



Agriculture in India

Comprehensive Course on Geography for OCS Prelims

Most Important Rivers of Odisha



Most Important Rivers of Odisha

Odisha has many important rivers which flow into the Bay of Bengal. These rivers are divided into six groups on the basis of their sources or origin. They are as follows:

- a. **Chota Nagpur Plateau** - The Subarnarekha and the Brahmani.
- b. **Amarkantak Plateau** - The Mahanadi river sourcing.
- c. **Mahanadi Delta** - The Gobari, the Prachi, the Kadua, the Dhanua, the Ratnachira and the Nuna river.
- d. **Keonjhar Plateau** - The Baitarani river.
- e. **Eastern Slopes of Eastern Ghats** - The Budhabalanga, the Rushikulya the Salandi river.
- f. **Other Rivers from Eastern Ghats** - The Bahuda, the Nagavali, the Vamsadhara and the Godavari system.

Depending on the source they can be distinguished into four groups:

Rivers that originate outside Odisha - the Brahmani, the Subarnarekha, the Ib, and the Mahanadi.

Rivers originating in Odisha – the Baitarani, the Budhabalanga, the Salandi, and the Rushikulya.

Rivers which originate inside Odisha, but flow through other states - the Bahuda, the Vamsadhara River, and the Nagavali River.

Rivers which originate inside Odisha, but are tributaries of rivers which flow through other states - the Machkund, the Sileru River, the Kolab, and the Indravati River.

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Most Important Rivers of Odisha

Tel River

- ❖ It is one of the largest rivers of Odisha. Originating in **Nabarangpur** district and flowing through **Kalahandi, Balangir, Sonepur** districts of Odisha and finally merging with Mahanadi near Sonepur.
- ❖ The river **Udanti is a tributary to Tel**. It originates from Chhatishgarh and flows through Kalahandi and Nuapada districts and merges with the Tel river.

