



# Teesta River

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## Why in news?

The *Interim government of Bangladesh* has stated that it may consider approaching an international platform for resolving the Teesta waters dispute. And a **major landslide** has hit 510 MW hydro power project in Teesta river.

## About Teesta river:

- The **Teesta River** (or **Tista**) is a river in the Indian state of Sikkim. It is **309 kilometres (192 miles) long**.
- Teesta River originates from the **Tso Lhamo Lake** at an **elevation of about 5280 m** in the **North Sikkim district**.
- The **Teesta river starts at Pahunri glacier**, and flows south through rapids in the Sikkim Himalaya. The river goes by the town of Rangpo.
- It is the **right bank major tributary** of the **Brahmaputra river system**. Like many other major Himalayan rivers of India, like the Ganga, **Teesta is a glacier-fed river**.
- It **changes course southwards flowing into West Bengal**, before joining the **Brahmaputra River**.
- In Bangladesh, the Teesta joins the Brahmaputra on its right bank, from where the river is **known as the jamuna**. Then, it finally **merges with the river Padma**, which falls in the Bay of Bengal
- Historically, the Teesta river system was considered the **major tributary of the Ganges**
- The major portion or the greater part of the river basin lies in India and only **17% of it is in Bangladesh**
- Teesta **basin is home to around 30 million people, 2% in Sikkim, 27% in West Bengal; and 71% in northwest Bangladesh**.
- There are **two major large barrages** on Teesta that diverts water for mainly irrigation purpose:
  - **Gajoldobha** in India
  - **Duani** in Bangladesh.

## Major tributaries of Teesta river

- The tributaries on the **eastern flank are shorter** in the course but larger in number whereas the tributaries on the **western flank are much longer** with larger drainage areas, consequently contributing much more amount of discharge to the main Teesta river.
- The left bank tributaries originate from semi-permanent and much smaller snowfields as compared to right bank tributaries. Right-bank tributaries drain heavily glaciated areas with large snowfields
- Major Tributaries of Teesta River
  - **Left-bank Tributaries: Lachung Chhu, Chakung Chhu, Dik Chhu, Rani Khola and Rangpo Chhu.**
  - **?Right-bank Tributaries: Zemu Chhu, Rangyong Chhu and Rangit River.**

## The Ganges-Brahmaputra Basin

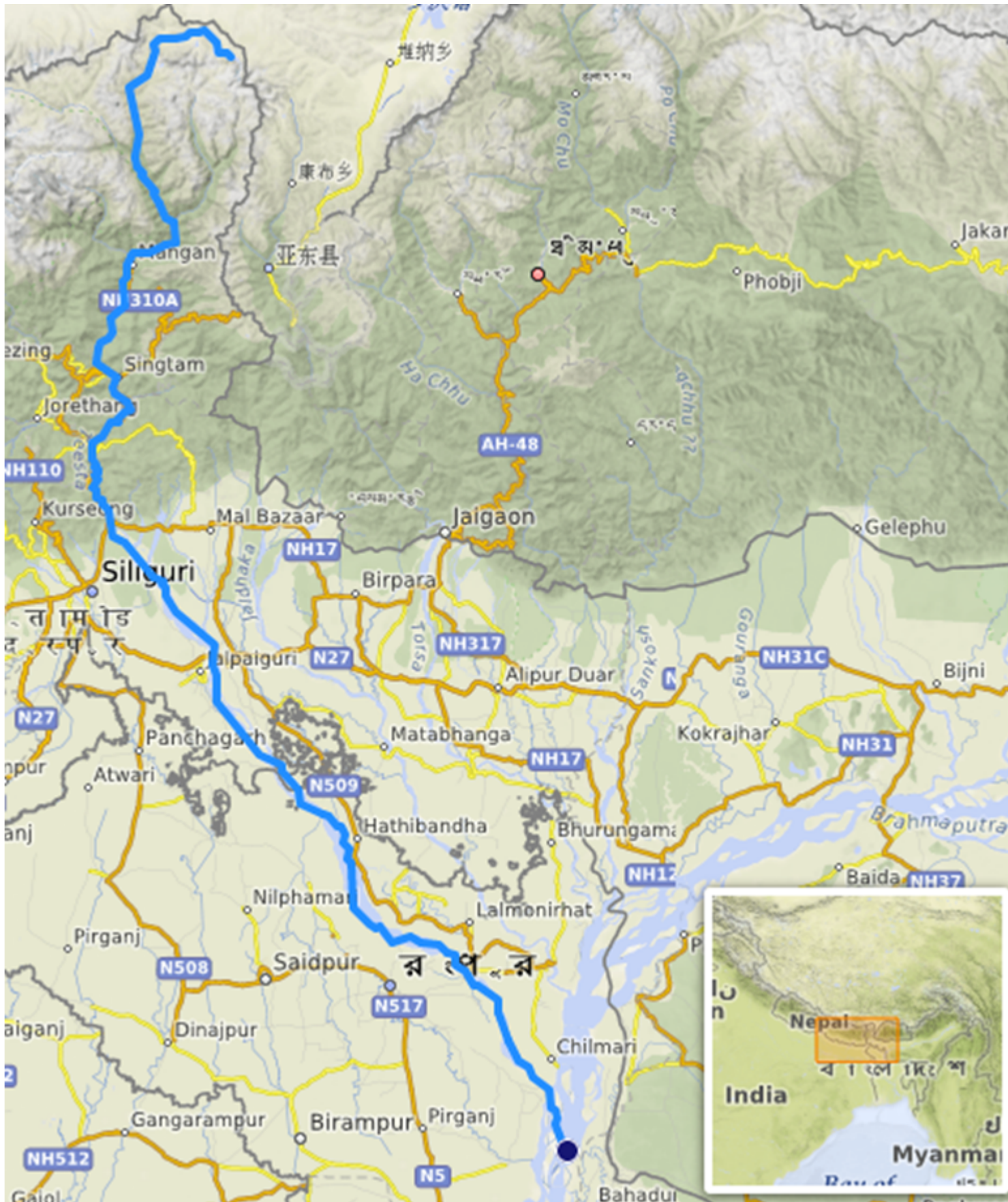


### Left-bank Tributaries

1. Lachung Chhu
2. Chakung Chhu
3. Dik Chhu
4. Rani Khola
5. Rangpo Chhu

### Right-bank Tributaries

1. Zemu Chhu
2. Rangyong Chhu
3. Rangit River



### Water sharing conflict

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Disputes over the appropriate allocation and development of the water resources of the river have remained a subject of conflict between India and Bangladesh for *almost 35 years*, with several bilateral agreements and rounds of talks failing to produce results.

Negotiations have been going on *since 1983*.

In *1983, a temporary solution* had been worked out— *Bangladesh would get 36%, India would get 39% while the rest of the water remained unallocated.*

Both countries *signed a water sharing treaty in 1996* which would look into water sharing between the two countries.