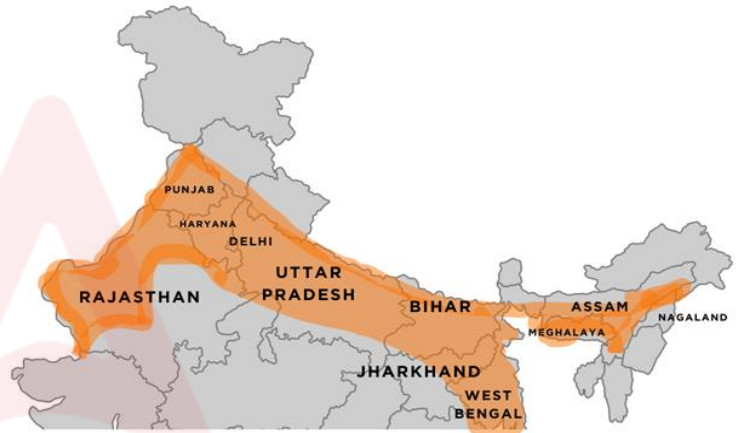


One Liner Shots (The Northern Plains)

One liner shots

THE NORTHERN PLAINS



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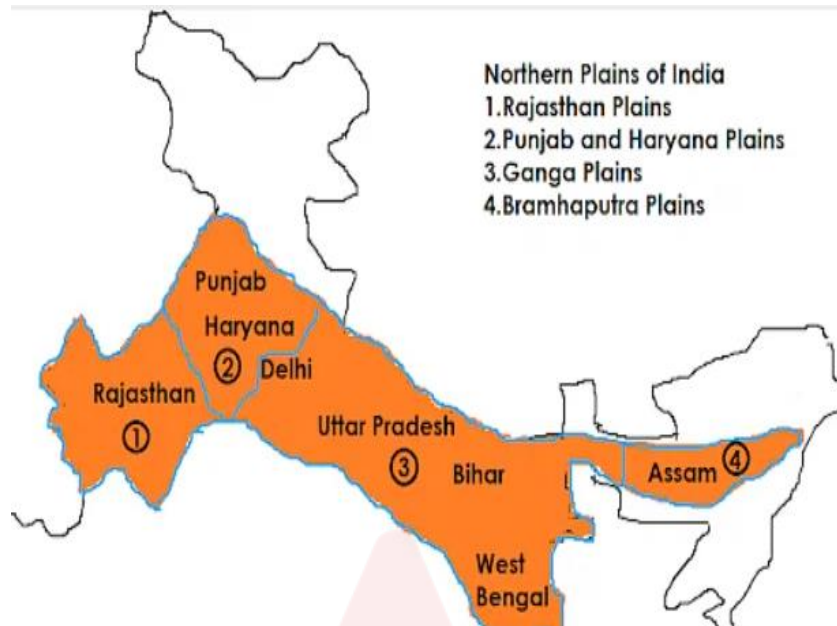
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What is “Northern Plains”?

The northern plains are formed by the **alluvial deposits** of the 3 major river systems of **the Indus, the Ganga, and the Brahmaputra**, along with their tributaries. This plain is completely formed of **alluvial soil**. Hence, the Northern plains are very fertile and are best suited for agricultural activities. These are densely populated because of their fertile lands and economic agricultural activities.

One Liner Facts About Northern Plains

- Northern plains are the youngest physiographic feature in India. They lie to the south of the Shivaliks.
- The southern boundary is a wavy, irregular line along the northern edge of Peninsular India.
- On the eastern side, the plains are bordered by the Purvanchal hills.
- The northern plain of India is formed by three river systems, i.e. the Indus, the Ganga, and the Brahmaputra, along with their tributaries.



- The northern plains are the largest alluvial tract of the world. These plains extend approximately 3200 km from west to east.
- The average width of these plains varies between 150 and 300 km. In general, the width of the northern plains increases from east to west (90-100km in Assam to about 500km in Punjab).
- Northern Plains can be divided into 3 parts-

→ Punjab plains

- ❖ This plain is formed by five important rivers of the Indus system.
- ❖ The plain is primarily made up of 'doabs' —the land between two rivers.
- ❖ Punjab literally means "The Land of Five Waters," referring to the following rivers: the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas.
- ❖ The northern part of this plain (Shiwalik Hills) has been intensively eroded by numerous streams called **Chos**. It has led to enormous gulying [Arid Landforms].
- ❖ The area between the Ghaggar and the Yamuna rivers lies in Haryana and is often termed the '**Haryana Tract**'.
- ❖ 5 Doabs from east to west in the Punjab region are **Bist Doab, Bari Doab, Rachna Doab, Chal/ Jech Doab and Sindh Sagar Doab**.

