

# Plateaus & Plains of India – SSC Notes

## 1. Plateaus of India

- **Definition:** Elevated flat lands with steep edges, usually 300–1000 m above sea level
- **Formation:** Mostly Peninsular India – old volcanic and crystalline rocks
- **Types of Plateaus:** Peninsular, Intermontane

### ◆ Major Plateaus

#### 1. Deccan Plateau

- **Location:** Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
- **Bounded by:** Western Ghats (West), Eastern Ghats (East)
- **Rivers:** Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri
- **Features:** Volcanic rocks, black soil → cotton cultivation
- **Highest Peak:** Anamudi (Kerala)

#### 2. Chotanagpur Plateau

- **Location:** Jharkhand, parts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar
- **Rivers:** Damodar, Subarnarekha
- **Minerals:** Coal, Iron, Mica, Copper
- **Features:** Rich in minerals, industrial belt

#### 3. Malwa Plateau

- **Location:** Western & Central Madhya Pradesh
- **Rivers:** Chambal, Sindh, Betwa
- **Soil:** Fertile black soil → wheat cultivation

#### 4. Rajasthan / Marwar Plateau

- **Location:** Western Rajasthan
- **Features:** Arid, sandy, desert edges, sparse vegetation

#### 5. Eastern Plateaus

- **Meghalaya Plateau** → Hills & valleys, rich rainfall
- **Karbi Anglong Plateau** → Assam, hilly terrain

### ◆ Important SSC Points – Plateaus

- Deccan Plateau → Black soil, cotton
- Chotanagpur → Mineral-rich → Coal + Iron
- Malwa Plateau → Wheat cultivation
- Oldest landforms → Peninsular plateau

## 2. Plains of India

- **Definition:** Low-lying flat lands formed by alluvial deposits of rivers
- **Importance:** Agriculture, settlement, transportation

### ◆ Types of Plains

#### 1. Northern Plains / Indo-Gangetic Plains

- **Location:** Punjab → West Bengal → Bangladesh
  - **Rivers:** Indus, Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra
  - **Soil:** Alluvial → Fertile → Rice, Wheat, Sugarcane
  - **Sub-divisions:** Punjab Plains, Ganga Plains, Brahmaputra Plains
2. **Coastal Plains**
- **Eastern Coastal Plains** → Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri deltas → Wide & fertile
  - **Western Coastal Plains** → Konkan, Malabar, Kanara → Narrow & hilly
  - **Features:** Fishing, ports, coconut & paddy cultivation
3. **Deltaic Plains**
- **Formed by river deposits at mouths**
  - **Examples:** Sundarbans (Ganga-Brahmaputra), Mahanadi Delta
  - **Features:** Fertile, prone to floods
4. **Other Plains**
- **Thar Desert Plains** → Sandy, arid, Rajasthan
  - **Punjab Plains** → Fertile alluvial soil → Green revolution hub
  - **Brahmaputra Valley** → Flood-prone, fertile, Assam

### ◆ Important SSC Points – Plains

- **Northern Plains** → Most fertile & densely populated
- **Coastal Plains** → Narrow in West, Wide in East
- **Major Rivers** → Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri
- **Floodplains** → Alluvial soil → Agriculture hub

### Quick Facts

- **Highest Plateau:** Deccan Plateau → Anamudi (2695 m)
- **Oldest Mountains form plateaus:** Peninsular Plateau
- **Fertile Northern Plains** → Agriculture hub of India
- **Eastern Plateaus** → Meghalaya Plateau & Karbi Anglong → Hilly & rainfall-rich