

8



RIVERS - MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD

8.1. Observe the picture and discuss



- What do you see in the picture? What are the people in the picture doing?
- Have you ever seen any such river? What are the uses of rivers?
- Why are boats there in the river ?
- What do the men in the boats do?
- Is river a means of livelihood? How?
- Are there people who depend only on rivers for their livelihood? What do they do?

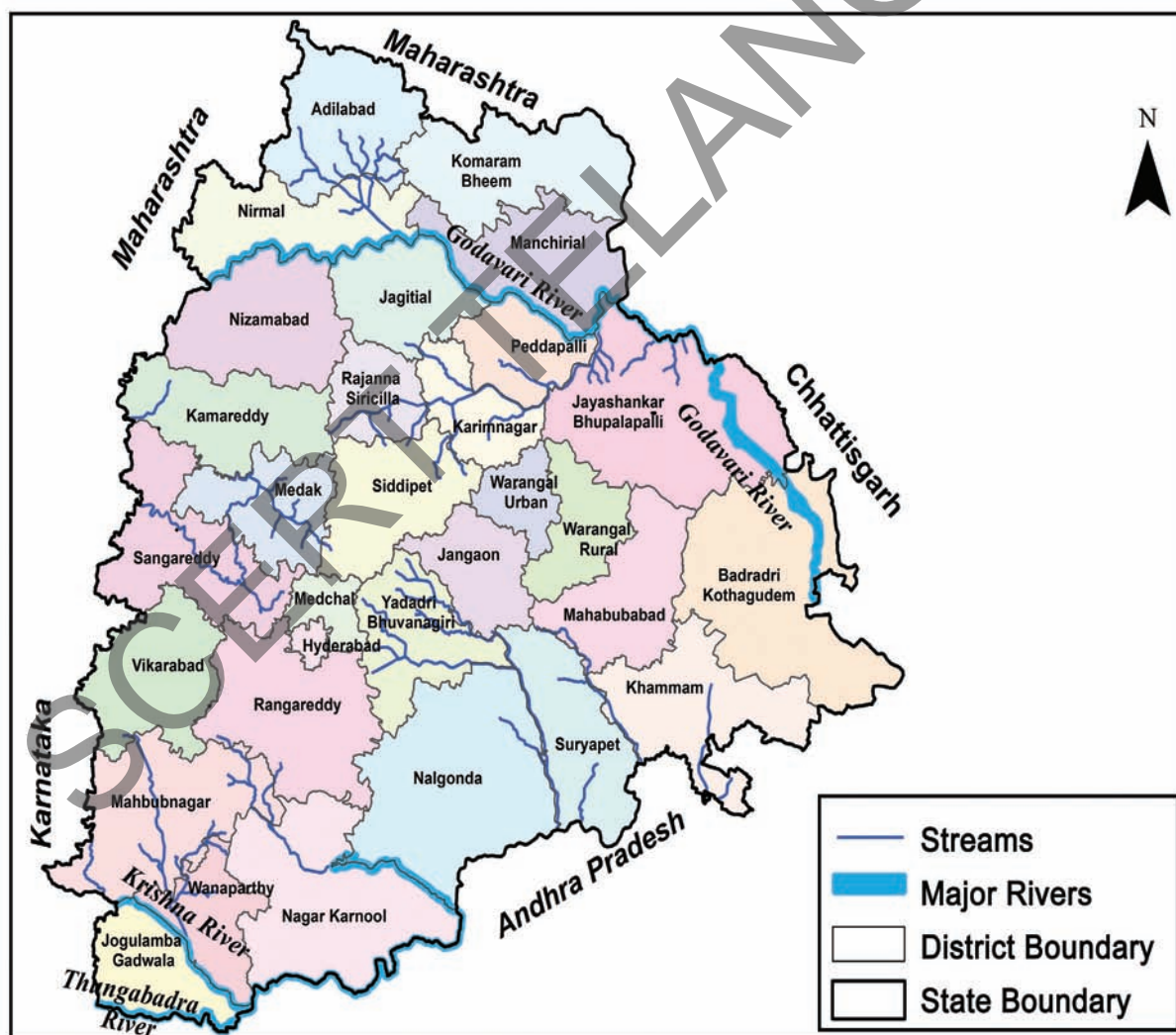
8.2. The River Godavari

You might have seen many rivers and enjoyed taking bath in them. Moreover, if it is summer, one never wants to come out of the water.