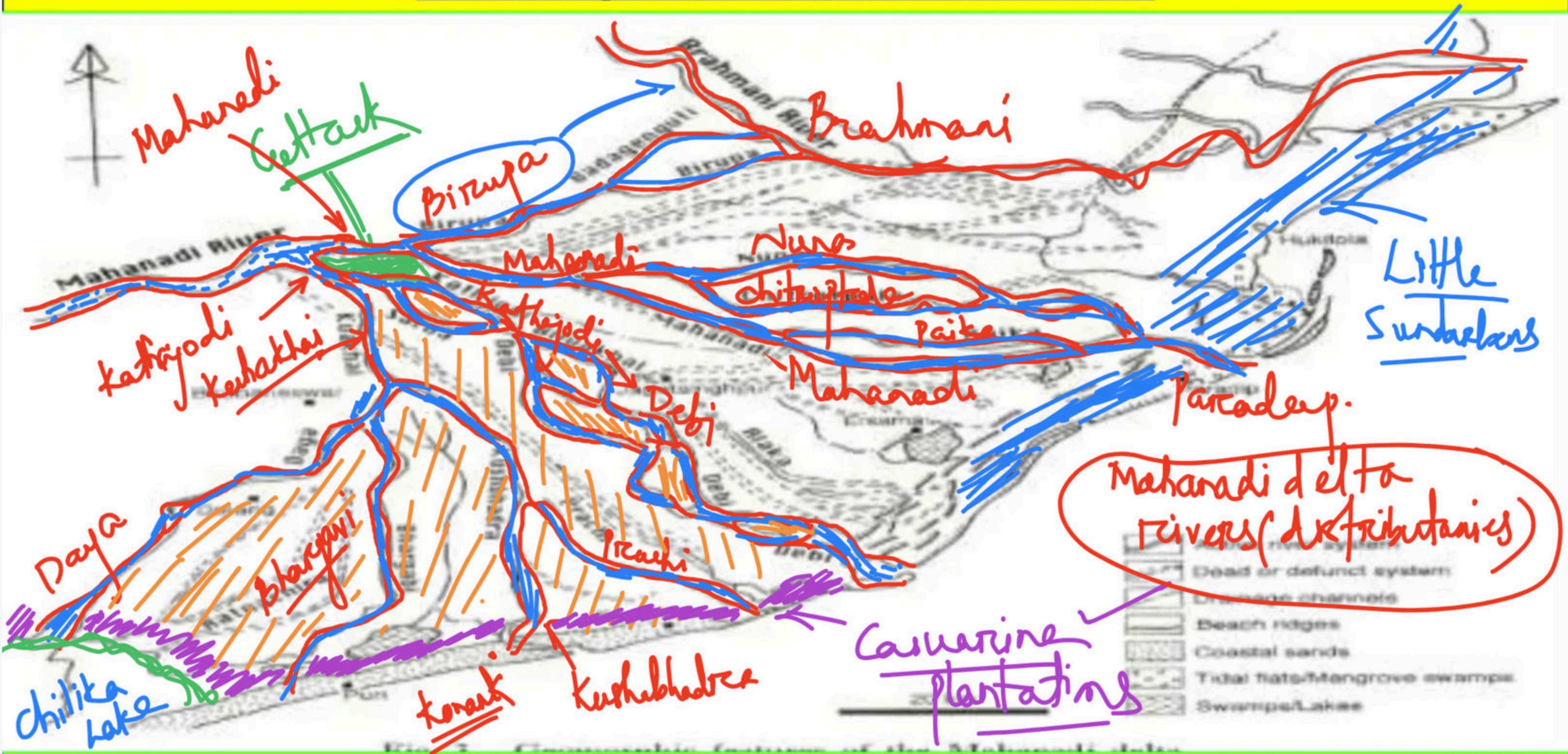
Ib River

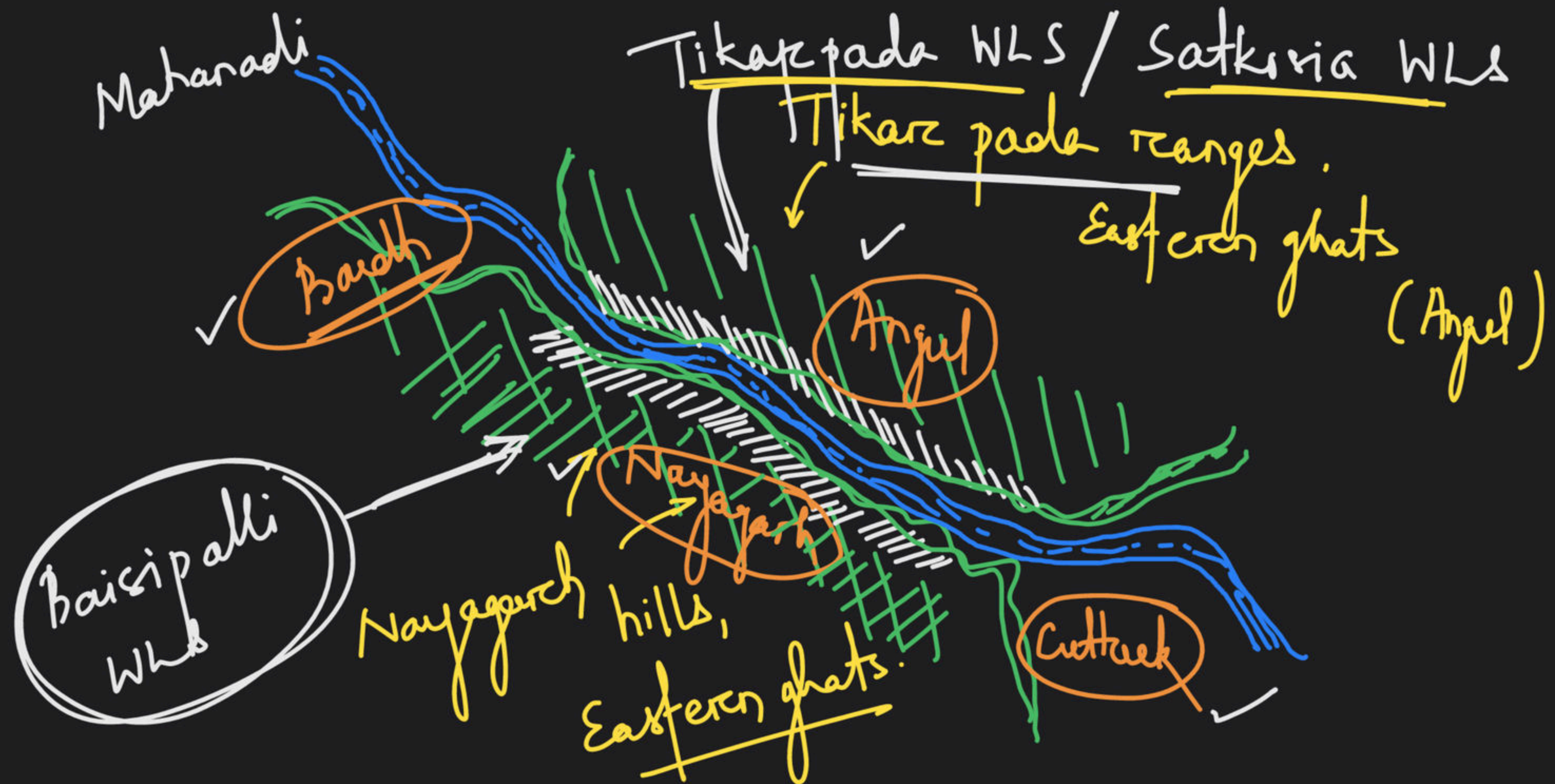
- ❖ It originates in the hills near Pandrapet at an elevation of 762 metres (2,500 ft).
- ❖ It passes through the Raigarh and Jashpur districts of Chhattisgarh, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts of Odisha, and **finally meets Mahanadi at Hirakud**.

