

Meghalaya Board
Class IX
Social Studies
Sample Paper 1 – Solution

SECTION A

History

1. (a) The Social Contract theory was conceptualised by Rousseau.
(b) Robert Owen was an English manufacturer who sought to build a cooperative community called New Harmony in Indiana (USA).
(c) Alluri Sitaraman Raju, a famous tribal belonged to the state of Andhra Pradesh.

2. (a) Tithes', levied on the peasants in the French society was a type of religious tax.
(b) Opium was introduced by the Portuguese into China in the early sixteenth century.
(c) Dietrich Brandis was appointed as the first Inspector General of Forests in India.

3. (a) European foresters regarded shifting cultivation harmful for the forests because they felt that the land which was used for cultivation every few years could not grow trees for railway timber. Besides, the burning of trees may result in spreading of fire into the forest destroying valuable timber.

(b) The triangular slave trade was conducted between Europe, Africa and the Americas. Since the 17th century, French merchants travelled from the ports of Bordeaux and Nantes to Africa where they bought slaves from the local chieftains. From there, the slaves were branded, shackled and sent off to the Caribbean to be sold off to the plantation owners. Such exploitation of the slaves from Africa made it possible for the European markets to flourish with commodities like sugar, indigo and coffee.

(c) Robert Owen was known as the 'Father of British Socialism'. He was a British entrepreneur who owned a cotton mill in Scotland. He believed in Socialist ideas and even showed the conviction to act on them. He reduced his workers' working hours, paid them fairly good wages and even helped the trade union movement to grow. As a result of these actions of his, Robert Owen is called 'The Father of British Socialism'.

(d) Problems which were faced by opium cultivators in India were

Sample Paper 1 – Solution

- (i) Opium could be grown only on fertile lands which meant that instead of growing food crops such as wheat and pulses, the farmers had to grow opium. The cultivation of food crops was then shifted to lands of inferior quality which yielded in low and poor harvests.
- (ii) The British paid very low prices for opium to the farmers. Because the British government established its monopoly over opium trade in many regions, the farmers had to sell opium to them at extremely low prices fixed by the government.
- (e) Scientific forestry deals with the conservation and management of forests on scientific lines. In scientific forestry, various species of trees in forests are cut down and are replaced by one type of tree. Trees are planted in straight rows. The forest officials undertake the survey of forests and formulate working plans for forest management. Trees which are cut every year are then replanted in a planned manner.
- (f) The period from 1793 to 1794 was referred to as the 'Reign of Terror' because of the following reasons:
- (i) Maximilian Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment. Any person who did not agree with his policies was guillotined.
 - (ii) Robespierre's government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices. Peasants were forced to sell their grains at prices fixed by the government.
- 4. (a)** In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, the British countryside changed dramatically. Prior to the eighteenth century, England had many open fields and common lands. These open fields belonged to the villages and were not held privately by the landlords. All villagers had access to these lands. Peasants could collect fruits, berries, hunt and collect fishes from rivers and lakes which were located in the vicinity of the common lands. This helped them to earn additional income during the time of bad harvests. However, from sixteenth century onwards, as the prices of wool began to increase, many landlords began to enclose their lands. This was done to improve the breeding of their sheep. The process of land enclosure was slow during this time. By late eighteenth century, the enclosure movement began to grow rapidly and several laws were passed by the Parliament to legalise the enclosure of lands. This was done to bring more land under cultivation. Thus while the British countryside presented the scene of many open fields prior to the eighteenth century, lands in the late eighteenth century began to be enclosed leading to the expansion of cultivation.
- (b)** The people of Bastar started a revolt against the British because the government proposed to reserve two-thirds of the forest in 1905, and stop shifting cultivation, hunting and collection of forest produce. Tribals also suffered from increased land rents and frequent demands of free labour and

Sample Paper 1 – Solution

goods by colonial officials. The rebellion was initiated by the Dhurwas of the Kanger forest. An important figure of the movement was Gunda Dhur from village Nethanar. The message of the rebellion was spread through the circulation of mango boughs, a lump of earth, chilies and arrows. Each village contributed towards the expenses related to the rebellion. Tribals of Bastar attacked all symbols of the colonial state power and its oppressive laws. The British Government responded with brutal repression. As the government troops unleashed a campaign of violent retribution, the tribals fled into the jungle. Gunda Dhur was never captured. Work on reservation was stalled temporarily and when it was resumed, the area had been reduced roughly to half the size planned before 1910.

