

Krishna River

The **Krishna River** is the fourth-biggest river in terms of water inflows and river basin area in India, after the Ganga, Godavari and Brahmaputra. The river is almost 1,300 kilometres (810 mi) long. The river is also called Krishnaveni. It is a major source of irrigation for Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh^[3]

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The Krishna river originates in the western ghats near Mahabaleshwar at an elevation of about 1,300 metres, in the state of Maharashtra in central India. It is one of the longest rivers in India. The Krishna river is around 1,300 km in length. The Krishna river's source is at Mahabaleswar near the Jor village in the extreme north of Wai Taluka, Satara District, Maharashtra in the west and empties into the Bay of Bengal at Hamasaladeevi (near Koduru) in Andhra Pradesh, on the east coast. It flows through

Krishna	
	
 Krishna river gorge by Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh, India	
Country	 India
States	 Maharashtra , Karnataka , Telangana , Andhra Pradesh
Region	 Southern Peninsular India
Tributaries	
 - left	 Bhima , Dindi , Peddavagu , Musi , Paleru , Munneru
 - right	 Venna , Koyna , Panchganga , Dudhaganga , Ghataprabha , Malaprabha , Tungabhadra
Source	Near Mahabaleswar, Jor village
 - location	 Satara district , Maharashtra , India
 - elevation	914 m (2,999 ft) <i>Geographic headwaters</i>
 - coordinates	17°59′18.8″N 73°38′16.7″E
Mouth	 Hamsaladeevi , Krishna district , Andhra Pradesh
 - location	 Bay Of Bengal , India
 - elevation	0 m (0 ft)
 - coordinates	15°44′10.8″N 80°55′12.1″E﻿ / ﻿ ^[1]
Length	1,300 km (808 mi) <i>approx.</i>
Basin	258,948 km ² (99,980 sq mi)
Discharge	
 - average	2,213 m ³ /s (78,151 cu ft/s) ^[2]
Discharge elsewhere (average)	
 - Vijayawada (1901–1979 average), max (2009), min (1997)	1,641.74 m ³ /s (57,978 cu ft/s)

the state of Karnataka before entering Telangana State. The delta of this river is one of the most fertile regions in India and was the home to ancient Satavahana and Ikshvaku Sun Dynasty kings. Vijayawada is the largest city on the River Krishna.

It causes heavy soil erosion during the monsoon floods. It flows fast and furious, often reaching depths of over 75 feet (23 m). Ironically, there is a saying in Marathi: "*Shant vaahate Krishnamaa*" which means "quiet flows Krishna". This term is used to describe that a person should be as quiet as Krishna.

Tributaries

The largest tributary of the Krishna River is the Tungabhadra River with a drainage basin measuring 71,417 km² (27,574 sq mi), running for about 531 km (330 mi), but the longest tributary is the Bhima River, which makes a total run of 861 km (535 mi) and has an equally large drainage area of 70,614 km² (27,264 sq mi).

There are four rivers that join the Krishna at a confluence known as Preeti Sangam, or "Lover's Meeting Point" in the Satara District. These are Venna River, Urmodi River, Tarli River and Koyna River.

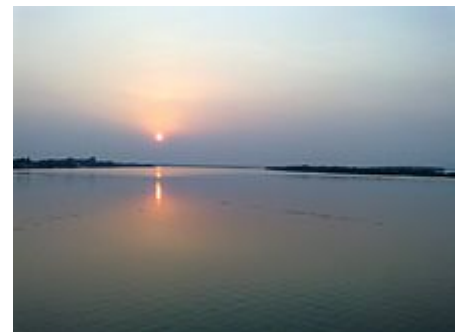
Three tributaries meet Krishna river near Sangli. These places are considered very holy. It is said that Lord Dattatreya spent some of his days at Audumber on the banks of river Krishna. Sangameswaram of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh is a famous pilgrim center for Hindus where Tungabhadra and Bhavanasi rivers join the Krishna river. The Sangameswaram temple is now drowned in the Srisailem reservoir, and visible for devotees only during summer when the reservoir's water level comes down.^[4]



Drainage basin of the Krishna in the South Indian Peninsula



Down stream view of Prakasam Barrage.