Ong River

- ❖ It originates on a hill in the northern outskirts of the south-north running **Gandhamardan range of mountains** and flows across Odisha and joins Mahanadi 240 km upstream of Sonepur where Tel merges.
- ❖ Besides these three rivers, the Mahanadi has tributaries in Chhattisgarh, namely **the Seonath, the Hasdeo, the Jonk and the Mand**.
- ❖ Mahanadi branches off around Naraj Bridge which is approx. 10 km from Cuttack City, creating River **Kathajodi and Birupa**. The **Birupa merges with the Brahmani** and Kathajodi splits into multiple streams.

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Mahanadi River

- ❖ It originates from **the Amarkantak hills** of the Bastar plateau in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The total length of this river is **857 km** and in Odisha it is **about 494 km long**.
- ❖ This river is also known as Sorrow of Odisha due to its frequent floodings.
- ❖ The catchment area of this river in Odisha is 65,580 sq km.
- ❖ It is the largest river of Odisha and **the sixth largest river in India**.
- ❖ It flows through Chhattisgarh and **enters into Odisha near Padigan**.
- ❖ Hirakud is the longest dam in the world which is built over the Mahanadi river.
- ❖ **Jira and Jhaun** are two right bank tributaries which drain the Baragarh plain.
- ❖ **Tel river** meets the Mahanadi on its right bank, which is the largest tributary of this river.
- ❖ Important right bank tributaries of Mahanadi are **Jonk, Ong and Tel** and left bank tributaries are **Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand and Ib**.
- ❖ **Ib directly enters Hirakud dam** flowing through Jharsuguda district.

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Subarnarekha River

- ❖ It originates from the Southern slopes of Chota Nagpur plateau in Jharkhand.
- ❖ The total length of this river is 433 km and in Odisha it is about 70 km long.
- ❖ It is a multi-state river which flows from the states of Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
- ❖ It forms the boundary between Odisha and West-Bengal. It flows from the districts of Mayurbhanj and Balasore in Odisha.

79 km. Math → Kirifania port.

