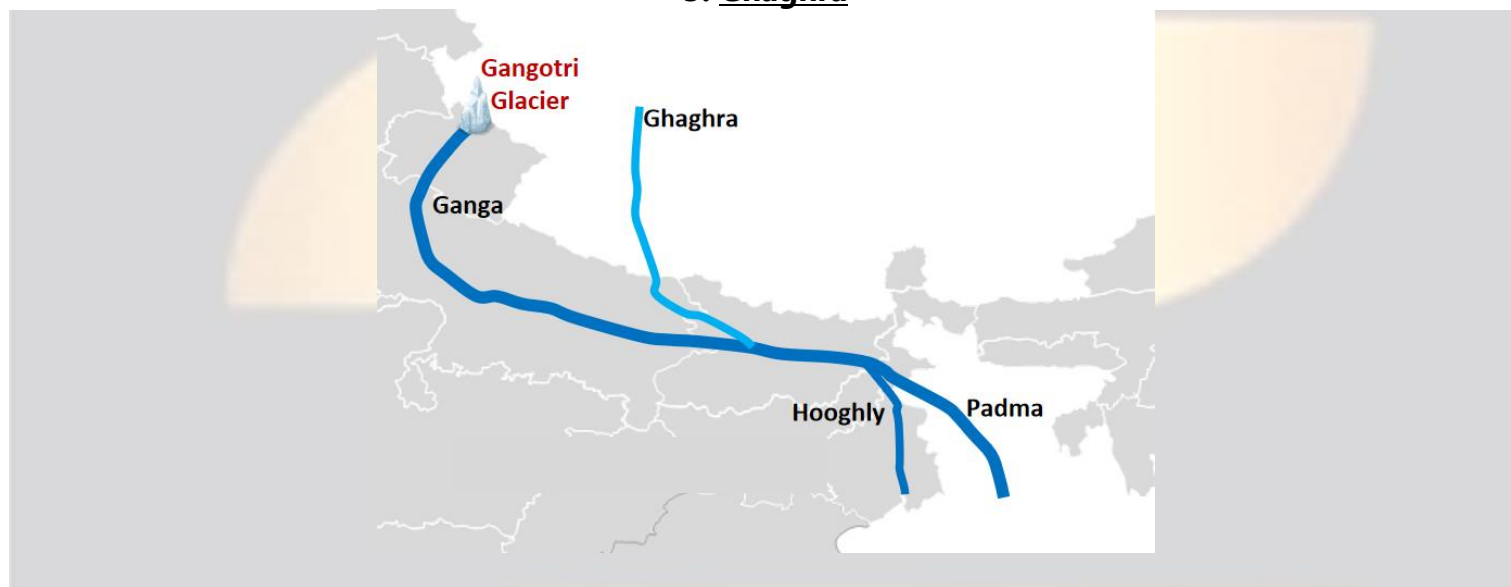
Length	596 km
Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ramganga rises in the Garhwal district of Uttarakhand and enters Ganga plain near Kalagarh. – It finally joins Ganga at Kannauj.