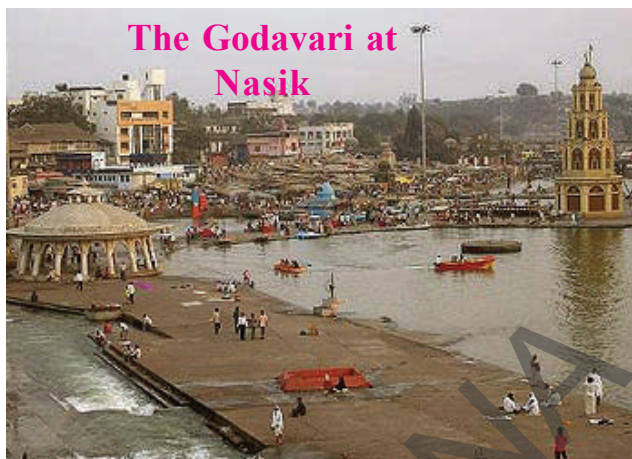
Is there any river near your place? Which river? Have you ever thought of it? Where does the river begin from? Which places does it flow through? What does it finally merge into? Where from the water comes into the river? Is water present throughout the year or does it get dried up?

Do any other rivers merge into it? Will it have the same depth throughout? What is the life style of the people living on the banks of the river? What is the relation they share with the river? Oops! Never ending questions! But they do generate curiosity and you wish to know more about rivers.

Let us find out the source of river Godavari and learn about the people living on its banks.



The river Godavari, originates in the hills of Brahmagiri of the Western Ghats at Triambakeshwar, in the district of Nasik in Maharashtra. It enters our state at Kandakurthi in Nizamabad District. To reach our State it travels 1465 kms. In Telangana, it flows through the districts of Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagityal, Manchiryal, Peddapally, Jayashankar Bhupalpally and Bhadrachalam. Its flow, separates the districts of Nirmal and Jagityal, Nirmal and Nizamabad, Manchiryal and Peddapally, Manchiryal and Jagityal in Telangana. This river divides into three parts and finally meets the Bay of Bengal at Antarvedi, in East Godavari and Yanam. Look at the maps of India and Telangana in the Atlas and answer the questions given below.



The Godavari at Nasik

Group work



- ◆ Where does Godavari start from? Name the States through which it flows.
- ◆ Identify the districts of Telangana through which the river Godavari flows?
- ◆ Name the districts which are on the banks of the river Godavari.
- ◆ Like Godavari, identify river Krishna on a map of Telangana.
- ◆ Identify the cities and the holy places present on either banks of the rivers mentioned.
- ◆ What are the districts through which the river Krishna flows?

8.3. Fishermen

Many people make a living by catching fish in Godavari. They use boats and catch a variety of fishes, crabs, lobsters. Fishing needs skill and hard work. They use different kinds of boats for fishing.



Traditional Boat



Motor Boat



A woman selling fishes

The river is a source of livelihood for the fishermen. They lead their lives by fishing. They make money for their families by catching and marketing fish. To catch the fish, they use both conventional boats and also motor boats. During floods, they lose the boats and their nets get damaged. We are able to include nutritious fish in our diet due to the efforts of these fishermen.

Group work



- ◆ Did you ever see any fisherman? What do they use to catch fish?
- ◆ Is it easy to catch fish? Why?
- ◆ What difficulties do the fishermen face in the following circumstances?
 - when floods occur.
 - during cyclones.
 - when rivers dry up.

8.4. Water transport

The river Godavari not only provides livelihood to fishermen but also to boatmen. They provide transport to the passengers and tourists and also show the beauty of river and its banks to the tourists. Many people take pleasure riding on ferries from Rajamahendravaram to Bhadrachalam to Perantala between the Papikondalu hills. Our State Tourism Department operates the launches for tourists. People living in villages on the river shore travel on boats. They cross the river on boats from docks on the shores of the Godavari.



