

The Northern Plains

What is a Plain?

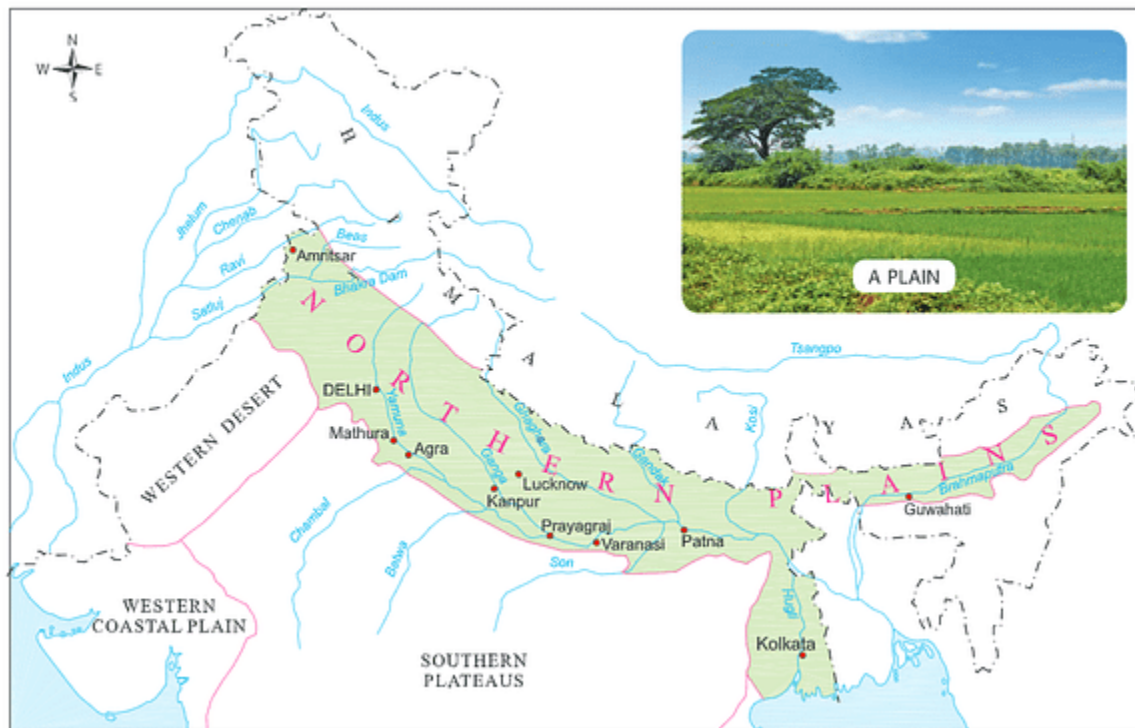
A flat and level land is called a plain.

The plains of India include

- The Northern Plains and,
- The Coastal Plains

What are Northern Plains?

The Northern Plains are an important physical division of India. It is also known as Indo - Gangetic plains.



Location of the Northern Plains

- The Northern Plain is one of the largest and most fertile plains of India. It is one of the World's most intensively farmed areas.
- They are located between the Himalayan rivers in the north and the Peninsular Plateau in the south.

How are The Northern Plains Formed?

The Northern Plains are made up of two river basins.

- The basin in the west is watered by Indus and its tributaries. The eastern basin is watered by the river Ganga and its tributaries, and the Brahmaputra.



Rivers of Northern Plain

- The plain is the result of the deposit of soil carried by the rivers Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, and their tributaries.



A smaller river that flows into a bigger river is the tributary of the bigger river.

Importance of Northern Plains

The Northern Plains region is one of the most fertile regions of our country.

- This region supplies food grains to many of the central and southern states.
- The fertility of the soil in the basins differs due to many factors.



In Northern Plains, most farmers use tractors to plow their fields.

- Some of the factors are the distance from the rivers, rainfall during monsoons, and the height from the sea.
- Generally, the Great Northern Plains are fertile, densely populated, and are the basins of Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, and their tributaries. Indus, Ganga, Yamuna and Brahmaputra originate in the Himalayas.
- It is interesting to know that most names of Indian rivers are feminine but Brahmaputra is masculine.
- Some of the well-known ancient cities are situated on the bank of these rivers especially on the bank of the river Ganga.
- Rishikesh, Haridwar, Prayag, Allahabad, Varanasi, Pataliputra, and Kolkata are some prominent out of them.



