



A Quarterly News Transact Across Odisha's River Basins

An attempt to put together River Basins' news in Odisha published in local dailies— 5 Odia and 1 English News Paper, along with other information and analysis related to Odisha's Rivers to enhance basin literacy, to catalyze basin concerns and crystallize opinions towards Inclusive and Democratic River Basin Governance

Looking through a River Basin Lens

News Papers Covered (all Bhubaneswar Editions)

- The Samaj
- The Sambad
- The Dharitri
- The Pragatibadi
- The Khabar
- The New Indian Express

Web News

- Orissa Diary
- Meri News
- Sify Finance

Inclusive and Democratic River Basin Governance is increasingly gaining importance as a mean to rationalize the usually contended and contested issues around water allocations and entitlements for ecosystems and livelihoods. As a holistic development option around the natural units of a river basin, it offers options to integrate concerns around livelihoods, environment and development through appropriate and democratic natural resources governance. However, the concept being little new and our units of administration being around political boundaries, comprehending and applying this tool in Indian context is highly challenging. Moreover the diversity and complexities in our geo-political, socio-cultural and eco-physiographic landscapes also make it imperative to be tailor-made and sensitive to be acceptable, viable and sustainable.

Odisha's quest for faster development, has turned out to be a trajectory of contestations between environment and development, equity versus growth, cultural identity against neo-liberal prosperity and traditional hand-print-based livelihoods vis-à-vis high-ecological foot-prints-preferred lifestyle. In this pursuit, its approach of managing Natural Resources requires to be debated and rationalized. Understanding and appreciating our natural endowments including our rivers and their interactions with our lifestyles and our quest-for-change is of paramount importance in this present context. 'Healthy flowing rivers' and 'Resilient river basins' are critical to our survival and prosperity. With administrative boundaries dictating terms and trajectories of development and political decisions aligning with and accountable to such geo-political units, understanding and appreciating natural units of river basins as units of natural resource management become very difficult.

Media, being the reflection of the society also covers the news along these administrative boundaries. Through this initiative, we are trying to provide a different and refreshing way of looking at our river basins—their present conditions, their ecological and livelihoods implications and their management patterns—with realignment and compilation of such news around basin boundaries.

A humble Initiative from Baitarani Initiative, Odisha State Center, FPWCI & Odisha Water Forum To Enhance Basin Literacy and Raise Basin Concerns

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We are also planning to add some other features like know-your-basin, basin-analysis and other articles related to River Basin from next issue. Please contact us if you want to contribute!

Looking forward to your suggestions and opinions to make it more effective, purposive and meaningful.

The Mahanadi



Catchment Area :
1,41,134 Sq km
 Orissa: 65,628,
 Jharkhand:132
 Chhatisgarh:75136
 Maharashtra:238

Length:

