

INTERESTING FACTS

- In Hindu mythology, the Gomti River is regarded as Sage Vashishta's daughter. Bathing in the River on *Ekadashi* (the eleventh day of the *Sanatana Dharma-Hindu* calendar) is believed to wash away the sins.
- *Naimish*, a sacred forest mentioned in the Puranas, Ramayana and Mahabharata, is located along the Gomti River. Mahabharata was first narrated in the Naimish forest.
- Ancient Shiva temples, Ekkotarnath Mahadev temple and the Sunasirnath Mahadev temple, are located along the Gomti riverbank.
- The place where Gomti conjoins Ganga is popularly known as '*Pavitra Sangam*'. The famous Markandey Mahadev temple is situated near the confluence.

DRIVERS OF RIVERSCAPE CHANGE

- Over the years, changed land use pattern and rapid urbanization has drastically affected the River's flow. Mass mortality of fishes was one of the consequences of aquatic habitat alteration reported from the Gomti River.
- Industrial waste from sugar factories and distilleries, domestic waste, and garbage dumps are the major causes of pollution in the Gomti River, which affects the aquatic ecosystem.
- Agricultural run-off brings a huge load of pesticides and fertilizers to the River, significantly altering its physio-chemical properties.
- Fish diversity has been drastically affected by indiscriminate overfishing, excessive use of poison, and use of fine mesh size and nylon mosquito nets for fishing in the Gomti River.
- The hydrology of the Gomti River has been affected by the Gomti barrage, where the River water is stagnant and used mainly for irrigation.

VIBRANT GANGA



Gomti River

DAUGHTER OF THE SOIL



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GENERAL INFORMATION

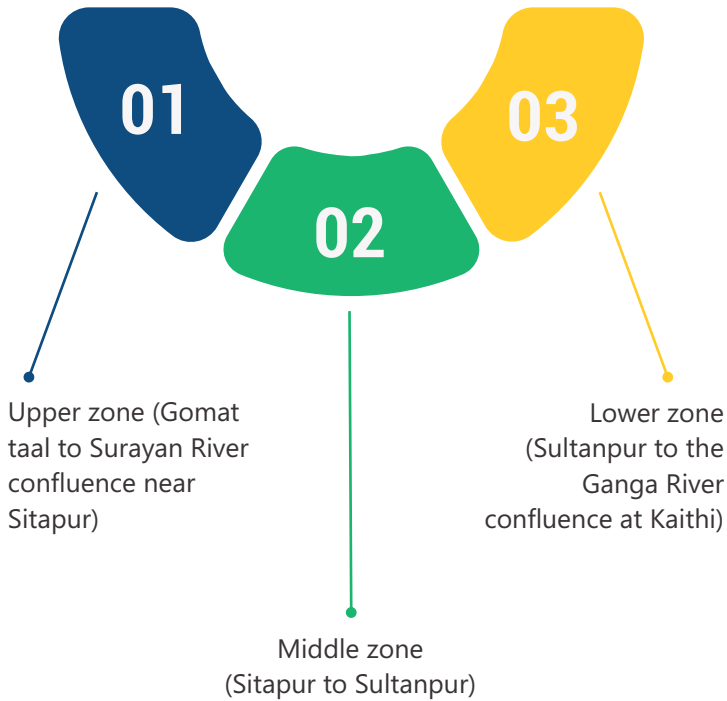
- Gomti River is a groundwater-fed river that originates from Gomat taal in Pilibhit District in Uttar Pradesh, at an altitude of 200 m asl.
- Gomti is a perennial river with a length of 960 km and a drainage area of 30,437 km², flowing through only one Indian state, Uttar Pradesh.
- It flows through the Gangetic Plains biogeographic zone (7A).
- After descending from Pilibhit, it traverses through the districts of Sitapur, Lucknow, Barabanki, Sultanpur and Jaunpur, and joins the Ganga River on the left bank in Kaithi, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The climate is semi-arid to semi-humid.
- It is characterized by slow flow except during monsoons.
- The major tributaries of the Gomti River are Gachi, Sarayan and Sai.

SALIENT FEATURES

- The geomorphic surfaces, active floodplain surface, river valley terrace surface and upland terrace surface in Gomti River basin exhibit micro-geomorphic features like ponds, lakes, meander scars, palaeo-channels and ox-bow lakes.
- The region falls under tropical dry deciduous forest type.
- Gomti basin primarily contains two types of alluvium, the older alluvium (*Bangar*) and the younger alluvium (*Khadar*).
- Only one crocodilian species, mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*), is recorded from the Gomti River.
- Five turtle species, viz. crowned river turtle (*Hardella thurjii*), Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*), Indian softshell turtle (*Nilssonia gangetica*), Indian roofed turtle (*Pangshura tecta*) and Indian tent turtle (*Pangshura tentoria*) have been recorded from the Gomti river.



Gomti River can be divided into three zones, viz.



- 102 bird species belonging to 13 genera have been recorded from the Gomti River.
- 56 fish species belonging to 42 genera have been documented from the River, including some important carps such as clown knife fish (*Chitala chitala*), bronze feather back (*Notopterus notopterus*), and bata (*Labeo bata*).

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Reptiles
Crowned river turtle
Indian softshell turtle

Avifauna
Indian skimmer

