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As a general observation, the Rivers of Peninsular India are rainfed and they shrink during the dry season. The line created by the Narmada River and Mahanadi River is the traditional boundary between northern and southern India. The Narmada flows westwards in the depression between the Vindhya and Satpura ranges. The plateau is watered by the east flowing Godavari and Krishna rivers. The other major rivers of the Deccan plateau are the Pennar and the Tungabhadra, a major tributary of the Krishna. There are numerous very small rivers on the Deccan plateau which flow mostly north to south and also south to north mixing with any of the west or east flowing major rivers.

Mahanadi River Basin

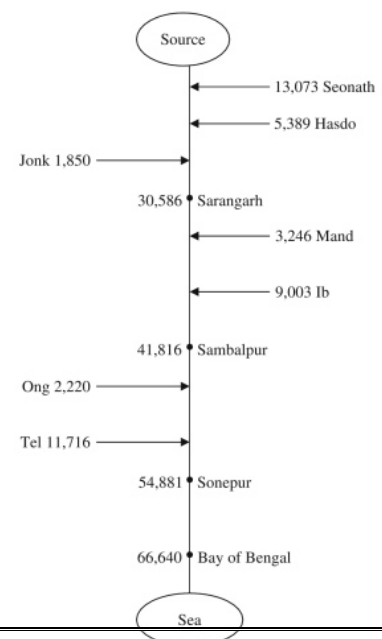
The 858 Kilometers long Mahanadi river flows through the states of Chhattisgarh and Orissa. It gets formed by numerous mountain streams and the farthest headstream is located in hills of the Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh. These hills are extensions of the Eastern Ghats and are a source of many other streams which then go on to join the Mahanadi. The river first flows in north and drains Raipur. After Bilaspur, it is joined by its major tributary river Seonath.

After that the river flows eastward and joined by Jonk, Hasdeo rivers and reaches Odisha. Near Sambalpur of Odisha, the largest dam of the world Hirakud Dam blocks its water, spread between Lamdungri and Chandili Dunguri hills. After reaching Dholpur in Odisha, the river rolls towards the Eastern Ghats and passes the Satkosia Gorge. After crossing the Gorge, it meets the plains of Odisha and reaches Cuttak. Before entering Cuttack city, it gives off a large distributary called the Kathjori. Cuttack is located between these two channels. The Kathjori then throws off many streams like the Kuakhai, Devi and Surua and becomes Jotdar River, which fall into the Bay of Bengal after entering Puri district.

The main stream of Mahandi gets divided into several distributaries such as Paika, Birupa, Chitartala, Genguti and Nun. These all distributaries form the Mahandi Delta which is one of the largest deltas in India. The Mahandi river empties into Bay of Bengal via several channels near Paradeep at False Point, Jagatsinghpur.

Importance of Mahanadi River

Mahanadi valley is best known for its fertile soil and flourishing agriculture. Before the Hirakud dam was built, the river carried a huge amount of silt and its delta had one of the highest yield per acre



-: About this document:-

in the whole of India. At present, agriculture primarily depends on a **network of canals** that arise from the river. **Rice, oilseeds and sugarcane** are the principal crops here.

The river was notorious for devastating floods, but the construction of Hirakud Dam has altered the situation.

Tributaries of Mahanadi

The following flowchart shows the flow of Mahanadi from Source to Sea.

The major tributaries of Mahanadi are Seonath, Jonk, Hasdo, Mand, Ib, Ong, Tel etc.

- » **Seonath River:** The Seonath River is the **longest** tributary of Mahanadi. It rises in an undulating region with numerous small groups of hills at Kotgal and flows 383 kilometers to join Mahanadi at its left bank at Khargand.
 - **Tributaries of Seonath** are Kharahara, Tandula, Kharun, Surhi, Agar, Arpa rivers. The total drainage area of Seonath is 22% of the total drainage area of Mahanadi Basin.
- » **Jonk River:** Jonk River originates from the Khariar Hills of Kalahandi district of Odisha at an elevation of 762 meters. It flows 196 kilometers to join the Mahanadi on its right at Sheorinarayan.
- » **Hasdo River:** It rises in the Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh and traverses 333 kilometers to meet Mahanadi at Mahuadih.
 - Gej River is a principle tributary of Hasdo River
- » **Mand River:** Mand River originates at an elevation of 686 meters in Sarguja district of Odisha and flows 241 kilometers to meet Mahanadi at Chandarpur.
- » **Ib River :** Ib originates in Pandrapat of the Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh and flows 251 kilometers to **fall into Hirakud Dam**. Its a rainfed river.
- » **Ong River:** It rises at an elevation of 457 meters on a hill in the northern outskirts of hills located on the course of Jonk River and flows 204 kilometers to meet Mahandi at Sonepur.
- » **Tel River:** Tel river originates in plain in the Koraput of Odisha. It traverses 296 kilometers to meet Mahanadi at Sonepur.

