## Age of the studied deposits

The lower Ganges River is dominated by bank-attached bars and mid-channel braid bars (see supplementary figure). The described strata are all very recent deposits. The time series of Google Earth images suggests that the studied deposits formed after 1992 (see supplementary figure). For example, the G9 sequence (5.2 m thick) has recorded bar tail growth since May 2013 (supplementary Figs. A-B and see sequence G9 in Fig. 11). Similarly, the G15 sequence reflects bar head erosion in 2000 and recent flood deposits in channel flank areas after 2000 (supplementary Figs. C-D and see sequence G15 in Fig. 11). In 2013, the location of G17 corresponded to farmland (supplementary Figs. E-F). The lack of farmland evidence in sequence G17, i.e., soil and plant fragments, indicates the sequence formed after 2013 (supplementary Figs. E-F and see sequence G17 in Fig. 11). The soil or pedogenically modified mud in the sequence G19 formed after 1992, because the location showed bank attached-bars and a lack of cultivated land in the Google Earth image of 1992 (supplementary Figs. G-H and see sequence G19 in Fig. 11).

**Supplementary figure caption**

The Google Earth images of points G9, G15, G17, and G19, which reveal the depositional age of the sequences G9, G15, G17, and G19. The scale bar is 3 km. The flow direction are shown by arrows. Examined locations are denoted by red circles. (A) The G09 was located in the middle of the channel on 2013/05/01. (B) The G09 was at bar tail on 2017, when we dug trenches. The two images of the G9 indicate that the G9 sequence records bar tail growth, and the sequence G9 formed after 2013/05. (C) The G15 was in the farmland on 2012/03/14. (D) The G15 in the channel flank area was exposed when we did survey on 2017/12/02. The absence of farmland material in the G15 sequence suggests that the time of deposition was after 2012/03. (E) The G15 was in the farmland on 2013/12/31. (F) The G17 in the channel flank area was exposed when we did survey and on 2017/12/02. (G) The G19 was in the channel flank area on 1992/12/31. (H) The G19 was in the farmland when we did field survey in November 2017. This indicates the sediments below the sequence represent channel flank and overbank deposits and the sequence probably formed after December 1992.