

INTERESTING FACTS

- Rupnarayan River once formed the western exit of the Ganga River.
- Tamralipti, an ancient port of great importance in India, was situated on the right bank of the Rupnarayan River in the present-day town of Tamluk. It was visited by the Chinese scholars and pilgrims Yuan Chwang, I-tsing and Fa Hien, who described it as a kingdom at the mouth of the sea with 24 Buddhist monasteries. It also finds mention in the works of Pliny, the Roman philosopher, and Ptolemy, the Greek geographer, as 'Taluctae' and 'Tamalites', respectively.
- One of the 51 Shaktipeeth, 'Vibhasha' at Bargabhima Kali Temple, where the left ankle of Goddess Sati fell, is situated on the bank of the Rupnarayan River in Tamluk, Purba Medinipur.
- Upto the 18th century, the River was known by a number of names to Europeans; 'Ganga' in the maps of Gastaldi (1561) and De Barros (1553-1613), 'Guenga' by Blaeu (1650), 'Tamalee' by Bowrey (1687), 'Tomberlie' in the pilot chart (1703), 'Patraghatta' by Valentyn (1670), and 'Rupnarayan' by Rennell (1776).
- Fort Mornington (now in ruins), situated at the confluence with Hooghly in Gadiara, is said to have been constructed by Robert Clive, the first British Governor of the Bengal Presidency, to guard the movement of vessels up the two rivers.

DRIVERS OF RIVERSCAPE CHANGE

- Diversion and water extraction for irrigation, urban and industrial purposes and sand mining have led to severe changes in the channel bed structure, flow regime and depleted groundwater.
- The construction of embankments has altered the riverine habitat and interrupted the free flow of the River.
- Rapid urbanization with increased tourist influx has led to solid and liquid waste being dumped into the River.
- Overfishing and brick kilns on the banks of the River has led to biodiversity loss.

VIBRANT GANGA



Rupnarayan River

THE RIVER OF DIVINITY



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GENERAL INFORMATION

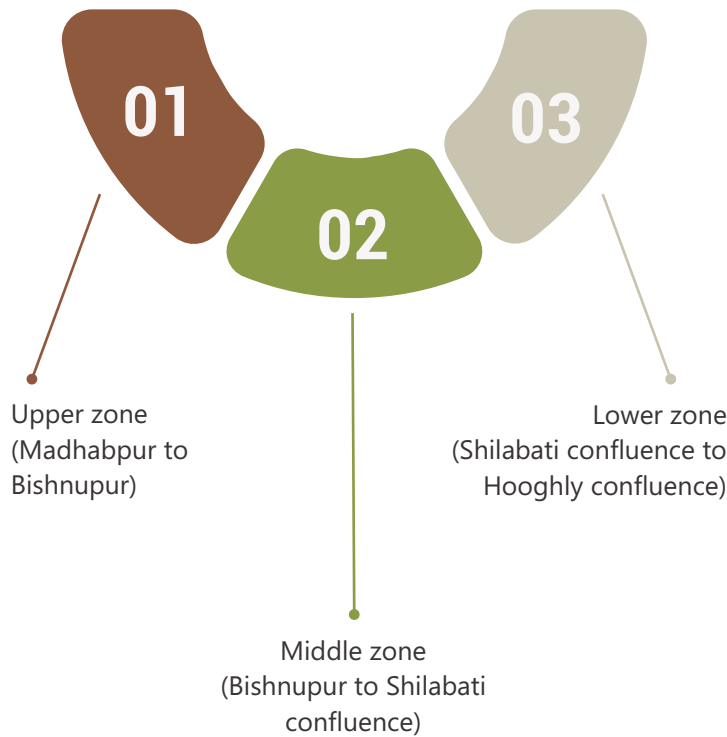
- Rupnarayan River originates as Dwarakeshwar, or 'Dhalkisor', in the Chhota Nagpur Plateau foothills, near the Tilabani hills, northeast of the town of Purulia in West Bengal.
- After the confluence of two perennial rivers, viz. Dwarakeshwar and Shilabati, near Bandar along the border of the Paschim Medinipur and Hooghly districts, the River takes the name Rupnarayan.
- It is a major right bank tributary of the Ganga River in West Bengal.
- The River has a length of approximately 280 km, with a drainage area of about 11,350 km², and traverses the Purulia, Bankura, Hooghly, Howrah, Paschim Medinipur and Purba Medinipur districts in West Bengal, joining the Hooghly River at Geonkhali.
- The River flows through two biogeographic zones, viz. the Gangetic Plains and the Deccan Peninsula.
- Climate in the Rupnarayan River basin varies from moist tropical in the southeast to dry tropical in the southwest.
- Dwarakeshwar, Shilabati, Kangsabati and Damodar are the key tributaries of the Rupnarayan River.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Rupnarayan River basin can be broadly divided into low dissected plateau (approx. 30% with an average elevation of 150 m) and alluvial plain (approx. 70% with an average elevation of 30 m), based on the contour pattern and the drainage system.
- The River is relatively narrow in the upper reach, with a maximum width of 280 m, expanding gradually on its downward journey, reaching a maximum width of 4,250 m.
- The Basin is dominated by northern tropical dry deciduous forest type.



Rupnarayan River can be divided into three zones, viz.



- Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) has been reported from the lower zone of the River.
- 31 species of waterbirds and water-associated birds belonging to 13 families and 10 orders, have been recorded from the Basin.
- 46 species of fish have been documented from the Basin, including the hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*).

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Gangetic dolphin