Factbox: Hirakud Dam

- » Built across Mahanadi River, about 15 km from Sambalpur in Odisha.
- » Built in 1957, the dam is one of the world's longest earthen dam.
- » Behind the dam extends a lake, Hirakud Reservoir, 55 km long.
- » Initially proposed Sir M. **Visveswararya** in 1937, Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission took up the work, and in 1946, Sir Howthorne Lewis, then the Governor of Orissa, laid the foundation stone of the Hirakud Dam.
- » Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru laid the first batch of concrete on 12 April 1948. The dam was completed in 1953 and was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on 13 January 1957. The total cost of the project was Rs. 100.02 crores in 1957. **Power generation along with agricultural irrigation** started in 1956, achieving full potential in 1966.
- » There are two **observation towers** on the dam one at each side. One is "**Gandhi Minar**" and the other one is "**Nehru Minar**". Both the observation towers present breathtaking views of the lake.
- » Helps control floods in the Mahanadi delta and irrigates 75,000 square kilometres of land. Hydroelectricity is also generated.
- » **Cattle Island** is located in one of the extreme points of Hirakud Reservoir, a natural wonder. Completely inhabited by wild

cattle, with out any trace of humans.

- » Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is located here.

Brahmani River

Brahmani River is NOT a tributary of Mahanadi. It's a seasonal river that flows in Odisha. It is formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers near Raurkela, and flows through the districts of Sundargarh, Kendujhar, Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Jajapur. Together with the rivers Mahanadi and Baitarani, it forms a large delta before entering into the Bay of Bengal at Dhamra. Both headstreams of Brahmani river viz. Sankh and South Koel originate in Choota Nagpur Plateau.

- » Sankh has its origins near the Jharkhand-Chhatisgarh border, near Netarhat Plateau.
- » South Koel too arises in Jharkhand, near Lohardaga, on the other side of a watershed that also gives rise to the Damodar River.

Brahmani river is 480 kilometers long and is the second longest river in Orissa after the Mahanadi.

Tributaries of Brahmani River

- » **Baitarni River:** Baitarani River is another one of six major rivers of Odisha, which earn the name of coastal plains of Odisha as "*Hexadeltaic region*". The river originates in Guptaganga hills in Gonasika of Keonjhar district in Odisha and flows to make a natural boundary between Odisha and Jharkhand. It travels a distance of 360 km to drain into the Bay of Bengal after joining of the Brahmani at Dhamra mouth near Chandabali.

Krishna River

The 1300 Kilometers long Krishna River or Krishnaveni is one of the longest rivers in Peninsular India. It is the fourth largest river in India after the Ganga, Godavari and the Narmada.

Origin & Course:



Krishna River rises at Mahabaleswar in district Satara, Maharashtra in the west and meets the Bay of Bengal at Hamasaladeevi in Andhra Pradesh, on the east coast. It flows through Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The delta of this river is one of the most fertile regions in India and was the home to ancient Satavahana and Ikshvaku Dynasty kings. Vijayawada is the largest city on the River Krishna.

The river flows quickly, causing much erosion in June and August. During this time, Krishna takes fertile soil from Maharashtra, Karnataka and western Andhra Pradesh towards the delta region.

The river has a number of tributaries but Tungabhadra is the principal tributary. Other tributaries include the Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga. Leaving Mahabaleswar behind, the Krishna takes the form of the Dhom lake in Panchgani, a popular hill station just 17 km from Mahabaleswar. Crisscrossing its way through Wai, Narsobachi and Wadi (near Kolhapur) in Maharashtra, the river enters Karnataka at Kurundwad, 60 km from Kolhapur. In Karnataka, the river passes through the Belgaum, Bijapur and Gulbarga districts, covering a total distance of 220 km. The Krishna enters

Andhra Pradesh near Deosugur in Raichur district and meanders through Mehbubnagar, Kurnool, Guntur and Krishna districts. The river merges into the Bay of Bengal at Hamasaladeevi. Two dams, Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar are constructed across the Krishna River. Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is world's tallest masonry dam (124 meters).