(c) Since the government wanted to transform all grazing lands into the agricultural lands to increase their revenues, the pastoralist lands were converted into agricultural lands. Thus the pastoralist lands shrank considerably. Various Forest Acts were passed in the nineteenth century. These Acts declared many forests as reserved forests. Further, the pastoralist had to take permission from the government to graze their cattle in the protected forests. The movements of the pastoral communities were thus restricted, regulated and watched over. They could not spend more than the stipulated number of days that were granted to them in the forests. Imposition of restrictions on the grazing lands created a shortage of forage for animals. The problem became acute during famines where animals died in large numbers. The British government taxed almost every commodity in order to increase its revenues. So taxes were imposed even on cattle. Pastoralists had to pay taxes on every animal that grazed in the pastures. As a result, the number of cattle possessed by them drastically reduced. Some pastoralists were able to cope up with colonial changes. While some reduced the number of cattle that they owned, some discovered new grazing lands. Rich pastoralists brought lands and settled at one place. However, many poor pastoralists got into the vicious cycle of debt and lost their cattle.

(d) The political conditions in France were on the boil in the summer of 1789. While the members of the National Assembly were deliberating the provisions of a Constitution, the rest of the France was seething with discontent. A severe winter had entailed a bad harvest which had in turn resulted in a steep increase in the price of bread. The bakers were exploiting this situation to their benefit by hoarding supplies. However, on 14 July 1789, things took a violent turn. After waiting for long hours in queues at a bakery, a crowd of angry women began storming into shops. At the same time, the king of France ordered the royal troops to move into Paris. As a result, the agitated crowd went berserk and stormed and destroyed the Bastille prison.

(e) Industrial revolution had a great impact on the European society. This can be explained as

1. Many peasants and landless labourers came along with their families to industrial cities in search of a livelihood. Men, women and even children were employed in factories.

Sample Paper 1 – Solution

2. The workers were paid low wages even after working for longer hours.
3. Many people migrated from rural areas to cities. The cities, thus, faced the problem of overpopulation owing to its limited housing and sanitation facilities.
4. Workers often lived in congested, crowded and unhygienic, disease-prone areas.
5. The Industrial Revolution widened the economic gap in the society. While the rich earned profits and became wealthy, the poor became destitute as they were paid extremely low wages.

(f) There was a phenomenal increase in grain production of America. Vast chunks of lands in America were brought under cultivation. As prairies were covered with thick grass, it was difficult to plow the lands with simple ploughs. Thus, various technological innovations took place in order to clear lands. To clear grass, many new ploughs up to 12 feet long were devised. By the beginning of the twentieth century, farmers began to use tractors which helped them to clear lands for agriculture. In 1831, Cyrus McCormick invented the mechanical reaper. It could cut large crops in large quantities. Later, the use of combine harvesters, further, speeded up the process of grain harvesting. The use of these devices and machines resulted in production of crops on a large scale within a stipulated period of time.

**SECTION II
CIVICS**

5. (a) Preamble is regarded as the soul of the Indian Constitution.
(b) Rajya Sabha can delay laws related to money matters by 14 days.
(c) The Supreme Court has the power to interpret the Constitution of the country.
6. (a) Saudi Arabia has a monarchial form of government.
(b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly.
(c) The President is the head of the Indian state.
7. (a) Yes, democracy is a better and a preferable form of governance because of the following reasons:
 - In a democracy, the leaders are elected by the people of the country. Thus, they represent the wishes and aspirations of the people of the nation.
 - A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government as leaders of the country have to attend to the needs of the people.

