

**TOTAL NUMBER OF RIVERS**

**1,415**

Major rivers **238**

Transboundary rivers **57**

**54** with India

**3** with Myanmar

(Data: Ministry of Water Resources)



SOMESHWARI RIVER, NETROKONA



BARAL RIVER, NATORE

**DEAD OR DRIED UP**

Rivers classified as dead or heavily dried up include Atrai, Baral, Bhairab, Bhola, Chitra, Dhaleshwari, Dharla, Dudhkumar, Gomti, Gorai, Ichamoti, Kaliganga, Karatoya, Kholpetua, Kopotakha, Kushiyara, Mahananda, Mathabhanga, Muhuri, Nabaganga, Teesta, Surma, and Titas



KARNAPHULI



# LAND OF (DYING) RIVERS

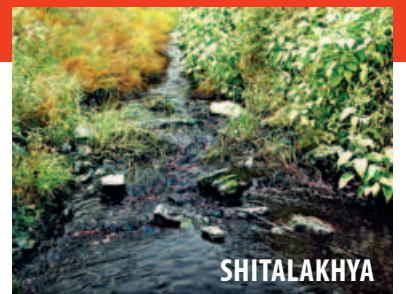
*Rivers no longer live; they merely exist. They exist as relics of their glory days, when rivers were wild, mysterious and free – or as characters in their own story, told through poetry and music. Now they linger in inherited nostalgia. In 2009, the High Court granted rivers the legal status of “living entities”. But in reality, almost all the country’s rivers are struggling to survive under the weight of encroachment, pollution and sand-lifting. On World Rivers Day, we look into the current state of our rivers and how these once majestic rivers are being held hostage to greed and negligence.*

**MAJOR POLLUTANTS**

Industrial discharge

Waste dumping

Plastic pollution



SHITALAKHYA

**UNDER ASSAULT**

**DHAKA**

Buriganga, Turag, Tongi Khal, Balu, Shitalakhya, Dhaleshwari, Ichhamati, Meghna, Khiru, Labondoho, Banar, Old Brahmaputra, Bangshi (Savar and Tangail), Chilai, Haridhoa, Sutia (Gazipur, Mymensingh), Karnatali

**BARISHAL**

Sonai, Kathi, Kirtankhola, Sandhya, Payra, Bishkhali, Bholakhal, Ramnabad, Andharmanik, Khapradanga and Baleswar

**KHULNA**

Pasur, Rupsa, Bhairab, Mayur, Chitra, Alaikuri and Mathabhanga

**RANGPUR**

Alaikuri, Ghagat, Khoksa Ghaghot and Shyamasundari Khal

**SYLHET**

Khowai, Sutang, Surma, Korangi and Jadukata

**CHATTOGRAM**

Titas, Karnaphuli, Bakhkhali, Matamuhuri, Halda, Naf, Chingri and Feni,

**RAJSHAHI**

Atrai, Karatoya

**GRABBING**

- ➔ 63,249 grabbers identified in 776 rivers
- ➔ 18,579 evicted (in 2020)
- ➔ 490 polluting industries in Dhaka



BRAHMAPUTRA

**River and Delta Research Centre in its 2025 survey found at least 79 rivers either drying or have already dried up**

Khulna: 25  
Rajshahi: 19  
Rangpur: 14  
Chattogram: 6  
Mymensingh: 5  
Dhaka: 4  
Barishal, Sylhet: 3 each

**POLLUTION**

- ➔ Physical survey and testing the water of 56 selected rivers in Dhaka, Khulna, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barishal and Chattogram divisions, the Rivers and Delta Research Centre in 2022 found that each one of them is polluted
- ➔ Rivers around greater Dhaka remain polluted for over two decades, especially during the lean period



MAHANANDA