

Rivers of the World Foundation

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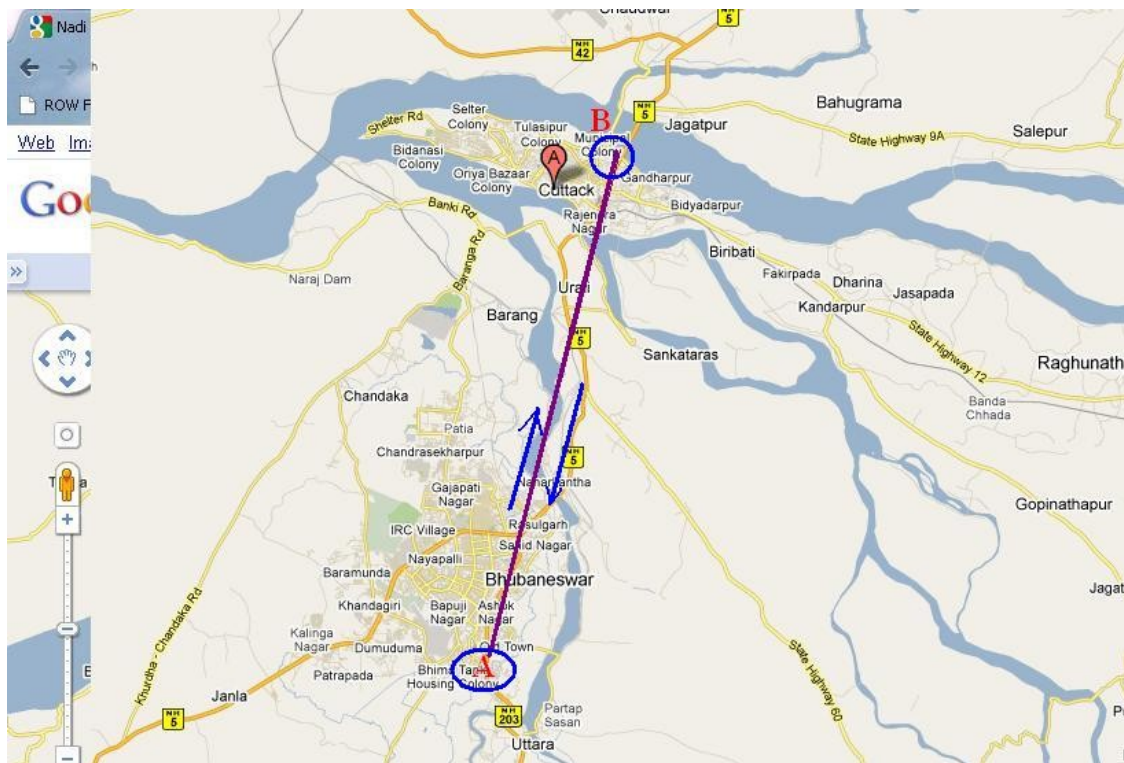
Mahanadi River and Tributaries Water Resources Screening Program

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The Mahanadi River flows on the North side of Bhubaneswar, Orissa through a floodplain commonly known as the Mahanadi Valley.

During monsoon the Mahanadi valley is routinely impacted by floods. The River receives discharges from mostly agricultural fields and some non-Agricultural industrial discharges from a few industries in its vast watershed as it passes through its floodplain in that area. The river and its tributaries are a major source of agriculture and potable water for the area. It has been observed that during the past two decades the number of chronic diseases in the area is increasing in significant proportion. According to Mr. Prafulla Dhal from <http://Biswa.org> who wrote to me stating *"This is in fact a good idea to test the parameters of river water in Orissa. otherwise the Orissa state pollution control Borad has some testing results which can be taken as reference points.all the rivers are polluted in the state for very many reasons. Especially checking the urban waste and effluents and the industrial waste could be very helpful and it would be a timely intervention. We are ready to do as per your requirements and make the rivers clean and safe in the state."*

Although, no particular cause of this increase have been positively identified, but exposure to chemicals that are Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxics (PBTs), and other such contaminants are likely factors contributing to this cause. **To that end a screening level checking of the Water**



Resources of Mahanadi River (Visit Scheduled for Feb 7, 2011 from Point A to Point B and back per Map above) and its Tributaries near Bhubaneswar is proposed to be conducted during my one-day visit by looking into various factors and discussing with the local communities, authorities, Mr. Prafulla Dhal, Dr. Monica Das (Delhi University), and others and identifying discharges into the River and setting up a screening level monitoring program to look into the changes in water quality between various intakes and discharges.