

8

RIVERS - LIVELIHOOD

8.1. Observe the picture and say



- What do you see in the picture? What are the people in the picture doing?
- Can you guess which river is depicted in the above picture?
- Did you ever see any such river? How do you feel about it?
- What do the men in the boats do?
- Is the river a means of livelihood? Why?
- Are there people who depend on the river? What do they do?

The bridge on Godavari at Rajahmundry has a railway line below and a road above, vehicles move on both at a time. Its length is 3 km. Its the longest road - rail bridge in India and it is built on the river Godavari.

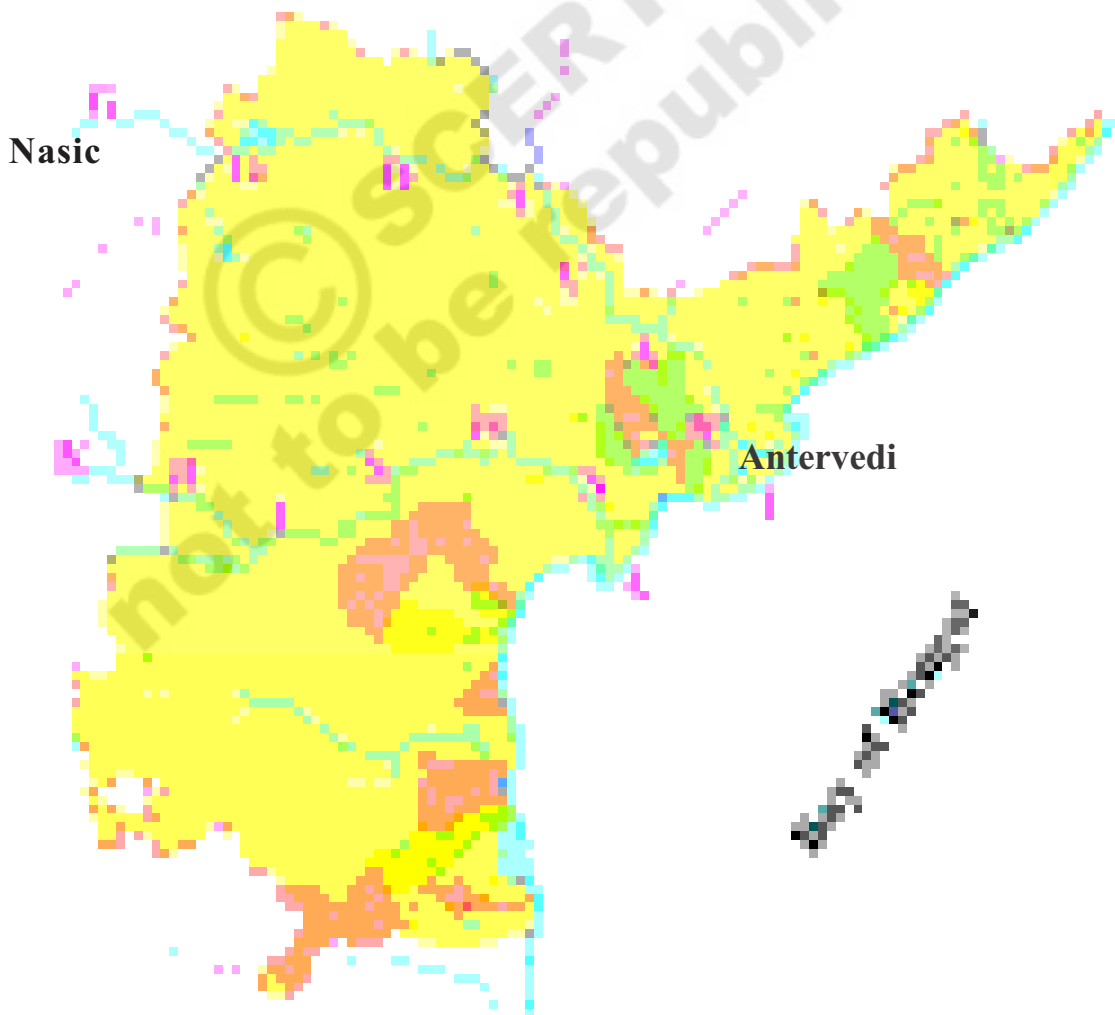
8.2. The Godavari, a river

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

Is there any river near your place? Which river? There are many questions which you can answer? Where does a river begin from? Where does it flow along and finally where it end? Where does the water come from? Does it remain there always or will it dry?

Does the river flow throughout the year? Do the rivers merge ultimately with any other river? 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 the rivers.

