



Place in News - Ravi River

Context: Recently, floodwaters from the Ravi River inundated the Kartarpur Corridor complex located in Pakistan's Narowal district, which includes Gurdwara Darbar Sahib. This situation resulted in over 100 individuals being stranded and necessitated large-scale evacuations.



About River Ravi

Location & System

- The Ravi is one of the three eastern rivers of the Indus basin that has been allocated to India as per the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. It flows through India (specifically Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir) and into Pakistan's Punjab, ultimately merging with the Chenab River.

Source & Course

- The river originates near Bara Bhangal in the Chamba region of Himachal Pradesh. It traverses through deep gorges in Himachal Pradesh before entering the plains of Punjab via Madhopur. The Ravi forms a brief boundary stretch between India and Pakistan, entering Pakistan close to Narowal, passing through Shahdara (Lahore), and finally converging with the Chenab near Ahmadpur Sial.

Tributaries

- On the right bank, the tributaries include Budhil, Baira, and Siul. On the left bank, the tributaries consist of Ujh (from Jammu & Kashmir), Basantar, and Sewa.

Key Infrastructure (India)

- The Ranjit Sagar (Thein) Dam serves both hydropower generation and irrigation purposes. The Shahpur Kandi Project is designed for downstream storage and irrigation. The Madhopur Headworks provides an off-take for the Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC). Additionally, there are the Chamera Hydropower Projects located in Himachal Pradesh and the proposed Ujh Multipurpose Project in Jammu & Kashmir.



Physiography & Soil

- The upper gorges are situated in the Himalayas, while the downstream areas consist of fertile Doab plains. The soils in Punjab are primarily alluvial, whereas the sub-mountain tracts feature savanna and ferrallitic soils.

Climate & Hydrology

- The river is fed by snowmelt and monsoonal rains. Seasonal flooding occurs in the Punjab region of Pakistan, particularly in Narowal, Shahdara, and Lahore. The peak flow typically happens during the monsoon months of July to September.

Economic & Cultural Significance

- The Ravi River serves as an irrigation lifeline for the Doab tracts in Punjab. It is also a source of hydropower generation through projects like Chamera and Thein. Furthermore, it holds religious significance due to the presence of Kartarpur Sahib and its connection to Sikh heritage.