Pariksha Saathi — Haryana GK Notes

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The Haryana GK topics in the syllabus of: Haryana CET (Group C). Each topic ends with a link to its free practice questions; full mock tests are free in the Pariksha Saathi app and on the website.

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What the exam asks: Haryana General Knowledge is a fixed part of the Haryana CET (Group C), other HSSC papers and the Haryana Police exams. Questions are factual: a Harappan site's district, who fought whom at Panipat and when, which barrage stands on which river, which dance suits which occasion, and numbers to memorise (1 November 1966, 90, 10, 5).

Ancient history: The Ghaggar plain is dense with Harappan sites. Rakhigarhi (Hansi district, carved out of Hisar in December 2025) is regarded as the largest in India; Banawali (Fatehabad), excavated by R.S. Bisht, yielded a terracotta plough model; Bhirrana (Fatehabad) has pre-Harappan levels that a 2016 study placed in the 8th–7th millennium BCE, among the oldest of the Indus tradition; Mitathal is in Bhiwani. Ancient tradition (the Manusmriti) placed Brahmavarta between the Saraswati and the Drishadvati. At Kurukshetra, Jyotisar is revered as the place of the Gita sermon, and Brahma Sarovar draws pilgrims at solar eclipses. Agroha is linked with Maharaja Agrasen, ancestor of the Agrawals. Thanesar (Sthanvishvara) was the Pushyabhuti capital; Harshavardhana was crowned there in 606 CE and later ruled from Kannauj, and his court poet Banabhatta wrote the Harshacharita.

Medieval history: On the road to Delhi, Haryana often decided north India's fate. At Tarain (Taraori, Karnal) Prithviraj Chauhan III beat Muhammad Ghori in 1191 and lost to him in 1192. Razia Sultan was killed near Kaithal in 1240. Firoz Shah Tughlaq founded Hisar (1354) and Fatehabad, cut canals from the Yamuna and moved an Ashokan pillar from Topra to Delhi. At Panipat, Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi on 21 April 1526 and built the Kabuli Bagh mosque; Akbar's army under Bairam Khan defeated Hemu on 5 November 1556; and Ahmad Shah Abdali crushed the Marathas under Sadashivrao Bhau on 14 January 1761. Shaikh Farid, Jahangir's treasurer, founded Faridabad in 1607; Nawab Fidai Khan laid out the Pinjore garden; Nadir Shah beat Muhammad Shah at Karnal in 1739; Banda Singh Bahadur ruled from Lohgarh. The Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon (1803) brought the region under the British.

Revolt, freedom struggle and statehood: In 1857 the forces of Rao Tula Ram of Rewari fought the British at Nasibpur near Narnaul, and Raja Nahar Singh of Ballabhgarh was hanged in 1858; as punishment the region was moved from the North-Western Provinces to Punjab. Lala Lajpat Rai practised law at Hisar, Sir Chhotu Ram ('Deenbandhu') co-founded the Unionist Party, and Pt. Neki Ram Sharma is remembered as 'Haryana Kesari'. After the Hukam Singh committee and Justice J.C. Shah's boundary commission, the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 created Haryana on 1 November 1966. Chandigarh became a Union Territory, the shared capital and seat of the common High Court. Pt. Bhagwat Dayal Sharma was the first Chief Minister and Dharma Vira the first Governor. The unicameral Vidhan Sabha has 90 seats, and the state sends 10 members to the Lok Sabha and 5 to the Rajya Sabha. Gaya Lal's defections of 1967 coined 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram', and the SYL canal is a long-running water dispute with Punjab. Census 2011 recorded a sex ratio of 879, the lowest among states.

Geography and wildlife: Haryana (44,212 sq km) is landlocked, surrounds Delhi on three sides and is separated from Uttar Pradesh by the Yamuna. The north-eastern Shivaliks hold the Morni hills and Karoh peak, the highest point; Aravalli offshoots run through the south. Between them lies the alluvial plain of low Khadar and higher Bangar, sandy and dry in the south-west. The Yamuna, the only perennial river, feeds the Western Yamuna Canal at Hathnikund (Yamunanagar). The Ghaggar receives the Kaushalya, Tangri and Markanda and has the Ottu barrage near Sirsa; the Sahibi rises in Rajasthan, has the Masani barrage in Rewari and reaches Delhi as the Najafgarh drain; Adi Badri is revered as the source of the Saraswati. Sultanpur (Gurugram) and Kalesar (Yamunanagar) are national parks, Bhindawas (Jhajjar) is the largest wetland and Pinjore has India's first vulture breeding centre. State symbols: blackbuck, black francolin, peepal and lotus.

Economy: With Punjab, Haryana led the Green Revolution in wheat. Wheat and rice dominate, with basmati around Karnal and Kaithal, bajra and mustard in the dry south and cotton in Sirsa, Hisar and Fatehabad. The Murrah buffalo and Hariana cattle are native breeds; NDRI, CSSRI and IIWBR are at Karnal, CIRB and CCS Haryana Agricultural University at Hisar. Haryana is credited with electrifying all its villages by 1970. Gurugram (Maruti from 1983) is the automobile and IT hub and Panipat the 'City of Weavers'; Ambala Cantt makes scientific instruments and Yamunanagar plywood.

Culture and people: Phag is danced in Phalgun, Loor by girls of the Bangar tract in spring and Khoria by women on the night the baraat leaves; Saang is the folk theatre made famous by Pt. Lakhmi Chand, the 'Surya Kavi'. The dialects are Bangru (centre), Bagri (west), Ahirwati (south), Mewati (Nuh) and Braj (Palwal). The Surajkund Crafts Mela is held every February at Faridabad. Names to know: Kalpana Chawla (Karnal), Santosh Yadav (Rewari), Pt. Jasraj (Mewati gharana), Vijender Singh of Bhiwani, the 'Mini Cuba' of boxing, Sakshi Malik and Kapil Dev, the 'Haryana Hurricane'.

Traps to avoid: Tarain 1191 (Prithviraj won) versus 1192 (Ghori won); Panipat 1526 Babur, 1556 Akbar's army, 1761 Abdali. Thanesar was Harsha's first capital, Kannauj his later one. Hathnikund is on the Yamuna, Ottu on the Ghaggar, Masani on the Sahibi. Kalibangan is in Rajasthan. Deenbandhu is Chhotu Ram, Haryana Kesari is Neki Ram Sharma, Punjab Kesari is Lajpat Rai.

Examples

- Harappan sites by district: Rakhigarhi (Hansi district since December 2025, earlier Hisar; largest in India), Banawali and Bhirrana (Fatehabad), Mitathal (Bhiwani). Kalibangan is in Rajasthan, not Haryana.
- Three battles of Panipat: 1526 Babur beat Ibrahim Lodi; 1556 Akbar's army under Bairam Khan beat Hemu; 1761 Ahmad Shah Abdali beat the Marathas under Sadashivrao Bhau.
- Tarain (Taraori, Karnal): 1191 Prithviraj III beat Muhammad Ghori; 1192 Ghori beat Prithviraj III. Karnal 1739: Nadir Shah beat Muhammad Shah.
- Thanesar line: Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) dynasty; Harshavardhana crowned 606 CE, later ruled from Kannauj; Banabhatta wrote the Harshacharita.
- Founders: Hisar 1354 and Fatehabad (Firoz Shah Tughlaq), Faridabad 1607 (Shaikh Farid, Jahangir's treasurer), Pinjore garden (Nawab Fidai Khan), Surajkund (Tomar king Surajpal), Lohgarh capital (Banda Singh Bahadur).
- Statehood: Hukam Singh committee and Shah Commission (1966), Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966, Haryana Day 1 November 1966; first CM Pt. Bhagwat Dayal Sharma, first Governor Dharma Vira.
- Numbers: Vidhan Sabha 90 (unicameral), Lok Sabha 10, Rajya Sabha 5; area 44,212 sq km; Census 2011 sex ratio 879, the lowest among states.
- Barrages by river: Hathnikund on the Yamuna (Yamunanagar), Ottu on the Ghaggar (Sirsa), Masani on the Sahibi (Rewari). The Sahibi reaches Delhi as the Najafgarh drain.
- Protected areas: Sultanpur National Park (Gurugram), Kalesar National Park (Yamunanagar), Bhindawas sanctuary (Jhajjar, largest wetland), Jatayu vulture breeding centre (Pinjore).
- State symbols: animal blackbuck, bird black francolin, tree peepal, flower lotus.
- Sobriquets: Deenbandhu = Sir Chhotu Ram; Haryana Kesari = Pt. Neki Ram Sharma; Punjab Kesari = Lala Lajpat Rai; Surya Kavi = Pt. Lakhmi Chand; Haryana Hurricane = Kapil Dev; Mini Cuba = Bhiwani.

