



Study about Important Tributaries and Various salient features of river Jhelum

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The Jhelum is a large eastern tributary of the Indus. It drains areas west of Pir Panjal separating Jammu and Kashmir. The Jhelum rises from the spring of Verinag, on the northwestern side of Pir Panjal and flows in a direction parallel to the Indus at an average elevation of 5,500 feet. It drains about 2,300 square miles of alluvial lands in the Kashmir Valley and gets water from various important sources including glaciers

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located in the north of the valley. The river first flows through Dal Lake and then an even bigger lake – Wular Lake, into which it drops coarse grades of sediment. On emergence from the Wular Lake near Baramula, it runs through an eighty mile long gorge at an Average slope of 33 feet per mile. At Domel, near Muzaffarabad, the river is joined by its largest tributary, Neelum (earlier called the Kishan Ganga), which drains about 2800 square miles of hilly area lying on the eastern side of the Nanga Parbat. The Neelum drains Himalayan ranges between 15,000 to 20,000 feet high that are perpetually covered by snow and glaciers. In the lower reaches, the 150-mile long river flows through mountainous country covered by forests.

Five miles below the Domel, the Kunhar, another tributary, joins the River Jhelum, draining nearly 1,080 square miles of the famous Kaghan Valley. Sources of River Kunar lie at about 15,000 to 17,000 feet above sea level. 80% of its total length of about a 100 miles are situated in the hills where it falls at nearly 120 feet per mile, forming innumerable rapids and flowing through the Lalusar Lake. One of Kunar's tributaries also flows through the famous Saif-ul-Molook Lake. From Domel to Mangla, a distance of about 90 miles, two streams, the Kanshi and Poonch join the River Jhelum. The Kanshi is a floodwater stream draining eroded areas of the Jhelum and Rawalpindi districts. This stream carries mainly monsoon rain or seepage water. The Poonch is an important stream joining the Jhelum at Tangrot, about seven miles above Mangla. The site where the two rivers meet used to be a famous fishing spot but now lies within the storage area of the Mangla Dam.