Orissa:494 km,
 Chhatisgarh:357 km

Population (2001):
34,21,612

Forest: 2302 Thousand
 Ha

Pollution	<p>Discharge of Municipal sewage, industrial effluents and biomedical wastes into the Mahanadi has raised concerns about environmental sustainability and also poses a serious threat to the health of people living on the banks. All the industries are discharging their waste water either directly or indirectly to the river Mahanadi.</p> <p>The river Gobari is now heavily polluted due to direct mixing of domestic wastes in absence of any effluent treatment facility.</p> <p>The Bhusan Company has started with disposing fly ash in undesignated site releasing effluent to Bheden river. The company also discharging waste water from its smelter without any treatment, which eventually finds its way into the Hirakud reservoir via Bheden river. Waste water from the plant is directly discharged into the Kharari dam. There is also found fluoride contamination in the drain where waste water is discharged.</p> <p>At several points of the Bheden river many industries including Vedanta Alumina Ltd. and Bhusan Steel and Power Ltd have been drawing water unabated and discharging chemical contaminated water discharged from their production processes. The people have been complaining and agitating. But nobody is paying heed to it. At least half a million people depend on Bheden water</p>	<p>The Khabara 21.05.10</p> <p>The Indian Express 18.04.10</p> <p>The Hindu 7.06.10</p>
Flood	<p>Chief minister of Odisha took stock at the state level calamity committee meeting in Bhubaneswar. Members cutting across party criticized the state govt. for its lack of preparedness to tackle floods even though only a few days are left for the onset of Monsoon. Mahada, Chahapada, Jaleswarpur, Srikrushnapur, Paikarapur, Lalitagiri, Rahania panchayatas of Mhanga block is in danger due to the Gobari river flooding and for this also the agriculture affected a lot.</p> <p>During the Jagatsinghpur district natural calamities meeting held on 20 May, irrigation department officials had submitted a report stating there are 67 vulnerable points have been detected in several spots in various river embankments that needed urgent mending so the meeting chaired by the district collector instructed to start the work war footing and repair the weak points before first flood water reached in river.</p> <p>More than 42 villages of Cuttack district are in danger due to the flood of the river Kathajodi. But no steps taken by the govt. for controlling the flood situation of this river.</p>	<p>The Khabara, The Sambad, 27.05.10 and 10.06.10</p> <p>Orissa Diary (web) 12.06.10</p> <p>The Samaj 19.06.10</p>
Dams and Reservoir	<p>The Hirakud dam reservoir has always been in the thick of controversies for alleged drawing of water from the reservoir by industries. As there is no let up from the unrelenting heat wave villagers residing in the vicinity of the reservoir have started demanding water for both consumption and irrigation.</p>	<p>The Indian Express 27.04.10</p>
Embankments	<p>Most of the tributary rivers of the river Mahanadi viz. Luna, Chitrotapala, Paika, Daya etc are in danger due to the poor status of river embankments. Bhargavi river barrage is also in a dilapidated state, due to the improper maintenance. In the absence of any steps being taken up by the state for its repair, these rivers are poised to play havoc in the coming monsoon.</p>	<p>The Sambad 10.06.10</p>
River Linking	<p>Hon'ble Governor of Orissa has forwarded the river linking project proposal of former deputy speaker Ramachandra Panda to the Ministry of Water Resources and the Water Resources Department of the state for necessary action. After a Jal Sangam Yatra to create awareness among the people about the need to link Rushikulya with Mahanadi and Vamsadhara with Mahendra Tanaya, Panda submitted a memorandum to the Governor seeking his intervention</p>	<p>The Indian Express 12.04.10</p>
Industry vs Agriculture	<p>There is growing pressure on the Hirakud dam, which serves the needs of both farmers and the industries though it was primarily meant for irrigation. Dry season flow in Mahandi is only four million cubic metres. If there is any more diversion of water for industrial use, the river would come under tremendous pressure.</p>	<p>The Telegraph 30.06.10</p>

The Baitarani

Flood & Em-bankments	The Habeleswari village of Anandapur block is in danger due to the flood of the river Baitarani. Most of its agricultural lands are facing threat of getting submerged.	The Pragatibadi 02.06.10
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The Brahmani

Water allocation	<p>Almost all the industries in the Kalinga Nagar industrial hub would draw water from the Brahmani. The industrialists are being promised water from state's rivers without assessing the requirement of water for drinking and irrigation purposes. The water availability at Jokadia barrage is getting reduced drastically every year. It was only 98.56 cusecs in April 2003 compared to 231.66 cusecs in April, 1999, a decrease of nearly 58 percent. According to an estimate, the SEZ will require 4318 Million Cubic Metre water while the water flow in Brahmani is 4531 MCM. If this is the situation, what will remain for other water dependants? The reduction in the flow of Brahmani is also likely to impact the rich mangrove vegetation in and around the Bhitarkanika National Park.</p> <p>The Govt. of Odisha decided to not supply water of the river Brahmani for any hydroelectricity project of Odisha.</p> <p>Rengali dam is a multipurpose project of Odisha for hydroelectricity production, flood control and irrigation but it is not working properly. Hydroelectricity production is miserable in Rengali but still the state government has not yet been taking any steps.</p>	<p>The Telegraph 30.06.10 Meri news (web) 05.06.10</p> <p>The Pragati-badi 23.04.10</p>
	<p>The treatment facilities of the Brahmani river are extremely limited. The water quality of various locations suffers very high levels of contamination. Due to the huge discharge of industrial wastes into the Brahmani river, the water getting polluted day by day. Suna river of the Champua block is also in danger due to the high level of domestic contamination of that river</p> <p>Six projects of pollution abatement have been completed under river cleaning project for river Brahmani in Orissa. Nine projects were sanctioned for the towns Talcher and Dharamshala for an amount of Rs. 389.83 lakhs. The remaining three projects are scheduled for completion by March, 2011. In addition, Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 49.0 lakhs to Orissa for preparing pollution abatement proposals in respect of Dhenkanal and Rourkella towns for conservation of Brahmani. The assistance has been approved under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).</p>	<p>The Sambad 01 and 25. 04.10</p>
Flood	The Erasandha village of Jenapur block has been suffering a lot due to the flood of the Brahmani.	
Sand mining	Illegal mining of the sands from the river bed of the Budha is continuing in absence of any steps by the govt. to control it.	The Khabar 26.04.10

