



## HIRAKUD DAM : GEOGRAPHY

**NEWS :** Six decade old canal system of Odisha's Hirakud Dam to get facelift

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

The **Odisha government** has allocated **₹855 crore** for the renovation of the **six-decade-old canal system** connected to the **Hirakud Dam**. The renovation is expected to significantly benefit farmers in districts like **Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Bargarh, and Balangir** by improving irrigation efficiency and reducing water wastage.

### Hirakud Dam :

- Location: 15 km from Sambalpur, Odisha, across the Mahanadi River.
- Longest Earthen Dam: 26 km (16 miles), longest globally.
- Hirakud Reservoir: Asia's largest man-made lake.
- Main Dam: 4.8 km long, connects Laxmidungri and Chandili Dunguri.
- Construction: Began in 1948, completed in 1953, opened in 1957 by PM Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Purpose: Regulates Mahanadi River's flow, mitigates flooding.



### Irrigation:

- Irrigates 436,000 hectares in the Mahanadi delta.
- Rabi crops: 1,08,385 hectares; Kharif crops: 1,55,635 hectares (Balangir, Subarnapur, Bargarh, Sambalpur).

### Power Generation:



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- Installed capacity: 359.8 MW.

## Flood Protection:

- Protects 9,500 sq km in Cuttack and Puri districts.

## Renovation Project:

- Focus on revamping Bargarh and Sasan main canals, along with various distributaries.

## Mahanadi River:

- Major river in East Central India, flows through Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
- Origin: Nagri-Sihawa, Chhattisgarh.
- Mouth: Bay of Bengal, False Point, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha.

## Tributaries:

- Left: Seonath, Mand, Ib, Hasdeo, Kelo.
- Right: Ong, Parry, Jonk, Telen.

Source : <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/odisha/six-decade-old-canal-system-of-odishas-hirakud-dam-to-get-facelift/article68721543.ece>