- Dances by occasion: Phag (Phalgun, farmers), Loor (girls of the Bangar tract, spring), Khoria (women, the night the baraat leaves); Saang is folk theatre and Ragini a folk song form.

> **Quick revision:** Haryana formed 1 Nov 1966 (Punjab Reorganisation Act, Shah Commission); first CM Bhagwat Dayal Sharma, Governor Dharma Vira; Vidhan Sabha 90, LS 10, RS 5; capital and High Court shared at Chandigarh; Rakhigarhi (Hansi, earlier Hisar), Banawali and Bhirrana (Fatehabad); Harsha at Thanesar 606 CE; Tarain 1191/1192; Panipat 1526, 1556, 1761; Hisar 1354; Rao Tula Ram, Nasibpur 1857; Yamuna only perennial river, Hathnikund; Ottu on Ghaggar, Masani on Sahibi; Sultanpur, Kalesar NPs; blackbuck, black francolin, peepal, lotus; Murrah; Surajkund Mela in February.

Ancient Haryana: Harappan Sites, Kurukshetra and Thanesar

Why ancient Haryana matters: Haryana lies between the Yamuna and the dried channels of the Ghaggar, the river system that many scholars identify with the Vedic Saraswati. This fertile corridor between the Indus valley and the Ganga plain was settled very early and always stood on the main route into the heart of India. So the state's ancient history runs as one long line: Harappan towns, the Vedic heartland, the Kuru kingdom of the Mahabharata, tribal republics such as the Yaudheyas, and finally Harshavardhana's capital at Thanesar. Exams test this line by asking which site lies in which district, what was found there and which ruler belongs to which place.

Harappan sites: The Ghaggar-Chautang plain holds one of the densest clusters of Harappan settlements anywhere. Rakhigarhi, a village of Narnaund tehsil that long lay in Hisar district and now falls in the newly created Hansi district, is regarded as the largest Harappan site in India; it was excavated by Amarendra Nath of the Archaeological Survey of India in the late 1990s and later by a Deccan College team led by Vasant Shinde, and in 2020 the Union Budget named it one of five iconic archaeological sites to be developed. Banawali in Fatehabad district, excavated by R.S. Bisht in the 1970s, yielded a terracotta model of a plough and evidence of barley. Kunal, also in Fatehabad, shows very early pre-Harappan levels and a hoard of ornaments that included silver crowns. Bhirrana, in Fatehabad too, has pre-Harappan levels that a 2016 study dated to the 8th-7th millennium BCE, and a potsherd there bears a figure resembling the bronze dancing girl of Mohenjo-daro. Mitathal in Bhiwani and Siswal in Hisar were excavated by Suraj Bhan, and Siswal gives its name to an early pre-Harappan culture.

Saraswati, Drishadvati and Brahmavarta: The Rigveda praises the Saraswati as the greatest of rivers. Tradition places its source at Adi Badri in the Shivalik foothills of Yamunanagar district; the seasonal Ghaggar is widely identified with it, and the Chautang with the Drishadvati. The Manusmriti calls the land between these two divine rivers Brahmavarta, the land made by the gods, and this region became the core of Vedic culture. Pehowa, ancient Prithudaka on the Saraswati, is still a place for rites for ancestors. The name Haryana itself is explained in two popular ways, as Hari-ayana, the abode of God, or as harit-aranya, the green forest; both are traditional explanations, not proven history.

Kurukshetra and the Kurus: Kurukshetra, named after King Kuru, is the setting of the Mahabharata war, and the Bhagavad Gita opens with the words 'dharmakshetre kurukshetre'. Jyotisar, near Thanesar, is revered as the spot where Krishna taught the Gita to Arjuna, and the sacred land of Kurukshetra is traditionally a circuit of 48 kos dotted with tirthas. In the 6th century BCE the Kurus formed one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas listed in the Buddhist Anguttara Nikaya, with Indraprastha as their capital; their land covered much of present Haryana and the Delhi area.

Mauryas, Yaudheyas and Agroha: The pillar from Topra in northern Haryana carries the edicts of Ashoka; Firoz Shah Tughlaq moved it to Delhi in the 14th century, and it is the only Ashokan pillar that bears all seven pillar edicts. The Chaneti stupa near Jagadhri is attributed to the Mauryan age, and nearby Srughna (Sugh) was a prosperous town later described by the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang. After the Mauryas, the Yaudheyas, a martial republic (gana), held much of the region; their coins show Kartikeya and the legend 'Yaudheya ganasya jayah' (victory to the Yaudheya republic), and coin moulds have been found at Khokrakot near Rohtak. The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman (150 CE) boasts of defeating them, and Samudragupta's Prayag prashasti lists them among the tribes that submitted to the Guptas. Agroha in Hisar district is the traditional seat of Maharaja Agrasen, ancestor of the Agrawal community, and its excavated mound has yielded coins and remains of an ancient town.

Thanesar and Harshavardhana: In the 6th century CE the Pushyabhuti (Vardhana) dynasty rose at Sthanvishvara, modern Thanesar near Kurukshetra. Prabhakaravardhana was the first of the line to take the title Maharajadhiraja. After the deaths of his elder son Rajyavardhana and of Grahavarman, the Maukhari king of Kannauj who had married his daughter Rajyashri, the younger son Harshavardhana came to the throne in 606 CE, the first year of the Harsha era. Harsha later moved his capital to Kannauj, ruled until 647 CE and wrote the Sanskrit plays Ratnavali, Priyadarshika and Nagananda. His court poet Banabhatta described Sthanvishvara in the Harshacharita, and Xuanzang visited his kingdom. The mound called Harsh ka Tila at Thanesar is linked with his capital.