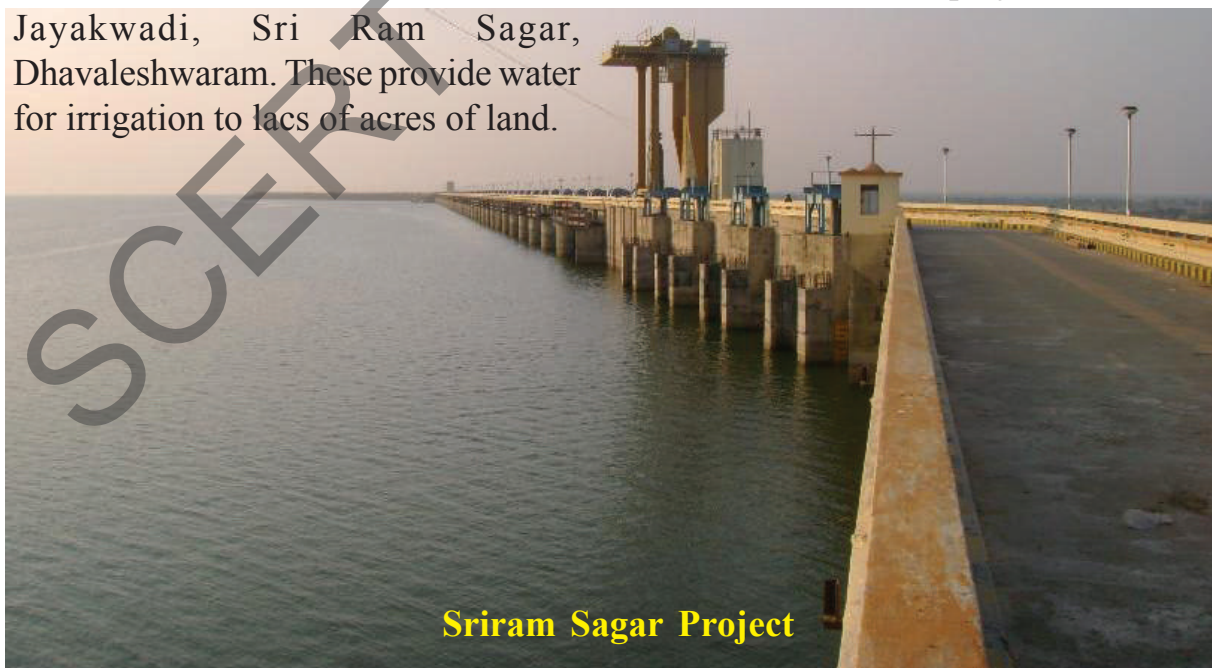
**Godavari between
Papi Kondalu**

Think and say

- ◆ Did you ever travel on a boat or a launch?
- ◆ Why do tourists get attracted to travel on the river?

8.5. Dams - Crops

The first dam built across river Godavari is at Gangapur. It supplies drinking water to the cities of Nasik and Triambakeshwar. The other projects on it are Jayakwadi, Sri Ram Sagar, Dhavaleshwaram. These provide water for irrigation to lacs of acres of land.



Sriram Sagar Project

Devadula Ethipothala Programme



The projects are not only used for irrigation and for providing drinking water to towns but also for preventing floods and for the generation of electricity. With the Devadula Ethipothala Programme in Jayashankar we are trying to supply

water to Warangal, Jayashankar and Mahabubabad Districts.

In Maharashtra and Telangana grow crops like sugar cane, paddy, cotton, tobacco, chilly and fruit orchards are cultivated by using the Godavari waters.

On the other hand, many people become homeless and the lakhs of acres of land is lost with the construction of the big dams and projects. Government tries its best to rehabilitate such people.

Group work



- ◆ What are the benefits of dams?
- ◆ We lose forests while constructing the dams. How to cope up with this loss?
- ◆ With the construction of dams, a few villages are flooded, what are the difficulties faced by the people there? What steps should we take to support them?

Do you know?

The river basin area of the Godavari river and its irrigated area is 3,12,812 sq.km. This is 1/10th of the Indian sub continent land. This area is more than that of the countries like England and Ireland put together.

8.6. Rivers - Civilisation

It is observed that from ancient times humans have been living on the banks of the rivers. Rivers facilitated people to grow crops and settle in the banks. Due to availability of water for drinking and irrigation, development of civilization on the river banks was very natural. They become the natural resources for progress and livelihood. Many ancient cities and villages were located near the rivers. In these places, the people developed



Triambakeswara Temple in Maharashtra

culturally, economically and socially. Most of the human civilization, in the world, started on river banks. The archeological excavations have revealed many buildings constructed along the rivers.

Basara Temple



The land along Godavari is the centre for spirituality and culture. The Kumbha Mela is organised at Nasik. Triambakeswar is one among the twelve important Jyothirlingas of Lord Shiva. In Nanded, the famous Sachkhand Gurudwara is located. The famous Saraswati temple, is located at Basara in Telangana.

Basara Gnana Saraswati Temple

Out of the two renowned Saraswati Temples in India, one is in Kashmir and the second is Basara Gnana Saraswati temple. It was built on the banks of river Godavari in Nirmal district of Telangana State during the period of Chalukyas. It is 205km away from Hyderabad and 35 km away from Nizamabad town. The important celebrations in the temple are Vasantha Panchami, Maha Shiva Rathri, Devi Nava Rathrulu, Vyasa Purnima, Aksharabyasam. Goddess Saraswathi is considered the deity of knowledge.