Sample Paper 1 – Solution

(b) The following are different aspects of the Right to Constitutional Remedies guaranteed by the Constitution of India:

- Article 32 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the Right to Constitutional Remedies to Indian citizens. This right allows citizens to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of the other Fundamental Rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution. Due to its importance, Dr. Ambedkar had called Article 32 as the 'heart and soul of the Constitution'.
- Under this article, the Supreme Court and the High Courts can issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights. A writ is a formal written order, issued by the Supreme Court and the High Courts to provide legal remedies to individuals who do not obtain adequate protection under ordinary laws.

(c) Two reasons which prove that elections in India are democratic are:

- Elections in India are conducted and supervised by the Election Commission in India. It is a powerful and an independent body which supervises the electoral procedure in the country. It may punish a candidate for violating the code of conduct and prevent the misuse of the government's power to win elections.
- In India, free and fair elections are held under the supervision of the Election Commission. If it finds that polling was not fair in some constituency, the Election Commission can order fresh polling.

(d) Elections are held in democracies to enable people to choose their own representatives. In any democratic country, all citizens neither have the time nor the knowledge to participate in law-making process. Besides, because of large populations, it is not possible for the people to frame laws for themselves. Thus, elections are held in every democratic country.

(e) The power of Supreme Court and high courts to review the laws enacted by the legislature whether the laws are in accordance to the Constitution is known as the Judicial Review. The Supreme Court and the High Court can declare law null and void if it violate any provision of the Constitution.

(f) Two Cultural and educational rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India are

- The minority community has the right to preserve its culture, language and script.
- Admission to any government educational institutions cannot be denied to any citizen on the basis of language or religion

8. (a) Popular governments may be undemocratic. It is because popularly elected governments may use its power and authority to influence means of mass communications such as newspapers and television to give only good reports about the working of the government. Elected governments may also use the power of the state for the local and national rig elections. Opposition

Sample Paper 1 – Solution

parties may be threatened and may not be allowed to function independently. The government, sometimes, could pressurise the judges to give verdict in their favour.

One such example has been of the government headed by the President of Zimbabwe- Robert Mugabe. He is extremely popular and his party ZANU-PF has been ruling the country since independence. . Elections are held regularly but Mugabe always wins them because he uses unfair practices during elections. Often the meetings of the opposition parties are disrupted and are not allowed to protests against the government. Radio and television controlled by him only gives news regarding the ruling party. Journalists supporting the oppositions parties are harassed and even judiciary is sometimes forced to give decisions in favour of the government.

The example of Zimbabwe shows that popular governments may be undemocratic in nature.

(b) Various limitations and challenges of Indian elections are:

- Big parties with large amount of money are not sure of their victory during elections but are able to gain undue advantage over smaller parties and independent candidates.
- Many candidates with serious criminal records have been able to secure party tickets for themselves. Honest candidates in such situation are pushed to the periphery.
- Some parties are dominated by a family or few families. These families distribute tickets to their relatives.
- Ideologies of most of the political parties may be identical to each other and hence are not able to offer large choices to the citizens.

(c) Difference between the Cabinet and the Council of Ministers are

Cabinet	Council of Ministers
It is a smaller group consisting of senior members that hold important portfolios.	They consist of all categories of ministers – Cabinet ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers.
They are the most trusted and consulted colleagues of the Prime Minister. He asks their advice on important matters. The decisions of the Cabinet are binding on all the ministers.	He may or may not consult these ministers for making important decisions.
They are a small organised group of senior ministers who meet as frequently as possible to shape national policies and transact government business.	They meet rarely as a whole, in day-to-day working of the government.
They advice the President through	Though the Council of ministers

the Prime Minister, in day-to-day governance of the country.	advise the President, in reality it is the Cabinet which advises the President and the latter acts on their advice
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SECTION III Economics

