



# Investigating India

Learning Objective:

To explore some of the major rivers in India.



Do you know  
what a river is?  
Is there one close  
to where you live?





A river is a body of fresh water that flows across the land towards the sea.



A river starts at the highest point in an area (mountain or hill). Rain water and melting snow collect to form streams. This then turns into a river.





**Rivers grow larger and wider as they collect more water along their course.**

**Rivers usually end in lakes, oceans and seas.  
This is called the mouth of the river.**



**How do we use rivers?  
Why are they important?**



**Rivers carry water across the land to the sea. This stops too much water settling on the land.**

**Rivers provide places for animals and humans to live. Rivers provide a water supply for farmers and keep the soil fertile.**

**Rivers can be used by boats to transport products from one town to another.**



**Why do you think many towns are built close to river systems?  
Think, pair, share**



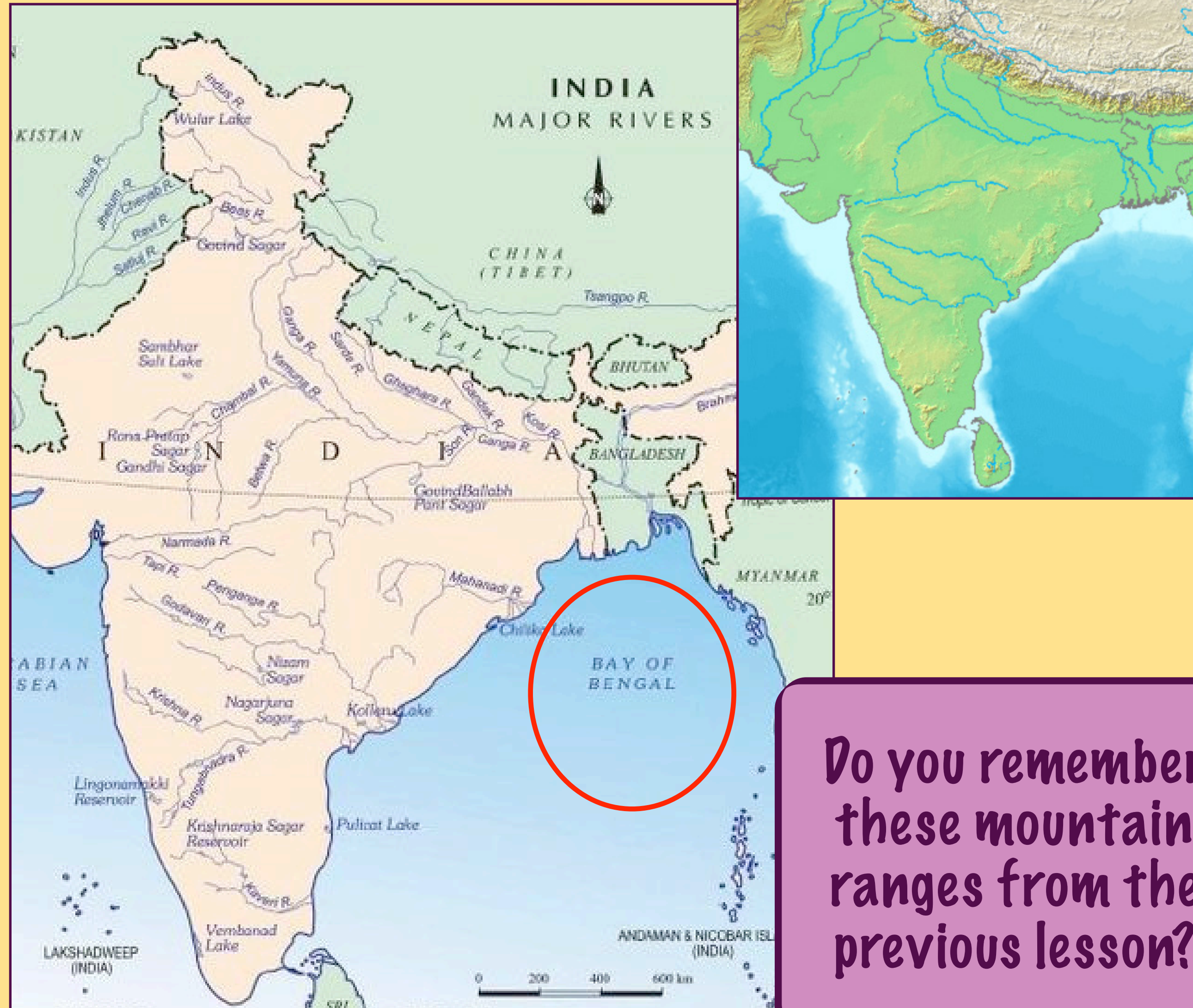


Do you think  
India has rivers?  
How many are  
in India?



There are many rivers in India.  
Too many to count!  
These maps show you where the  
major rivers are found.

The major rivers in India start  
from the Himalayas, the Vindhyas  
and the Western Ghats.  
Most of the rivers finish in the  
Bay of Bengal.



Do you remember  
these mountain  
ranges from the  
previous lesson?





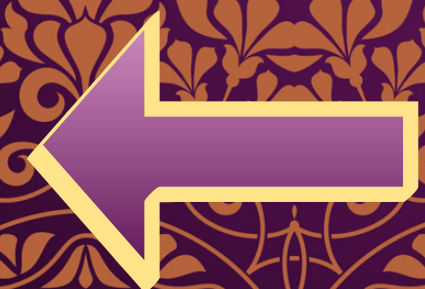
Let's look at two of India's major rivers a little more closely.  
Click the boxes below to find out about these rivers.