Examples

- Rakhigarhi (Narnaund tehsil; long in Hisar district, now in the new Hansi district): regarded as the largest Harappan site in India; named one of five iconic archaeological sites in the Union Budget of 2020.
- Banawali (Fatehabad, excavated by R.S. Bisht): terracotta plough model and barley. Kunal (Fatehabad): very early pre-Harappan levels and silver crowns.
- Bhirrana (Fatehabad): pre-Harappan levels dated to the 8th-7th millennium BCE by a 2016 study, and a potsherd with a 'dancing girl' figure. Mitathal (Bhiwani) and Siswal (Hisar) were excavated by Suraj Bhan.
- Brahmavarta (Manusmriti): the land between the Saraswati (Ghaggar) and the Drishadvati (Chautang). Adi Badri (Yamunanagar) is the traditional source of the Saraswati.
- Kuru Mahajanapada: one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas, capital Indraprastha. Kurukshetra is named after King Kuru; Jyotisar is the traditional site of the Gita sermon.
- Topra pillar: an Ashokan pillar moved to Delhi by Firoz Shah Tughlaq; the only Ashokan pillar with all seven pillar edicts.
- Yaudheyas: a martial republic; coins with Kartikeya and 'Yaudheya ganasya jayah'; coin moulds at Khokrakot (Rohtak); defeated by Rudradaman (Junagadh inscription, 150 CE); submitted to Samudragupta.
- Agroha (Hisar): traditional capital of Maharaja Agrasen, ancestor of the Agrawals. Pehowa (Prithudaka) on the Saraswati is a centre of rites for ancestors.
- Thanesar (Sthanvishvara): Pushyabhuti capital; Harshavardhana crowned 606 CE (start of the Harsha era), later ruled from Kannauj till 647 CE; Banabhatta wrote the Harshacharita; Xuanzang visited.

> **Quick revision:** Rakhigarhi largest Harappan site in India (Narnaund; long in Hisar district, now Hansi district; iconic site 2020); Banawali (Fatehabad, R.S. Bisht) plough model; Kunal silver crowns; Bhirrana 8th-7th millennium BCE; Mitathal (Bhiwani); Brahmavarta between Saraswati and Drishadvati (Manusmriti); Kuru capital Indraprastha; Jyotisar Gita site; Topra pillar has all seven edicts; Yaudheyas, Kartikeya coins, Khokrakot; Agroha-Agrasen; Harsha crowned at Thanesar 606 CE, later Kannauj; Banabhatta.

Medieval Haryana: Tarain, the Three Battles of Panipat and After

The road to Delhi: Almost every invader from the north-west, and every army defending Delhi, had to cross Haryana. The old highway from Lahore to Delhi ran through Ambala, Thanesar, Karnal, Panipat and Sonipat, so these plains became the battlefields where the rulers of north India were decided. Learn the region's medieval history as a chain of decisive battles, with the dynasties that rose and fell around them.

Tomars and Chauhans: After Harsha's empire broke up, the Tomaras rose in the region; an inscription at Pehowa from the reign of the Gurjara-Pratihara king Mahendrapala records a Tomara family. Tradition credits the Tomar ruler Anangpal with founding Dhillika (Delhi) and building the Lal Kot fort, and the Tomar king Surajpal with the Surajkund reservoir near Faridabad. In the 12th century the Chauhans (Chahamanas) of Ajmer took Delhi from the Tomars, and Prithviraj Chauhan III inherited the region. Sanskrit inscriptions of the Sultanate period, such as one found at Palam from Balban's reign, already call this land Hariyanaka.

Tarain and the Delhi Sultanate: Tarain is modern Taraori in Karnal district. In the First Battle of Tarain in 1191, Prithviraj Chauhan III defeated Muhammad Ghori, who was wounded and carried from the field. Ghori returned the next year, and in the Second Battle of Tarain in 1192 he defeated and captured Prithviraj. North India lay open to Turkish rule: Ghori's general Qutbuddin Aibak took Delhi and founded the Delhi Sultanate in 1206. Under the Sultanate, Razia Sultan was killed near Kaithal in 1240; Firoz Shah Tughlaq founded Hisar (Hisar-e-Firoza) in 1354

and Fatehabad, and dug a canal from the Yamuna to water his new town; and Timur's army passed through Sirsa, Kaithal and Panipat in 1398 on its way to sack Delhi.

First Battle of Panipat (1526): On 21 April 1526 Babur, ruler of Kabul, defeated Ibrahim Lodi, the last Lodi sultan of Delhi, at Panipat. Babur's army was much smaller, but he used field artillery, handled by Ustad Ali Quli and Mustafa, and the Tulughma flanking tactic. Ibrahim Lodi died on the field and his tomb stands at Panipat. The victory founded the Mughal Empire, and Babur built the Kabuli Bagh mosque there. A year later, at Khanwa (1527), Babur defeated Rana Sanga, and Hasan Khan Mewati, the ruler of Mewat, died fighting on Sanga's side. Sher Shah Suri, who drove out Babur's son Humayun in 1540, rebuilt the great highway now called the Grand Trunk Road, with sarais (rest houses) along it; his grandfather Ibrahim Khan Sur lies at Narnaul in a tomb that Sher Shah built.

Second Battle of Panipat (1556): After Humayun's death in January 1556, Hemu (Hemchandra), a Rewari trader who had risen to be chief minister and general of the Sur ruler Adil Shah, captured Agra and Delhi and took the title Vikramaditya. On 5 November 1556 his army met the forces of the young Akbar, led by Bairam Khan, at Panipat. Hemu was winning until an arrow struck him in the eye; he fell unconscious, his army broke, and he was captured and beheaded. The victory restored Mughal rule in Delhi.

Third Battle of Panipat (1761): On 14 January 1761 Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durrani) of Afghanistan crushed the Maratha army led by Sadashivrao Bhau. Abdali was backed by the Rohilla chief Najib-ud-Daula and by Shuja-ud-Daula of Awadh; on the Maratha side Ibrahim Khan Gardi commanded the artillery. Vishwasrao, son of Peshwa Balaji Bajirao, and Bhau himself were killed. The Kala Amb (black mango tree) site at Panipat marks the battlefield. The defeat checked Maratha power in the north for about a decade and weakened both sides, which helped the British rise.

Sikhs, Jats, Marathas and George Thomas: After Guru Gobind Singh's death in 1708, Banda Singh Bahadur led a peasant rising, took Samana and Sirhind and made Lohgarh, in the Shivalik foothills of present Yamunanagar district, his capital, striking coins in the name of the Sikh Gurus; he was captured in 1715 and executed in Delhi in 1716. In 1739 Nadir Shah of Persia defeated the Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah at Karnal. Later in the 18th century Raja Suraj Mal of Bharatpur extended Jat power into southern Haryana, Sikh chiefs set up states such as Jind and Kaithal in the north, and the Marathas under Mahadji Scindia controlled much of the region. The Irish adventurer George Thomas carved out a short-lived principality with Hansi as its capital at the end of the century, built Georgegarh (Jahazgarh) fort near Jhajjar and is remembered by the Jahaz Kothi at Hisar. By the Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon (1803), after the Second Anglo-Maratha War, Daulat Rao Scindia ceded the region to the British.

Examples

- Tarain (Taraori, Karnal): 1191, Prithviraj Chauhan III defeated Muhammad Ghori; 1192, Ghori defeated and captured Prithviraj. Qutbuddin Aibak founded the Delhi Sultanate in 1206.
- First Battle of Panipat, 21 April 1526: Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi with artillery (Ustad Ali Quli, Mustafa) and the Tulughma tactic; the Mughal Empire began; Kabuli Bagh mosque and Ibrahim Lodi's tomb are at Panipat.
- Second Battle of Panipat, 5 November 1556: Akbar's army under Bairam Khan defeated Hemu (Vikramaditya), who was struck in the eye by an arrow.
- Third Battle of Panipat, 14 January 1761: Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas under Sadashivrao Bhau; Vishwasrao was killed; Ibrahim Khan Gardi led the Maratha artillery; Kala Amb marks the field.
- Tomars: tradition credits Anangpal with Dhillika (Delhi) and Lal Kot, and Surajpal with Surajkund; the Chauhans of Ajmer took Delhi from them in the 12th century.
- Firoz Shah Tughlaq founded Hisar-e-Firoza (1354) and Fatehabad, cut a canal from the Yamuna and moved the Topra pillar to Delhi. Razia Sultan was killed near Kaithal (1240).
- Sher Shah Suri rebuilt the Grand Trunk Road with sarais; his grandfather Ibrahim Khan Sur's tomb is at Narnaul. Hasan Khan Mewati died at Khanwa (1527) fighting Babur.
- Banda Singh Bahadur: capital Lohgarh (Yamunanagar), coins in the Gurus' name, executed in Delhi in 1716. Nadir Shah defeated Muhammad Shah at Karnal in 1739.
- George Thomas: Irish adventurer, capital Hansi, fort Georgegarh (Jahazgarh) near Jhajjar, Jahaz Kothi at Hisar. The Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon (1803) gave the region to the British.

