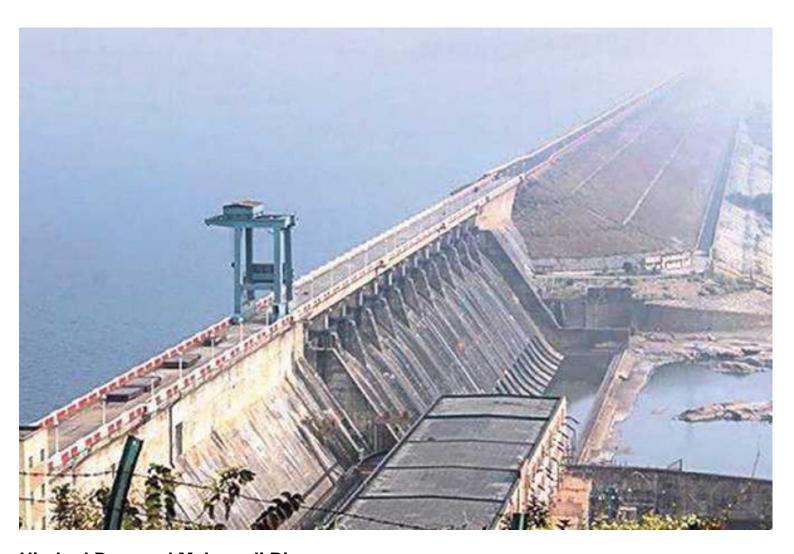


Hirakud Dam and Mahanadi River

By IASToppers | 2023-09-25 15:15:00



Hirakud Dam and Mahanadi River

The authorities opened 22 sluice gates to discharge excess water from the reservoir due to heavy rain in the upper catchment areas of the Mahanadi River.



[Ref: wikipedia]

About Hirakud Dam:

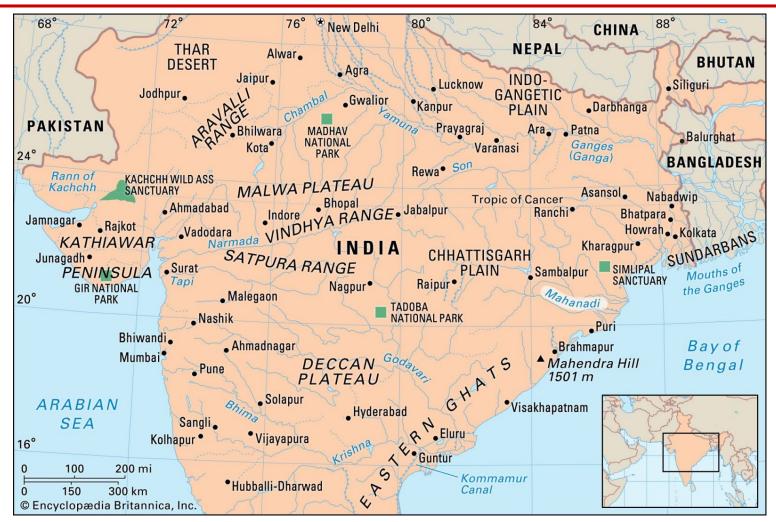
- Built across the Mahanadi River, in Sambalpur, Odisha, India.
- The building process began in 1947 and was completed in 1957.
- It is the longest earthen dam in the world, measuring 25.8 km including dykes.
- The dam created **Hirakud Reservoir**, which is 55 km long.
- It was one of the **first major multipurpose river valley projects** started after India's independence.
- It regulates the flow of the **Mahanadi River** and produces **hydroelectricity**.

Historical and Cultural Significance:

- The dam submerged more than 200 temples, some of which become visible during the summer season and are of historical significance.
- Hirakud Dam was featured on a commemorative stamp released in 1979 and a hundred rupee note issued in 1967.

About Mahanadi River:





[Ref: britannica]

- The Mahanadi River is a major river in **East Central India**, traversing through the states of **Chhattisgarh** and **Odisha** before culminating in the **Bay of Bengal**.
- It has a total length of 900 kilometres.

Origin and Course:

- The Mahanadi originates near Pharsiya village in Nagri Sihawa, Chhattisgarh.
- It flows through cities like **Rajim**, **Sambalpur**, **Cuttack**, **and others**, and is joined by several tributaries like the **Seonath**, **Mand**, **Ib**, **Hasdeo**, **and Jonk**.
- It forms the **largest artificial lake** in Asia due to the Hirakud Dam, with a reservoir holding 784 square kilometres at full capacity.