

THE NORTHERN PLAINS



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The Northern Plains are located between south of the Himalayas and north of the Peninsular plateau. It is formed by the deposition of the sediments brought by three main river systems namely: the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. From Punjab in the west to Assam in the east, this plain is about 2400 km long. Its width varies from about 300 km in the west to about 150 km in the east. It mainly includes the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam. This plain is very fertile due to alluvial sediments brought by the rivers from the Himalayas. This plain is one of the largest and most fertile plains of the world. Major crops such as wheat, rice, sugarcane, pulses, oil seeds and jute are grown here. Due to proper irrigation, the plain makes significant contribution in the production of food grains. The Northern plain is broadly divided into two parts :

THE WESTERN PLAIN

This plain is formed by the river system of the Indus. It lies to the west of Aravalis. This plain is formed due to deposits brought by the rivers like the Sutluj, the Beas and the Ravi. This part of the plain has doabs.

THE GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA PLAIN

It is also formed by the deposition of the sediments brought by two main river systems, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. The early civilizations like Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa also called river valley civilizations were spread over plain areas. This is because of the availability of fertile land and water through the river networks.



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