Brahmani River

- ❖ It originates from the mergence of two rivers namely the Sankh and the South Koel at Vedvyasa near Rourkela in Sundargarh district.
- ❖ The total length of this river is 799 km and in Odisha, it is about 480 km long. It is the second largest river in Odisha.
- ❖ The river Brahmani forms a minor gorge at Rengali. Here its water is used for irrigation and hydel power.
- ❖ It flows from the districts of Sundargarh, Angul (Talcher), Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Jajapur, Kendrapara and Cuttack.
- ❖ Before discharging into the Bay of Bengal near Dhamra, the river receives flood spills from the adjacent Baitarani river.

Most Important Rivers of Odisha

The Baitarani River ✓

- ❖ It originates from Gonasika or Guptaganga hills in Keonjhar district of Odisha. *3rd largest*
- ❖ Its total length is 365 km.
- ❖ It flows from the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Bhadrak, Jajpur, and Kendrapara of Odisha.
- ❖ Important tributaries of this river are Salandi and Matai rivers.
- ❖ It enters into Bay of Bengal after joining Brahmani at Dhamra at Bhadrak district.

The Salandi River ✓

- ❖ It originates from the Southern slopes of the Simlipal massif at the Meghasani mountain which lies in Maurbhanj district of Odisha.
- ❖ The river flows through Hadhgarh Wild Life Sanctuary. *Imp*
- ❖ It is a tributary of Baitarani river, thus, it discharges its water into the Baitarani river a few kilometres upstream of Chandbali.
- ❖ Salandi Dam is built on this river under the name Salandi Project. Its water is used for irrigation purposes.

Most Important Rivers of Odisha



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The Budhabalanga River

- ❖ It originates from the Simlipal massif in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.
- ❖ There are palaeolithic and neolithic sites situated in the valley of the river. *Archaeological sites*
- ❖ It flows from two districts of Odisha i.e. Mayurbhanj and Balasore.
- ❖ It drains into the Bay of Bengal off the Balasore coast which lies slightly to the North of Chandipur.

The Rushikulya River

- ❖ It originates from the Rushyamala hills of Kandhamal district of Odisha. *Baripada - Inq Tarn*
- ❖ It flows from the cities of Berhampur, Chhatrapur, Asika, Bhanjanagar and Saroda of Odisha. *Ganjam*
- ❖ It is also known as lifeline of the Ganjam district. This river has no delta at its mouth.
- ❖ Important right bank tributaries of this river are Padma and Ghodahada and left bank tributaries are Baghua and Dhanei.

