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The Northern Plains



The Northern Plains lie between the Himalayas and the Southern Peninsula

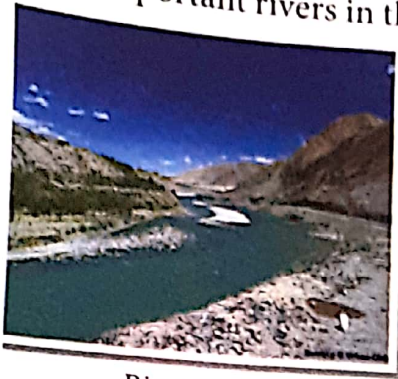
greater part of northern India is occupied by Northern Plains. It is located towards south of Northern Mountains. It is a flat and levelled m.

region stretches from Punjab in the West to m in the East. Many rivers originating from Himalayas flow through these plains. These s irrigate the fields throughout the year. The s also carry small pieces of rocks, sand and silt. silt that gets deposited is known as alluvium. ial soil is excellent for the growth of crops.

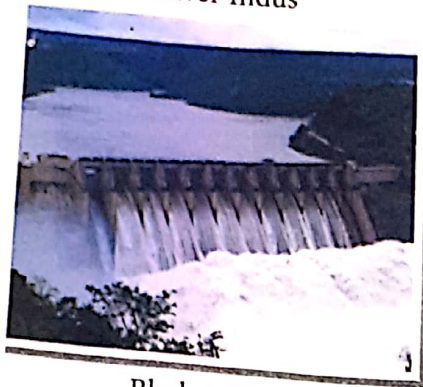


The Northern Mountains

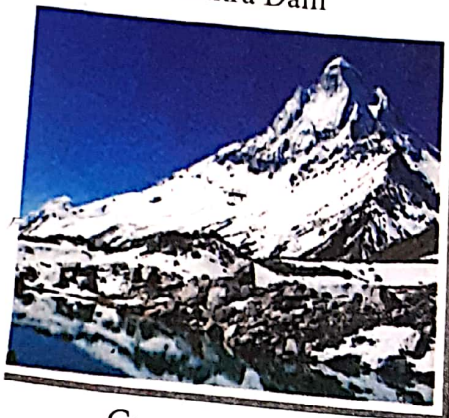
The area that gets water through a river and its **tributaries** is called its **basin**. Three important rivers in the northern plains are the **Satluj**, **Ganga** and **Brahmaputra**.



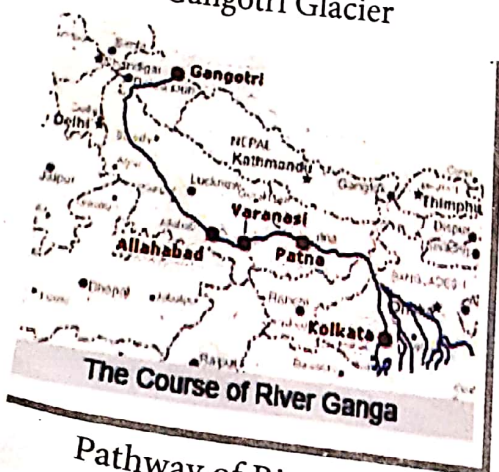
River Indus



Bhakra Dam



Gangotri Glacier



Pathway of River Ganga

The Satluj River Basin

The main tributary of the Satluj river is **Beas**. The **Satluj** and **Beas** merge with the **Indus** river in **Pakistan**. **Punjab** and **Haryana** are the main states that get water from the Satluj.

The **Bhakra Dam**, built across the **Satluj**, helps generate **hydro-electricity**. The water of this dam is also used for irrigating the fields.

The Ganga River Basin

River Ganga has its origin in the **Gangotri glacier** in the **Himalaya** mountains. The main tributary of Ganga is the **Yamuna**.

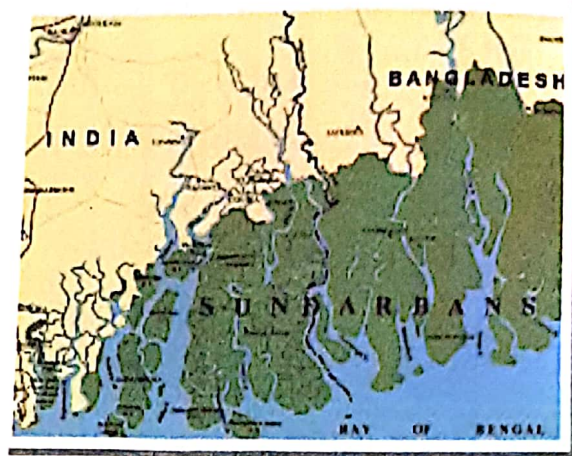
The Ganga and the Yamuna meet near **Allahabad**. This place is called the **sangam**. The Ganga and its tributaries flow across the northern plains.