Quick revision: Tomars: Dhillika, Lal Kot, Surajkund; Tarain (Taraori) 1191 Prithviraj won, 1192 Ghori won; Delhi Sultanate 1206; Razia killed near Kaithal 1240; Hisar 1354; Timur 1398; Panipat 21 Apr 1526 Babur beat Ibrahim Lodi; 5 Nov 1556 Bairam Khan beat Hemu; 14 Jan 1761 Abdali beat Sadashivrao Bhau, Kala Amb; Ibrahim Khan Sur's tomb at Narnaul; Banda at Lohgarh; Karnal 1739 Nadir Shah; George Thomas at Hansi; Surji-Anjangaon 1803.

Modern Haryana: British Rule, 1857 and the Freedom Struggle

Under the Company: The Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon (1803) brought the Haryana region under the East India Company. It was first run as part of the Delhi Territory under the British Resident at Delhi and in the 1830s was placed under the North-Western Provinces. Several small states survived under British protection, such as Jhajjar, Ballabhgarh, Farrukhnagar, Bahadurgarh, Dujana, Loharu and Pataudi, while Jind and other Sikh states lay to the north. Heavy revenue demands and years of famine left the peasants restless, which helps explain the strength of the revolt in 1857.

The revolt of 1857 in Haryana: When the sepoys rose at Meerut on 10 May 1857 and marched to Delhi, the revolt spread quickly across the region. Troops rose at Hansi and Hisar, and peasants of many communities joined in, while the Meo peasants of Mewat took up arms under Sadruddin. At Hansi the merchant Lala Hukam Chand Jain was later hanged for helping the rebels. Raja Nahar Singh of Ballabhgarh, who guarded Delhi's southern approach, was hanged in Delhi in January 1858, and Nawab Abdur Rahman Khan of Jhajjar was also executed.

Rao Tula Ram and Nasibpur: The strongest resistance in the south came from Rao Tula Ram, the Ahir chief of Rampura near Rewari, who took control of the Rewari area, raised troops and sent help to the rebels in Delhi. After Delhi fell to the British in September 1857, a column under Colonel Gerrard marched against him. On 16 November 1857 the two forces met at Nasibpur near Narnaul; Gerrard was killed, but the rebels were defeated with heavy losses, and Rao Kishan Gopal and other leaders died on the field. Tula Ram escaped, joined Tatya Tope, later went to Afghanistan to seek help and died in Kabul in 1863. He is honoured in Haryana as a hero of 1857.

The punishment of 1858: The British punished the whole region. In 1858 it was taken away from the North-Western Provinces and merged into the Punjab province, where it remained a neglected, Hindi-speaking south-eastern part until 1966. The states of Jhajjar, Ballabhgarh, Farrukhnagar and Bahadurgarh were confiscated; parts of Jhajjar were given to loyal princes, Dadri to Jind, Narnaul to Patiala and Bawal to Nabha. Many rebel villages were fined or lost their land.

Reformers and early leaders: Social and political awakening came largely through the Arya Samaj, which spread widely in the region after Swami Dayanand's visits. Lala Lajpat Rai began practising law at Hisar in 1886, worked for the Arya Samaj and served on the Hisar municipality; he later became the 'Punjab Kesari' of the extremist wing of the Congress (Lal-Bal-Pal) and died in 1928 after being injured in a police lathi charge during the protest against the Simon Commission at Lahore. The Hindi journalist Babu Balmukund Gupt, from Gudiyani village (then in Rohtak district, now in Rewari district), mocked colonial rule in his satirical 'Shivshambhu ke Chitthe'.

Sir Chhotu Ram and the Unionist Party: Sir Chhotu Ram (1881-1945), born at Garhi Sampla in Rohtak district, became the leading voice of the peasants of Punjab. He started the weekly Jat Gazette at Rohtak in 1916 and in 1923 co-founded the National Unionist Party with Sir Fazl-i-Husain, a cross-community party of rural landholders that governed Punjab under provincial autonomy. As a minister in the Punjab government he pushed through laws that freed farmers from moneylenders' debts and returned mortgaged land, among them the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act 1934 and the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act 1938; farmers called them 'golden laws'. He is remembered as 'Deenbandhu' and 'Rahbar-e-Azam'.

National movements: The region joined every phase of the national struggle. The Rowlatt Satyagraha of 1919 brought hartals to Rohtak, Hisar, Bhiwani and Ambala. During the Non-Cooperation Movement Gandhiji visited Bhiwani in 1920, and Pt. Neki Ram Sharma of Bhiwani, the 'Haryana Kesari', led the Congress in the region, and in 1923 Pt. Shri Ram Sharma of Jhajjar started the nationalist weekly Haryana Tilak. The Salt Satyagraha (1930) and the Quit India Movement (1942) saw arrests across the region, and thousands of soldiers from Haryana joined Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army. After Independence the princely states of the region joined India; Jind became part of PEPSU, which merged into Punjab in 1956.

Examples

- 1803: the Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon brought Haryana under the British; it was run as part of the Delhi Territory and later the North-Western Provinces.
- 1857 in Haryana: Raja Nahar Singh of Ballabhgarh was hanged in Delhi (January 1858); Nawab Abdur Rahman Khan of Jhajjar was executed; Lala Hukam Chand Jain of Hansi was hanged.
- Battle of Nasibpur (near Narnaul), 16 November 1857: Rao Tula Ram's forces against the British; Colonel Gerrard was killed but the rebels lost; Tula Ram died in Kabul in 1863.
- 1858: as punishment the region was moved from the North-Western Provinces to Punjab; Jhajjar, Ballabhgarh, Farrukhnagar and Bahadurgarh were confiscated; Dadri went to Jind, Narnaul to Patiala, Bawal to Nabha.
- Lala Lajpat Rai: practised law at Hisar from 1886; Arya Samaj; 'Punjab Kesari'; died in 1928 after the lathi charge during the Simon Commission protest at Lahore.
- Sir Chhotu Ram (1881-1945): born at Garhi Sampla (Rohtak); Jat Gazette 1916; co-founded the Unionist Party in 1923 with Fazl-i-Husain; 'Deenbandhu'; debt-relief laws for farmers.
- Pt. Neki Ram Sharma of Bhiwani: 'Haryana Kesari'. Gandhiji visited Bhiwani during the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920).
- Babu Balmukund Gupt (Gudiyani, then in Rohtak district, now in Rewari district): Hindi journalist, author of 'Shivshambhu ke Chitthe'. Pt. Shri Ram Sharma started the weekly Haryana Tilak in 1923.

> **Quick revision:** 1803 Surji-Anjangaon; Delhi Territory, then North-Western Provinces; 1857: Nahar Singh (Ballabhgarh) and Abdur Rahman Khan (Jhajjar) executed; Rao Tula Ram of Rewari, Nasibpur 16 Nov 1857, Col. Gerrard killed, Tula Ram died in Kabul 1863; 1858 region merged into Punjab; Lajpat Rai at Hisar 1886; Chhotu Ram born Garhi Sampla 1881, Jat Gazette 1916, Unionist Party 1923, Deenbandhu; Neki Ram Sharma Haryana Kesari; Gandhiji at Bhiwani 1920; Jind to PEPSU, Punjab 1956.