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The Indravati River

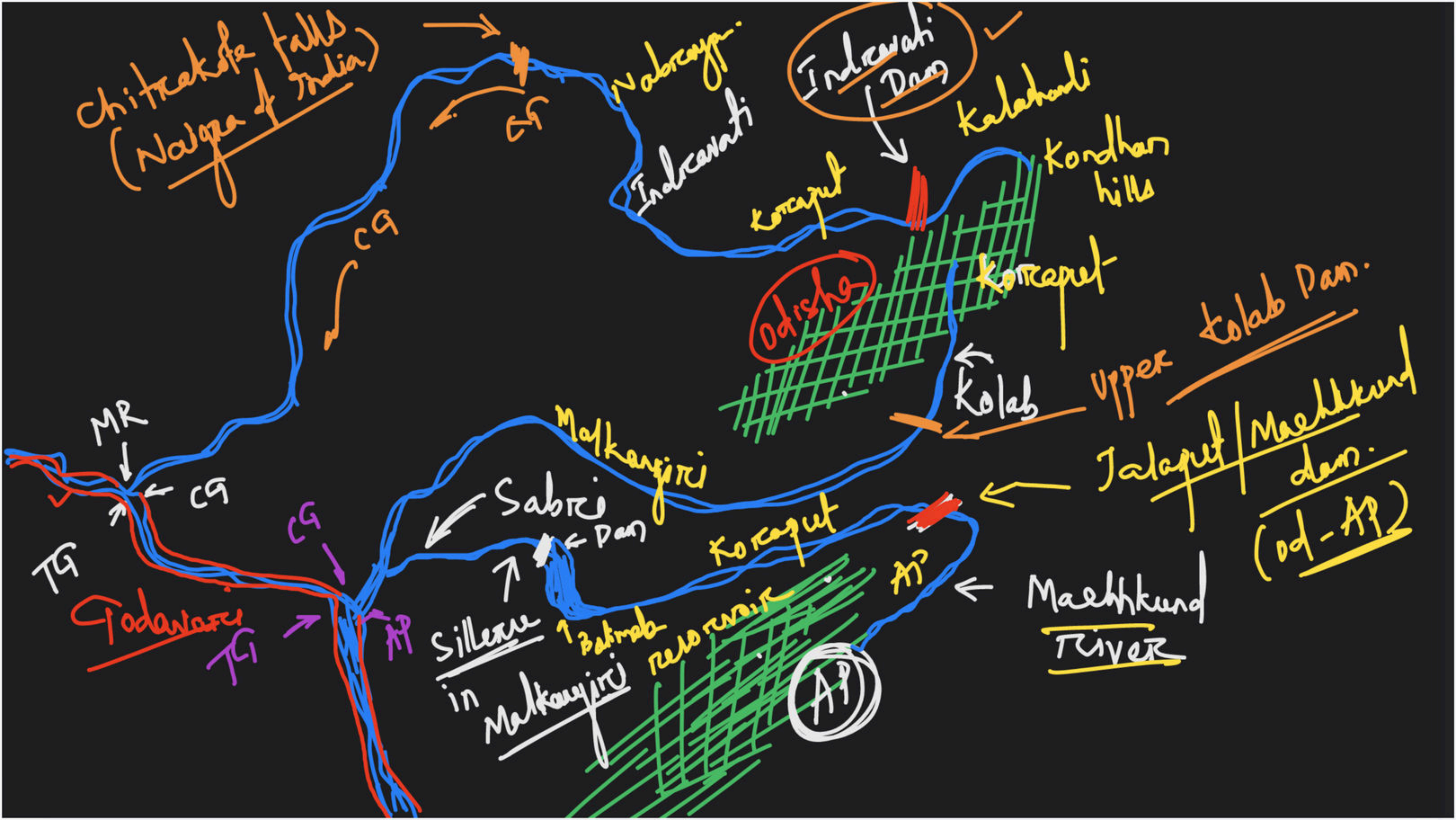
- ❖ It originates from a small rivulet of **Dandakaranya range of Eastern Ghats in Kalahandi district** of Odisha.
- ❖ Its total length is about 530 km and in Odisha, it flows for 167 km.
- ❖ The river flows in South-East direction, then it flows westward through the **Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Koraput districts**.
- ❖ It forms the boundary between **Odisha and Chhattisgarh** and enters the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It meets Godavari river at the **trijunction of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Telangana**.
- ❖ Currently **Upper Indravati Project is the largest power producing dam in eastern India** with a capacity of **600 MW**.

Largest H.E.P. ✓

The Kolab River ✓

- ❖ It originates from the **Sinkaran hills of the Eastern Ghats in Koraput district**.
- ❖ Kolab Dam is house to the upper Kolab Hydro Electric Project.
- ❖ The river meets with the Godavari river in the **name of Sabri river** in Andhra Pradesh.

Chitrakote falls
(Nalga of India)



Narmada
Indravati

Indravati Dam

Kalahandi
Kondhar hills

Koraput

Koraput

Odisha

Kolab

Upper Kolab Dam

Jalapat / Maehkund dam.

(Od-AP)

Maehkund River

Malkangiri

Sabari Dam

Koraput

AP

Sillera

Patma reservoir

AP

in Malkangiri

MR

CG

TG

Godavari TG

CG

AP

Most Important Rivers of Odisha

Machkund or Sileru Rivers ✓

- ❖ Sileru river rises as **Machkund river in the Eastern Ghats** in the North-Eastern Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Then it flows northwards **into Jalaput reservoir on the border with Odisha state**. The Machkund river is known as Sileru river from this reservoir.
- ❖ **Sileru and Potteru** are two important tributaries of Kolab river.
- ❖ The Balimela reservoir has been created to generate hydel power over Sileru.

