

Ethiopia's Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

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In news- Ethiopia's Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile is nearing completion.

About Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)-

- It is a massive **hydropower dam(gravity) built by Ethiopia on the Blue Nile**, the Nile River's main tributary.
- The name that the Blue Nile river takes in Ethiopia ("Abay") is derived from the Ge'ez word for 'great' to imply its being 'the river of rivers'.
- It was **formerly known as the Millennium Dam** and sometimes **referred to as Hidase Dam**.
- The **primary purpose of the dam is electricity production to relieve Ethiopia's acute energy** shortage and for electricity export to neighboring countries.
- With a planned installed capacity of 6.45 gigawatts, the **dam will be the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa when completed**, as well as the seventh largest in the world.
- GERD is the source of an almost decade-long **diplomatic standoff between Ethiopia and downstream nations Egypt and Sudan**.
- The eventual site for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was identified by the **United States Bureau of Reclamation in the course of the Blue Nile survey**, which was conducted between 1956 and 1964 during the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie.
- Due to the coup d'état of 1974, however, the project failed to progress.
- The Ethiopian Government surveyed the site in October 2009 and August 2010.
- In November 2010, a design for the dam was submitted by

James Kelston and dam has been under construction since 2011.



About Nile river-

- The Nile is the **longest river in the world** and brings together **11 riparian countries**.
- These are the *Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, Tanzania, Sudan and Egypt*.
- The Nile is made up of two main tributaries.
- There is no consensus on what is the most distant source of the White Nile, but its journey northwards starts at Jinja on the northern shore of Lake Victoria in Uganda.
- The Blue Nile originates from Lake Tana in Ethiopia.
- The **White Nile meets the Blue Nile at Khartoum, the Sudanese capital**.
- The unified stream from Khartoum continues north, passing through Egypt, before **emptying into the Mediterranean near Alexandria**.