

# Lakes in India

## Introduction

- A lake is an area filled with water, localized in a basin, surrounded by land, apart from any river or other outlet that serves to feed or drain the lake.
- Lakes lie on land and are not part of the ocean, although like the much larger oceans, they form part of earth's water cycle.
- Lakes are distinct from lagoons which are generally coastal parts of the ocean.
- Lakes can be contrasted with rivers or streams, which are usually flowing in a channel on land.
- Most lakes are fed and drained by rivers and streams.

## Types of lake

- Lakes are classified based on how they have formed and the quality of water.
- Tectonic lakes
- Volcanic lakes
- Oxbow Lake
- Glacial Lake
- Lagoon
- Artificial Lake

## Oxbow lakes

- An oxbow lake is a U-shaped lake that forms when a wide meander of a river is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water.
- Formed due to the depositional and erosional activities of the River.
- Example – Kanwar lake in Bihar.

## Tectonic lakes

- These lakes are formed due to the folding and faulting of plates in earth's Crust.
- Example - Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Tso Moriri and Pangong Tso (Ladakh)

## Volcanic lakes

- During a volcanic explosion the top of the cone may be blown off leaving behind a natural hollow called a crater.
- This may be enlarged by subsidence into a caldera.
- In dormant or extinct volcanoes, rain falls into the caldera which has no superficial outlet & forms a crater or caldera lake.
- Example - Lonar in Maharashtra and Krakatao in Indonesia.