The Ganga flows swiftly in the mountains and enters the plains at **Haridwar**. The other rivers that flow through the Himalayas and unite with the Ganga are **Ghaghara**, **Gomti**, **Gandak** and **Kosi**. The rivers that unite with the Ganga from the South are **Chambal**, **Sind**, **Betwa** and **Son**.

The Ganga flows through **Uttar Pradesh**, **Uttarakhand**, **Bihar** and **West Bengal**. On entering **West Bengal**, the Ganga splits into two parts. One part reaches **Bangladesh** and is known as the **Padma**. The **Padma** unites with **Brahmaputra**. In India, it is known as **Hugli**. **Kolkata** lies on the banks of the **Hugli**.

The Brahmaputra River Basin

The Brahmaputra has its origin in Tibet where it is known as **Tsangpo**. This river after taking a sharp turn enters India through Arunachal Pradesh and flows through Assam. It then reaches Bangladesh. The Brahmaputra and the Ganga form the biggest delta in the world by splitting into many streams. This is known as the **Sunderban Delta**. From here, the waters merge with the Bay of Bengal.



Sunderbans

Life in the Northern Plains

The states that are part of the northern plains are Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and some areas of Assam and Tripura.

Punjab

The main rivers flowing through Punjab are **Satluj**, **Beas** and **Ravi**. They provide water for irrigation. The main crops grown are wheat, rice and sugarcane.

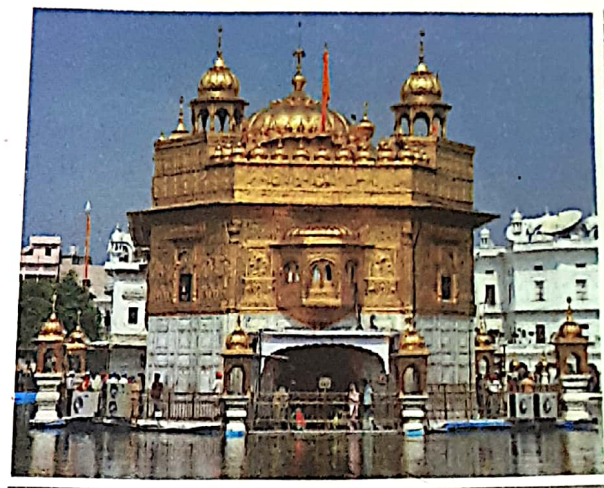
The capital of Punjab is **Chandigarh**. It is a well planned city. The **Rock Garden** of Chandigarh is very famous. The other big city is Amritsar. It is famous for the **Golden Temple**.

Some other big cities are **Jalandhar**, **Ludhiana** and **Patiala**.

The main festivals celebrated here are **Gurpuarb**, **Holi**, **Diwali**, **Baisakhi** and **Lohri**.

The languages spoken here are **Punjabi** and **Hindi**. **Bhangra** and **Gidda** are the popular folk dances of Punjab.

The famous food items are **Makki ki roti**, **Sarson ka saag**, **Rajma**, **Chholey**, **Dal** and **Lassi**.



The Golden Temple of Amritsar



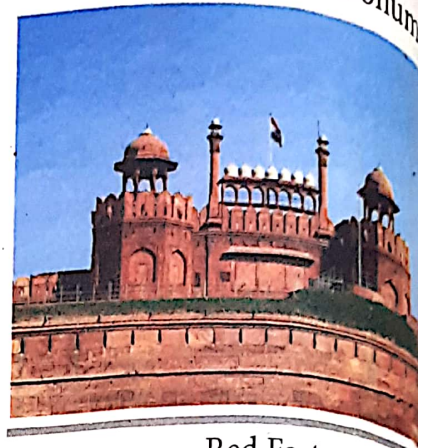
Rock Garden, Chandigarh

Haryana

Haryana is situated to the south of Punjab. Its capital is **Chandigarh**. Yamuna and Satluj are the two main rivers. The main crops are wheat, rice and sugarcane. Farmers use tractors, tubewells and water pumps. Some people rear cattle and engage in farming. People speak **Haryanvi** and Hindi.

Delhi

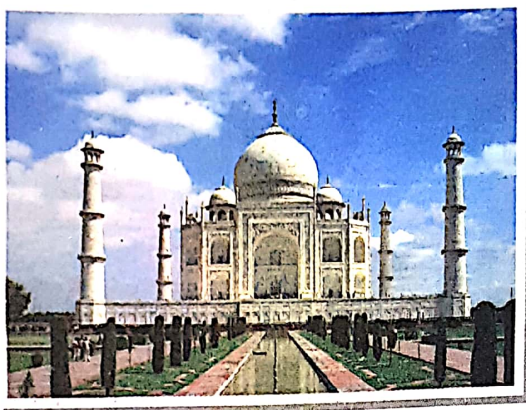
New Delhi is the capital of India. It is a historic city with many popular monuments, including the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, India Gate, Qutub Minar, Gurudwara Sisganj, Lotus Temple, Jantar Mantar and Akshardham Temple. All major Indian festivals are celebrated here.