. Gomati

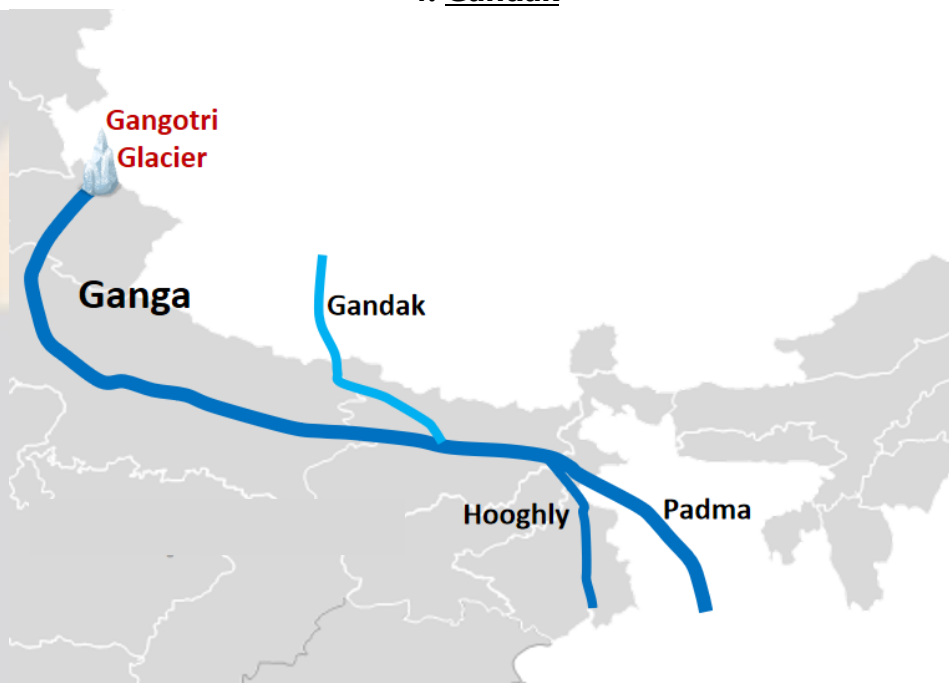


Origin	Northern UP
Flow	After entering the Ganga plains, it passes through Lucknow and finally meets Ganga.

