

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 200 of 2014
(C.W.P. No. 3727 of 1985)

IN THE MATTER OF

M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India & ors.

SUBMISSIONS

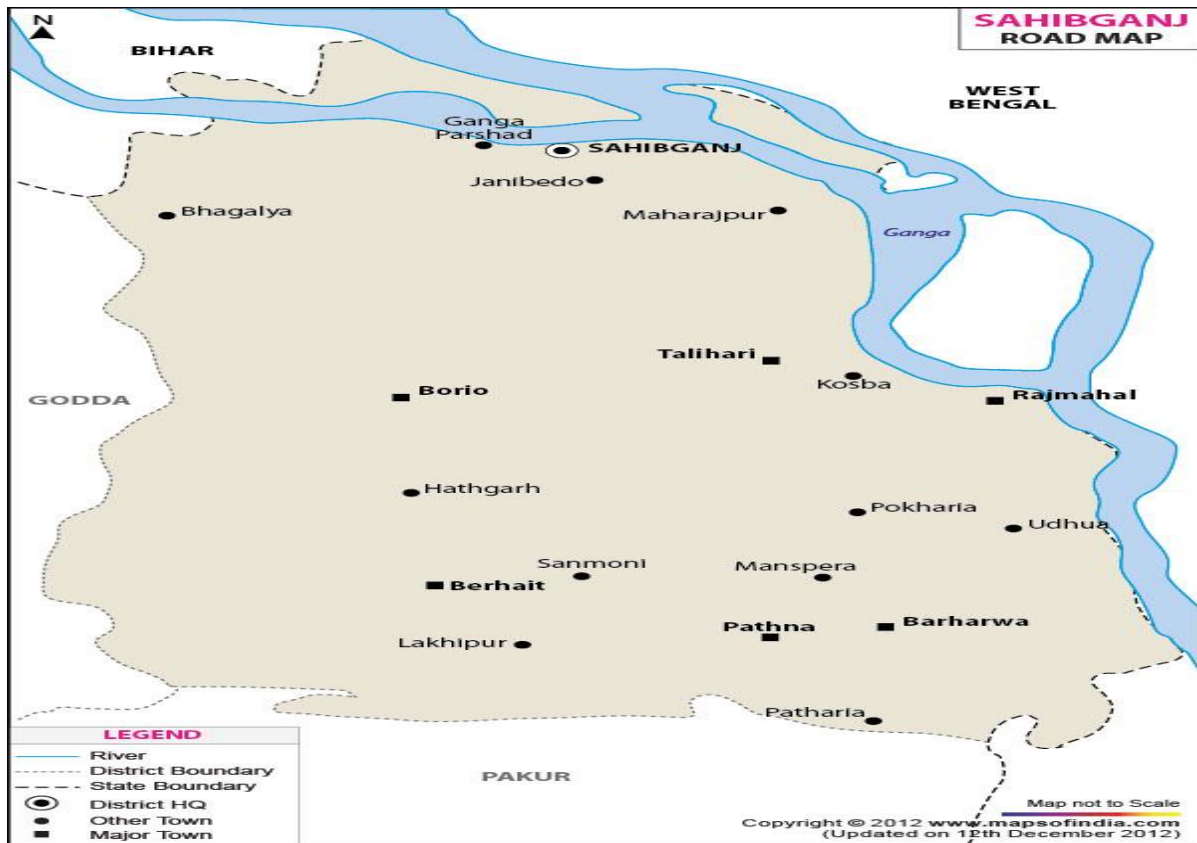
Dated 18.09.2023

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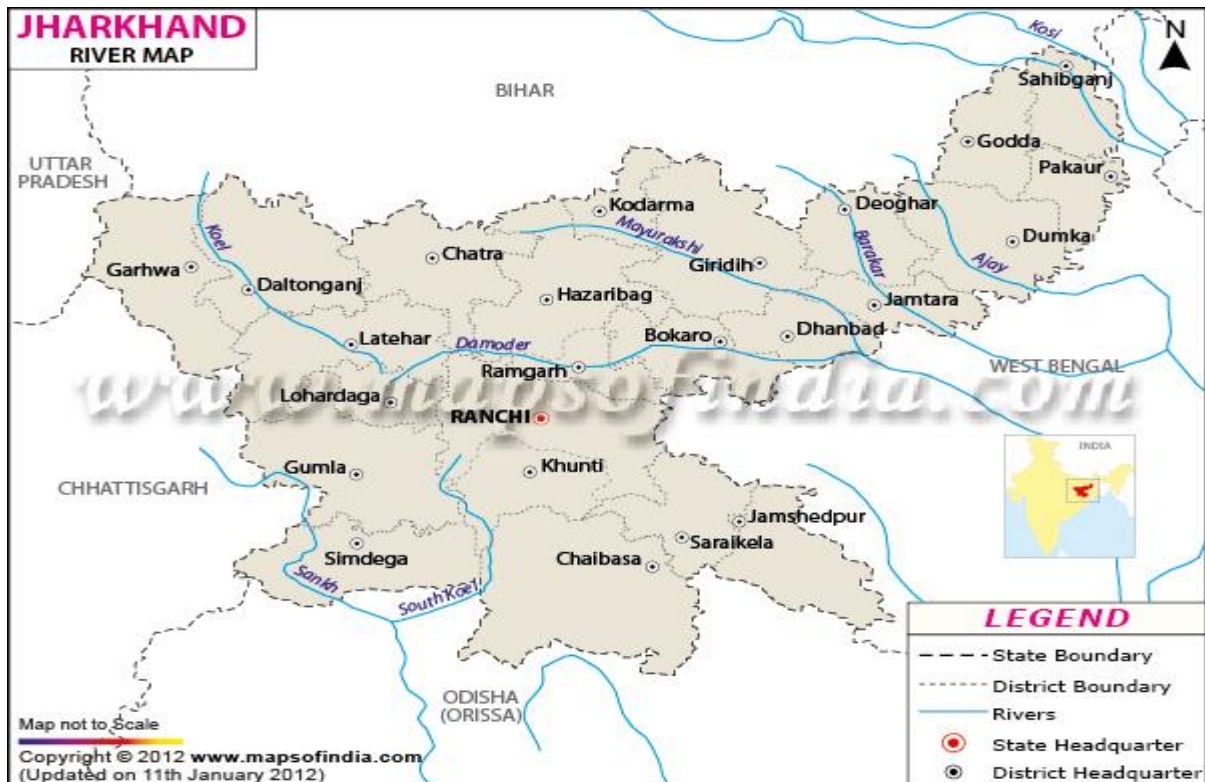
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Sahibganj River Map



Damodar River Basin Map



DISTRICTS ON RIVER GANGA & ITS TRIBUTARIES

River	District	Issues
Ganga	Sahibganj	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brick kilns on floodplain • Illegal mining of sand, clay, stone • Sewerage from drains • River island cultivation
Damodar (Origin- Palamau, Bihar)	Ramgarh Dhanbad Bokaro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial towns- pollution from industrial effluents and hazardous waste. • Some ETPs non- performance and bypass into drain. • Mine water discharges • Fly ash from TPP (eg. Bokaro) • Coal washeries- consumption of water and discharge of liquid effluents. • Coke oven plants- produce tar oil, cyanide, ammonia and phenol. • The Bokaro steel and IISCO drain their effluents directly into the river Damodar. • Sindri (fertiliser and other chemical units) • Sewage discharge (mixed drain/ kucha drain contamination) • Municipal waste/ Biomedical waste/ Hazardous waste/ legacy waste disposal detailed status required as the three are major industrial town with dense population, health infrastructure and industries) • Groundwater is critical @ Ramgarh and Dhanbad
Tributaries of Damodar: Sufi River		
Nalkari		The main industrial units on this river are the BASL (steel) at Patratu and the Patratu Thermal Power Station (PTPS) that are polluting in nature.

River	District	Issues
