

Hirakud Dam and Mahanadi River

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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.