- 9. (a)** In disguised unemployment people do not contribute anything to the economy even after performing an economic activity.
- (b)** The Public Distribution System provides essential goods at a reasonable price.
- (c)** About half of the casual labour household in India lives below the poverty line.
- 10. (a)** Agriculture and animal husbandry are included in the primary sector.
- (b)** Under PDS, food grains are provided to all families having a ration card.
- (c)** Infant mortality rate is defined as the death of infants below one year of age per 1000 live births.
- 11. (a)** Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population. The state of Kerala has the highest sex ratio in the country.
- (b)** Education and health are the two major sources of human capital.
- (c)** Farmers can increase the productivity of their land by the following methods:
- **Multiple Cropping:** It refers to the growing of more than one crop on a same piece of land in a year. This results in increased production.
 - **Modern Farming Methods:** The thoughtful utilisation of the modern methods of farming like using HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers and the spray of pesticides and insecticides leads to increased production.
- (d)** Raw materials and money that are used to pay the wages of workers and to meet the day to day expenses come under working capital. They are called working capital because:
- It is exhausted on being used just once or changes its form when it is used.
 - The question of depreciation does not rise. It is employed again and again to continue the production.
- (e)** The Green Revolution in India was a period when agricultural yields in India improved because of agronomic technology. Its two de-merits were:
- The farmers extensively irrigated their fields which depleted the ground water table making water scarce.

- The rapidly increasing problems of land degradation because of over irrigation and deforestation due to the expansion of cultivation were some negative impacts of the Green Revolution.

12. (a) Food security is ensured through the food security system which is composed of two components- buffer stock and public distribution system. Also, various poverty alleviation programmes, cooperatives and NGOs are working to ensure food security. They are

- Public distribution system provides food grains available at affordable and uniform prices at the door steps of the consumers.
- Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was introduced in 1992 in 1700 blocks in the country. The scheme aimed at the provision of food grains in the remote and backward areas of the country.
- Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997 which targeted the policy of providing food grains to all poor sections of people in different areas.

(b) Four causes of poverty in India are:

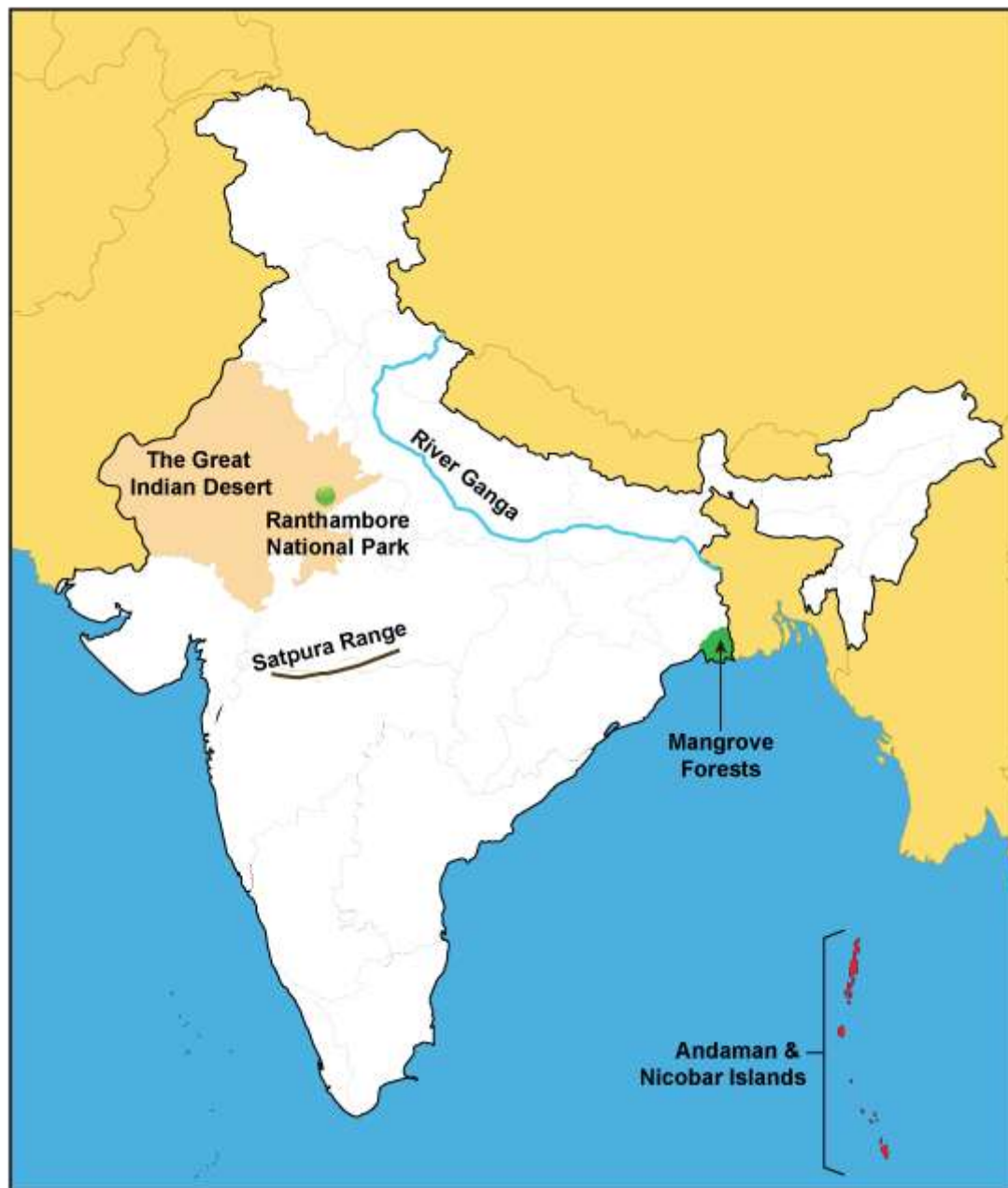
- **Unemployment:** Poverty level increases with a rise in the number of unemployed. Because of unemployment, the number of dependents on the working population is increasing. As a result, per head consumption expenditure is declining and a majority of people are living in poverty.
- **Indebtedness:** Mostly, poor people depend on borrowing from the richer section of the society. Hence, poor people's level of indebtedness increases and is also responsible for poverty in India.
- **Inequalities of wealth and income:** Wealth and means of production are concentrated in a few hands while majority of the people live below the poverty line. Unequal distribution of means of production and money is a reason behind the existence of poverty in India.
- **Lack of social welfare:** Social well-being lacks because of several factors such as tradition and customs. Poor who reside in slum areas without any facility are considered as backward and their development is low in every aspect.