Red Fort

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is a big state. It is densely populated. Its capital is **Lucknow**. Some other big cities are



Taj Mahal

Varanasi, Allahabad, Kanpur, Agra and Meerut.

The major crops of this state are wheat, rice, sugarcane, pulses and oil seeds. Hindi and Urdu are spoken here. People celebrate Holi, Diwali, Christmas here.

Bihar

Bihar is the birthplace of two great souls – Gautam Buddha and Mahavira. The capital of Bihar is **Patna**.

The farmers grow jute, wheat, rice, and sugarcane. The languages spoken here are Hindi and Urdu. People celebrate Holi, Diwali, Eid and Chhath.



Gautam Buddha

Social Studies

West Bengal

The capital of West Bengal is **Kolkata**. It was earlier known as **Calcutta**. The plains of this state are very fertile because of the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. The two main crops grown here are rice and jute. People make ropes, bags and carpets from jute.

Bangla is the main language spoken here. Bengalis are fond of painting, music, dance, drama and literature. The most popular festival is **Durga Puja**. It is the only state which has coastal plains and high mountains. Darjeeling in the Himalayas, is a hill station. It is famous for tea gardens. You can travel in the toy train here.



Durga Puja



Bihu Celebration

Assam

The capital of Assam is **Dispur** but the largest city is **Guwahati**. River Brahmaputra has made Assam very fertile. The two main crops grown here are rice, jute and tea.

People grow tea on the slopes of the hills. The main language spoken here is **Assamese**. The most popular festival is **Bihu**.

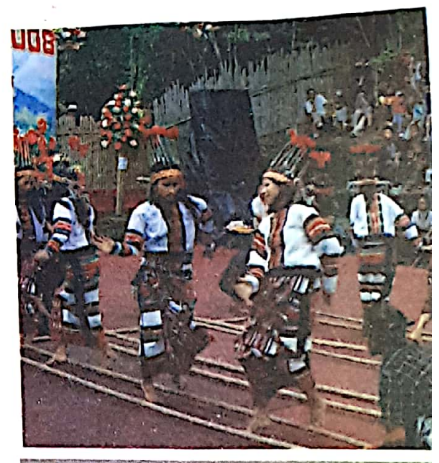
Tripura

The capital of Tripura is **Agartala**. This state shares its boundary with Bangladesh on three sides.

The two main crops are rice and jute. People grow **bamboo**, which is used for making handicrafts. Like sitalpolti (mats), baskets and furniture, sericulture industry is developing very fast.



A Small Handicraft and Handloom Industry in Tripura



Bamboo Dance of Tripura

- **Irrigate** – To water crops.
- **Basin** – Region around a major river.
- **Tributary** – A small river that merges with a large river.
- **Alluvium** – Fertile soil brought by rivers.
- **Sericulture** – Rearing of silkworms; a commercial scale to obtain silk.

Quick Glance

- The Northern Plains occupy the greater part of northern India.
- The three important rivers in the northern plains are Satluj, Ganga and Brahmaputra.
- The Bhakra Dam has been built across the Satluj river.
- The three main rivers that flow through Punjab are Satluj, Beas and Ravi.

Question Bag

A. Brain Game:

Guess my name?

1. I generate electricity with the water of Satluj.
2. I am the point where the Ganga and the Yamuna merge.
3. I am a folk dance of Punjab.
4. I am the most famous festival of Assam.
5. I am the capital of Tripura.

Bhakra
Sampriti
Giddha
Bihu
Agartala

B. Multiple Choice Questions:

1. The main tributary of the Satluj river is:
 (a) Indus ☐ (b) Ganga ☐ (c) Beas ☐
2. The capital of Assam is:
 (a) Dispur ☐ (b) Imphal ☒ (c) Agartala ☐
3. The Golden Temple is situated in:
 (a) Jalandhar ☐ (b) Amritsar ☐ (c) Patiala ☒

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Take clues from the box and fill in the blanks:

Dense

Durga Puja

Beas

West Bengal

Chandigarh

1. The main tributary of the Satluj river is Beas.
2. The capital city of Punjab and Haryana is Chandigarh.
3. Uttar Pradesh is a big state with dense population.
4. The capital of West Bengal is Kolkata.
5. The most famous festival of West Bengal is Durga Puja.

Answer the following questions.

1. Which area is covered by the northern plains?

2. Which river is the main tributary of River Ganga?

3. Name the two great souls born in Bihar.

4. Which is the biggest delta in the world?



Reality Check

map of India, mark the rivers and states re located in the Northern Plains of India. write the main rivers of India in the given space.

