

Peninsular River System – SSC Notes

1. Characteristics of Peninsular Rivers

- **Origin:** Peninsular Plateau → Rain-fed
- **Flow:** Seasonal → Dependent on monsoon
- **Gradient:** Gentle slope → Slow-flowing
- **Course:** Shorter than Himalayan rivers → Mostly east or west flowing
- **Features:**
 - Older rivers → Erosion is less, sediment load low
 - Form deltas at mouths (east-flowing)
 - Estuaries present at west-flowing rivers
- **Importance:** Irrigation, hydro-power, inland navigation

2. East-flowing Rivers (Bay of Bengal)

River	Origin	State s	Tribut aries	Delta	Notes
Goda vari	Weste rn Ghats (Maha rashtr a)	Maha rashtr a, Telan gana, Andhr a Prade sh	Purna , Pranh ita	Goda vari Delta	Longe st penin sular river (~146 5 km)
Krish na	Weste rn Ghats (Maha rashtr a)	Maha rashtr a, Karna taka, Andhr a Prade sh	Bhim a, Tunga bhad ra	Krish na Delta	Major irrigat ion proje cts → Tunga bhad ra Dam
Kaver i	Weste rn	Karna taka,	Hema vati,	Kaver i	Fertil e

	Ghats (Karn ataka)	Tamil Nadu	Kabin i	Delta	delta, hydro - power poten tial
Maha nadi	Chhat tisgar h	Chhat tisgar h, Odish a	Seona th, Hasd eo	Maha nadi Delta	Hirak ud Dam → Multi purpo se proje ct
Brah mani	Odish a	Odish a	Sankh , South Koel	Delta at Odish a coast	Indus trial & irrigat ion use

Features:

- Form deltas → Fertile agricultural lands

- Major crops → Rice, sugarcane, pulses
- Rivers → Mostly navigable in lower course

3. West-flowing Rivers (Arabian Sea)

River	Origin	States	Tributaries	Estuary / Note
Narmada	Amarkantak Plateau (Madhya Pradesh)	MP, Gujarat	Tawa, Hiran	Flows into Arabian Sea, forms rift valley
Tapi (Tapti)	Satpura Hills (Madhya Pradesh)	MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat	Purna, Girna	Short, fast-flowing, estuary formation
Mandovi	Western	Goa	None	Estuary →

	Ghats (Goa)			Ports & fisheries
Zuari	Western Ghats (Goa)	Goa	None	Estuary → Port & navigation

Features:

- Short & fast-flowing → Hydro-electric projects
- Narrow valleys & estuaries
- Fertile plains less extensive than eastern rivers

4. Inland / Endorheic Rivers

- Definition: Rivers that do not reach sea → Drain into lakes or deserts
- Examples: Luni (Rajasthan), Sabarmati (Gujarat), Mahi (Gujarat/Madhya Pradesh)
- Importance: Irrigation in arid & semi-arid regions

5. Important SSC Points – Peninsular Rivers

- East-flowing → Bay of Bengal → Long, fertile delta
- West-flowing → Arabian Sea → Short, estuary formation
- Longest peninsular river → Godavari (~1465 km)
- Narmada → Rift valley, west-flowing, hydro-power
- Major dams → Hirakud (Mahanadi), Tungabhadra (Krishna), Bhakra Nangal (Sutlej, Himalayan)
- Rivers → Seasonal, rain-fed → Depend on monsoon