The Ganges  
River



The Narmada  
River





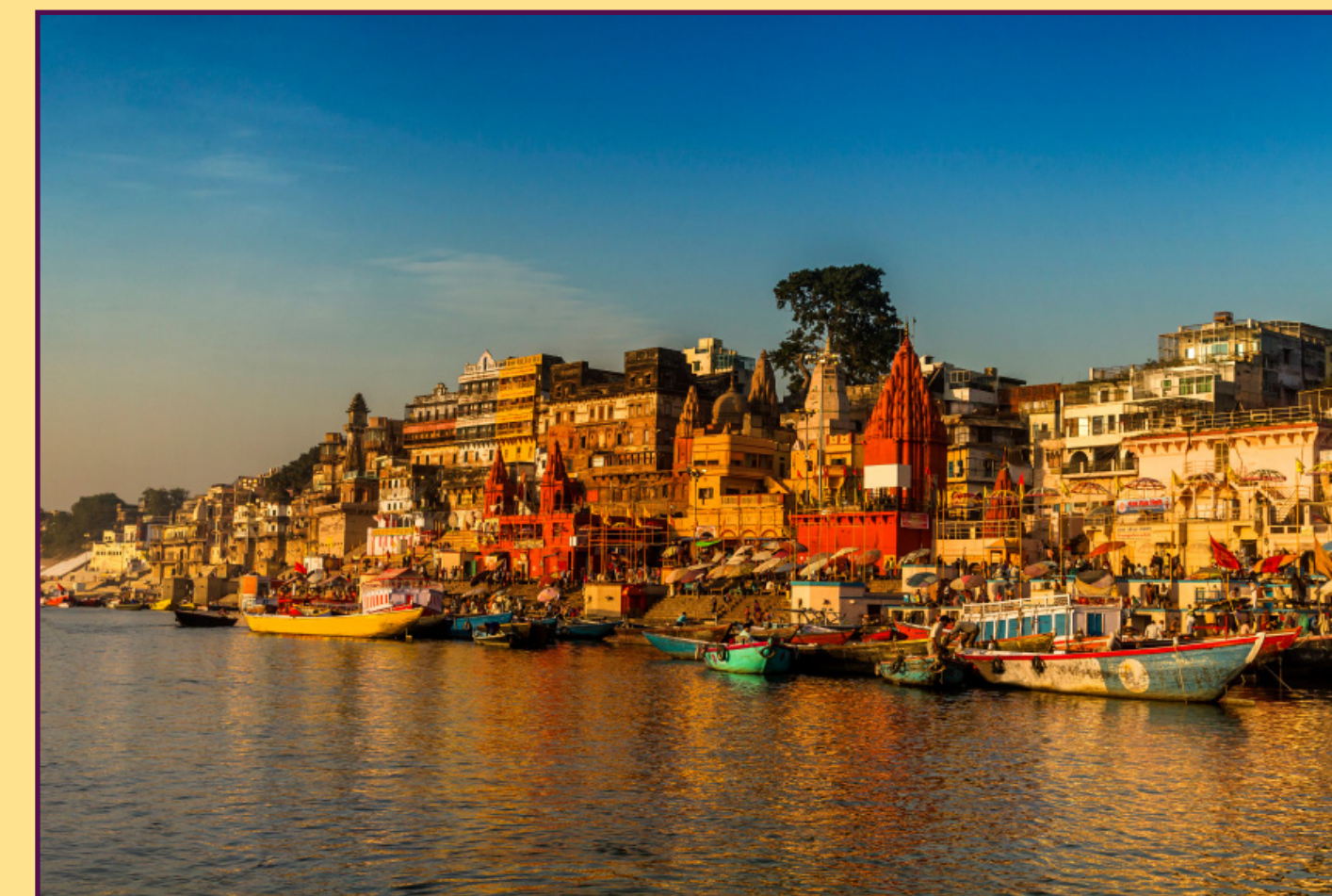
# The Ganges River



The Ganges river is officially named the Ganga river. It starts in the Himalayas mountains and flows all the way down to the Bay of Bengal.

The Ganges is about 2,510 km long and flows through the North of India.

The Ganges is a holy river for Hindu people. It is a sacred river where Hindu people visit to bathe and pray. The Ganges river has many towns and settlements along its course, which are home to about 400 million people.