Formation of Haryana (1966), Administration and Polity

Background to the demand: After 1858 the Haryana region was the Hindi-speaking south-eastern part of Punjab, governed from Lahore and, after Partition, from Simla and then Chandigarh. Its leaders complained that it was neglected in jobs, irrigation and development. After Independence the Punjabi Suba movement, led by Master Tara Singh and later Sant Fateh Singh, demanded a Punjabi-speaking state. Attempts to keep Punjab united, such as the Sachar Formula (1949) and the Regional Formula (1956), divided it into Hindi and Punjabi zones for language and development but did not end the demand, and the States Reorganisation Commission of 1955 did not recommend a separate Punjabi state.

Hukam Singh Committee and Shah Commission: In 1965 a parliamentary committee headed by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Sardar Hukam Singh, was set up and recommended reorganising Punjab on a linguistic basis. In April 1966 the Union government appointed the Punjab Boundary Commission under Justice J.C. Shah, with S. Dutt and M.M. Philip as members, to draw the line between the Punjabi- and Hindi-speaking areas on the basis of the 1961 Census. Its report, submitted in May 1966, recommended that Kharar tehsil, including Chandigarh, go to Haryana; the government did not accept this part and made Chandigarh a Union Territory instead.

The Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966: Parliament passed the Punjab Reorganisation Act in September 1966. From 1 November 1966 the Hindi-speaking south-eastern districts became the new state of Haryana, the 17th state of India; Punjab kept the Punjabi-speaking areas; the hill areas went to Himachal Pradesh, then a Union Territory; and Chandigarh became a Union Territory serving as the capital of both Punjab and Haryana. 1 November is therefore celebrated as Haryana Day. Pt. Bhagwat Dayal Sharma became the first Chief Minister, Dharma Vira the first Governor and Shanno Devi the first Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha. The Rajiv-Longowal Accord of 24 July 1985 promised Chandigarh to Punjab in exchange for Hindi-speaking areas, but the transfer never took place.

Legislature and courts: Haryana has a unicameral legislature, the Vidhan Sabha, with 90 seats, 17 of them reserved for Scheduled Castes; none is reserved for Scheduled Tribes because no tribe is notified in the state. The Vidhan Sabha meets in the Capitol Complex at Chandigarh, in the same building as the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Haryana elects 10 members to the Lok Sabha, of which Ambala and Sirsa are reserved for Scheduled Castes, and 5

members to the Rajya Sabha. Under Article 231, which lets Parliament set up a common High Court for two or more states, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh share the Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh. The Haryana Public Service Commission and the Haryana Staff Selection Commission, which recruits for Group C posts, are the state's main recruiting bodies.

Political milestones: Haryana's early politics gave India a famous phrase. In 1967 Gaya Lal, MLA from Hasanpur (the seat now called Hodal), changed parties three times in quick succession, giving rise to 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram', and the wave of defections led to the state's first spell of President's Rule in November 1967. Defections were finally tackled by the 52nd Amendment (1985), which added the Tenth Schedule (the anti-defection law) to the Constitution. Hindi is the official language under the Haryana Official Language Act, 1969, and since 2010 Punjabi has had the status of second language. In 2015 Haryana amended its Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 to require minimum educational qualifications for panchayat candidates, and the Supreme Court upheld this in Rajbala v. State of Haryana (2015).

State symbols and identity: The state animal is the blackbuck, the state bird the black francolin, the state tree the peepal and the state flower the lotus. Census 2011 recorded a sex ratio of 879 females per 1,000 males, the lowest among the states, and a child sex ratio of 834; partly for this reason the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme was launched from Panipat on 22 January 2015.

Examples

- Haryana Day: 1 November 1966, under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966; Haryana became the 17th state of India.
- Hukam Singh Parliamentary Committee (1965-66) recommended a linguistic reorganisation; the Shah Commission (Justice J.C. Shah, 1966) drew the boundary on the basis of the 1961 Census.
- Chandigarh: Union Territory and shared capital of Punjab and Haryana; the Rajiv-Longowal Accord (1985) promised it to Punjab, but the transfer never happened.
- Firsts: Chief Minister Pt. Bhagwat Dayal Sharma; Governor Dharma Vira; Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha Shanno Devi.
- Vidhan Sabha: unicameral, 90 seats, 17 reserved for SC, none for ST. Lok Sabha: 10 seats (Ambala and Sirsa reserved for SC). Rajya Sabha: 5.
- Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh: a common High Court under Article 231 for Punjab, Haryana and the UT of Chandigarh.
- 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram': coined after Gaya Lal, MLA from Hasanpur (now Hodal), switched parties three times in 1967; the 52nd Amendment (1985) added the anti-defection Tenth Schedule.
- Official language Hindi (Haryana Official Language Act, 1969); Punjabi has been the second language since 2010.
- Rajbala v. State of Haryana (2015): the Supreme Court upheld minimum educational qualifications for panchayat candidates.
- State symbols: blackbuck (animal), black francolin (bird), peepal (tree), lotus (flower). Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was launched at Panipat on 22 January 2015.

> **Quick revision:** Punjabi Suba movement; Sachar (1949) and Regional (1956) formulas; Hukam Singh Committee; Shah Commission 1966 (1961 Census basis); Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966; Haryana 17th state, 1 Nov 1966; Chandigarh UT and shared capital; first CM Bhagwat Dayal Sharma, Governor Dharma Vira, Speaker Shanno Devi; Vidhan Sabha 90 (17 SC), LS 10 (Ambala, Sirsa SC), RS 5; common High Court (Art. 231); Aaya Ram Gaya Ram 1967; Hindi official (1969 Act); BBBP Panipat 2015.

Geography of Haryana: Location, Area and Physiographic Regions

Location and extent: Haryana is a landlocked state of north-western India, lying in the plain between the Shivalik hills in the north and the Aravalli hills and the edge of the Thar desert in the south. It covers 44,212 sq km, about 1.34 per cent of India's area, which makes it a little smaller than Punjab and a little larger than Kerala. Census 2011 counted about 2.54 crore people, a density of 573 persons per sq km and a literacy rate of 75.55 per cent.

Neighbours: Haryana borders Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh to the north-west, Himachal Pradesh to the north, and Rajasthan to the south and south-west; to the east the Yamuna separates it from Uttar Pradesh and, for a short stretch in the far north-east, from Uttarakhand. It surrounds the National Capital Territory of Delhi on three sides, north, west and south, which is why a large part of the state, including Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat and

Jhajjar, falls in the National Capital Region. The Yamuna forms almost the whole eastern boundary with Uttar Pradesh.

The Shivalik hills: In the north-east, in Panchkula and Yamunanagar districts and the edge of Ambala, lie the Shivaliks, the youngest and outermost range of the Himalayas. They are made of soft sandstone, clay and loose conglomerate, so seasonal torrents called chos cut deep gullies and spread sand over the fields below, causing serious soil erosion. The Morni hills in Panchkula district form the highest part of the state; Karoh peak, at about 1,467 metres, is Haryana's highest point, and Morni, with its Tikkar Tal lakes, is the state's only hill station. Below the hills runs a narrow foothill belt of coarse, gravelly soil.

The Ghaggar-Yamuna plain: Most of Haryana is a vast alluvial plain built by the Yamuna, the Ghaggar and their streams, sloping very gently towards the south and south-west. It has two parts. The Khadar is the low-lying belt of new alluvium along the Yamuna and other rivers, renewed by floods. The Bangar is the higher, older alluvium beyond the reach of floods; it forms the main farmland of central Haryana around Rohtak, Jind and Kaithal and gives its name to the Bangru dialect. Because this plain is flat and fertile, it holds most of the state's farms, towns and people.