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



The river Godavari, originate its journey hills from the Brahmagiri of the Western Ghats at Triambakeshwar, in the district of Nasik in Maharashtra. It enters our state at Basar in Adilabad district. To reach our state it travels 1465 kms. In our state it flows through the districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khamman, East Godavari and West Godavari. Its flow, separates the districts of Adilabad and Karimnagar, East and West Godavari. This river divides into three parts and lastly meets the Bay of Bengal at Antarvedi, in East Godavari and Yanam. Look at the maps of India and A.P. in the Atlas and answer the questions given below.



The Godavari at Nasik

Group work



- ◆ Where does the Godavari start from? Name the districts through which it flows.
- ◆ Identify the states, through which this river flows, in the map of India in the atlas.
- ◆ Name the districts which are on the bank of the Godavari.
- ◆ Like Godavari, identify the river Krishna on the map of A.P.
- ◆ Identify the cities and the holy places present on the either banks of the rivers.
- ◆ What are the districts through which the river Krishna flows?

8.3. Fishermen

Many people make a living by catching fish in the Godavari. They use boats and catch a variety of fishes, crabs, lobsters employing nets. 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 the source of livelihood for the fishermen. They lead their entire lives fishing. They make money for their families by catching and marketing the fish. To catch the fish, they use conventional boats and also the motor boats. During floods, they lose the boats and their nets get damaged. We are able to include the nutritious fishes in our diet due to these 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, under the conditions given below?
 - When floods occur.
 - When cyclones occur.
 - When the river gets dried.

Do you know?

Speciality of the Godavari districts - 'Pulasa' fish

What you see in the picture is the fish called Pulasa. This is one of the rare fishes seen only in the districts of the East and West Godavari.

Its scientific name is Hilsa ilisha. It's a salt water fish. For breeding, it migrates to fresh water. In the months of August-September, the water in the river Godavari turns red due to floods. During this time, these fishes travel 1200 km in the ocean and enter the Godavari districts to lay eggs. Again, in the next two months, the young ones swim back to the ocean. Thus, when they swim to the river, they are caught in the nets. They have a huge demand in the market, the big fish is sold for up to two thousand rupees. Researches prove that these fishes are rich in omega 2 fatty acids and are good for health.



8.4. Water transport

The river Godavari is not only providing livelihood to the fishermen but it also is a tourist destination for the travellers. Many take pleasure rides on ferries from Rajamahendravaram to Bhadrachalam between the Papikondalu hills. Our state tourism department is operating the launches for tourists.

Godavari River between Papi Kondalu

Think and say

- ◆ Did you ever travel on a boat or a launch?
- ◆ Why do the tourists get attracted to travel on the river?
- ◆ Do you like to travel like the tourists as shown in the picture. Why?

8.5. Dams - crops

The first dam built on the river Godavari is at Gangapur. It supplies drinking water to the cities of Nasik and Triambakeshwar. The other projects on it are Jayakawadi. Sri Ram Sagar, Dhavaleshwaram. These provide water for irrigation to lacs of acres both in Maharastar & A.P.

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 production of electricity. With the Devadula Ethipothala Programme in Warangal we are trying to supply water to Warangal, Karimnagar, and Nalgonda Districts.

Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh grow crops like sugar cane, paddy, cotton, tobacco, chilly and fruit orchards using the Godavari waters. The land where the Godavari river meets the ocean is very fertile. In this delta land, paddy and coconut are grown. Konaseema, in the East Godavari district is in this delta and is an extremely beautiful place. The Godavari delta in the East Godavari with rich coconut and peedy crops and with its rich greenary called Konaseema. Tourists visits konaseema and Harti culture gardens.



Scenic beauty of Konaseema

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 these uprooted people.

Group work



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

Do you know?

The expanded 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 the humans have been living at the banks of the rivers. They grow crops and develop settlements. This development is natural, as it provides water for drinking and irrigation. They become the natural resources for progress & livelihood. Many ancient cities and villages were located near the rivers. In these places, the people got developed culturally and socially. Most of the human civilization, in the world, started near the rivers. The archeological excavations have revealed many buildings constructed along the rivers.