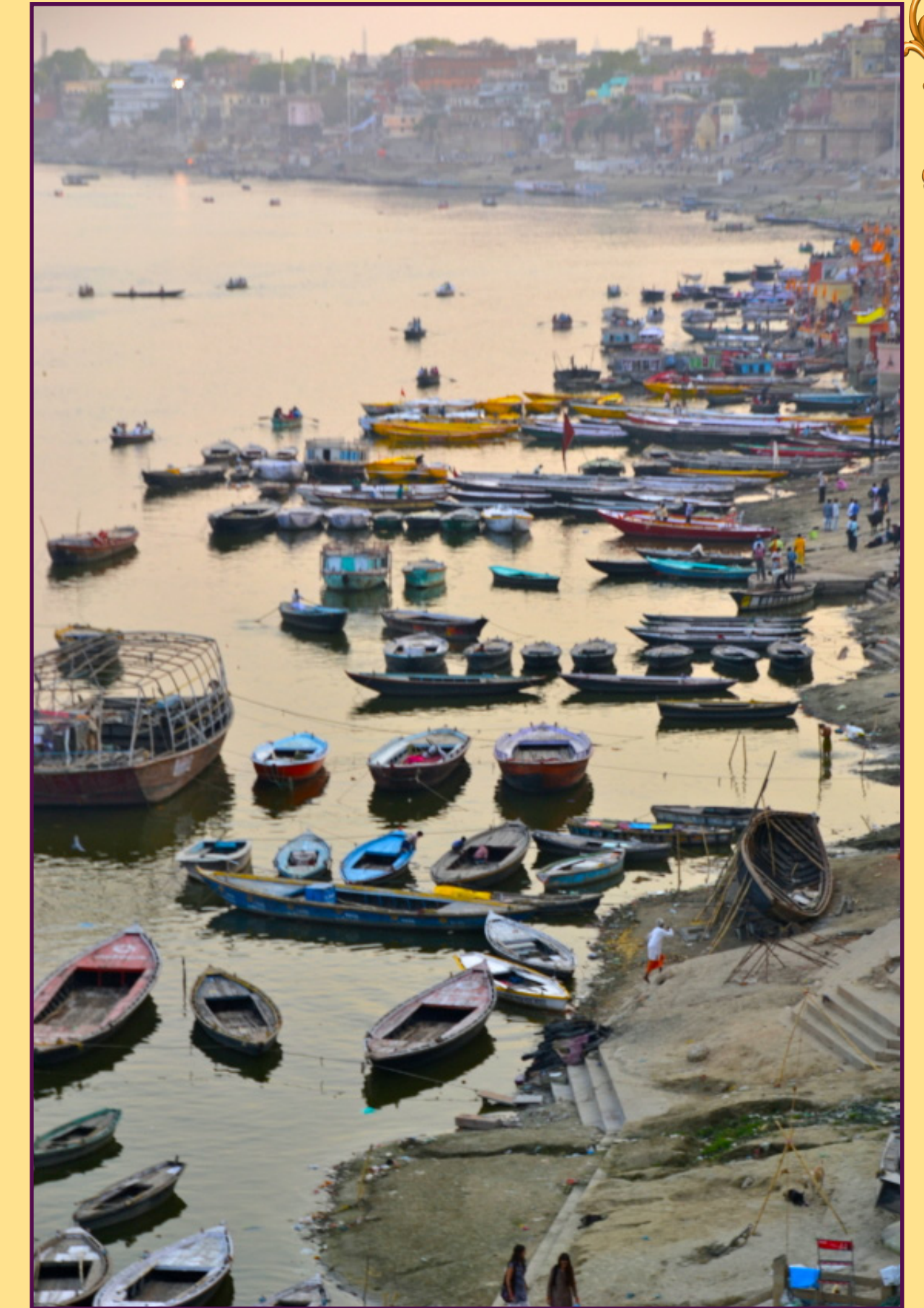




# The Ganges River

The soil along the Ganges river is very fertile which is great for farmers. Its water is used for irrigation on farms that grow these crops: sugarcane, rice, oil seeds, lentils, wheat and potatoes.

The Ganges is a very polluted river. The river can be a threat to humans who use the river for drinking water. It can also be harmful to the fish species living in it.