Krishna River Basin:

Krishna Basin extends over an area of 258,948 square kilometers which is nearly 8% of total geographical area of the country. The basin lies in the states of Andhra Pradesh (113,271 km²), Karnataka (76,252 km²) and Maharashtra (69,425 km²). Most part of this basin comprises rolling and undulating country except the western border which is formed by an unbroken line of ranges of the Western Ghats. The important soil types found in the basin are black soils, red soils, Laterite and lateritic soils, alluvium, mixed soils, red and black soils and saline and alkaline soils. An average annual surface water potential of 78.1 km³ has been assessed in this basin. Out of this, 58.0 km³ is utilizable water. Culturable area in the basin is about 203,000 km², which is 10.4% of the total culturable area of the country. In 2009 October heavy floods occurred, isolating 350 villages and leaving millions homeless, which is believed to be first occurrence in 1000 years. The flood resulted in heavy damage to Kurnool, Mahabubnagar, Guntur, Krishna and Nalagonda Districts.

Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWTD)

(Updates from March 2011) In an attempt to settle the historic water dispute among Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWTD) has allocated the maximum share of 1,001 thousand million cubic (TMC) ft. of the river's water to Andhra Pradesh, followed by 911 TMC to Karnataka and 666 TMC to Maharashtra. Karnataka has been allowed to raise the height of Almatti dam by five meters to 524 meters and it has expressed happiness over the tribunal's order, but Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have opposed the increase in the water reservoir height. The three member tribunal was set up in 2004 and is headed by former Supreme Court Justice Brijesh Kumar. The tribunal has also asked the three States not to divert water for any other purpose other than what has been decided by it. For implementation of the award, the Centre will constitute the Krishna Water Implementation Board after three months. The award can be reviewed only after May 2050. Since the tribunal has the Supreme Court's force and decree, no appeal against the award can be filed in any other court except the tribunal itself. The award also directed that the three States should contribute 3.30 TMC ft. each to Chennai city for drinking water supply between July and October and 1.70 TMC ft. distributed in four equal installments from January to April.

Tributaries of Krishna:

Major Tributaries of Krishna River are as follows:

Left: Bhima, Dindi, Peddavagu, Halia, Musi, Palleru, Munneru

Right: Venna, Koyna, Panchganga, Dudhganga, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Tungabhadra

» Tungabhadra:

Most important tributary of Krishna River is the Tungabhadra River, which is formed by the Tungabhadra River and Bhadra River that originate in the Western Ghats. Tungabhadra flows in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. It was known as Pampa during the epic period. The name of famous tourist spot

Hampi is derived from Pampa, which is the old name of the Tungabhadra River on whose banks the city is built.

The Tunga and Bhadra Rivers rise at Gangamoola, in Varaha Parvatha in the Western Ghats forming parts of the Kuduremukh Iron Ore Project, at an elevation of 1198 metres. Bhadra flows through Bhadravati city and is joined by numerous streams. At Koodli, a small town near Shimoga City, Karnataka, the two rivers meet and called with the common name Tungabhadra. From here, Tungabhadra meanders through the plains to a distance of 531 km (330 mi) and mingles with the Krishna at Gondimalla, near Mahaboobnagar in Andhra Pradesh.

Importance of Tungabhadra River

There are a number of ancient and holy sites on the banks of the Tungabhadra River.