Krishna river near Vijayawada



Panoramic view of Ujjani or Bhima Dam

Right-bank tributary	Town, District, State of confluence	Left-Bank Tributary
<u>Venna River</u>	Sangam Mauli, Satara, Maharashtra	
Urmodi river	Kashil, Satara, Maharashtra	
Tarali/Kali Ganga river	Umbraj, Satara, Maharashtra	
Mand river	Umbraj, Satara, Maharashtra	
	Tasawade, Satara, Maharashtra	Kolamba river
<u>Koyna River</u>	Karad, Satara, Maharashtra	
	Bramhanal, Sangli, Maharashtra	Yerla river
Warna River	Haripur, Sangli, Maharashtra	
<u>Panchganga River</u>	Narsobawadi, Sangli, Maharashtra	
<u>Dudhaganga</u>	Yadur, Belgaum, Karnataka	
	<u>Hippagiri barrage</u>	
<u>Ghataprabha River</u>	Almatti, Bagalkot District, Karnataka	
	<u>Almatti Dam</u>	
<u>Malaprabha River</u>	Kudala Sangam, Bagalkot District, Karnataka	
	<u>Basava Sagar Reservoir</u>	
	Ammapur, Kalburgi, Karnataka	<u>Doni River</u>
	Kadlur, Raichur, Karnataka	<u>Bhima River</u>
	<u>Jurala dam</u>	
	<u>Lower Jurala dam</u>	
<u>Tungabhadra River</u>	Alampur, Mahaboobnagar, Telangana	
<u>Srisailem temple</u>	<u>Srisailem Dam</u>	
	Srisailem tail pond weir	
	Nalgonda district, Telangana	<u>Dindi River</u>
	<u>Nagarjuna Sagar dam</u>	
	Chityala, <u>Nalgonda</u>	Haliya River
	<u>Nagarjuna Sagar tail pond dam</u>	
	Wazirabad, Nalgonda, Telangana	<u>Musi River</u>
	<u>Pulichintala dam</u> , <u>Suryapet district</u>	
	<u>Mukteswarapuram</u> , <u>Krishna district</u>	<u>Paleru River</u>
	<u>Amaravathi village</u> , <u>Guntur district</u>	<u>Munneru River</u>
	<u>Ibrahimpattanam</u> , <u>Krishna district</u>	<u>Polavaram right bank canal</u>



Tungabhadra Dam near Hosapete

Kondaveeti vagu ^[5]	Ibrahimpattanam, Krishna district	Budameru diversion channel
Amaravati city	Prakasam Barrage	Vijayawada city
National Waterway 4	Prakasam Barrage	National Waterway 4

Krishna Basin

Krishna Basin extends over an area of 258,948 km² (99,980 sq mi) which is nearly 8% of the total geographical area of the country. This large basin lies in the states of Karnataka (113,271 km²), Telangana, Andhra Pradesh (76,252 km²) and Maharashtra (69,425 km²).^[6]

The Krishna river rises in the Western Ghats, at an elevation of about 1,337 m (4,386 ft) just north of Mahabaleshwar, about 64 km (40 mi) from the Arabian Sea. It flows for about 1,400 km (870 mi) and outfalls into the Bay of Bengal. The principal tributaries joining Krishna are the Ghataprabha River, Malaprabha River, Bhima River, Tungabhadra River and Musi River.

Most of this basin comprises rolling and undulating country, except for the western border, which is formed by an unbroken line of the Western Ghats. The important soil types found in the basin are black soils, red soils, laterite and lateritic soils, alluvium, mixed soils, red and black soils and saline and alkaline soils.

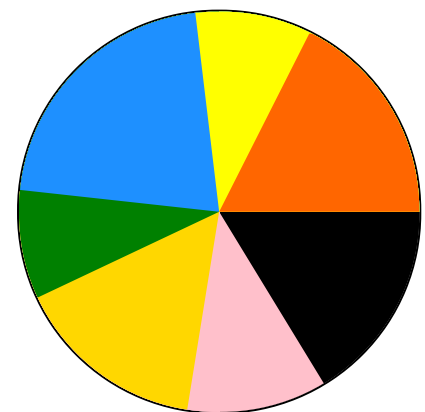
An average annual surface water potential of 78.1 km³ has been assessed in this basin. Out of this, 58.0 km³ is utilizable water.^[7] Culturable area in the basin is about 203,000 km² (78,000 sq mi), which is 10.4% of the total cultivable area of the country. As the water availability in the Krishna river was becoming inadequate to meet the water demand, Godavari River is linked to the Krishna river by commissioning the Polavaram right bank canal with the help of Pattiseema lift scheme in the year 2015 to augment water availability to the Prakasam Barrage in Andhra Pradesh.^[8] The irrigation canals of Prakasam Barrage form part of National Waterway 4.

Mullayanagiri peak in Karnataka at an altitude of 1,930 m (6,330 ft) above msl, is the highest point of the Krishna basin.

