

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

July 4, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Latest News

Ethiopia's Prime Minister recently said the multi-billion-dollar Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile that has long worried neighbouring countries is complete and will be officially inaugurated in September.

About Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

- The GERD, **formerly known as the Millennium Dam**, is situated in the **Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia**, near the border with Sudan.
- It is located **on the Blue Nile**, one of the **main tributaries of the Nile River**.
- **Capacity:** At **6.45 Gigawatts**, it is the **largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa**.
- **Construction Started:** **April 2011**
- The project is **owned by Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCO)**.
- **Dispute:** **Egypt and Sudan fear** the massive \$4.2bn **GERD will severely reduce the share of Nile water they receive** and have **repeatedly asked Ethiopia to stop filling it** until they have all reached agreement on how it should work.

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Features

- It is a **roller-compacted concrete (RCC) gravity-type dam** comprising **two power stations**, three spillways, and a **saddle dam**.
- The main dam is 145 m high and 1,780 m long.
- The dam **forms a reservoir** covering 1,875 sq.km, which can hold up to 74 billion cubic metres of water. The GERD **reservoir is in a deep gorge**, so its surface area is relatively small compared to its volume.
- The saddle dam supporting the main dam is 4,800 m long and 45 m high. It has an emergency side spillway to discharge water directly into the reservoir.
- The powerhouses include 16 generating units of 375 MW each.

Source: [NDTV](#)

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