

4. GANGES JOURNEY

After West Bengal cities of Murshidabad, Nabadwip, Kolkata, and Howrah, River Ganga enters Bangladesh and discharges at Sundarban Delta. At Pakaur, the river begins its first attrition with the branching away of its first distributary, the River Bhagirathi, which goes on to form the River Hooghly. Close to the border with Bangladesh, the Farakka Barrage, built in 1974 controls the flow of the Ganges, diverting some of the water into a feeder canal linking the Hooghly to keep it relatively silt-free.



Mahatma Gandhi Setu bridge on river Ganga connects Patna to the south to Hajipur in Bihar and was opened in May 1982. It is considered to be the longest river bridge.



The **Howrah Bridge** and the **Vidyasagar Setu** are examples of impressive architecture. The best of Ganges can be savored on the **boat trips** available at several jetties.

After entering Bangladesh, the main branch of the Ganges is known as Padma River, until it is joined by the Jamuna River the largest distributary of the Brahmaputra. Further downstream, the Ganges is fed by the Meghna River, the second largest distributary of the Brahmaputra and takes on its name entering the Meghna Estuary. Fanning out into the 350 km (220 mi) wide Ganges Delta, it empties out into the Bay of Bengal. Hardinge Bridge is a Steel Railway Bridge over the Padma at Paksey in western Bangladesh & was opened on 4th March 1915.

