

## CHAPTER- 9

# An Autobiography of the Mahanadi

You must have all seen a river and must have strolled along its banks and taken a dip.

Come, let's hear the story of Mahanadi in its own words.

Children, I am Mahanadi, Chhattisgarh's most important river. Before I begin my story, let me ask you a few questions.

Is there any river near your village or town. If yes, then collect the following information from your elders or teachers.

What is the name of the river?

What is the source of that river?

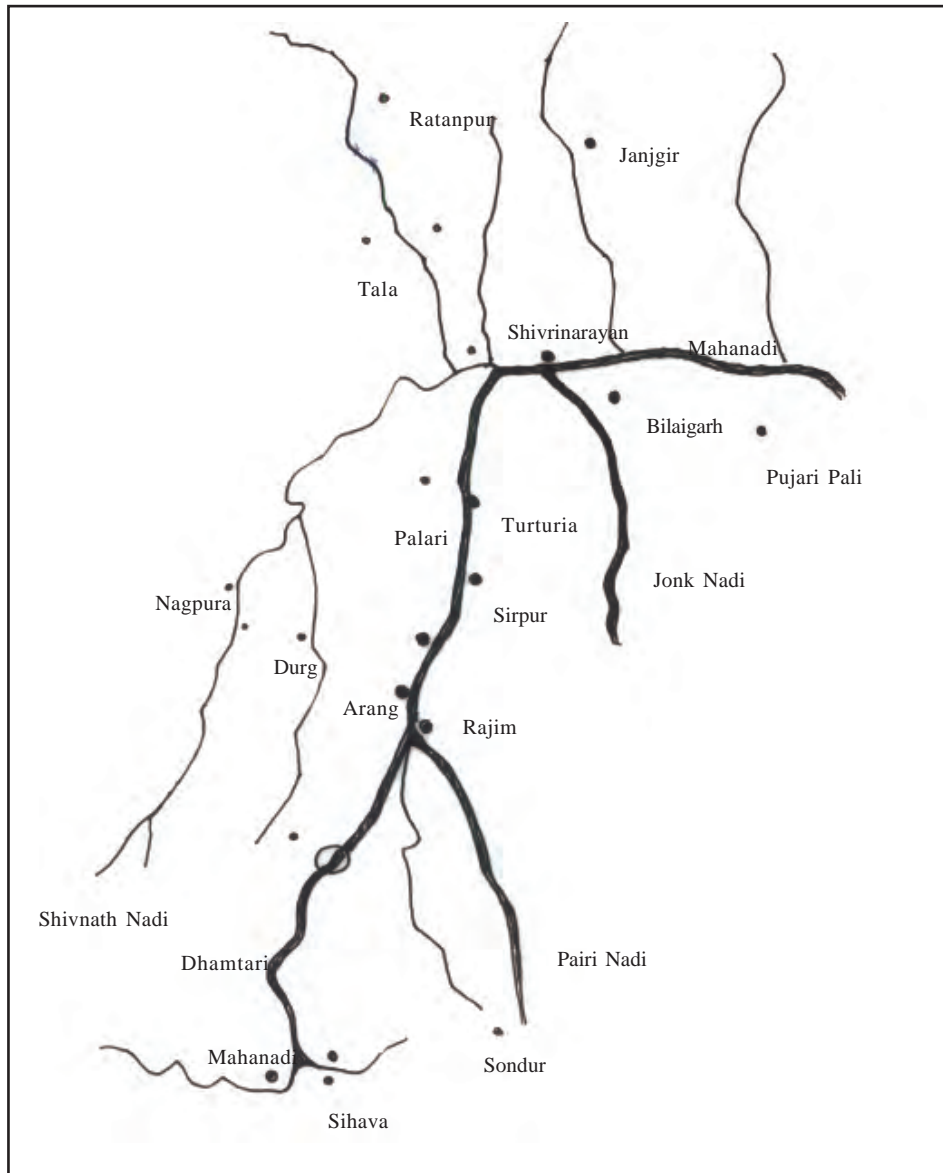
Where does the river fall ?

Does any other river join it or does it have any tributaries?

Is it filled with water through out the year?

Name the villages/towns situated on its banks?

Now, carefully look at the map given below. You must have seen that I emerge from the Sihava hills which is in the Dhamtari District. At the source, I look like a narrow stream. If you've identified the place, then mark it.



Now look at the map and find out the villages/towns situated on my banks.

On the map colour them with different colours.

The Gangrel Dam (Ravishankar Sagar Project) , in Dhamtari, is full of my waters. Find out Gangrel Dam in the map- My importance has increased ever since this dam has been constructed. Its water is used for irrigation which has helped increase crop production. The production of electricity could also be started due to the construction of this dam.

From Dhamtari in Chhattisgarh, I reach Rajim, an important centre of pilgrimage. Here, two more rivers - the Pairi and the Sondhur, merge into me.

Look for these rivers in the map.

Rajim has become more important due to the confluence of these three rivers. This place is a host to a fair during Mahashivratri, every year. Discuss with your teacher about this fair.



From Rajim, I further move to Aarang and reach Sirpur. The Lakshman temple, the Ravi temple and the Gundheshwar Mahadev temple at Sirpur are very famous. From Sirpur, I reach Shivrinarayan. Before entering Shivrinarayan, river Shivnath joins me. After this, I enter, Maa Chandrahasini Devi's holy place, Chandrapur, where another river the Mand merges into me.

While marking on the map you must have realized how long my journey is. You've seen how I emerge from the East of Chattisgarh and enter into the neighbouring state of Orissa.

On me at Sambalpur in Orissa, is situated a huge dam, Hirakund.

Like other rivers, I too carry silt, stones, pebbles, sand along my course. The silt brought by me is very fertile and thus useful. The silt found along my banks is used for farming and potters make clay vessels and toys with it.

You must have eaten the watermelons that grow along my banks.

**Find out the names of other fruits/vegetables that are grown on the river banks.**

How do I appear in the delta region of Orissa? Find out. Here I'm divided into small streams. The silt that I carry along my course deposits on my banks. This makes the land fertile. From here, I, with all my big and small branches flow into the Bay of Bengal.

**Have you ever been to a river side? If yes, then where? What all did you see there?**

I'm sure you must not have littered my banks. This reminds me that there are people who bathe, immerse flowers and idols on my banks. They also throw polythene bags and bottles in me.

The city sewage and industrial waste also flow into me. The continuous flow of filth in me has made my water impure. My water can no more be used for drinking for which I become very sad. After listening to my story, I am sure, that you will not pollute me or other rivers any more.

**What kind of waste flows into the river and ponds of your area?**

When dams are constructed on a river, a large wall is placed on the river. Due to which a large number of neighbouring villages are flooded. For rehabilitation of these villagers, they are provided places to live, school, electricity, hospitals, bus, train facilities.

Think and answer.

What are problems faced by people living in the dam area?

## What have we learnt

### Oral

1. What is the source of river Mahanadi?
2. Name the three town/cities situated on the banks of river Mahanadi.

### Written

1. Where is the Hirakund Dam situated?
2. What are the advantages of a dam?
3. Name the tributaries which flow into River Mahanadi in Rajim.
4. At which point does the journey of River Mahanadi end?

## Find out

1. Look for an autobiography of a river which flows near where you live. You can take the help of books or find out from your teachers or friends.
2. What can you do to save the rivers and ponds around you from being polluted?