(c) Four main factors of production are:

- **Land:** It is an important factor of production as the establishment of various factories and units requires land.
- **Labour:** It refers to the work done by humans for production purposes. Labour may be skilled or unskilled.
- **Capital:** Physical capital is required for producing goods at every stage. Physical capital may be divided into two categories - fixed capital (machines and tools) and working capital (raw materials and liquidity).
- **Knowledge of production:** For producing goods, one should have knowledge about factors of production and the processes which are involved in various stages of production.

SECTION IV
Geography

13. Map marking



14. (a) The tropical evergreen forests are found in the areas of heavy rainfall.

(b) Most of the hill stations in the Himalayas lie in the Himachal range.

(c) Mahendragiri is the highest peak in the Eastern Ghats.

Sample Paper 1 – Solution

- (d) Maldives Islands are situated to the south of the Lakshadweep Islands.
- (e) The Northern Rivers are usually navigable.
- (f) Parts of north-eastern India receive above 200 cm of annual rainfall.
- 15. (a)** The Purvanchal range comprises the hills of north east India.
- (b) Sunderban is the world's largest and fastest growing delta.
- (c) The Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan is a salt water lake.
- (d) The natural habitat of Indian lions is the Gir forests in the state of Gujarat.
- (e) The latitude Tropic of Cancer passes through the middle of India.
- (f) The river Godavari is the largest Peninsular river.
- 16. (a)** India is situated to the north of the equator between 8°4' and 37°6' north latitude and 68°7' and 97°25' east longitude.
- (b) The Eastern Ghats stretch from the Mahanadi Valley to the Nilgiris in the South. Four large rivers of India, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri and Mahanadi, flow through the Eastern Ghats making it irregular at various places. These rivers then flow into the Bay of Bengal.
- (c) Rivers Narmada and Tapti are two rivers which flow westwards and make estuaries.
- (d) Rajasthan is the largest and Goa is the smallest state in India in terms of area.
- (e) Two important characteristics of summer monsoon rainfall in India are
- Unreliable and uncertain rainfall accompanied by thunder storms in some parts of country such as in Assam and West Bengal
 - Uneven distribution of rainfall all over the country
- (f) Shiwaliks are the southernmost range of the Himalayas. Tropical deciduous forests are found on the foot hills of the Shiwaliks.
- 17. (a)** India is located centrally between the East and West Asia. The Indian Ocean connected the country with various maritime trade routes which helped her to establish trade relations with countries in West Asia, Africa and Europe. This is the reason that the Indian Ocean was named after her.
- India was also connected to many countries through land routes. The various passes in the Himalayas (e.g. the Khyber Pass) provided a passage to the travellers in ancient times. The silk route passed through India which intensified the trading relations of the country with various other countries. Many commodities such as silk and various varieties of cloth were traded. Through the land routes, the Arabs spread the knowledge of the Indian numerals to the west.