- At Harihara there is a temple dedicated to Harihareshwara.
- The river surrounds the modern town of Hampi, where are the ruins of Vijayanagara, the site of the powerful Vijayanagara Empire's capital city and now a World Heritage Site. The site, including the Vijayanagara temple complex ruins, is being restored.
- 3. Alampur, on the left - northern bank of the river, known as Dakshina Kashi in Mahabubnagar Dist. The Nava Brahma Temples complex is one of the earliest models of temple architecture in India.
- Bhadravathi, Hospet, Hampi, Mantralayam, Kurnool are located on its bank.
 - **Tributaries of Tungabhadra:**
 - Tunga River, Kumudvati River, Varada River, Bhadra River, Vedavathi River, Handri River
- » **Bhima River:** Bhima River originates in Bhimashankar hills near Karjat in Maharashtra and flows southeast for 861 km through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh states. Bhima is a major tributary of the Krishna River. Its banks are densely populated and form a fertile agricultural area. During its 861 kilometer journey, many smaller rivers flow into it. Kundali River, Kumandala River, Ghod river, Bhama, Indrayani River, Mula River, Mutha River and Pavna River are the major tributaries of this river around Pune. Of these Indrayani, Mula, Mutha and Pawana flow through Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad city limits. Chandani, Kamini, Moshi, Bori, Sina, Man, Bhogwati and Nira are the major tributaries of the river in Solapur. Of these Nira river meets with the Bhima in Narsingpur, in Malshiras taluka in Solapur district.
 - The holy city of Pandharpur is on the bank of Bhima River.
 - Bhimashankar is one of the twelve esteemed Jyotirlinga shrines. Other temples are Siddhatek, Siddhivinayak Temple of Ashtavinayak Ganesh Pandharpur Vithoba Temple in Solapur district., Sri Dattatreya Temple, Ganagapura, Gulbarga district, Karnataka, Sri Kshetra Rasangi Balabheemasena Temple in Rasanagi, Jevargi Taluq, Gulbarga district, Karnataka
 - Tributaries of Bhima are:
 - Ghod, Sina, Kagini, Bhama, Indrayani, Mula-Mutha, Nira

- » **Malaprabha River:** Malaprabha River is another important tributary of Krishna River, which flows in Karnataka. It rises at Kanakumbi in the Belgaum district and joins Krishna River at Kudalasangama in Bagalkot district. It also flows through Dharwar District. Hubli city gets its drinking water from this reservoir.
 - **Tributaries of Malprabha:**
 - Bennihalla, Hirehalla and Tuparihalla are the major tributaries to Malaprabha.
- » **Ghataprabha River:** Ghataprabha is a tributary of Krishna that flows in Karnataka. The Ghataprabha Project at Hidkal is a hydroelectric and irrigational dam across the river.
 - Tributaries of Ghataprabha:
 - Hiranyakeshi and Markandeya rivers are tributaries of Ghataprabha
- » **Other Tributaries of Krishna:** Other tributaries include the Kudali river, Venna River, Koyna River, Yerla River, Warna River, Dindi River, Paleru River, Musi River, Urmodi River, Tarli River and Dudhganga River. The rivers Venna, Koyna, Vasna, Panchganga, Dudhganga, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha and Tungabhadra join Krishna from the right bank; while the Yerla River, Musi River, Maneru and Bhima rivers join the Krishna from the left bank.

Important places on banks of River Krishna:

Mahabaleshwar

- ✓ Mahabaleshwar besides being a popular hill station and a weekend getaway from Mumbai is also the source of the Krishna River
- ✓ Mahabaleshwar is located at an altitude of 1,372 meters in the Western Ghats.
- ✓ Mahabaleshwar can also be called the 'land of five rivers', since the holy streams Krishna, Koyna, Venna, Gayatri and Savitri emerge from here.
- ✓ There are many places of tourist interest in Mahabaleshwar. Lodwick Point is an important landmark in Mahabaleshwar. It is considered one of the finest locations in Mahabaleshwar from where one can enjoy the beauty of the surrounding area. This point was earlier known as Sydney Point. Arther Point is the queen of all points. It is fascinating to see the barren deep valley Savitri on the left and shallow green valley on the right.
- ✓ Other places of tourist interest in Mahabaleshwar include Elphinstone Point, Tiger's Spring, Kate's Point, Bombay Point, Wilson Point, Venna Lake and Kate's Point. Lingmala, Chinaman and Dhobi Waterfalls are also worth visiting in Mahabaleshwar. Kate's Point (also known as sunrise point) in particular offers fabulous view of the Krishna River.

Srisailam

- ✓ Leaving Mahabaleshwar behind, the Krishna river takes the form of Dhom in Panchgani, a beautiful hill station close (17 km) to Mahabaleshwar.
- ✓ It meanders through Narsobachi, Wadi in Maharashtra and crisscrosses its way through Karnataka before entering Andhra Pradesh.