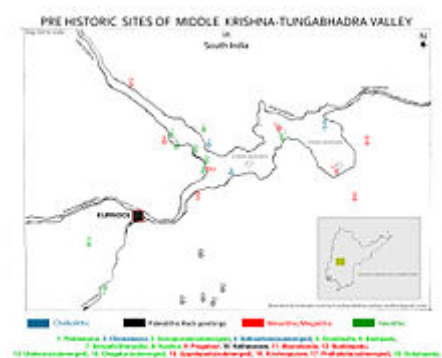
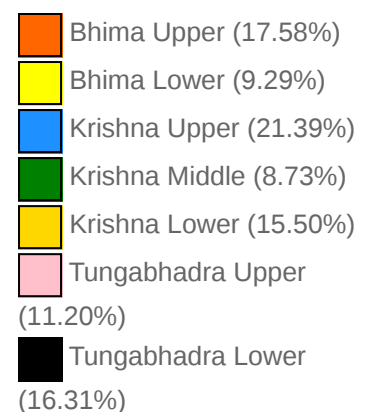
Places and temples

This river is revered by Hindus as sacred. The river is also believed to remove all sins of people by taking a bath in this river. The centre of attraction is the Krishna Pushkaram fair which is held once in twelve years on the banks of the Krishna river. There are many pilgrimage places in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on the course of the river

The first holy place on the river Krishna is "Dakshin Kashi Wai", known for the Mahaganapati Mandir and Kashivishweshwar temple. It has seven ghats along the river. Temples like Dattadeva temple, which is revered by the people of Maharashtra, are located on the banks of Krishna at Nrusinha Waadi and Audumbar near Sangli. Also, located on the banks of the river Krishna are the Sangameshwar Shiva temple at Haripur, goddess Durga temple in Vijayawada and Ramling temple



Drainage Basin of Krishna



Pre Historic sites of Middle Krishna-Tungabhadra Valley in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh

near Sangli, Mallikarjuna temple (Srisailem), Amareshwara Swamy temple (Amaravati (state capital)), Dattadeva temple, Sangameshwara Shiva temples at Alampur in Telangana, Ramling temple, etc. as well as, villages such as sihe.

Flora and fauna

Wide spread area near to the Krishna river holds the rich flora and fauna. The last surviving Mangrove forests in the Krishna estuary have been declared as the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary is the home to the large number of resident and migratory birds. Fishing cat, otter, Estuarine crocodile, spotted deer, sambar, black buck, snake, lizards and jackal can also be spotted in the sanctuary. The sanctuary also supports rich vegetation with plants like Rhizophora, Avicennia, and Aegiceros. The following are few other wildlife sanctuaries located in the river basin.

- Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve
- Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
- Ghataprabha Bird Sanctuary
- Gudavi Bird Sanctuary
- Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary
- Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary
- Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary
- Chandoli National Park
- Kudremukh National Park
- Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park
- Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park
- Mrugavani National Park
- Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary
- Ranibennur Blackbuck Sanctuary
- Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary
- Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary Bellary

Waterfalls

Manikyadhara Falls is located in Chikkamagaluru Taluk of Karnataka. It is formed by the water flowing from the slopes of Mullayanagiri peak which is the highest peak between the Himalayas and the Nilgiris. Barkana Falls is located in Agumbe hills which receives second highest average annual rainfall (7,624.3 mm) in India. The following are few other waterfalls located in the river basin

- Ethipothala
- Godchinamalaki
- Gokak
- Kune
- Mallela Theertham
- Kalhatti Falls
- Sirimane Falls



Gokak Falls on Ghataprabha river

Bridges

The Krishna River is spanned by several bridges along its course, some of which are listed below.

- Krishna Bridge, Vai, Maharashtra – This bridge, which is located in the Dharpuri Peth area of the town of Vai, is one of the oldest bridges that were built by the British in India. It spans the Krishna over nine amans (arches) and is made of black rock. The bridge serves as a flood mark (when the water rises to the level of the road on the bridge) for the "Waikar" people.
- Irwin Bridge, Sangli – This is one of the oldest, historic and largest bridges over the Krishna that were built by the British. The Irwin Bridge, which is built of reddish stone, has two passages where one can climb down to the river in the middle of its span to view the water.
- Kudachi - Ugar Railway bridge built by the British in 1891.
- B. Soundatti Bridge, Raibag – This is also one of the oldest bridges built during the British rule. This bridge connects Maharashtra to Karnataka state.



Panorama of Prakasam Barrage and Railway bridges on Krishna near Vijayawada

- Tangadagi Bridge, This is one of oldest bridge that connects the Bijapur and Bagalkot Districts of Karnataka. God Neelambika Temple is there at the bank of Krishna River.