**Triambakeswara
Temple in
Maharashtra**

The land along the Godavari is the centre for spirituality and culture. Kumbha mela is celebrated at Nasik. Triambakeswar is among the twelve important jyothirlingas of lord Shiva. Paithan was the kingdom of the Satavahanas. In Nanded,



**Bhadrachalam Temple on
the bank of Godavari River**

the famous Sachkhand Gurudwara is located. The famous Saraswati temple, is located at Basar in Andhra Pradesh. Nirmal is famous for toys. The temples like Laxmi Narasimha Swamy at Dharmapuri, Rama temple at Bhadrachalam and Goutamishwara at Mavithani are the centres of religious importance. Once in every 12 years, Pushkar mela is

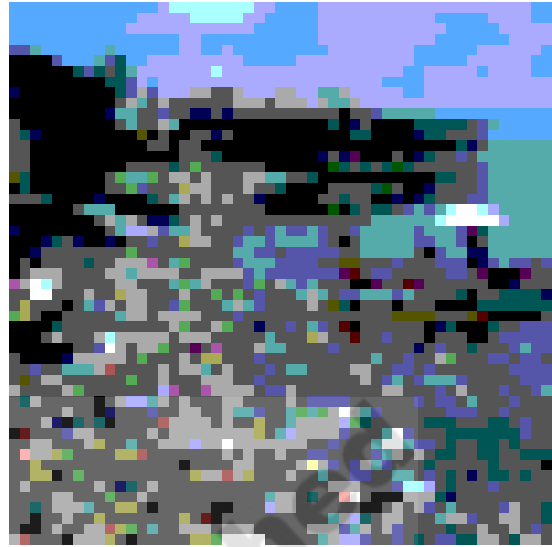
organised on the bank of the river Godavari. It lasts for 12 days. It is considered to be auspicious to take a dip in Godavari water during that time.

Think and say

- ◆ Why are the villages and cities established along the rivers?
- ◆ Is there any development along the river land where 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 Ramagudam. Paper mills are located at Bhadrachalam, Thermal power station is located at Kothagudem and natural gas power centre is at Vijjeshwaram. Nanded and Aurangabad 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. This results in the pollution of the river and the water becomes unsuitable for drinking. The people who visit the rivers also add to 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 about the causes of water pollution. What are its consequences? How to prevent it?

8.8. Drought, floods



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

When there is heavy rainfall, floods occur. The floods inundates the land near the river. The crops and the yield get swept into 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, may occur. Due to floods lot of water is lost to the ocean. Embankments have been built to avoid flood water from river & canals. These embankments saved hundreds of villages from flood water.

What should we do in order to use the flood water?

Keywords

Livelihood	Western Ghats	Tributaries
Industries	Tourists	Dams
Migration	Refugees	Ethipothaala Programme
Delta	Paper Industry	Civilisation
Thermal Power Station	Breeding	Excavations
Pollution	Drought, Floods	Established
Spiritual Centre	Bund	Acquatic life



What have we learnt?

1. Conceptual understanding

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

2. Questioning and hypothesis

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

3. Experiments - field observations

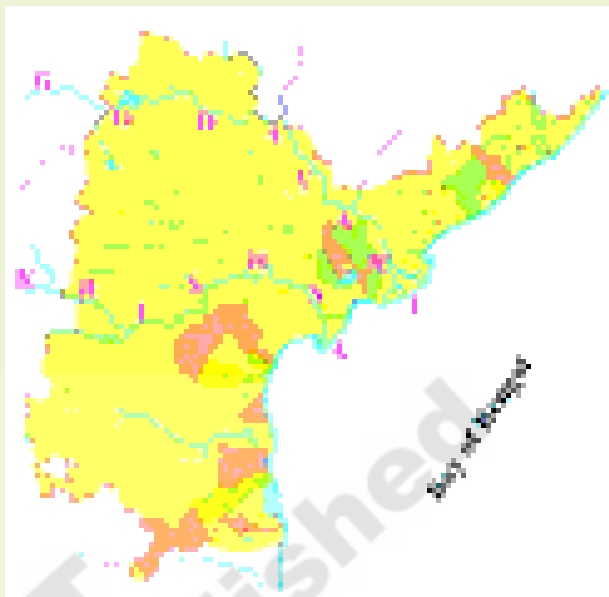
- Visit a river or a canal or a lake near your place. Observe the various activities being polluting the water. Explain the ill effects of those activities.

4. Information skills, projects

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

5. Communication through mapping skills, drawing pictures and making models

- Observe the map given here. Write the name of the 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?



6. Appreciation, values and creating awareness towards bio-diversity

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

Can I do this?

- I can explain about the impact the rivers on civilization agriculture etc. Yes / No
- I can ask questions on rivers. Yes / No
- I can identify the river flowing through regions on the map of our state. Yes / No
- I can explain about the significance of the river Godavari. Yes / No
- I can collect information and explain about the industries and temples on the banks of the rivers. Yes / No