The semi-desert sandy plain: In the south-west, in Sirsa, Hisar, Bhiwani and Mahendragarh, the plain merges into the Thar desert. Here sandy soils, low shifting sand dunes called tibbas, scanty rainfall and dust storms are common. The tract next to Rajasthan is called the Bagar and gives its name to the Bagri dialect. Bajra, guar, mustard and gram are the typical crops where irrigation is limited.

The Aravalli hills: In the south, low ridges of the Aravallis, among the oldest fold mountains in the world, run through Mahendragarh, Rewari, Gurugram, Faridabad and Nuh and continue into Delhi as the Ridge. They are rocky, dry and broken, with scrub forest, and act as a barrier against the spread of the desert towards Delhi. Dhosi hill near Narnaul, linked with the sage Chyavana, is described as an extinct volcano. Remember the four-way division exams use: Shivalik hills (north-east), Ghaggar-Yamuna plain (centre), semi-desert sandy plain (south-west) and Aravalli hills (south).

Examples

- Area 44,212 sq km, about 1.34 per cent of India; a little smaller than Punjab and a little larger than Kerala; landlocked.
- Neighbours: Punjab and Chandigarh (north-west), Himachal Pradesh (north), Uttar Pradesh and, for a short stretch, Uttarakhand (east, across the Yamuna), Rajasthan (south and south-west); Delhi is surrounded on three sides.
- Census 2011: population about 2.54 crore, density 573 per sq km, literacy 75.55 per cent.
- Shivalik hills (Panchkula, Yamunanagar): soft rocks cut by seasonal torrents called chos; the Morni hills hold Karoh peak (about 1,467 m), Haryana's highest point.
- Morni (Panchkula): Haryana's only hill station, with the twin Tikkar Tal lakes.
- Ghaggar-Yamuna plain: Khadar = low, new, flood-renewed alluvium along rivers; Bangar = higher, older alluvium; most farmland and people.
- Semi-desert sandy plain (Sirsa, Hisar, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh): sand dunes (tibbas), low rain; the Bagar tract gives its name to the Bagri dialect.
- Aravalli hills (Mahendragarh, Rewari, Gurugram, Faridabad, Nuh): among the oldest fold mountains; Dhosi hill near Narnaul is linked with sage Chyavana.

> **Quick revision:** Landlocked; 44,212 sq km (about 1.34 per cent of India); borders Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand (across the Yamuna), Rajasthan; surrounds Delhi on three sides; Census 2011: 2.54 crore, density 573, literacy 75.55 per cent; four regions: Shivaliks (north-east, chos, Morni hills, Karoh peak about 1,467 m), Ghaggar-Yamuna plain (Khadar, Bangar), sandy plain (south-west, Bagar), Aravallis (south, Dhosi hill).

Rivers, Canals and Lakes of Haryana

A land of seasonal rivers: Haryana has only one perennial river, the Yamuna. All the others are seasonal, rain-fed streams that rise in the Shivaliks or the Aravallis, run full in the monsoon and shrink or dry up for the rest of the year; many never reach the sea and fade out in the sandy plains. The drainage falls into two parts: the Yamuna system in

the east, which belongs to the Ganga basin, and the inland Ghaggar system in the north and west, linked with the ancient Saraswati. Because rivers are few, farming depends on canals and tubewells.

The Yamuna: The Yamuna rises at the Yamunotri glacier in Uttarakhand and enters Haryana in Yamunanagar district, where the Hathnikund barrage, which replaced the older Tajewala headworks, diverts its water into the Western Yamuna Canal and into Uttar Pradesh's Eastern Yamuna Canal. It then flows south along the eastern boundary past Yamunanagar, Karnal, Panipat and Sonipat, passes through Delhi and runs past Faridabad and Palwal before leaving for Uttar Pradesh. Its low floodplain is fertile but floods in heavy monsoons.

The Ghaggar and its streams: The Ghaggar rises in the Shivalik hills of Himachal Pradesh, enters Haryana near Panchkula, loops through Punjab and then flows south-west through Fatehabad and Sirsa before fading into the sands of Rajasthan; its dry continuation downstream is called the Hakra, so the whole system is known as the Ghaggar-Hakra. It is widely identified with the Vedic Saraswati. The Ottu barrage near Sirsa stores its water in the Ottu reservoir and feeds local canals. Its streams include the Kaushalya, which has a dam near Pinjore, the Tangri, which flows past Ambala Cantonment, and the Markanda, which rises in Himachal Pradesh and passes Shahabad. The Saraswati of tradition rises at Adi Badri in Yamunanagar district, and the Chautang, the Drishadvati of the Vedas, crosses the north-central plain.

Rivers of the south: In the south the streams rise in the Aravallis of Rajasthan. The Sahibi enters through Rewari district, where the Masani barrage stands on it, flows north-east towards Delhi and continues there as the Najafgarh drain, which joins the Yamuna. The Dohan and the Krishnavati flow through Mahendragarh district. All of them are dry for most of the year.

Canals: The Western Yamuna Canal, which takes off at Hathnikund, is the oldest canal system in the region. Its origin is the canal Firoz Shah Tughlaq dug in the 14th century to water Hisar; under Shah Jahan, Ali Mardan Khan restored it to carry water to Delhi; and the British rebuilt it in the 19th century. Its main branches are the Delhi, Hansi and Sirsa branches. The Bhakra canal system brings Sutlej water from the Bhakra-Nangal project: the Bhakra Main Line enters Haryana and irrigates the dry north-western districts such as Sirsa, Fatehabad and Hisar, and the project is run by the Bhakra Beas Management Board. Lift irrigation schemes, such as the Jawaharlal Nehru lift scheme, raise water to the higher, dry lands of the south, and the Agra Canal from the Okhla barrage serves Faridabad and Palwal.

The SYL canal issue: The Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal was planned to carry Haryana's share of the surplus Ravi-Beas waters from the Sutlej into the Yamuna system. It is 214 km long, 122 km in Punjab and 92 km in Haryana. Haryana completed its part, but Punjab's section was left unfinished. The foundation stone was laid at Kapoori in Patiala district in 1982, after a water-sharing agreement of 1981; Punjab later passed the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004, which the Supreme Court held invalid in 2016 in its opinion on a Presidential reference. The dispute has dragged on for decades, so exams ask about its length, route and the states involved rather than an outcome.

Lakes and sacred tanks: Most of Haryana's lakes are artificial or seasonal. Badkhal Lake in Faridabad was long a popular boating lake, while nearby Surajkund is an ancient stepped, amphitheatre-shaped reservoir attributed to the Tomar king Surajpal. Damdama Lake lies near Sohna in Gurugram district, Tilyar Lake at Rohtak has a zoo beside it, Karna Lake at Karnal is named after Karna of the Mahabharata, and Blue Bird Lake is at Hisar. At Kurukshetra, Brahma Sarovar and Sannihit Sarovar are huge sacred tanks where lakhs of pilgrims bathe during solar eclipses, and the Tikkar Tal lakes lie in the Morni hills.

Examples

- The Yamuna is Haryana's only perennial river; it enters at Yamunanagar, forms the eastern boundary with Uttar Pradesh and feeds the Western Yamuna Canal at the Hathnikund barrage (successor to Tajewala).
- Western Yamuna Canal: begun by Firoz Shah Tughlaq (14th century) to water Hisar, restored by Ali Mardan Khan under Shah Jahan, rebuilt by the British; Delhi, Hansi and Sirsa branches.
- Ghaggar: rises in the Shivaliks of Himachal Pradesh, enters near Panchkula, fades out in Rajasthan, its dry continuation being the Hakra; Ottu barrage near Sirsa; streams Kaushalya, Tangri and Markanda.
- Sahibi: rises in the Aravallis of Rajasthan, Masani barrage in Rewari, reaches Delhi as the Najafgarh drain. The Dohan and Krishnavati flow through Mahendragarh.

