



# Godavari Valley Area and Covid-19

## Why in News

Recently, a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court for directing the Andhra Pradesh government to conduct [Covid-19](#) tests among the tribal population living along the **Godavari river valley area**.

## Key Points

- The petition said the Godavari river valley area, where the tribal people live is close to the **Polavaram irrigation project area**.
  - The Godavari river valley area spreads across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.
- The Covid-19 **lockdown has been blatantly violated** for the construction of the Polavaram irrigation project on Godavari river in Andhra Pradesh.
- A large number of migrant workers are still working on the project site without sanitisers and masks. These workers lived in close proximity to the tribal population.
- **Lack of awareness among the tribal people**, who live in dense forest and other scheduled areas of the river valley, made them **more prone to Covid-19 infections**.
- [Konda reddy](#), [Koyas](#) and [Kolam](#) are the popular tribes living in godavari valley.
  - Konda reddy and Kolam are part of [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTG\)](#).

## Polavaram Irrigation Project

- **Polavaram Project** is located in Andhra Pradesh on the river Godavari, near Polavaram village.
- **It is a multi-purpose irrigation project** as the project once completed will provide **Irrigation benefits** and will generate **HydroElectric Power**. In addition, this project will also **supply drinking water**.
- It will facilitate an inter-basin transfer to the Krishna river basin through its Right canal.
- It will also provide indirect benefits such as development of Pisciculture (breeding and rearing of fish), tourism and urbanisation.
- The Project has been **accorded national project status by the union government in 2014** (under Section-90 of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014).

## Godavari River

- **Source:** Godavari river rises from Trimbakeshwar near Nasik in Maharashtra and flows for a length of about 1465 km before outfalling into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Drainage Basin:** The Godavari basin extends over states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Union territory of Puducherry.
- **Tributaries:** Pravara, Purna, Manjra, Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga, Pranhita (combined flow of Wainganga, Penganga, Wardha), Indravati, Maner and the Sabri.

[Source: TH](#)

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