Bhairavi		
Konar		
Jamunia		
Bokaro	It passes through the West Bokaro and East Bokaro coalfields. flows into the Konar River shortly before the latter flows into the Damodar River.	Polluted with industrial as domestic effluents.
Khadia		Nitrate pollution
Haharo		
Ghari		
Barakar		Fluoride contamination

(Source- NMCG%20list%20of%20districts%20on%20Gangaji%20n%20tributaries.pdf and <http://www.cifri.res.in/Bulletins/Bulletin%20No.79.pdf>)

(Source- <https://jspcb.nic.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/River%20action%20plan%20%20Damodar.pdf> Action plan for rejuvenation of Damodar River in Jharkhand, JSPCB)

INDUSTRIAL PROFILE OF DAMODAR RIVER BASIN

District	Industries	Status
Bokaro	Bokaro Steel Plant, BS City BTPS Bokaro Thermal plant Usha Martin ltd TPP Tenughat TPP Chandrapura TPP Bokaro Power supply Co Tata steel TPP Kathara TPP SAIL Electro steel ltd	Discharges into Ganga River (BSP) EC imposed
Dhanbad	Coking plants, coal washeries, Chemicals, Cement,	No CETP in Dhanbad EC levied on polluters

District	Industries	Status
	Distillery, Explosive factory and ancillary units. Maithan Power ltd TPP Moonidih CPP BCCL	No closure order for establishment operating without STPs and damaging Damodar river. (pg. 23798, Affidavit)
Ramgarh	Ramgarh is an important industrial district of Jharkhand. Several mineral based industries like steel, sponge iron, cement, refractory and thermal power plant etc. are established due to availability of coal and other minerals. Patratu TPP Inland Power ltd	

STATUS OF ETP (Affidavit Sept 23)

Out of total 43 ETPs (in Ramgarh, Bokaro and Dhanbad) only 13 are operating as per norms. And 10 ETPs are reusing treated water. As per the affidavit, only 20 units are ZLD (utilisation of their waste is not mentioned).