Bhadrachalam Temple on the bank of Godavari River

The temples like Laxmi Narasimha Swamy at Dharmapuri, Rama temple at Bhadrachalam and Goutamishwara at Manthani are the centres of religious importance. Once in every 12 years, the Pushkar Mela is organised on the banks of Godavari. It lasts for 12 days. It is considered to be auspicious to take a dip in Godavari during that time. Nirmal, which is famous for wooden toys, is situated on the Godavari bank it self. Nirmal, which is famous for wooden toys, is situated on the Godavari bank it self.

Think and say

- ◆ Why do most villages and cities emerge on the river banks?
- ◆ Is there any development along the river side Pilgrim centres where the Pushkar Mela is organised once in every 12 years?
- ◆ Explain the relation between the rivers and culture of the people.

8.7. Industries - Pollution

Many industries depend on the waters of the Godavari. We are able to produce 2,600 megawatts of electricity through the Thermal Power station at Ramagundam. Paper mills are located at Bhadrachalam, Thermal power station is located at Kothagudem and natural gas power centre is at Vijjeshwaram. Nanded and Aurangabad which are on bank of river Godavari have also developed industrially. But, the wastes from the industries and the power stations are released into the river. This is causing damage to the water and to the living organisms and polluting the river water.



The sewage water from villages and cities on the banks of the river Godavari is discharged into the river resulting in the pollution of the river making its water unsuitable for drinking. The people who visit the rivers also cause the water pollution by throwing plastic bottles and covers in to the river. This leads to the excess growth of the water plant called Eichhornia which reduces the dissolved oxygen leading to the death of the water organisms, animals and plants.

Think and say

- ◆ Discuss the causes of water pollution. What are its consequences? How do we prevent it?

8.8. Drought, Floods



During scanty rains in the river basin, there is very little flow in the river Godavari. With this the water level in the reservoirs comes down. Such type of drought condition put the farmers and their families to adverse situations and heavy loss.

When there is heavy rainfall, there will be floods. Floods inundate the land near the river. The crops and the yield get swept by the water. When the water bodies like river and canals overflow then all the possible means of transport like the road, rail and water are disturbed. Human deaths also, occur. Due to floods lot of water is lost in to the ocean. Embankments have been built to avoid flooding water from rivers & canals. These embankments saved hundreds of villages from flood waters.

Water is a very important resource. What should we do in order to use the flood water effectively?

Keywords

livelihood surrounding river	Western Ghats	tributaries
industries	tourists	dams
fisherman	refugees	Ethipothaala programme
delta	paper industry	basin
thermal power station	human development	life resource
pollution	drought, floods	civilisation
spiritual centre	bund	aquatic life



What have we learnt?



1. Conceptual Understanding

- What are the uses of rivers?
- How are the fishermen affected by floods?
- Why did civilisations flourish along the river banks?
- How is the river Godavari useful to farmers?
- How do people depend on rivers for their living?

2. Questioning and Hypothesis

- Sindhuja travelled along river Godavari from Nasik to Antharvedi. To know about the river from her, write five questions you would like to ask her?
- What could be the reasons for the drying up of rivers? Think.

3. Experiments - Field Observations

- Visit a river or a canal or a lake near your place. Observe the various activities polluting the water. Explain the ill effects of those activities.

4. Information Skills, Projects

- Collect information on any industrial area or a temple near the rivers Krishna or Godavari and get information. Write about it and display in the classroom.

5. Communication through Mapping Skills, Drawing Pictures and Making Models

- Observe the map given here. Write the name of districts which are to the south of the river Godavari.
- Name the districts present on the banks of the river Krishna. Identify the districts which are to the north of the river.
- What are the districts / places, through which you pass, if you were to visit the Godavari river from your village/ city?



6. Appreciation, Values and creating Awareness towards Bio-diversity

- Collect the lyrics / song related either to the Godavari or any other river. and sing it.
- Write slogans on controlling the river pollution.
- Write a letter to your friend appreciating the benefits of the rivers.

I can do this

- I can explain the benefits of the rivers on culture, agriculture etc. Yes / No
- I can ask questions on rivers. Yes / No
- I can identify the river flowing through different regions on a map of our State. Yes / No
- I can explain the significance of the river Godavari. Yes / No
- I can collect information and talk about the industries and temples on the banks of the rivers. Yes / No