



drishti

NGT Panel for Protection of Mahanadi Floodplain

drishtias.com/printpdf/ngt-panel-for-protection-of-mahanadi-floodplain

Why in News

Recently, the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has constituted a high level committee to identify **floodplain zones of the Mahanadi**.

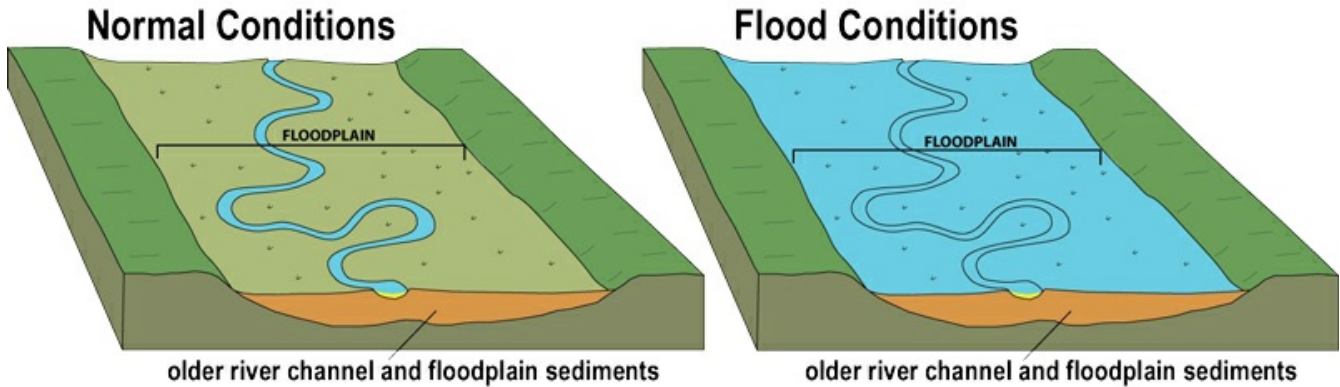
Mahanadi is Odisha's **largest river**.

Key Points

- **Background:**
 - In **January 2020** Chief Minister of Odisha had announced that the **424 acres** reclaimed from the river Mahanadi would be utilised to add **ecological, recreational, sporting, cultural and technological value in the lives of the people of Cuttack**.
 - A local citizen approached the **NGT** against the state government's plan alleging that illegal construction activities will adversely **affect the river ecology and disturb the flow of Mahanadi river**.
- **NGT's Order:**

The NGT has formed a **panel of experts** from the **Central Water Commission, National Institute of Hydrology** and **state and central pollution control board** for laying down norms to ensure that the riverfront development takes place without **damage to the floodplains** of the river.
- **Legislation to Regulate the Flood Plains:**
 - There is **no central legislation** to regulate the flood plains, except a **2016 notification** issued by the **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation**, with respect to **Ganga river**, under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, prohibiting any construction in the active floodplain area of **river Ganga or its tributaries**.
 - However some states have laws to regulate the flood plains :
 - **Manipur Flood Zoning Act, 1978**
 - **Uttarakhand Flood Plain Zoning Act, 2012**

Floodplains



- Floodplain is an **area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river**, formed mainly by **flooding of rivers and deposition of sand sediments** on the riverbanks.
- These sandy floodplains are **exceptional aquifers** where any withdrawal is compensated by gravity flow from a large surrounding area.
- Some floodplains such as those of Himalayan Rivers contain up to **20 times more water than the virgin flow in rivers in a year**.
- Since **recharge is by rainfall and during late floods, the water quality is good**.

Mahanadi River

- The Mahanadi River system is the **third largest of peninsular India after Godavari and Krishna**, and the **largest river of Odisha state**.
- **Source of origin of the Mahanadi river:** It rises from a place near Sihawa in Bastar hills in the state of Chhattisgarh to the south of Amarkantak.
- **Major Tributaries of the Mahanadi river**
 - Seonath River
 - Hasdeo River
 - Mand River
 - Ib River
 - Jonking River
 - Tel River

The Basin of the Mahanadi river:

- The catchment area of the river extends to **Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra**.
- Its basin is bounded by the **Central India hills on the north**, by the **Eastern Ghats on the south and east** and by the **Maikala range on the west**.