Sample Paper 1 – Solution

These trade routes also enriched the Indian culture as many Greeks and Persians considerably influenced the Indian style of architecture.

Hence, the geographical location of India helped her to develop the trading and cultural relations with many countries.

(b) Differences between the Western and Eastern Ghats are:

The Western Ghats	The Eastern Ghats
The Western Ghats lie on the western margin of the Deccan Plateau.	The Eastern Ghats lie on the eastern margin of the Deccan Plateau.
The Western Ghats are higher in elevation. Their average elevation is from 900 to 1600 metres.	The Eastern Ghats are lower in elevation. Their average elevation is 600 metres.
They have a continuous chain of mountains and can be crossed through passes only.	The mountain chains are not continuous and are denuded by the rivers which flow into the Bay of Bengal.
No major river cuts across them.	They have been cut across by major rivers such as Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna and Kaveri.

(c) Importance of lakes are:

- Lakes help in regulating the flow of a river.
- Lakes store rain water during heavy rainfall and therefore help in preventing floods. During the hot and dry season, it helps in maintaining the flow of water.
- They help in recharging the ground water level.
- They are also used for developing hydel power.
- Lakes have a moderate effect on the climate of the surrounding place.

(d) The western cyclonic disturbances are experienced in north and north western parts of India during winter season. They are caused due to the westerly winds which flow from west to east between 300-600 latitude. They originate mostly in the Mediterranean Sea as extra tropical cyclones. These disturbances travel through Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to enter the Indian subcontinent. They bring winter rainfall to north and north western parts of India including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. This winter shower is considered extremely important for the rabi crops as it is the staple diet of people in that region.

(e) Natural vegetation refers to plants which have not been grown by humans. They have grown independently without any human interference. Three factors which affect the natural vegetating in India are:

- **Land:** Land affects the growth of natural vegetation as different kinds of vegetation grow on mountains, plateaus, plains and in deserts. For example,

Sample Paper 1 – Solution

a variety of grasslands and woodlands develop on mountains and uneven terrains.

- **Soil:** Soil determines the growth of different types of vegetation. While mangrove forests grow on wet and marshy deltaic soils, cactus and thorny bushes grow on sandy soils.
- **Temperature:** Temperature affects the growth of natural vegetation. Temperature affects humidity, precipitation and the type of soil. We find the growth of conical-shaped trees at higher altitudes. At much higher altitudes, the vegetation becomes scarce because of extremely cold conditions.

(f) No, I do not agree that the Northern Indian Plains have no variation in relief features. It is because of the following reasons:

- The river flowing down from the Himalayas deposit sediments in a belt known as bhabar which runs parallel to the slopes of the Siwaliks.
- On the south of this belt exists the wet, swampy and marshy region known as the terai region. This region was densely covered with forests and was rich in flora and fauna. However, the forests were later brought down for the expansion of agriculture.
- Most of the northern plains are formed of the older alluvium soil which is known as the bhangar plains. They lie above the flood plains of the river and present terrace-like features.

Therefore, we can say the Northern Indian Plains have variation in relief features.