- ✓ Srisailem (in Andhra Pradesh) is a holy town located on the banks of the Krishna. Srisailem is surrounded by lush greenery and has beautiful locations around.
- ✓ It is a wonderful weekend getaway from Hyderabad. Srisailem Sanctuary is the main attraction that covers an area of 3568 sq kms. The down waters Srisailem dam is home to a variety of crocodiles.

Nagarjuna Sagar

- ✓ Popularly known for the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, Nagarjuna Sagar is approximately 170 km from Hyderabad. The dam is an engineering marvel. Stretching across the mighty river Krishna, the barrage also has another distinction to its credit - it has created one of the world's largest man-made lake.
- ✓ The dam has played an important role in agricultural sector of the state.
- ✓ Nagarjunakonda was the largest and most important Buddhist centres in South India . The place derives its name from Acharya Nagarjuna, a renowned Buddhist scholar and philosopher, who had migrated here from Amaravati to propagate and spread the Buddha's message of universal peace and brotherhood.
- ✓ Not too far from Nagarjunakonda is Anupa, where a Buddhist University and Stadium were excavated.

Amaravati

- ✓ Situated on the banks of the Krishna, Amaravati is a small town in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Amaravati is an excavation site and was once the capital of Satavahanas. It is one of the important Buddhist sites in India. Amaravati is located about 60 km from Vijayawada.
- ✓ Amareswara Temple is the major tourist attraction in Amaravati. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is believed that Lord Shiva is present here in the form of five lingams -Pranaveswara, Agasteswara, Kosaleswara, Someswara and Parthiveswara. The temple is built in the Dravidian style of architecture and has many legends associated with it.
- ✓ The remains of a 2000-year-old Buddhist settlement along with the great Buddhist stupa are among the main attractions in Amaravati. Mahachaitya or the Great Stupa was constructed approximately 2000 years ago. The stupa is made of brick with a circular vedika and depicts Lord Buddha in a human form, subduing an elephant.

Vijayawada

- ✓ Vijayawada being a popular trade and commerce centre is also referred to as 'the business capital of Andhra Pradesh'. Vijayawada is the 3rd largest city in Andhra Pradesh and is the largest city on the banks of Krishna River.

Kaveri River Basin

Kaveri or Cauvery flows in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The river covers a distance of about 765 km and flows through the state of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. On its journey to the Bay of Bengal, the river is joined by its tributaries,



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which include Shimsa, Hemavathi, Honnuhole, Arkavathi, Kapila, Lakshmana Theertha, Kabini, Lokapavani, Bhavani, Noyil and Amaravathy.

- ✓ **Talacauvery** (also Talakaveri) located about 5000 ft above sea level is considered the **source** of the Cauvery.
- ✓ Talacauvery is located in Coorg district of Karnataka and is 47 km from Maidekri.
- ✓ Talacauvery is considered a famous pilgrimage site in Karnataka. At the source of the Cauvery there is a temple where every year on Tula sankramana thousands of pilgrims gather to pay their respects to the Cauvery.

The river then flows through Mysore district where two islands **Srirangapatnam** and **Shivanasamudram** are formed. At Sivasamudram the river drops 98 meters forming famous falls known as Gagan Chukki and Bara Chukki. After meandering through Karnataka, the river then enters Tamil Nadu and forms the boundary between the Erode and Salem districts. The Cauvery is joined by the Bhavani River at Bhavani. **Hogenakkal** is a major landmark on the course of the Cauvery in **Tamil Nadu**. Trichy and Thanjavur are other important towns on the banks of the Cauvery.

- ✓ The river after covering a distance of 765 km merges into the Bay of Bengal through two principal mouths. One of the important distributary is Kollidam, which is the northern distributary of the Kaveri River as it flows through the delta of Thanjavur. It splits from the main branch of the Kaveri River at the island of Srirangam and flows eastward into the Bay of Bengal.

Cauvery River Basin:

The Kaveri basin is estimated to 72,000 km² with many tributaries including the Shimsha, the Hemavati, the Arkavati, Honnuhole, Lakshmana Tirtha, Kabini, Bhavani River, the Lokapavani, the Noyyal and the Amaravati River.

