



## Pipalapanka Dam Threat to Rushikulya River

[Source: DTE](#)

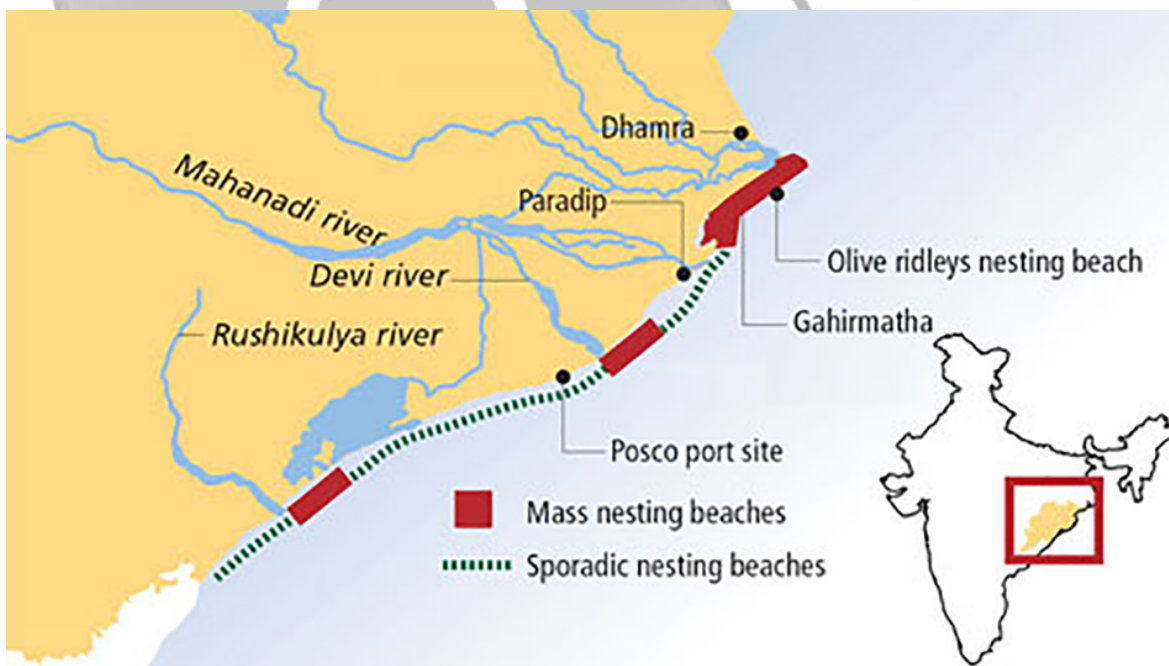
The Odisha government's revived plan to build a dam at **Pipalapanka** has sparked protests, as locals and environmentalists accuse it of endangering the **Rushikulya river** to favour industries.

### ▪ Rushikulya River:

- The Rushikulya River is a **major river in Odisha**, flowing primarily through the **Kandhamal, Ganjam, and Boudh districts**.
- Rushimala Hills part of the Daringbadi hills of the **Eastern Ghats** range.
  - Daringbadi, where the river originates, is called the 'Kashmir of Odisha'
  - Rushikulya River does **not form a delta at its mouth**.
- **Tributaries** such as **Jarau, Badanadi, Baghua, Dhanei, and Ghodahada** once ensured perennial flow but are now weakened due to damming.
  - Activists warn that **illegal sand mining** and **industrial projects** have further endangered the river's health.

### ▪ Olive Ridley Turtle Nesting Site:

- At the river's mouth lies Rushikulya Beach, a globally important site for **Olive Ridley Turtle** nesting.
  - Each year, from January to March, thousands of turtles arrive for mass nesting — a phenomenon known as **Arribada**.
- Activists fear that the dam would exacerbate salinity intrusion from the Bay of Bengal and reduce fish yield due to freshwater depletion.
  - Climate change-induced rising temperatures are skewing Olive Ridley turtle sex ratios, producing more females and endangering species survival.



Read More: [Olive Ridley Turtles](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/pipalapanka-dam-threat-to-rushikulya-river>

