



Landforms

The land on which we live is not uniform in size, shape or height. In some places, it rises high to form hills and mountains with steep slopes, while in other areas, it may be low and flat for long stretches. As you travel from one place to another, you might witness changes in the height of places. This is known as the relief of a region.

There are three main kinds of landforms – mountains, plateaus and plains. You must have seen several hills or even been to places on some mountain ranges. Mountains are very high and they have steep slopes with very little flat land on them.

Look for the Himalayas, Arvallis, Vindhyas, Satpura mountains in a map of India. These are important mountain ranges of our country.

In our state too, Adilabad, Nirmal, Jagitial, Vikarabad, Mahaboobnagar, Nagarkurnool, Peddapally, Badradri and Jayashankar districts have stretches of hilly

terrain which we can see as pockets of scattered hills. These are Sathmala range in Adilabad, Nirmal. Balaghat range in Mahaboobnagar, Nagarkurnool. Ananthagiri hills in Vikarabad, Kandikal in Peddapally and Jayashankar and Rakhi hills in Jagitial districts. Look for them in a map.

Plateaus are also high lands but they have more flat lands with some hills in between them. The landscape is uneven with ups and downs but not as steep as in the mountains. The Deccan Plateau is the largest plateau in India.

The Deccan plateau has a high and steep edge (scarp) on the west, and is known as the Western Ghats. The Telangana Plateau is itself a part of the Deccan Plateau and slopes to the east. Large portions of Telangana fall in the plateau region which is called the Telangana Plateau.

Fig. 3.1: Hills

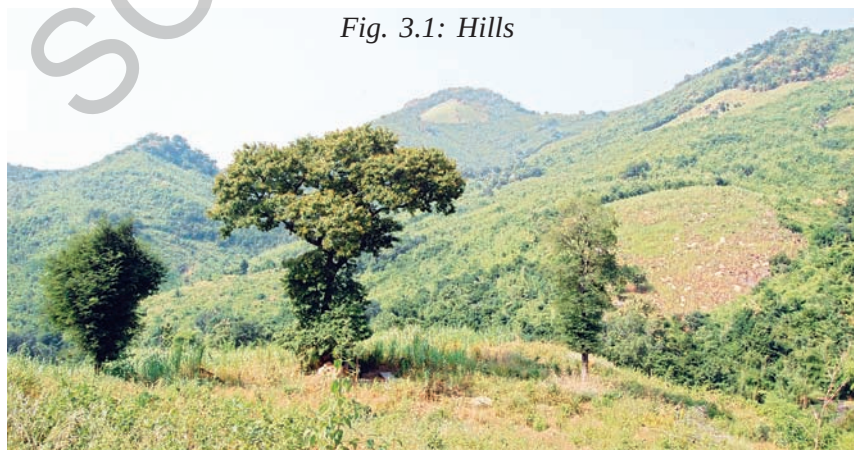




Fig. 3.2: Plain

The plains, on the other hand, are level lands with gentle slopes. They are formed by the deposition of silt by great rivers. The Indus and its tributaries form the Punjab Plains. The Ganga river stretches through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal states and forms the Gangetic Plains. Together the two large plains are called Indo-Gangetic Plains. Eastern coastal plains are on the eastern side of India along the Bay of Bengal. Large portions of states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal fall in it. On the Western side of India is the Western Coastal Plains. Find out the states which come under it.

The physical surface features of the land like mountains, plateaus and plains etc are called 'Relief Features'. Telangana state has varied relief features. Look at the map (1) given on the page 17. Our state has Upper Telangana Plateau in the west. Godavari and Krishna river flows eastwards through this plateau. The remaining area is known as the Lower Telangana plateau which also eastwards slope. The twin cities, Hyderabad and Secundrabad cities, Sangareddy, Mahaboobnagar and Nalgonda towns are located on the Upper Telangana plateau while Warangal and Karimnagar towns are on the Lower Telangana Plateau