Summary of River Cauvery	
Tributaries	Amaravati · Arkavathy · Bhavani · Chinnar · Hemavati · Honnuhole · Kabini · Kannika · Kollidam · Lakshmana Tirtha · Lokapavani · Noyyal · Pambar · Shimsha · Sujyothi
Important Dams	Banasura Sagar · Bangara Doddi Nala · Grand Anicut · Krishna Raja Sagara · Madadkatte · Mettur Dam · Stanley Reservoir · Upper Anaicut · Lower Anaicut
Cities and towns on Bank of Cauvery	Bhagamandala · Bhavani · Chidambaram · Erode · Karaikal · Karur · Kodumudi · Kodagu · Kudavasal · Kumbakonam · Kushalanagara · Mannargudi · Mandya · Mayiladuthurai · Mettur · Mysore · Nagapattinam · Nannilam · Papanasam · Puhar · Peralam · Sakleshpur · Sikkal · Sirkali · Srirangam · Srirangapatna · Swamimalai · Talakad · Talakaveri · Thanjavur · Tharangambadi · Thirunallar · Thiruvaiyaru · Thiruvarur · Thiruveezhimizhalai · Tiruchirappalli · Vaitheeswarankoil
Riparian states and territories	Karnataka · Kerala · Pondicherry · Tamil Nadu

Tributaries of Cauvery

- » **Amaravathi River:** Amaravati River is a tributary of Kaveri River in Coimbatore. It is **continuation of the Pambar and Chinnar rivers in Kerala**. It begins at Manjampatti Valley between the Annamalai

Hills and the Palni Hills in Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park. It descends in a northerly direction through **Amaravathi Reservoir** and Amaravathi Dam at Amaravathinagar. It is joined by the Kallapuram River at the mouth of the Ajanda valley in Udumalaipettai. It joins with the Kaveri at Thirumukkudal, about 10km from Karur.

- » **Arkavati River:** It originates in Nandi Hills of Karnataka and joins Cauvery at Kanakapura, called Sangama in Kannada, after flowing through Kolar District and Bangalore Rural district. The river is used by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board to provide 135 million liters of drinking water per day to the city of Bangalore, or about 20% of all the city's water. The river drains into the Chikkarayappanahalli Lake near Kanivenarayanapura.

○ **Tributaries of Akravati:**

- Kumudavathi and Vrishabhavathi rivers are tributaries to this river.
- » **Bhavni River:** Its is a major tributary of Cauvery River. It originates in Nilgiri Hills, where 12 major rivulets join Bhavani. The west and East Varagar tributaries coming from the Nilgiris are the largest and each have dams in Tamil Nadu. The Bhavani is a 217 km. long perennial river fed mostly by the southwest monsoon and supplemented by the northeast monsoon. Its watershed drains an area of 6,200 km² spread over Tamil Nadu (87%), Kerala (9%) and Karnataka (4%).
- » **Hemavati River:** It starts in the Western Ghats at an elevation of about 1,219 meters near Ballalaya durga in the Chikmagalur District of the state of Karnataka, in southern India, and flows through Chikkamagaluru, Hassan District and Mysore district before joining the Kaveri near Krishnarajasagara.

Godavari River Basin



With a length of **1465** Kilometers, Godavari is India's second largest river that runs within the country and also the longest river in South India. It originates near **Trimbak in Nashik District** of Maharashtra state and flows east across the Deccan Plateau into the Bay of Bengal near Narasapuram in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

- » The river is also known as **Dakshin Ganga** and **Gautami**. The **Manjra** and **Indravati** rivers are its major tributaries.
- » The Godavari is sacred river and there are several places of pilgrimage on its banks. Trimbakeshwar and Nasik are major pilgrimage sites where one of the four Sinhastha Kumbh Mela takes place.
- » Every twelve years, Pushkaram, a major bathing festival, is held on the banks of the Godavari. The next Pushkaram festival is scheduled to be held in 2015.

