

# 1. WATER IN INDIAN CONTEXT



Earth

Water is the main constituent of Earth's hydrosphere and covers 71% of the earth's surface.



Glaciers continues to be a major source of fresh water



Ground water is pumped out for agriculture needs

Approximately 70% of the freshwater used by humans goes to agriculture.

Himalayan glaciers in the Indian subcontinent are main sources of water and broadly divided into the three river basins, namely the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra.



Water Resources cancellation



Of the total volume of global freshwater, an estimated 69 percent is stored in glaciers and permanent snow cover; 30 percent is in groundwater; and the remaining 1 percent in lakes, rivers, the atmosphere, and biota.



Flowing down from high hills and mountains, the upper part of a river is usually narrow and steep so the water flows quickly. As rivers leave the hills and mountains where they're created, they become wider, slower and less steep.



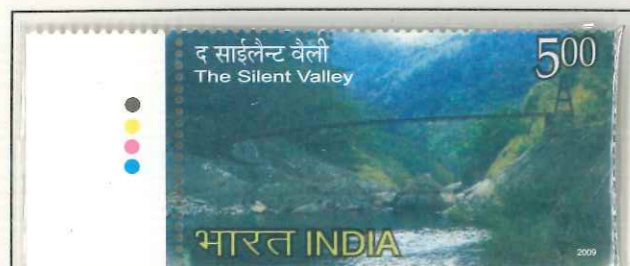
Hills, River and Trees, Western Ghats

The main water divide in peninsular rivers is formed by the Western Ghats, which run from north to south close to the western coast. Most of the major rivers of the peninsula such as the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Cauvery flow eastwards and drain into the Bay of Bengal.



River Indus

The Indus basin has the largest number of glaciers (3500). The early Indus valley civilization (c. 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE) developed along the Indus River and tributaries that flowed out of the Himalayas.



The River Kunthi descending from the Niligiri hills above from an altitude of 2000 m flows about 25 km through the Silent valley.



Kaziranga Park is a vast stretch of tall elephant grass, marshland and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests criss-crossed by four main rivers — Brahmaputra, Diphlu, Mora Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri and has numerous small water bodies.