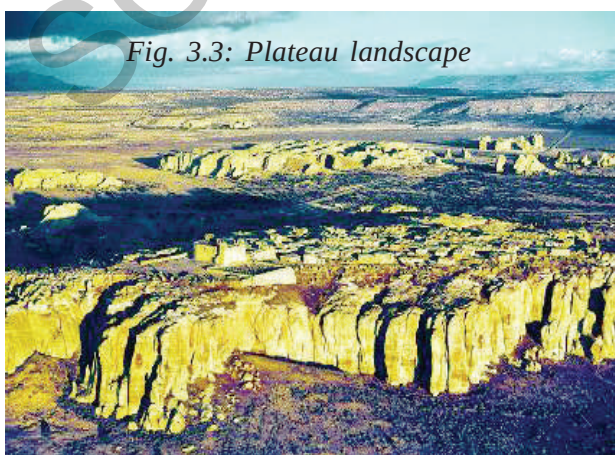
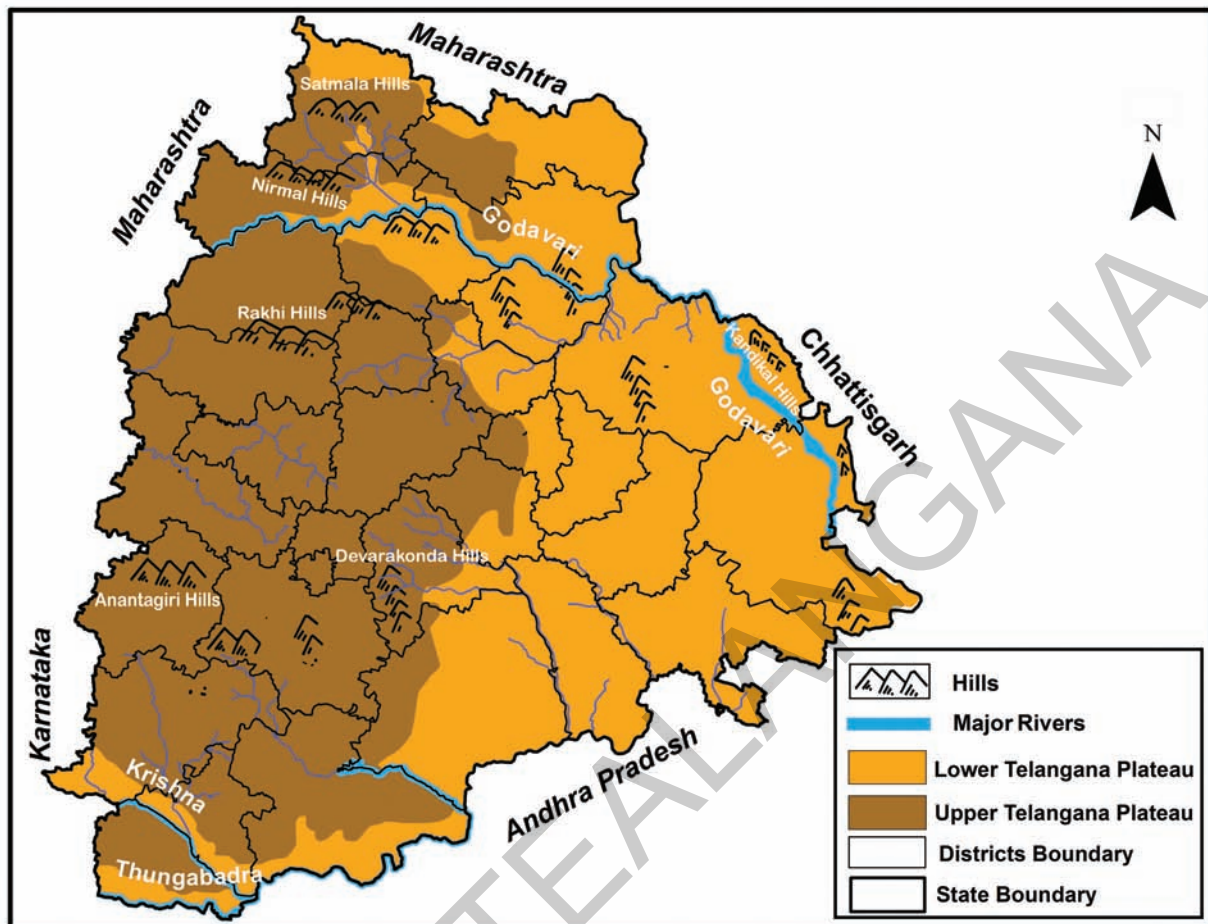


Fig. 3.3: Plateau landscape

We will learn more about these landforms and how people live on them in the following chapters.