Course of Godavari River

The river originates from Trimbak and then flows in the east across the Deccan Plateau traversing through the Trimbakeshwar, Nashik, Kopergaon, Paithan, Nanded, Rajahmundry, Adilabad and Bhadrachalam. Just after Rajahmundry, the river splits into two streams that widen into a large river delta, which provides an extensive navigable irrigation. In Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh, there is a multipurpose project on the Godavari, which is called the Sriramsagar Project. Godavari empties into the Bay of Bengal near Narasapuram in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

- » A barrage was built on the river at Dowleswaram by Sir Arthur Cotton in 1852. As it was damaged in 1987 floods, it was rebuilt as a barrage and roadway during 1987 and named after him. The roadway connects Dowleswaram in East Godavari and Vijjeswaram in West Godavari.
- » There is also a big dam built just after the source of the river at Trimbakeshwar. The dam is in the town of Gangapur, which literally means a town on a river. The dam provides drinking water to the residents of Nashik and also supplies water to the thermal power station situated downstream at Eklahara, which provides power to the town.
- » There is another multipurpose project on the Godavari River named Sriram Sagar Project on the borders of Adilabad and Nizamabad District. It is in the town of Pochampad, 60 km away from Nizamabad. It irrigates 4 districts of Northern Telangana Region of Andhra Pradesh and supplies power.
- » The Jayakwadi dam near Paithan is one of the largest earthen dam in India. This dam was built to address the problem of drought in Marathwada region and problem of flood along the bank of river. Two 'left' and 'right' canals provide the irrigation to fertile land up to Nanded district. This dam has major contribution in industrial development of Aurangabad Maharashtra.
- » **Havelock bridge is on Godavari River.** It was constructed under the supervision of F.T. Granville Walton who had constructed the Dufferin Bridge over the Ganges, and Granville Mills, British engineers. Spanning over 3 km in length, it linked the East Godavari and West Godavari districts. The bridge has been a vital link enabling trains to run between Chennai and Howrah. Trains continued to ply over the bridge for a century until 1997, when train services over the bridge were suspended after the construction of 2 additional bridges.
- » The **Coringa mangrove forests in the Godavari delta** are the **second largest mangrove formation** in the country. Part of this has been declared as the **Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary**, renowned for its **reptiles**. They also provide an important habitat to a wide variety of fish and crustaceans. These forests also act as barriers against cyclones, tropical storms and tidal waves thus protecting the nearby villages.
- » The **Krishna Godavari basin** is one of the main nesting sites of the endangered **Olive Ridley turtle**.

Important Places on the Bank of River Godavari

- » **Trimbakeshwar:** The source of the Godavari – Trimbakeshwar is one of the holy places in the country. It is located about 40 km from Nashik. Trimbakeshwar is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of

Lord Shiva. It is believed that there is no sacred place like Trimbakeshwar, no river like Godavari and no mountain like Bhrahmagiri.

- » **Nashik:** Nashik is the first major city on the banks of the Godavari after Trimbakeshwar. Nashik is located about 185 km from Mumbai. It is an important religious center and attracts thousands of pilgrims every year from different parts of the country.
- » **Paithan:** Famous for its Paithani sarees, Paithan is located on the banks of the Godavari in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra. It is 56 km south of Aurangabad, the ancient capital city of the Satvahanas. Paithan is associated with great saint Eknath. His 'samadhi' is located here. The Eknath Shrine comes alive during 'Paithan Yatra', also known as Nath Shashti, when devotees from Maharashtra and neighbouring states come to pay their respects to the saint.
- » **Nanded:** Nanded is famous for the Sikh gurudwara - Takhat Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib. A town of great antiquity, Nanded was earlier known as 'Nandigram'. Gurudwara Shri Hazur Sahib is the main landmark in Nanded. It is one of the four high seats of authority of the Sikhs. This is the place where Shri Guru Gobind Singhji breathed his last. The gurudwara was built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
- » **Bhadrachalam:** Bhadrachalam is situated on the banks of the Godavari and is 161 km from Rajahmundry and 200 km from Vijayawada. Bhadrachalam is regarded to be one of the holiest shrines in South India.

Tributaries of Godavari

- » **Indravati River:** Indravati River rises in the Eastern Ghats in Kalahandi Orissa, and flows west to join the Godavari, forming the boundary between Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh states at places. The river flows for a length of 535 km with a drainage area of 41,665 sq.km. The Indravati is sometimes known as the "lifeline" of the Bastar District, one of the most green districts in India.
- » **Pranahita River:** Pranahita River flows on the border of Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra and Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh. It forms with the confluence of two rivers called Wardha and Wainganga. The Painganga River joins Vainganga near Aheri. The river then flows up to Sironcha before it empties into the Godavari River, near Sironcha in Maharashtra. The River course is mainly through the dense forests which are rich in Sagwan (timber).