- Bhakra Main Line: brings Sutlej water from the Bhakra-Nangal project to Sirsa, Fatehabad and Hisar; managed by the Bhakra Beas Management Board.
- SYL canal: 214 km (122 km in Punjab, 92 km in Haryana); foundation stone at Kapoori (1982); Haryana's part built, Punjab's left unfinished; Punjab's 2004 Act held invalid by the Supreme Court (2016).
- Lakes by district: Badkhal and Surajkund (Faridabad), Damdama (Gurugram, near Sohna), Tilyar (Rohtak), Karna Lake (Karnal), Blue Bird (Hisar), Tikkar Tal (Morni, Panchkula).
- Brahma Sarovar and Sannihit Sarovar (Kurukshetra): sacred tanks where pilgrims bathe during solar eclipses. Adi Badri (Yamunanagar) is the traditional source of the Saraswati.

> **Quick revision:** Yamuna only perennial river, enters at Yamunanagar, Hathnikund barrage (replaced Tajewala); Western Yamuna Canal (Firoz Shah Tughlaq, Ali Mardan Khan, British; Delhi, Hansi, Sirsa branches); Ghaggar (Ghaggar-Hakra system, Ottu barrage, Kaushalya, Tangri, Markanda); Sahibi (Masani barrage, Najafgarh drain); Bhakra Main Line, BBMB; SYL 214 km (122 Punjab, 92 Haryana), Kapoori 1982, long-running dispute; lakes Badkhal, Surajkund, Damdama, Tilyar, Karna, Blue Bird; Brahma Sarovar.

Climate, Soils, Forests and Wildlife of Haryana

Climate: Haryana has a continental, sub-tropical climate, semi-arid in the south-west and sub-humid in the north-east. Far from the sea, it has extremes. Summers (April to June) are very hot and dry, with temperatures in the south-west often above 45°C, hot winds called loo and dust storms. Winters (December to February) are cold, with frost and fog, and January is the coldest month. The south-west monsoon arrives around the end of June and brings most of the year's rain between July and September, while western disturbances bring light winter rain that helps the wheat crop.

Rainfall pattern: Rainfall decreases from the north-east to the south-west. The Shivalik foothills of Panchkula, Yamunanagar and Ambala receive the most, often over 1,000 mm a year, while Sirsa and the sandy south-west receive the least, around 300 mm or less. Because rain is low and uncertain over most of the state, irrigation by canals and tubewells is essential, and droughts hit the south-western districts hardest.

Soils: Most of Haryana has alluvial soil laid down by rivers. The Khadar soils of the floodplains are new and fertile, and the Bangar soils of the higher plain are older loams that become very productive with irrigation. The south-west has sandy desert soils that hold little water, the Shivaliks have thin, stony soils badly eroded by chos, and the Aravalli tracts have rocky, shallow soils. In parts of central Haryana, over-irrigation and poor drainage have caused waterlogging and saline or alkaline patches known as kallar or reh; the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute at Karnal works on reclaiming such land, often with gypsum.

Forests: Haryana is one of the least forested states in India; natural forest survives mainly in the Shivaliks, the Morni hills and the Aravallis. The Shivaliks carry tropical dry deciduous forest, with sal in the Kalesar area, khair and shisham, and chir pine grows on the higher Morni slopes; the Aravallis and the south-west have thorn and scrub forest of kikar (babul), khejri and dhak. With so little forest land, the state relies on planting along roads, canals and railway lines and on farm forestry, such as the poplar and eucalyptus grown by farmers in the north for Yamunanagar's plywood industry.

National parks: Haryana's national parks are Sultanpur and Kalesar. Sultanpur National Park in Gurugram district, near Farrukhnagar, grew around a shallow seasonal lake; it was first protected as a bird sanctuary in the early 1970s and later made a national park, and in winter it draws migratory birds such as bar-headed geese, northern pintails and greater flamingos. Kalesar National Park in Yamunanagar district, in the Shivalik foothills beside Himachal Pradesh, was declared in 2003; it protects sal forest with leopards, sambar and red junglefowl, and elephants sometimes move in from neighbouring forests.

Sanctuaries and breeding centres: Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary in Jhajjar district is a man-made wetland fed by canal water and the largest wetland in Haryana; with the nearby Khaparwas sanctuary it shelters thousands of migratory waterbirds in winter. Other sanctuaries include Bir Shikargah in Panchkula, Chhilchhila in Kurukshetra, Saraswati in Kaithal, Abubshahar in Sirsa and Nahar in Rewari. The Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre at Pinjore,

run with the Bombay Natural History Society, was India's first centre for breeding endangered Gyps vultures, and Bhor Saidan near Kurukshetra has a crocodile breeding centre.

Wildlife and its protectors: The blackbuck, the state animal, survives mainly around Bishnoi villages in Hisar and Fatehabad districts, where the community's faith forbids harming animals and trees. The nilgai, peafowl, jackal, hare and black francolin, the state bird, are widespread in the plains, while leopards, sambar and barking deer live in the Shivaliks. The Morni hills of Panchkula remain Haryana's main hill forest and a refuge for birds and leopards.

Examples

- Climate: continental and sub-tropical; hot dry summers with loo and dust storms, cold foggy winters; most rain from the south-west monsoon (July-September), light winter rain from western disturbances.
- Rainfall decreases from the north-east (Shivalik foothills, over 1,000 mm) to the south-west (Sirsa, about 300 mm or less).
- Soils: alluvial Khadar and Bangar in the plains, sandy in the south-west, stony in the Shivaliks; saline-alkaline (kallar, reh) patches; CSSRI at Karnal works on reclamation.
- Forest cover is among the lowest in India: sal in Kalesar, chir pine in the Morni hills, thorn forest of kikar and khejri in the south-west.
- Sultanpur National Park (Gurugram): wetland bird park with migratory birds in winter. Kalesar National Park (Yamunanagar): sal forest in the Shivaliks, declared in 2003.
- Bhindawas (Jhajjar): the largest wetland of Haryana, man-made, beside the Khaparwas sanctuary. Other sanctuaries: Bir Shikargah (Panchkula), Chhilchhila (Kurukshetra), Nahar (Rewari).
- Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore: India's first vulture breeding centre, run with the BNHS. Crocodile breeding centre at Bhor Saidan (Kurukshetra).
- The blackbuck (state animal) is protected by Bishnoi villages in Hisar and Fatehabad; the black francolin is the state bird.

> **Quick revision:** Continental sub-tropical climate; summers above 45°C in the south-west, loo, dust storms; January coldest; monsoon July-September, western disturbances in winter; rain over 1,000 mm in the Shivaliks to about 300 mm in Sirsa; alluvial Khadar and Bangar, sandy south-west, kallar/reh, CSSRI Karnal; very low forest cover, sal in Kalesar, chir pine in Morni; Sultanpur NP (Gurugram), Kalesar NP (Yamunanagar, 2003); Bhindawas largest wetland; Jatayu centre Pinjore; blackbuck and Bishnois.

Agriculture, Dairy, Industries and Sport in Haryana

The Green Revolution: Haryana was born in 1966, just as high-yielding dwarf wheats such as Kalyan Sona and Sonalika (bred from Norman Borlaug's Mexican varieties), chemical fertilisers, tubewells and canal water arrived. With Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh it became a core Green Revolution state, and its wheat and rice harvests rose many times over. Haryana electrified all its villages by 1970, the first state in India to do so, which powered the tubewells, and it became a major supplier of wheat and rice to the central pool. The costs came later: falling groundwater, waterlogging and salinity in some areas, heavy use of chemicals and the burning of paddy straw after the rice harvest.