- ♦ Look at the pictures of mountain, plain and plateau and try to find out which of them is similar to your region.
- ♦ Look at the map of Telangana and find out which of these towns are on the upper and lower Telangana



Map-1 Physical Features of Telangana

plateau- Bhongiri, Bhadrachalam, Siddipet, Manthani, Manchiryal, Shadnagar, Sircilla, Chennur, Kamareddy, Vikarabad.

- ♦ In which districts are the Anantagiri hills, Devarakonda hills, Nirmal hills, Sirnapally hills situated?

Delta

The two main rivers of Telangana, the Godavari and the Krishna, flow from the western Ghats. The Godavari river enters in Telangana near Basara of Nirmal district.

These rivers are joined by many small rivers of the Telangana plateau and finally flow into the Bay of Bengal after forming large deltas. Can you see the two triangles formed by these rivers on the Eastern coastal plans? (fig 3.4)

Before joining the sea, a river divides into a large number of small streams. It deposits a lot of sand and silt in this area which forms the delta. It usually forms a triangle. Every year, the flood water of the river brings silt laden with humus (decayed leaves, plants etc.) with it and deposits them on the flooded areas. In this way, the floods enrich the soils of the delta every year.

- ♦ How do you think will the dams across the rivers affect the delta soils ?
- ♦ Find out the names of some other deltas in India.
- ♦ Find out the names of at least two rivers that join in the Krishna and Godavari.
- ♦ Find out the location of a large dam on the Godavari river.
- ♦ Why is it not possible to construct a large dam in Medak district ?

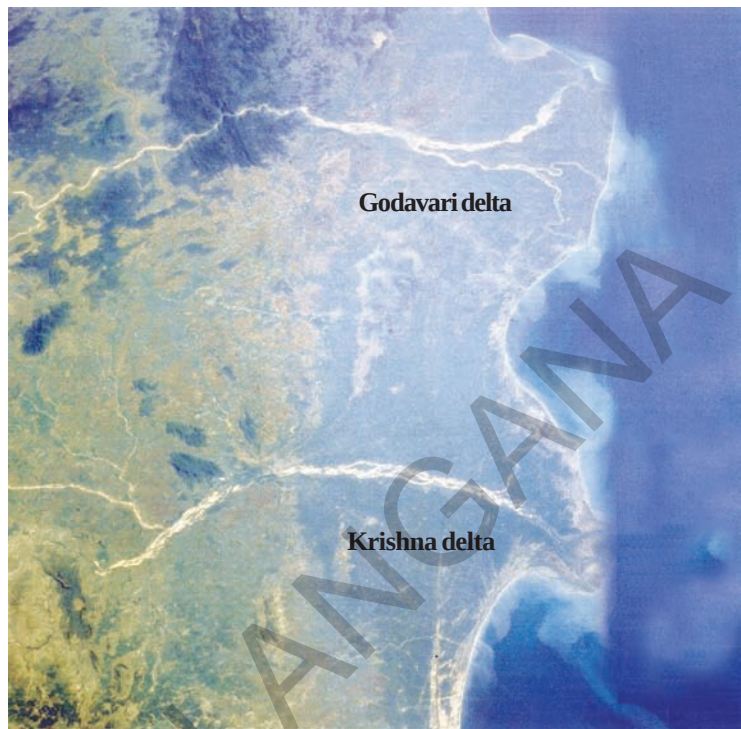


Fig. 3.4: Krishna and Godavari delta, a satellite image

