

The Peninsular River Systems

Chapter 8: Drainage · Topic 2

Key Concept

Unlike Himalayan rivers, peninsular rivers don't have glacial sources, so their water flow depends heavily on monsoon rains, causing significant seasonal variation in water levels.

The Godavari, often called the 'Ganga of the South', is one of the longest peninsular rivers, flowing through several states before reaching the Bay of Bengal.

The Narmada and Tapi are unique among peninsular rivers because they flow westward into the Arabian Sea, unlike most other peninsular rivers that flow eastward.

Peninsular rivers, though smaller in flow than Himalayan rivers, are important for irrigation, hydroelectric projects, and support significant agricultural activity in southern India.

Quick Revision Notes

- Peninsular rivers depend mainly on monsoon rainfall.
- They are seasonal, unlike perennial Himalayan rivers.
- The Godavari is called the 'Ganga of the South'.
- The Godavari flows through several states to the Bay of Bengal.
- The Narmada and Tapi flow westward.
- Most other peninsular rivers flow eastward.
- Peninsular rivers support irrigation and hydroelectric projects.
- They are important for agriculture in southern India.

Practice Questions

- 1 Name three peninsular rivers.
- 2 Discuss why peninsular rivers are seasonal.
- 3 Research why the Narmada flows westward, unlike most peninsular rivers.
- 4 Explain why the Godavari is called the 'Ganga of the South'.
- 5 Discuss how peninsular rivers support agriculture.
- 6 Compare Himalayan and peninsular river systems.