Parts of the Great Northern Plain

It is interesting to note that the Great Northern Plain can be broadly studied in four parts. These are

1. Western Plain
2. North Central Plain
3. Eastern Plain
4. Brahmaputra Plain

Western Plain: Rajasthan

- Western Plains cover the Rajasthan Desert and the land area west of the Aravali ranges.
- Rajasthan is called the land of colors and is very rich in Culture and Heritage.



Rajasthan is part of Western Plain and is rich in culture & heritage. It is also famous for Rajasthani Puppets.

- The earlier western plain was the basin of the perennial rivers Saraswati and Drishadvati.
- These rivers have disappeared from the surface but it is said that the river Saraswati runs under the surface and joins the river Ganga at Prayaga.
- The famous salt lake of Sambhar is situated on this plain.

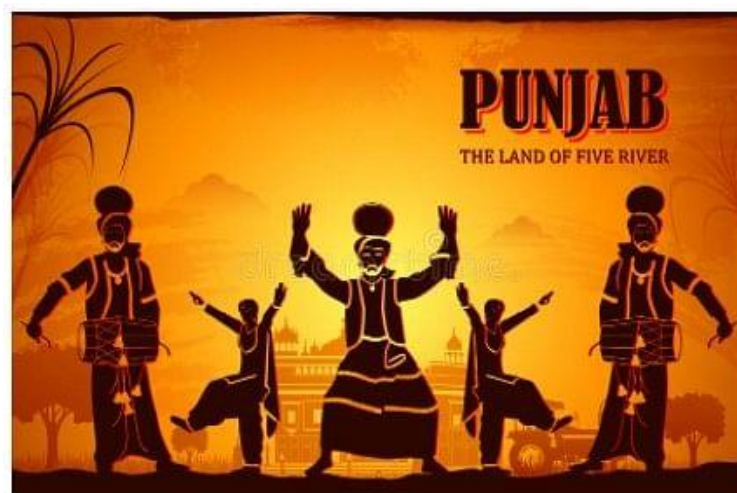


Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan

- This region includes the fertile area of Bikaner.

North Central Plain: Punjab, Haryana & UP

- North Central Plain includes Punjab, Haryana, and part of Uttar Pradesh.
- Plain of Punjab and Haryana is the basin of the rivers Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi.



Punjab is part of North Central Plains and is called The Land of Five Rivers

- These rivers originate from Tibet from the nearby region of Mansarovar lake.
- The plain in Uttar Pradesh is the basin of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna and their tributaries.
- Ganga and Yamuna originate from Gangotri and Yamunotri respectively. The North Central Plain is a very fertile plain.
- Main occupation of people of this region is agriculture. Population density is very high.

Eastern Plain: Bihar & West Bengal

- This covers the middle part of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal up to the Delta of Hooghly.



Darjeeling in West Bengal which is a part of Eastern Plain is famous for its tea gardens.

- It is the basin of the river Ganga and its tributaries.
- The Eastern plain is very fertile.
- It faces floods almost every year and the West Bengal region gets heavy rainfall. Population density is very high.

Brahmaputra Plain: Bangladesh

- This plain is formed by the alluvium brought down by the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- The rivers get flooded frequently and keep on changing their path.
- Therefore, they form many islands. Bangladesh is situated on this plain. Brahmaputra plain is also very fertile. It is densely populated.

Ganga Brahmaputra Delta

- By the time a river reaches its end, it has lots of sediment. This sediment settles down and makes the river split into many channels or distributaries.
- In between these distributaries, triangular-shaped islands are formed.
- These are called Delta because they resemble a triangle(Δ).
- The Ganga- Brahmaputra delta is called as Sunderban.



Wildlife in Sunderbans

Word Meaning

Alluvium – Fine soil brought down by the rivers and spread along the banks.

Tributaries – Rivers joining another big river. [Yamuna is a tributary of Ganga]

Basin – Region watered by a river.

Delta – Triangular shaped region formed between the channels of a river near its mouth.

Sediment – Solid material at the water bed.

Keep in Mind!

The northern plains extend from Punjab in the west to West Bengal in the east.

The plains are irrigated by Ganga and its tributaries and Brahmaputra rivers.

The plains have been the cradle of ancient Indian civilization.

The plains are the most populous and fertile regions.

Ganga is the holy river of the Hindus. But it is now polluted by waste flowing into it from big cities and industrial towns.