

WATER, FOOD AND LAND RESOURCES

Water resources in India

- World oceans cover about three fourth of earth's surface.
- According to the UN estimates, the total amount of water on earth is about 1400 million cubic kilometre which is enough to cover the earth with a layer of 3000 metres depth.
- However the fresh water constitutes a very small proportion of this enormous quantity.

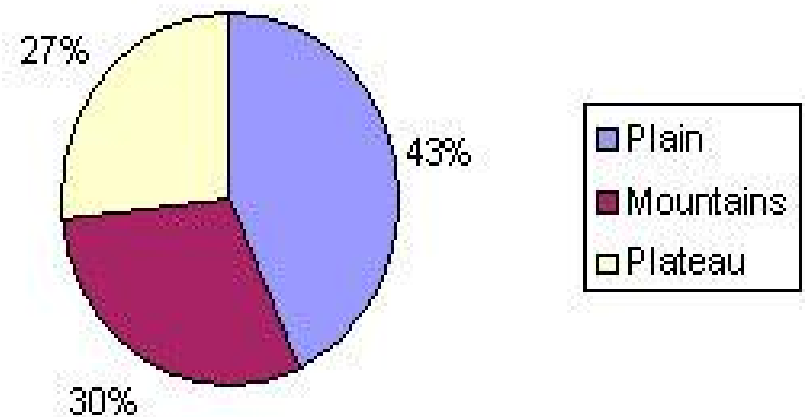
- About 2.7 per cent of the total water available on the earth is fresh water of which about 75.2 per cent lies frozen in polar regions and another 22.6 per cent is present as ground water.
- The rest is available in lakes, rivers, atmosphere, moisture, soil and vegetation.
- What is effectively available for consumption and other uses is a small proportion of the quantity available in rivers, lakes and ground water.

- The crisis about water resources development and management thus arises because most of the water is not available for use and secondly it is characterized by its highly uneven spatial distribution.
- Accordingly, the importance of water has been recognised and greater emphasis is being laid on its economic use and better management.

Land resources in India

- Land is a finite resource and put to many competing uses.
- It comprises soils, minerals, water and biota In terms of area India ranks seventh in the world with a total area of 32, 87.263 sq. km. (32.87 crore hectare).
- It accounts for 2.42% of total area of the world.

- The several types of land resources in India include agricultural land, farmland,, real estate land, commercial land, barren lands and residential land.



Land Resources in India

Food resources

- Food is any substance consumed to provide nutritional support for the body. It is usually of plant or animal origin, and contains essential nutrients, such as fats, proteins, vitamins, or minerals.
- Historically, people secured food through two methods: hunting and gathering and agriculture. Today, the majority of the food energy required by the ever increasing population of the world is supplied by the food industry.

- Many **plants** and plant parts are eaten as food and around 2,000 plant species are cultivated for food.
- **Animals** are used as food either directly or indirectly by the products they produce. Meat is an example of a direct product taken from an animal, which comes from muscle systems or from organs.

Three sources of food

1. Crop lands- 76%, mostly grains
2. Rangelands- 17%, produce meat mostly from grazing livestock.
3. Fisheries- 7%