Catchment Area: 14,218 Sq km

Orissa:13482,
Jharkhand:736
Population Density: 269 / Sqkm

Rainfall:
Max:3094 mm-, Min 642 mm



Catchment Area : 39,116 Sqkm

Orissa:22516, Jharkhand: 15700, Chhatisgarh:900
Population Density:236 / Sqkm

Annual Rainfall:
Max:2654 mm, Min:380.4 mm



Catchment Area (Total): 19,277 Sqkm

Orissa:2983, Jharkhand:13222, WB:3022

Population Density:386 / Sqkm

Annual Rainfall:
Max:3846 mm, Min:577 mm

The Subarnarekha

Flood	Most of the villages of the Baleswar district suffers a lot due to the flood of the river Subarnarekha but no steps taken by the govt. for controlling the flood situation of this river	The Sambad and The Samaj 02.06.10
Pollution	Direct discharge of polluted and contaminated water by different industries to common water distribution systems like the canals and rivers described as the main cause of river water pollution in Subarnarekha Basin	



Catchment Area (Total): 11,377 Sqkm

Orissa:8960, Andhra Pradesh:2417

Population Density: 114 / Sqkm

Annual Rainfall:
Max:2591 mm, Min:410 mm

The Vamsadhara

Interstate	Governer M.C Bhandare recently forwarded the river linking project proposal of Vamsadhara with Mahendra Tanaya of former Deputy speaker Ramachandra Panda to the ministry of water Resources Department of the state for necessary action.	The Indian Express 12.04.10
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The Indravati



Catchment Area (Total): 20,427 Sqkm
 Orissa:10,300, Andhra Pradesh:10,127
Population Density: 161 / Sqkm
Annual Rainfall:
 Max:4427.6 mm, Min:562.3 mm

Dams and Displacement	Indravati project has displaced a lots of villages of Malkanigiri district but so far no proper steps been taken for their rehabilitation	The Sambad 07.04.10
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The Budhabalang



Catchment Area (Total): 6,691 Sqkm
 Orissa:6354, WB:337
Population (2001): 18,58,710
 Density:293 / Sqkm
Annual Rainfall:
 Max:3295 mm, Min:544 mm

Flood	The floods of the Budhabalanga river destroys the livelihood of the many villages of the Balesore district and threaten the existence of many others. But there has not been any meaningful measures by Govt to address this.	The Sambad 27.05.10
Pollution	The Budhabalanga is in danger due to the pollution from the discharge of sewage, agricultural effluents as well as mining operations. Concentration of pollutants are increasing due to the large scale abstraction of water	The Dharitri 25.05.10

The Rushikulya



Catchment Area: 8,963 Sqkm
 Ganjam:7366, Khurda:56
 Gajapati:398,Kandhamal:800,
 Nayagarh:343

Population (2001): 29,42,901
 Density: 328 / Sqkm
Annual Rainfall:
 Max:2553 mm, Min:257 mm

Pollution	Oil spill posed serious threat to the countless eggs laid by olive ridely turtles on the beach near Rushikulya river mouth close to Gopalpur port. Five villages of Bramhapur area also affected due to this leakage of oil these are Podampeta, Purunabandha, Gokhara-kuda, Damadorapur and Nolia.	The Samaja and The Sambad 14.04.10
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NHPC-OHPC JV to implement three hydel projects of 300 Mw

BS Reporter / Kolkata/ Bhubaneswar June 24, 2010, 0:49 IST

The Orissa Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) and the National Hydel Power Corporation (NHPC), which had forged a joint venture for taking up 12 hydel power projects in the state, will undertake three hydel projects with a cumulative capacity of 300 MW in the first phase. All the three hydel power projects will come up on Mahanadi river and they included Sindol-I with a capacity of 90 MW at Deogaon; 90 MW Sindol-II at Kapasira in Sonapur district and the 120 MW Sindol-III at Godhaneswar, aslo in Sonapur district.

GOO's attempt to Rationalize Water Allocation

No new industry will be supplied with water from Brahmani and Baitarani rivers. The Secretary of Water Resources expressed that the Power plants who has not yet started construction of the plant after MOU will not be supplied with water. The MOUs will be cancelled and will be given chance to other companies . The water of the Dam will be utilised 30 % for Agriculture purpose, 10 % to Factories and 40 % is going to the sea.

RIVER BASIN TRANSACT

Rivers of Orissa

Sl. No.	Name of the River Basin	Catchment Area (SqKm)			Water Resources (MCum)	
		Total Area	Within Orissa	% to Geo. Area of State	75% Dependable	Average
1	Mahanadi	141134	65628	42.15	48732	59155
2	Brahmani	39116	22516	14.46	14011	18577
3	Baitarani	14218	13482	8.66	5434	7568
4	Kolab	20427	10300	6.61	8885	11089
5	Rushikulya	8963	8963	5.76	2782	3949
6	Vansadhara	11377	8960	5.75	3881	5083
7	Indravati	41700	7400	4.75	4451	6265
8	Burhabalanga & Jambhira	6691	6354	4.08	2521	3111
9	Nagavali	9275	4500	2.89	2322	2853
10	Subernarekha	19277	2983	1.92	2308	2308
11	Bahuda	1118	890	0.57	213	438
	Draining into Sea		3731	2.40		
	Total			100.00	95540	120397

Source: Orissa State Water Plan - 2004

Corporate Foray !