→ Ganga Plains

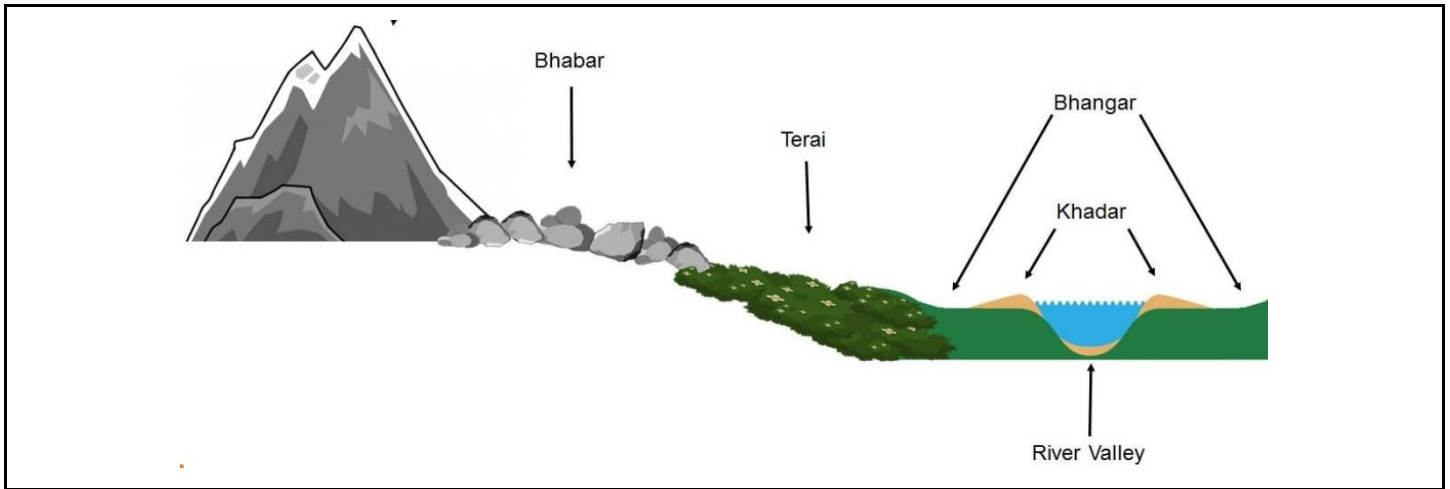
- ❖ It is located between the Yamuna catchment in the west and the Bangladesh border in the east.
- ❖ The Ganga Plain is the largest unit of the Great Plains (stretching from Delhi to Kolkata).
- ❖ The peninsular rivers, such as Chambal, Betwa, Ken, Son, etc., joining the Ganga river system have also contributed to the formation of this plain alongside the Ganga and its tributaries.
- ❖ Fluvial and Arid landforms like levees, bluffs, oxbow lakes, marshes, and ravines can be seen here.

- ❖ Almost all of the rivers are constantly changing their courses, making this area vulnerable to flooding. In this regard, the **Kosi River** is well-known. It's been dubbed the '**Sorrow of Bihar**' for a long time.
- ❖ The **Ganga-Brahmaputra delta** is the world's largest delta.
- ❖ The Sundarban, or tidal forests, cover a large portion of the coastal delta.
- ❖ Bhabar, Tarai, Bhangar, Khadar, levees, abandoned courses, and other topographical variations can be found in these plains.
- ❖ This plain can be further subdivided into **3** divisions: (a) The Upper Ganga Plain, (b) The Middle Ganga Plain and (c) The Lower Ganga Plain.

→ **Brahmaputra Plains**

- ❖ It is also called the **Brahmaputra Valley Assam Valley, or Assam Plain**, as most of the Brahmaputra Valley is situated in Assam.
- ❖ The Indo-Bangladesh border and the boundary of the lower Ganga Plain form the western boundary.
- ❖ Purvanchal hills form its eastern boundary.
- ❖ It is an aggregational plain built up by the depositional work of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- ❖ Many **bill and oxbow lakes** Are formed in this region.
- ❖ There are large marshy tracts in this area.
- ❖ The coarse alluvial debris forms the alluvial fans. These have led to the formation of **terai or semi-terai** conditions.

TOPOGRAPHICAL VARIATIONS			
Bhabar	Terai	Bhangar	Khadar
Bhabar is the northern border region of the Gangetic Plain along the foothills of the Himalayas. The main soil components here are sand and gravel. The soil in this region is porous. The Bhabar belt is narrow in the east and wide in the western and northwestern hilly regions.	The Terai belt lies to the south of the Bhabar, where most of the streams and rivers re-emerged. Its swampy and marshy environments further characterize Terai. This area has a growth of natural vegetation. Also, Terai is home to a diverse wildlife.	The remote areas of river basins, which are made up of ancient alluvium, are called Bhangar.	Areas along the banks of river basins, which are composed of fresh alluvium, are called khadar. The fertile plains formed by new alluvium lie to the south of the Terai.



Please Note:

1. The region lying to the west of the **Bagar** region in Rajasthan is known as **Rohi**. A number of small rivers or streams rise in the Aravalli range and flow westwards through the desert region. The streams/riverbeds remain dry for most of the time in the year but get flooded during the monsoons.
2. **Bihar** has several wetlands parallel to the Ganges. They are called **Kaur** and **Tal** in the local languages of North and South Bihar, respectively.
3. **Bhur** is a small visible sandbar on the western side of the plain.

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