Other important Rivers of India

Narmada River

Narmada or Rewa River is the third largest river that completely flows within India after Ganga & Godavari. It forms the traditional boundary between North India and South India. Narmada flows in a rift valley between the Satpura and Vindhya Ranges. It has been mentioned as Nammadus in the Periplus of Erythrean Sea.

Source and Course:

Narmada originates in a small tank called Narmada Kund located on the Amarkantak hill in the Anuppur District of eastern Madhya Pradesh. The river descends from the Amarkantak hill range at the Kapildhara

falls over a cliff and meanders in the hills flowing through a tortuous course crossing the rocks and islands up to the ruined palace of Ramnagar. Between Ramnagar and Mandla, (25 km (15.5 mi)), further southeast, the course is comparatively straight with deep water devoid of rocky obstacles. The Banger joins from the left. The river then runs north-east in a narrow loop towards Jabalpur. Close to this city, after the Dhuandhara falls, Narmada enters three narrow valleys between the Vindhya scarps in the north and the Satpura range in the South. The southern extension of the valley is wider at most places. These three valley sections are separated by the closely approaching line of the scarps and the Satpura hills. It forms the traditional boundary between North India and South India and flows westwards over a length of 1,312 km before draining through the Gulf of Cambay into the Arabian Sea, 30 km (18.6 mi) west of Bharuch of Gujarat

Basin:

Between Vindya and Satpura ranges, Narmada extends over an area of 98,796 km². The basin covers large areas in the states of Madhya Pradesh (86%), Gujarat (14%) and a comparatively smaller area (2%) in Maharashtra. In the river course of 1,312 km, there are 41 tributaries, out of which 22 are from the Satpuda range and the rest on the right bank are from the Vindhya range.

Importance:

Narmada is one of the most sacred rivers of India. Geologically, Narmada River is older than the river Ganges. The river has been mentioned by Ptolemy in the Second century AD as Namade. In Puranas, it has been mentioned as Rewa. In Indian history, Kannada emperor from Chalukya dynasty Pulakeshin II is said to have defeated emperor Harshavardhana of Kannauj on the banks of Narmada. The valley is famous for the gorgeous Maheshwari saris, which are handwoven; comfortable in warm and cold weather, dressy and yet light; these saris have a dedicated, select following among Indian women.

The Bhimbetka caves are located in a dyke of the Narmada valley at about 45 km northeast of Bhopal.

Mahi River

Mahi rises in Minda Village, in Sardarpur district Madhya Pradesh and, after flowing through the Vagad region of Rajasthan, enters Gujarat and falls into the sea by a wide estuary near Khambhat. Mahi encircles entire Banswara District in Rajasthan and first dam known as Mahi dam is at right side in Rajasthan. Kadana Dam is on Mahi in Gujarat. It is one of only three major rivers in peninsular India that runs from east to west along with the Tapti River and the Narmada River.

Tapti River

Tapi River, with length of 724 km, is one of only three rivers in peninsular India that run from east to west - the others being the Narmada River and the Mahi River. The river rises in the eastern Satpura Range of southern Madhya Pradesh state, and flows westward, draining Madhya Pradesh's Nimar region, Maharashtra's Kandesh and east Vidarbha regions in the northwest corner of the Deccan Plateau and south Gujarat, before emptying into the Gulf of Cambay of the Arabian Sea, in the Surat District of Gujarat. The river, along with the northern parallel Narmada river, form the boundaries between North and South India. The Western Ghats or Sahyadri range starts south of the Tapti River near the border of Gujarat and

Maharashtra. The Tapi (Tapi) River empties into the Gulf of Khambhat near the city of Surat in Gujarat. Tapi Basin lies in the states of Maharashtra (51,504 km²), Madhya Pradesh (9,804 km²) and Gujarat (3,837 km²).

Ghaggar-Hakra River

Ghaggar-Hakra River flows in monsoon season only. It is known as Ghaggar before the **Ottu barrage** and as the **Hakra** downstream of the barrage. It **originates** in the **Shivalik Hills** of Himachal Pradesh and flows through Punjab and Haryana states into Rajasthan; just southwest of Sirsa, Haryana and by the side of talwara jheel in Rajasthan, this seasonal river feeds two irrigation canals that extend into Rajasthan. The downstream Hakra is a dried up stream that possibly end in Rann of Katch.