The Vamsadhara River ✓

- ❖ It originates from the **Niyamagiri hill in the Kalahandi district** of Odisha.
- ❖ It is a major East flowing river between Mahanadi and Godavari rivers, in Southern Odisha and North-Eastern Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It flows from the cities of **Paralakhemundi, Gunupur, and Bissam Cuttack** of Odisha.
- ❖ The river finally drains into Bay of Bengal at Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

Jaypatti

Rajgarh

Most Important Rivers of Odisha

The Nagavali River

- ❖ It originates from the Eastern slopes of the Eastern Ghats near Lakhbahal, located at **Kalahandi district of Odisha**. Its another name is **Langulya river**.
- ❖ The river passes through Vizianagaram and Srikakulam and finally drains into the Bay of Bengal.

The Bahuda River ✓

- ❖ It originates from the **Singharaj hills of the Eastern Ghats** in Gajapati district of Odisha. Its total length is **96 km**.
- ❖ The river flows in the North-East direction upto 55 km, then South-East direction for 17 km in Odisha. Then it enters into Andhra Pradesh, to flow for 18 km.
- ❖ Again it turns in North-East direction for 6 km in Odisha state and finally meets the Bay of Bengal near the Sunapurapeta village in Odisha.

(Smallest river)



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Springs of Odisha

- **Chandikhole** - A tributary to Mahanadi - Natural spring
- **Barunei** - Tributary to the Daya - Natural spring – Khurda
- **Narayani** - Draining to Chilika - Natural spring – Puri
- **NirmalJhar** - Draining to Chilika - Natural spring - Khalikot
- **Pradhanpat** - A tributary to the Brahmani - Natural spring - Deogarh
- **Phurligharan** - A tributary to the Indravati - Natural spring - Bhawanipatna
- **Khandadhar** - A tributary to the Brahmani - Natural spring - Bonei
- **Nurshingh Nath** - A tributary to the Tel - Natural spring - Bargarh
- **Harishankar** - Jira river, a tributary to Tel - Natural spring - Bolangir
- **Gosinga Jhar** - Kuaria Nala, a tributary to the Mahanadi - Natural spring - Kantilo
- **Koiliharan** - A tributary to the Mahanadi - Natural spring - Jharsuguda
- **Jharbada** - Mankada river a tributary to the Brahmani - Natural spring - Malaygiri, Dhenkanal

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Hot Springs of Odisha

Atri Hot Spring

Located in the village of Atri in Khurda district, Odisha, Atri Hot Spring is a hot water sulphur wellhead. The pious spring maintains a constant temperature of 55 degrees which makes it a prominent tourist attraction in the region.

Deulajhari Hot Spring

A special natural phenomenon situated in the Angul district is Deulajhari Hot Spring. Known for its pristine water that originates from below a Shivalinga, Deulajhari is also a prominent pilgrimage site. The temperature of this spring varies from 40 degrees to 62 degrees.

Tarabalo Hot Spring

Spread over a rambling area of 8 acres, Tarabalo is a cluster of hot spring that lies in the district of Nayagarh of the state Odisha. Believed to have medicinal properties in its water, the spring is the largest thermal field in Odisha.

Taptapani Hot Spring

A famous tourist spot in Ganjam district is Taptapani Hot Spring. Said to be a 300-year old hot spring, Taptapani is the perfect place to relax and revive while in the region. There is also a Deer Park near the spring.

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Waterfalls of Odisha

- **Putudi** - River Salunki, a tributary to Mahanadi- Phulbani
- **Bada Ghagra** - Machhakandana river, a tributary to the Baitarani- Kendujhar
- **San Ghagra** - Machhakandana river, a tributary to the Baitarani- Kendujhar
- **Khandadhar** - A tributary to the Brahamani- Kendujhar
- **Bhimkund** -The Baitarani-Kendujhar
- **Barehipani** - Budhabalanga 1,309 ft (399 m)-Mayurbhanj
- **Joranda** - Budhabalanga- Dhenkanal
- **Debakunda** - Mayurbhanj
- **Pradhanpat** - A tributary of the Brahamani- Deogarh
- **Phurlijharan** - A tributary of the Indravati- Bhawanipatna