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Location and Extent of Telangana

Telangana, India's youngest state, was officially formed on June 2, 2014, after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. It is located in the southern part of the country, boasting a rich historical, cultural, and geographical significance. Its strategic location within the Deccan Plateau and

its distinct geographical features make it a vital region for socio-economic development in India.

Geographical Coordinates

Telangana lies between **15°46'N to 19°47'N latitude** and **77°16'E to 81°43'E longitude**. It spans the southeastern part of the Deccan Plateau, making it a landlocked state bordered by five other Indian states.

Area

The total geographical area of Telangana is approximately **112,077 square kilometers**, making it the **12th largest state in India**. This accounts for about 3.42% of the total geographical area of the country.

Boundaries

Telangana shares its borders with five states:

1. **Maharashtra**: Lies to the north and northwest.
2. **Chhattisgarh**: Situated to the northeast.
3. **Odisha**: Borders the extreme eastern tip.
4. **Andhra Pradesh**: Surrounds the south and southeast, following the Krishna River as a natural boundary in several parts.
5. **Karnataka**: Found to the west and southwest.

These borders offer Telangana strategic economic and cultural connectivity with central, western, and southern India.

Physiographic Divisions

Telangana’s terrain can be divided into the following physiographic features:

1. **The Deccan Plateau**:
    - Telangana is part of the peninsular plateau region of India.
    - The land is mostly undulating, interspersed with hills and valleys.
    - Elevation ranges between **300 to 600 meters above sea level**.
2. **Rivers**:
    - The region is predominantly drained by the **Godavari** and **Krishna** rivers.
    - These rivers, along with their tributaries like the **Manjira**, **Musi**, and **Bhima**, form the lifelines of Telangana's agricultural and drinking water supply.
3. **Mountain Ranges**:

- Small hill ranges, like the **Balaghat**, **Nallamala**, and **Ananthagiri Hills**, mark the state's geography.
- These hills are part of the Eastern Ghats and play a crucial role in influencing the climate and biodiversity.

4. **Plains**:
   - Telangana also features expansive plains, particularly in districts like **Hyderabad**, which serve as economic hubs.

Climate

Telangana experiences a tropical climate, primarily dictated by its location in the Deccan Plateau.

1. **Summer (March to June)**:
   - Temperatures can soar up to **45°C**, particularly in May.
2. **Monsoon (June to September)**:
   - Receives rainfall primarily from the **southwest monsoon**, with an annual average rainfall of **750–1150 mm**.
3. **Winter (October to February)**:
   - Pleasant weather, with temperatures ranging from **12°C to 28°C**.

Significance of Location

Telangana's location offers several advantages:

1. **Connectivity**:
   - Central positioning in peninsular India ensures excellent connectivity to major metropolitan areas like Mumbai, Chennai, and Bengaluru.
   - Hyderabad, the capital city, acts as a technological and logistical hub.
2. **Economic Opportunities**:
   - The Krishna-Godavari Basin provides fertile lands and abundant water resources, boosting agriculture and allied industries.
   - The landlocked state's location helps in the development of internal trade routes and industrial corridors.
3. **Biodiversity**:
   - Its geographic position fosters diverse ecosystems, including deciduous forests, rivers, and scrublands, supporting wildlife in reserves like **Kawal Tiger Reserve** and **Amrabad Tiger Reserve**.

Cultural and Historical Context

The strategic location of Telangana has contributed significantly to its rich cultural heritage:

1. **Historical Trade Routes**:

- Telangana was historically a part of the **Satavahana dynasty**, which controlled key trade routes in the Deccan Plateau.
- The **Golconda Fort** near Hyderabad was a vital diamond trade hub during the medieval period.

2. **Hyderabad's Significance**:
   - Centrally located in the state, Hyderabad is a melting pot of north and south Indian cultures.

Economic Zones

Telangana's geography facilitates the establishment of special economic zones (SEZs) for various industries:

1. **Agriculture**:
   - Fertile soil along river plains supports the cultivation of rice, cotton, and maize.
2. **Industries**:
   - The Hyderabad-Warangal Industrial Corridor leverages its central location.
3. **IT Sector**:
   - Hyderabad, known as **Cyberabad**, is a global IT hub due to its strategic connectivity and skilled workforce.

Challenges Related to Location

Despite its advantages, Telangana's location presents certain challenges:

1. **Landlocked Nature**:
   - Absence of direct coastal access limits trade via seaports.
2. **Interstate Water Disputes**:
   - Conflicts over sharing Krishna and Godavari river waters with neighboring states.
3. **Climate Vulnerabilities**:
   - Prolonged dry seasons make Telangana prone to droughts.

Geographical Divisions of Telangana

Telangana, the youngest state in India, is a land of diverse geographical features. From the ancient Deccan Plateau to the fertile river valleys, the state offers a rich tapestry of landscapes. This article delves into the geographical divisions of Telangana, exploring its physical features, climate, and natural resources.

Physiography

Telangana is predominantly situated on the Deccan Plateau, characterized by its undulating terrain, granite formations, and fertile valleys. The state's elevation ranges from 150 meters in the east to 900 meters in the west.

The state can be broadly divided into three physiographic regions:

1. **Telangana Plateau:** This region covers the northern and central parts of the state. It is characterized by its gneissic rocks, gentle slopes, and fertile black cotton soil. The Godavari and Krishna rivers traverse this region, creating fertile valleys.
2. **Golconda Plateau:** Located in the southern part of the state, this region is slightly lower in elevation than the Telangana Plateau. It is characterized by its sandstone and shale formations.
3. **Eastern Ghats:** The discontinuous line of the Eastern Ghats runs along the eastern border of the state. These hills are rich in mineral resources.

Climate

Telangana experiences a predominantly hot and dry climate. The state has three distinct seasons:

1. **Summer (March-May):** This is the hottest season, with temperatures soaring above 40°C. The region experiences hot winds and dry weather.
2. **Monsoon (June-September):** The southwest monsoon brings moderate rainfall to the state. The northern and eastern parts receive higher rainfall compared to the southern and western parts.
3. **Winter (October-February):** This is the most pleasant season, with mild temperatures and low humidity.

Rivers

Telangana is blessed with several rivers that play a crucial role in its agriculture and economy. The major rivers include:

- **Godavari:** The longest river in South India, it flows through the northern part of the state.
- **Krishna:** Another major river, it flows through the central and southern parts of the state.
- **Manjira:** A tributary of the Godavari, it is an important source of irrigation.
- **Musi:** This river flows through Hyderabad, the state capital.

Forests

Forests cover about 24% of Telangana's geographical area. The state has diverse forest types, including:

- **Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests:** These are the most common type, found in the plateau regions.
- **Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests:** Found in areas with higher rainfall.
- **Thorn Forests:** Found in the drier parts of the state.