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**LESSON**  
PART 1





### In this lesson, we shall learn about :

- ◆ The Southern Plateau
- ◆ Its two divisions
  - (a) The Central Highlands
  - (b) The Deccan Plateau
- ◆ Their soil, climate, minerals and crops

### ■ New Words

plateau, triangular, mineral

A plateau is a highland which is almost flat at the top. The Southern Plateau is triangular in shape. It lies to the south of the Northern Plains. It covers a large region. It is surrounded by mountains and hills. The Aravalli hills, the Vindhya mountains and the Satpura range lie in its north-west. The Rajmahal hills of Chhota Nagpur Plateau lie to its north-east. Both to the east and to the west of the Deccan Plateau, there are chains of hills. The hilly region on the east of it is called the Eastern Ghats and the hilly region on the west is called the Western Ghats. The Western Ghats consist of three small ranges of hills, the Nilgiri Hills, the Annamalai Hills and the Cardamom Hills.

The Eastern Ghats are not as high as the Western Ghats. The general elevation of the plateau varies between 600 to 900 metres above sea level. The Eastern Ghats end in the Chhota Nagpur Plateau in Bihar. Other states of this region are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Some parts of Rajasthan also fall under the Southern Plateau.



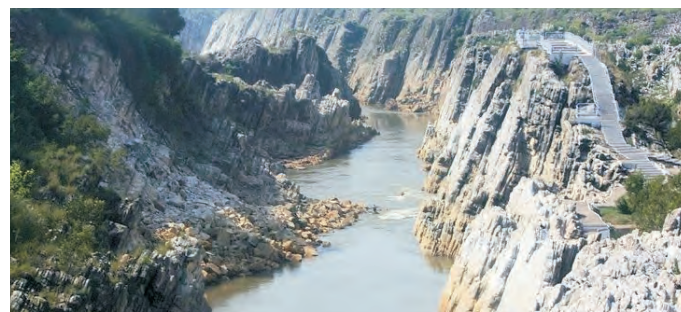
India-Southern Plateau

### ■ Some Facts :

Anaimudi in Cardamom Hills is the highest peak of the Deccan Plateau. It is 2,695 metres above sea level.

The Narmada Valley divides the Southern Plateau into two parts - The Central Highlands to the north and the Deccan Plateau to the south. The Central Highlands consist of the Malwa Plateau and the Chhota Nagpur Plateau.

The Malwa Plateau lies between the Aravalli Hills and the Vindhya Hills. The region has black soil which is very favourable for growing cotton and oil seeds. The other major crops are wheat and jowar. Panna in Chattisgarh is famous for diamond mines.



Narmada Valley

The Chhota Nagpur Plateau is located in the north-eastern part of the Southern Plateau. The region has the largest mineral deposits in India. It has huge deposits of important minerals such as iron, coal, manganese, mica and bauxite. Coal mines are found in Giridih (Bihar), Jharia and Bokaro (Jharkhand) and Raniganj (West Bengal). The famous Kolar Gold mines are also situated in this plateau region in Karnataka.



*Mines*



*Gold Mine*



*Coal Mine*



*Iron Mine*



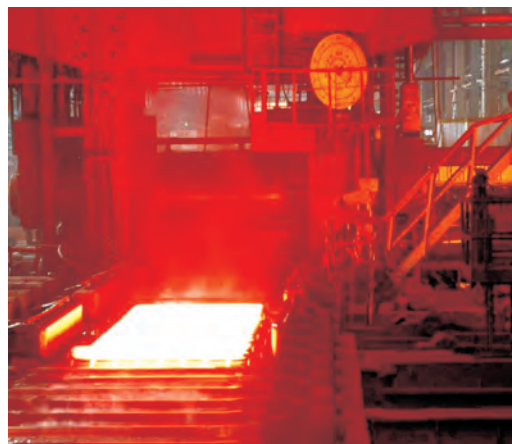
*Manganese Mine*

**Some Facts :**

Deccan Plateau is called the 'store house of minerals' and Jharkhand is called the 'mineral state of India'.

There are several important industries in this region like steel plants in Jamshedpur, Rourkela, Bhilai and Bokaro. The famous Sindri Fertilizer factory is also here.

The river Damodar flows in the north-eastern part of the plateau. A dam is built over this river. To the south of this plateau lies the Chattisgarh Plain. It is a wide and fertile plain. The region gets good rainfall. The Mahanadi is the prominent river here. It often gets flooded in rainy season. Hirakud Dam has been built over this river. Rice is the chief crop here. The Bastar Hills are situated to the south of the Chattisgarh Plain. There are thick forests in these hills which provide us different types of wood and other forest products. Bamboo, sal and teak trees are grown here. The region is inhabited by the Bastar tribes. These tribal people are good craftsmen.



