

More explanation on – Drainage System

The drainage system refers to the network of well-defined channels known as drainage, through which water flows. The drainage system depends on the flow of water, the velocity of water, and the geography of the land. In India, 90 percent of total surface water drain into the Bay of Bengal and rest in the Arabian Sea. A water divide exists in India extending approximately along the Western Ghats, Aravallis and Yamuna Sutlej. This natural water divide separates the drainage systems flowing into the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The Indian drainage system consists of rivers flowing from the Himalayas and the peninsular rivers. The Himalayan rivers are perennial or have water all the year round as they are fed by the snow-clad Himalayas and the rains. The peninsular plateau rivers are seasonal.

The two major Himalayan rivers, the Indus and the Brahmaputra originate from the north of the mountain ranges. They cut through the mountains making gorges. The Himalayan rivers have long courses and perform intensive erosional activity in their upper courses and carry huge loads of silt and sand. In the middle and lower courses, these rivers form many depositional features.

A large number of the Peninsular rivers are seasonal, as their flow is dependent on rainfall. During the dry season, even the large rivers have reduced flow of water in their channels. The Peninsular rivers have shorter and shallower courses as compared to their Himalayan counterparts. However, some of them originate in the central highlands and flow towards the west. Two such major rivers are — Narmada and Tapi. Most of the rivers of peninsular India originate in the Western Ghats and flow towards the Bay of Bengal.