



Mahanadi River

Why in News?

The [Indian Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) has forecast a heavy rainfall causing the [flood situation](#) in the Mahanadi River, Odisha.

- The low-pressure area is expected to form over the north Bay of Bengal and trigger **heavy rainfall** at a few places in Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

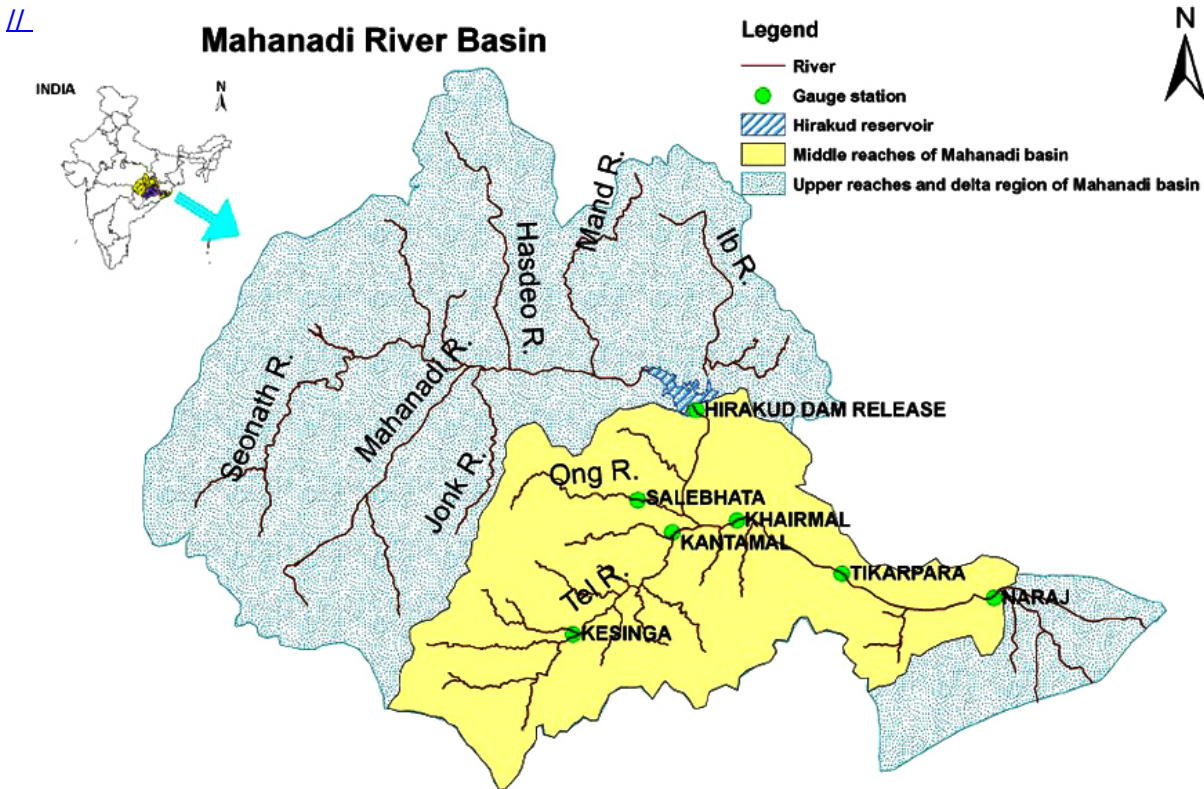
What is the India Meteorological Department (IMD)?

- IMD was **established in 1875**.
- It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.

What are the Key Points of Mahanadi River?

- **About:**
 - The Mahanadi River system is the **third largest of peninsular India** after [Godavari](#) and [Krishna](#), and the **largest river of Odisha state**.
 - 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](#)** in the west.
- **Source:**
 - It rises from **a place near Sihawa, near Raipur** in the state of Chhattisgarh to the south of Amarkantak.
- **Major Tributaries:**
 - The Seonath, the Hasdeo, the Mand and the Ib joins Mahanadi from **left** whereas **the Ong, the Tel and the Jonk joins it from right**.
- **Mahanadi River Dispute:**
 - The Central Government constituted [Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal](#) in 2018.
- **Major Dams/Projects on Mahanadi:**
 - [Hirakud Dam](#): This is the longest dam of India.
 - Ravishankar Sagar, Dudhawa Reservoir, Sondur Reservoir, Hasdeo Bango and Tandula are other major projects.
- **Urban Centres :**
 - Three important urban centres in the basin are **Raipur, Durg and Cuttack**.
- **Industries:**
 - Mahanadi basin, because of its rich mineral resource and adequate power resource, **has a favourable industrial climate**.
 - **Iron and Steel plant** at Bhilai
 - **Aluminium factories** at Hirakud and Korba

- **Paper mill** near Cuttack
- **Cement factory** at Sundargarh.
- Other industries based primarily on agricultural produce **are sugar and textile mills.**
- **Mining of coal, iron and manganese** are other industrial activities.



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following rivers: (2015)

1. Vamsadhara
2. Indravati
3. Pranahita
4. Pennar

Which of the above are tributaries of Godavari?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2 and 4
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: (d)

Exp:

- The Godavari River originates in Triambakeshwar, Maharashtra. It flows in the states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, etc. It empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- Its **left bank tributaries** include **Pranahita, Indravati** (combined waters of Wainganga, Penganga, Wardha and Vainganga), **Sabari etc.**, while its right bank tributaries include Pravara,

Manjira, Maner, etc. **Hence, 2 and 3 are correct.**

- **Vamsadhara river flows in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh** and falls into the Bay of Bengal but **it does not join the Godavari river. Hence, 1 is not correct.**
- Pennar river flows in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and falls into the Bay of Bengal. It also does not join the Godavari. Hence, 4 is not correct.
- **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Mains

Q. What do you understand by Run-of-river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project? **(2013)**

Q. The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods, and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. **(2020)**

Source: IE

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