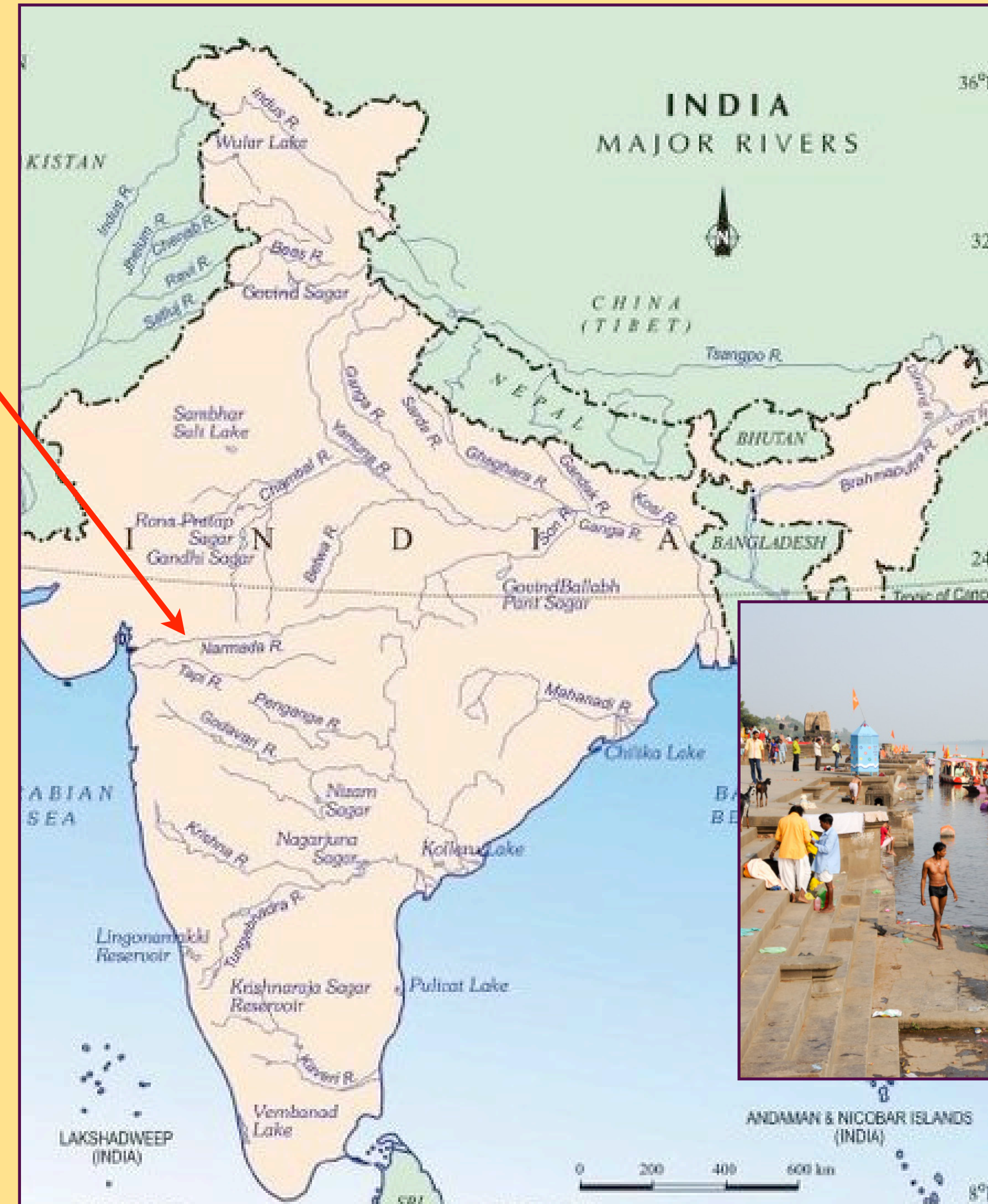
# The Narmada River

The Narmada river is the third longest river in India. This river is about 1,312km long. It divides Northern India from Southern India.

The Narmada river starts on Amarkantak hill and finishes in the Arabian sea, on the west of India.

Hindu people believe this river is one of the holy rivers in India.

There are many important towns along the banks of this river and it is an important route between the Ganges river and the Arabian Sea.





# The Narmada River

The Narmada river has many religious sites along its course, such as temples and places of worship.

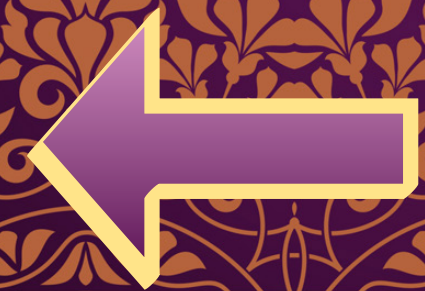
The river flows between steep, rocky mountain ranges so it was unsuitable for irrigation for farms. Recently the Indian people have found ways to collect the water for irrigation and it now provides water to hundreds of farmers across India. There are many waterfalls and jungles along the Narmada river.







Have you heard about the  
Indus river? It is a major  
river in Asia.  
It flows through three  
countries.  
Can you guess which  
countries?





The Indus river  
flows through these  
countries:  
**China**  
**India**  
**Pakistan**



The Indus river is a very significant river in history. It is one of the longest rivers in Asia. The river starts in the Tibetan plateau in Southern China and ends in the Arabian Sea.

The valleys along the Indus river were home to two major ancient civilisations: The Harappa and the Mohenjo Daro. These were the largest human civilisations of the ancient world dating back to 3300 B.C.E (before current era).

The Indus river is the most important supply of water to the people and economy in Pakistan.





## Plenary

Which river would you like  
to visit the most and  
why?

The Ganges River  
The Indus River  
The Narmada River

Tell a partner  
your reasons!