3. Ghaghra

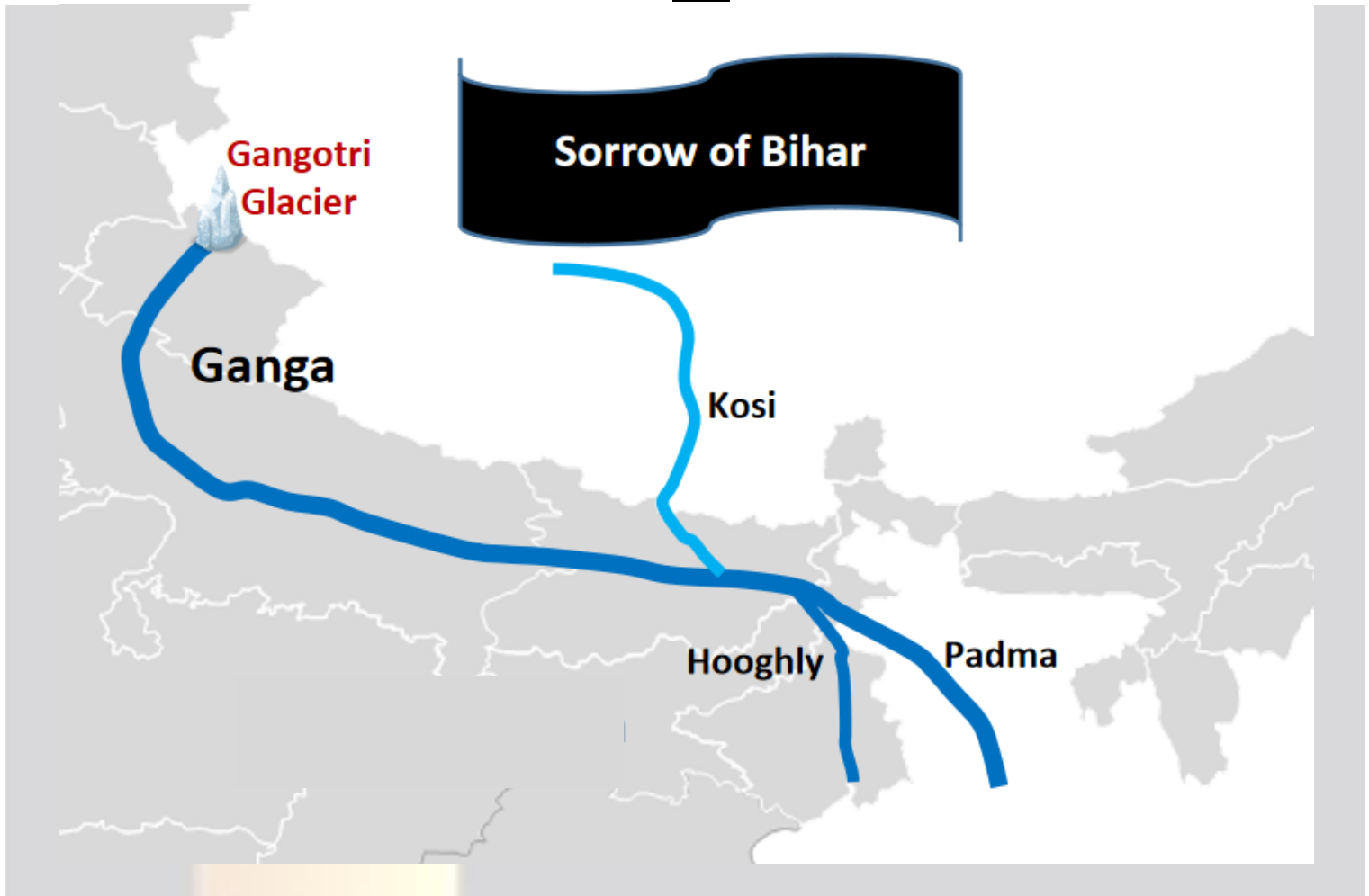


Origin	Near Gurla Mandata peak (south of Mansarovar Lake) in Tibet
Length	1080 km
Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– It originates in Tibet. Then it flows through Nepal, where it is known as Karnali.– After entering the plains, it is joined by important tributaries like Sarda, Sarju and Rapti. Ayodhya is located on the banks of river Sarju.– It finally meets Ganga in the Chhapra district of Bihar.– The river has a high flood frequency and has shifted its course several times.

4. Gandak

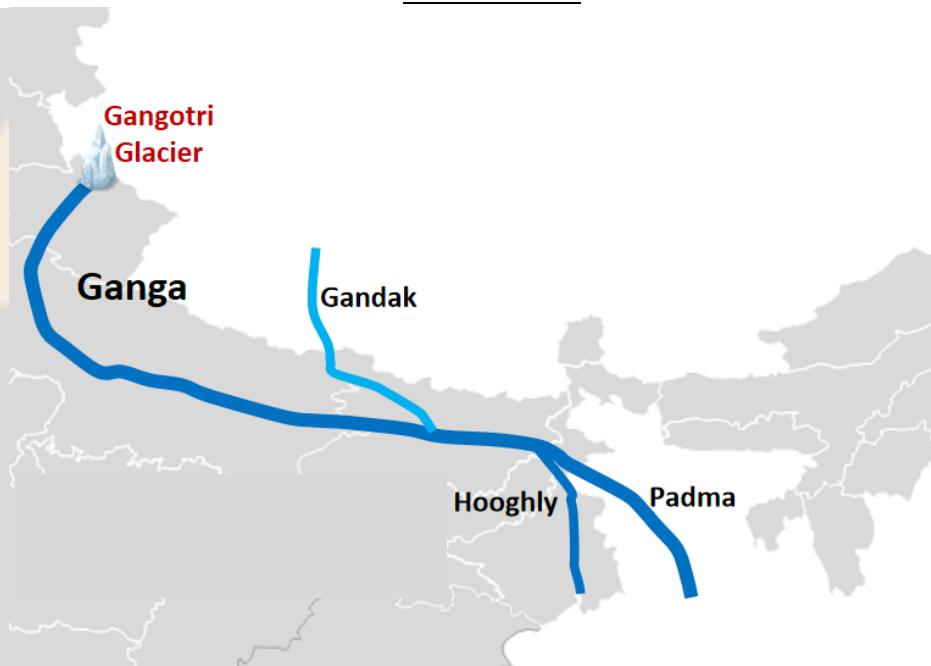
Origin	Near Tibet-Nepal Border.
Length	435 km
Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– It originates near the Tibet-Nepal border and receives water from a large number of tributaries in Nepal like Kali Gandak, Bari, Trishuli etc.– It finally enters the plains and joins Ganga at Hajipur (near Patna) in Bihar.

5. Kosi



Origin	Tibet
Length	730 km
Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kosi originates in Tibet as Sapta Kosi (i.e. made up of 7 streams in Tibet). – Gradually, tributaries join and are reduced to 3 streams in Nepal, known as Triveni. – These three streams merge & known as Kosi when it enters India. – It enters into the plain region just when it enters India, carrying a lot of sediments & has a large volume of water. Due to sediments, the depth of the basin becomes shallow and the river becomes sluggish, making the braided river channel which shift its course frequently. Due to this, it results in frequent devastated floods and the river is known as the 'Sorrow of Bihar'. – But it has been tamed since 1962 by constructing embankments on its rivers.

6. Mahananda



Origin	Darjeeling Hills
Flow	After entering the plains, it joins the Ganga as its last left bank tributary.