Do we need 'Corporate help' in Creation of water bodies and building of check dams, when huge amount of funds are available/allocated under MGNREGS, Watershed Development etc. and also most of these remaining unspent? Corporate's involvement is not questionable, but whether it should be in form of Govt 'seeking help', or Corporate showing its 'philanthropy' (in line with history of pond/WHS digging by rich/elites) or as a Corporate's 'strategy' or should form a part of 'Corporate's Responsibility', is what requires to be debated. This also need to be considered together with the type and amount of water-extraction/use and water-disposal/pollution by the corporates.

Nevertheless it is good that Govt's engagement with corporate over rivers in Orissa has started touching many dimensions - be in preventing corporate to draw water from rivers by District Collector Or initiative towards rationalization of water allocation to industry Or asking corporate to augment water-resources etc. as reflected in the water-news during this quarter!

Orissa seeks corporate support to tide over water crisis, [Sify Finance](#), 05.06.2010

"We need assistance from the major corporate houses to tackle the drinking water crisis in urban areas. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has agreed in-principle to fund around Rs 40 crore for construction of a water body to mitigate the water crisis in western Orissa towns like Brajarajnagar, Jharsuguda and Belpahar," minister of state for housing and urban development Badrinarayan Patra said here. While MCL will offer funding for the water body, the state government will take up the responsibility of distributing water to the towns through pipelines, the minister stated. "We have also discussed with the authorities of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) for construction of check dams in the nearby river, which will help to tackle the drinking water crisis in Rourkela town," he added.

In the Blog

http://river-basin.blogspot.com/2010_04_01_archive.html

[Mineral conservation projects face water hurdle](#)

[Industrial Water Demand and Extraction soars in Odisha : More Water Conflicts on Anvil!](#)

Industrial units soak water bodies dry

[Water availability to determine fate of new power projects](#)

The Orissa government would consider setting up of new power projects if adequate water sources are available to support these ventures.

Leaving the onus on the project proponents to obtain permission from the water resources department, the energy department has said it would take up scrutiny of new power generation proposals if they are equipped with this permission.

State envisages generation capacity of 50,000 Mw in the next few years and for this, the water requirement is estimated at about 2000 Cusecs.

Baitarani

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Special body for integrated river valley development demanded

Dakshin Odisha Vikash Parishad (DOVP), an organization formed to take up issues and problems related to south Orissa with the State government has come up a demand for an integrated plan for protection and utilization of water resources in south Orissa. DOVP has come up with a holistic plan for the regeneration and maximum utilization of water resource of Vamsadhara, Nagavali, Jhanjabati, Rushikulya, lower Kolab, Mahendratanaya rivers of south Orissa.

It suggests Govt to come up with a project on the lines of Tennessee Valley Development Authority of America for the purpose.

The organisation has proposed that the State government should take up projects at places on the upper end of the Bansadhara river basin like an irrigation project at Belkana on the Nagavali river, a hydel project on Jhanjabati river near the Rayagada town, a hydel project on the Nagavali river at Hatipadar and a hydel project at Panidangar in Gudari-Chadrapur blocks. According to him these small hydel projects would lead to maximum utilisation of water resources of south Orissa.

Thanks for the Inspiring Feedbacks on the 1st Issue!

A very good work done. All the best!

K J Joy, FPWCI, SOPPECOM, Pune

I think this is indeed very good welcome initiative, hope you can keep up this effort and bring out the state of rivers of Orissa in your future editions.

Himanshu Thakkar, SANDRP, New Delhi

Thanks a lot for this initiative. It will contribute to thinking on river basins in Orissa in a big way. I wish all the best for Orissa River Basin Transect

Tapan Padhi, NID, Bhubaneswar

Great work! Very nicely done. Congratulations! Wish we had people following your example all over the place. Are you planning to bring it out in odia?

Suhas Paranjape, SOPPECOM, Pune

Congrats! This is a good initiative.

Biswanath Sinha, SDTT, Mumbai

River Basin Resources:

- [Baitarani Initiative](#)
- [River Basin Information System](#)
- [Water Conflict Forum](#)
- [Water Resources Department, Govt of Odisha](#)
- [Ministry of Water Resources, GOI](#)
- [SaciWaters](#)