*Steel Plant at Bhilai*

The land of Deccan Plateau is not even. The soil is not very deep and its colour varies at places. On the north-west of Deccan Plateau, the soil is black. It is fertile and can retain moisture for longer time. This soil is made up of lava which came from volcanoes which erupted long ago. It is good for cotton crops. In other parts, the colour of soil is yellowish. It dries quickly. Both types of soil need to be irrigated for cultivation. The climate of this region is hot in summer and cold in winter.

The main rivers of this region are the Narmada, the Tapi, the Godavari, the Krishna, the Kaveri and the Mahanadi. The Mahanadi, the Krishna, the Kaveri and the Godavari flow from west to east and fall into the Bay of Bengal. The Narmada and the Tapi rivers flow from east to west and fall into the Arabian Sea.

The rivers of the Deccan Plateau are smaller than the rivers of the Himalayan rivers. These are seasonal rivers. They get water from rains. They do not get water from the melting of snow. They become dry during the summer season.



*River Godavari*

**Some Facts :**

Godavari is the longest river of the Deccan Plateau. It is also called the Ganga of the South India.

The land of the Deccan Plateau forms a slope from west to east. So, the rivers flow with a great speed and form a number of waterfalls and gorges. The most famous of them is the Jog Falls, formed by the Sharavati river in Karnataka. Many big dams have been made to store water. The famous Mettur Dam has been built on the river Kaveri. It is the largest irrigation project of the region. Nagarjunasagar Dam is built on the river Krishna on the border of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, is another big dam. These dams store water for irrigation and provide electricity.



*Jog Falls*

Bengaluru, Mysore, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Amaravati, Pune, Nagpur and Bhopal are some important cities of this region. Ooty or Ootacamund and Kodaikanal are the beautiful and famous hill stations of this region. This region is not as thickly populated as the Northern Plains but it is a great source of minerals. Tea, coffee, cinchona, rubber, tobacco, oil seeds, groundnuts, pepper and sugar grow well here.



*Tea*

*Coffee*

*Cinchona*

*Pepper*

*Tobacco*

*Groundnuts, Oil seeds*

**Some Facts :**

Karnataka is the only state in India where gold mining is carried on.

**Think and Discuss**

Why is Bengaluru called 'the Electronic City of India' ?

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. The Southern Plateau is triangular in shape.
2. The land of Southern Plateau is rocky and uneven.
3. The Southern Plateau is divided into two parts by the river Narmada: The Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau.
4. The Malwa region has black fertile soil. It is good for growing cotton and oil seeds.
5. The Deccan Plateau is rich in minerals and forests.
6. The famous Kolar Gold Mines are situated in the Deccan Plateau.



## EXERCISE

### A. Fill in the blanks :

1. The Southern Plateau is \_\_\_\_\_ in shape.
2. Black soil is good for growing \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Southern Plateau is divided into two parts by \_\_\_\_\_ valley.
4. The Hirakud Dam is built on the \_\_\_\_\_ river.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are beautiful hill stations.

### B. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False :

1. The Southern Plateau is triangular in shape. ( )
2. The Western Ghats are not as high as the Eastern Ghats. ( )
3. Black soil is good for growing cotton. ( )
4. Nagarjunasagar Dam is built on the river Krishna. ( )
5. Bengaluru is called the 'Pink City of India'. ( )

### C. Match the following :

- |                         |     |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1. The Southern Plateau | ( ) | (a) A hill station                |
| 2. The Western Ghats    | ( ) | (b) Dam                           |
| 3. Kolar                | ( ) | (c) Are higher than Eastern Ghats |
| 4. Ooty                 | ( ) | (d) Looks like a triangle         |
| 5. Hirakud              | ( ) | (e) Gold mine                     |

### D. Tick (✓) the correct word given in the brackets :

1. The Southern Plateau is divided into two parts by the river (*Ganga / Narmada*).
2. The Eastern Ghats are (*higher / lower*).
3. The Deccan Plateau slopes (*west to east / east to west*).
4. Nagarjunasagar Dam is built on the river (*Mahanadi / Krishna*).
5. (*Gold / Diamond*) mining is carried on only in Karnataka in India.



**E. Answer the following questions :**

1. What is a plateau ?
2. Name the mountain ranges surrounding the Southern Plateau.
3. How do the rivers on the plateau get their water ?
4. Name the minerals found in the Chhota Nagpur Plateau.
5. What kind of soil is good for growing cotton and oil seeds ?

**Project / Activity**

**F. Make a list of the hills and minerals found in the Southern Plateau.**

**G. Mark these on the outline map of India :**

1. The Malwa Plateau
2. The Chhota Nagpur Plateau
3. The Eastern Ghats
4. The Western Ghats
5. River Godavari