Pg. 23765- “d) An environmental compensation amount of Rs. 4, 37, 47, 769/- has been recovered from industries for damage caused to the Damodar” (This is indicative of the fact that Industries are causing contamination of surface water streams).

FLOODPLAIN DEMARCATION

Districts	Demarcation
Sahibganj	Completed (as per Affidavit dated 16/9/23)
Dhanbad	Completed (as per Affidavit dated 16/9/23)
Bokaro	Completed (as per Affidavit dated 16/9/23)

- Encroachment not yet removed
- River Island not restored
- Brick kilns still operating in the floodplains

LEGACY WASTE

As per the Affidavit, no legacy waste dump site remains in Sahibganj and Rajmahal (near River Ganga), as it has been cleared (a women's college has been made over the Sahibganj legacy waste site).

MINING

The District Mining Task Force (DMTF) reported the action status of total 16-FIRs, sealing of mines-10, seized of 02-boats, 16-trucks, 10-tracktors and fines imposed of total 18.75 Lakhs (FIR lodged & recovery), total 4.04 Lakhs (fines/seizure by OTO) and 3.91 Lakhs for fines on uncovered vehicles from July 2021 to till date.

The above data indicates that rampant illegal mining is prevalent in the area.

STATUS ON GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

Drinking water and sanitation dept have identified the contaminated hand pumps and sealed those hand pumps whose water is not fit for drinking.

The contamination maybe caused due to the presence of Arsenic (Sahibganj, Rajmahal and Udhwa) and Fluoride (Ranchi, Gulma, Garwha, Khunti, Plamu, Dhanbad, Bokaro etc).

As per the CGWA Report, Dhandbad and Bermo are among the over exploited blocks.

(Source- NGT Monthly report, Jan 2022 in OA 673/ 2018)

AFFORESTATION

Total No.	1021480
2020-2021	648200 (under Namami Gange scheme) 81420 (Swatch Bharat Mission)
April- June 2023	86000 (River Ganga) 79500 (River Damodar)

(source- Affidavit dated 16.09.23)

KEY POLLUTION ISSUES

1. Illegal sand, clay and stone mining in the Ganga River and Damodar River Basins
2. Industrial pollution in Dhanbad, Bokaro, Sindri and Ramgarh
3. Sewage discharge from Sahibganj, Rajmahal, Dhanbad, Bokaro and other cities/ towns in the catchment are polluting the River Ganga and Damodar.

4. Floodplain encroachment
5. River island encroachment (eg. Sahibganj)
6. ETPs under or non- performance. Not all units have installed ETPs and STPs
7. Mine water discharge- Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Government of India (GoI) based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) declared (January 2010) Dhanbad as a critically polluted area and identified four blocks of Dhanbad district viz. Dhanbad Sadar, Jharia, Govindpur and Nirsa as critically polluted. The predominant sources of pollutants in Dhanbad are Mines, Industries, Bio-medical waste as well as sewage and sullage of municipal areas and the townships of the aforesaid mines and industries.
8. Disposal of Fly ash from TPP (eg. Bokaro)
9. The over burden (OB) of mines, the rejects of coal washeries and ash of Thermal Power Plants are kept either on the river bed or near the river, which sooner or later go to the river. Further, the sewage of towns, townships and suburbs finds way to downstream through septic tanks and soak pits.
10. Coal washeries- consumption of fresh water and discharge of liquid effluents.
11. Coke oven plants- produce tar oil, cyanide, ammonia and phenol.
12. The Bokaro steel and IISCO drain and other industries polluting river Damodar.
13. Municipal waste/ Biomedical waste/ Hazardous waste disposal and related pollution
14. Groundwater is critical @ Ramgarh and Dhanbad (over exploited)
15. Diseases- As per the CAG Audit Report on General, Social and Economic (Non-PSUs) Sectors, 31 March 2014- NPCDCS was launched (2010-11) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MH&FW), GoI, in 100 districts of 21 States which included three districts (Bokaro, Dhanbad and Ranchi) of Jharkhand for reducing the burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

(source https://cag.gov.in/webroot/uploads/download_audit_report/2015/Report%20No.2_GSEs-05ffd3e46d7e395.70138029-06019106510b730.48537680.pdf)

The Synopsis is submitted accordingly for the kind perusal of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

New Delhi

Dated 18.09.2023

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