Floods

In October 2009, heavy floods occurred, isolating 350 villages and leaving millions homeless,^[9] which is believed to be first occurrence in 1000 years. The flood resulted in heavy damage to Kurnool, Mahabubnagar, Guntur, Krishna and Nalgonda Districts. The entire city of Kurnool was immersed in approximately 10 ft (3 m) water for nearly 3 days.^[10]

Water inflow of 1,110,000 cu ft/s (31,000 m³/s) was recorded at the Prakasam Barriage, which surpassed the previous record of 1,080,000 cu ft/s (31,000 m³/s) recorded in the year 1903!^[11]

Interstate water sharing

At present, the award of Bachawat tribunal dated 31 May 1976 is applicable for sharing the water available in the river among the riparian states. The Brijesh Kumar tribunal award given on 29 November 2013 is challenged by Andhra Pradesh in the Supreme Court and the case pending since then.^[12] Newly created Telangana state also approached Supreme Court demanding a fresh tribunal hearing to secure its water needs on equitable basis.^[13]

Dams

There are many dams constructed across the Krishna river.^[14]

- Dhom Dam
- Hippagiri barrage
- Almatti Dam
- Narayanpur Dam
- Bhima Dam
- Srisaillam Dam
- Jurala Dam
- Nagarjuna Sagar Dam
- Nagarjuna Sagar tail pond
- Pulichinthala Dam
- Prakasam Barrage
- Tungabhadra Dam
- Rajolibanda barrage
- Sunkesula barrage



Nagarjuna Sagar Dam Gates view

Hydroelectric power stations

Krishna river is one of the rivers whose water energy is harnessed to a large extent by various hydro electric power stations in India.^[15] The following is the list of hydro electric power stations excluding small and medium installations.



Almatti Dam with its right bank power house

Hydroelectric power stations on Krishna river

Name of the project	Rated Power (in MW)	Comments
Koyna Hydroelectric Project	1,920	Power station with Pumped-storage hydroelectricity units
Mulshi Dam	300	Power station with Pumped-storage hydroelectricity units
Thokarwadi Dam	72	
Ujjani Dam	12	Power station with Pumped-storage hydroelectricity units
Almatti Dam	290	
Bhadra Dam	39	
Tungabhadra Dam	127	
Jurala Hydroelectric Project	240	
Lower Jurala Hydro Electric Project	240	
Srisaillam Dam	1,670	Power station with Pumped-storage hydroelectricity units
Nagarjuna Sagar Dam	960	Power station with Pumped-storage hydroelectricity units
Nagarjuna Sagar tail pond	50	
Pulichinthala Dam	120	

Mineral deposits

Krishna river basin is endowed with rich mineral deposits such as oil & gas, coal, iron, lime stone, [dolomite](#), gold, granite, [laterite](#), uranium, diamonds, etc. The following are the few noted deposits:

- [Krishna Godavari Basin](#) oil & gas
- [Yellandu](#), coal
- [Bayyaram Mines](#), iron
- [Kudremukh](#), iron
- [Donimalai](#), iron
- [Jaggayapeta mines](#), dolomite
- [Nalgonda uranium deposits](#)
- [Kollur Mine](#), diamonds
- [Hatti Gold Mines](#)



Krishna close to its origin at Menawali, near Wai, Satara district, Maharashtra. 18th century Maratha statesman, Nana Fadnavis built the Ghat and a palace here. This location has been used in many Hindi movies.

Pollution

Most of the years, the river water is not joining the sea due to full utilisation of water mainly in agriculture.^{[16][17][18]} The river receives the waste from the large number of cities and the river basin population has increased to 80 million enhancing pollution load many folds into the river. Adequate average and minimum continuous [environmental flows](#) to the sea are not taking place in most of the years constricting [salt export](#) and leading to formation of saline and [sodic alkaline soils](#) in the lower reaches of the river basin.^{[19][20]} [High alkalinity water](#) is discharged from the ash dump areas of many coal fired power stations into the river which further increases the [alkalinity](#) of the river water whose water is naturally of high alkalinity since the river basin is draining vast area of [basalt rock](#) formations.^[21] The following are the few coal fired power stations located in the river basin



The Deccan Traps near Pune

Thermal power stations in Krishna river basin

Name of Power Station	Rated Power (in MW)
Vijayawada Thermal Power Station	1,760
Raichur Thermal Power Station	1,470
Bellary Thermal Power station	1,700
Yermarus Thermal Power Station	1,600
Solapur Super Thermal Power Station	1,320
Kudgi Super Thermal Power Project	2,400
Yadadri Thermal Power Plant	4000

See also

- List of rivers of India
- Godavari River
- Soil salinity control
- Alkali soils
- Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal
- Upper Krishna Project
- Krishna (the deity)
- Krishna Pushkaralu

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