Crops: In the rabi (winter) season wheat is the main crop almost everywhere, with mustard important in the dry south around Rewari, Mahendragarh and Bhiwani, and gram and barley in sandy areas. In the kharif (monsoon) season rice dominates the canal-irrigated north and east, with fine basmati around Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal and Panipat; cotton is grown in the north-west in Sirsa, Fatehabad and Hisar; bajra (pearl millet) and guar in the dry south-west; and sugarcane in Yamunanagar, Karnal and the Yamuna belt. Sirsa is also known for kinnow orchards.

Dairy and animal husbandry: Livestock is part of almost every farming household, and Haryana is among India's leading states in milk available per person. Its pride is the Murrah buffalo, the 'black gold' of Haryana: a jet-black breed with tightly curled horns, famous for its high milk yield and native to the Rohtak, Jind, Hisar and Jhajjar area. Hariana cattle, a dual-purpose breed for milk and draught, also come from this region. The Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation sells milk under the brand Vita. The old saying 'Desan mein des Haryana, jit doodh dahi ka khana' (the best of lands is Haryana, where milk and curd are the daily food) sums up the tradition.

Research institutions: Karnal and Hisar are the state's great centres of farm research. At Karnal are the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), founded in 1923 at Bangalore and moved to Karnal in 1955, whose scientists produced cloned buffalo calves from 2009; the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI); the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR); and the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR). At Hisar are Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (1970), the Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB), the Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS), the Central Sheep Breeding Farm and the large Government Livestock Farm.

Industrial towns: Industry is concentrated in the National Capital Region and along the Grand Trunk Road. Gurugram became India's car hub after Maruti Udyog began making the Maruti 800 there in 1983; it later grew into a centre of IT, outsourcing and corporate offices, with the Industrial Model Township at Manesar nearby, and two-wheelers are made around Gurugram and Dharuhera. Faridabad, planned after Partition to resettle refugees, grew into a major industrial city known for tractors, engineering goods and auto parts. Panipat, the 'City of Weavers', is famous for handloom goods, blankets, durries and home furnishings, and has Indian Oil's Panipat Refinery (1998) and a thermal power station.

Other industrial centres: Sonipat has engineering units and the Kundli industrial area; Bahadurgarh is a hub of footwear making; Yamunanagar and Jagadhri are known for plywood made from farm-grown poplar, for metal utensils and for the Saraswati Sugar Mills; Ambala Cantonment is the centre of the scientific instruments industry; Hisar is known for stainless steel and Rewari for brassware. Karnal is a centre of rice milling and basmati export, and Sirsa of cotton ginning.

Haryana in sport: With only about 2 per cent of India's population, Haryana wins a far larger share of the country's sporting medals, especially in wrestling, boxing, athletics and kabaddi. Village akharas, a diet rich in milk and ghee and a tradition of army service built this culture. Bhiwani, home of the Bhiwani Boxing Club, is called the 'Mini Cuba' of Indian boxing; Vijender Singh of Bhiwani won India's first Olympic boxing medal (bronze, Beijing 2008). Kapil Dev, the 'Haryana Hurricane', led India to the 1983 Cricket World Cup. Saina Nehwal, born in Hisar, won a badminton bronze at London 2012; Sakshi Malik became India's first woman wrestler to win an Olympic medal (bronze, Rio 2016); and Neeraj Chopra of Panipat won India's first Olympic gold in athletics, in the javelin at the Tokyo Games held in 2021.

Examples

- Green Revolution (from 1966): high-yielding wheat (Kalyan Sona, Sonalika), fertilisers, tubewells; Haryana electrified all its villages by 1970, the first state to do so.
- Rabi: wheat, mustard (Rewari, Mahendragarh, Bhiwani), gram. Kharif: rice and basmati (Karnal, Kaithal, Kurukshetra), cotton (Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar), bajra (south-west), sugarcane (Yamunanagar).
- Murrah buffalo: the 'black gold' of Haryana, tightly curled horns, high milk yield (Rohtak, Jind, Hisar). Hariana cattle: dual-purpose. Cooperative milk brand: Vita.
- Karnal: NDRI (founded 1923 at Bangalore, at Karnal since 1955), CSSRI, IIWBR, NBAGR. Hisar: CCS HAU (1970), CIRB, LUVAS, Central Sheep Breeding Farm.
- Gurugram: Maruti 800 production from 1983, IMT Manesar, IT hub. Faridabad: planned after Partition to resettle refugees; a major industrial city for tractors and engineering goods.
- Panipat: 'City of Weavers' (handloom, blankets, durries); Indian Oil refinery (1998); thermal power station.
- Yamunanagar-Jagadhri: plywood, metal utensils, Saraswati Sugar Mills. Ambala Cantt: scientific instruments. Bahadurgarh: footwear. Hisar: stainless steel.
- Sport: Bhiwani 'Mini Cuba' (Vijender Singh, bronze 2008); Kapil Dev 'Haryana Hurricane' (1983 World Cup); Sakshi Malik bronze 2016; Neeraj Chopra javelin gold at the Tokyo Games (2021).

> **Quick revision:** Green Revolution from 1966 (Kalyan Sona, Sonalika); all villages electrified 1970, first state; wheat and mustard (rabi), rice/basmati, cotton, bajra, sugarcane (kharif); Murrah buffalo, Hariana cattle, Vita; Karnal: NDRI (1955), CSSRI, IIWBR, NBAGR; Hisar: CCS HAU (1970), CIRB, LUVAS; Gurugram Maruti 1983; Faridabad engineering; Panipat weavers and refinery 1998; Yamunanagar plywood; Ambala instruments; Bhiwani Mini Cuba; Neeraj Chopra gold.

Language, Folk Culture and Festivals of Haryana

Language and dialects: Hindi is the official language of Haryana, and the everyday speech of most people is Haryanvi, a form of Western Hindi that George Grierson's Linguistic Survey of India placed close to Khari Boli. It has several regional forms. Bangru, also called Deswali or Jatu, is spoken in the central Bangar tract around Rohtak, Jhajjar, Jind and Sonipat and is the 'standard' Haryanvi of songs and Saang. Bagri, close to Rajasthani, is spoken in the western sandy tract of Sirsa, Hisar and Bhiwani; Ahirwati in the southern Ahirwal belt of Rewari, Mahendragarh and parts of Gurugram; Mewati in Nuh (Mewat) and nearby areas; and Brajbhasha in Palwal and the Faridabad area along the Uttar Pradesh border. In the north-east along the Yamuna the speech shades into Khari Boli, and Punjabi is widely spoken near Punjab.

Saang and Ragini: Saang (Swang) is Haryana's folk theatre: an open-air performance, usually at night on a simple stage, in which a troupe of men acts out stories from mythology, history and folk legend through verse, song and dialogue, with men playing the women's roles. Its greatest master was Pt. Lakhmi Chand (1903-1945) of Janti Kalan in Sonipat district, honoured as the 'Surya Kavi' (sun among poets) of Haryanvi; Saangs of his such as Raja Harishchandra, Meera Bai and Shahi Lakadhara are still performed. Other noted Saangis include Pt. Mange Ram and Baje Bhagat. The Ragini, a sung verse form that grew out of Saang, is today the most popular Haryanvi folk song genre.

Folk dances: Each dance belongs to a season or an occasion. Phag is danced by men and women in the month of Phalgun, when the rabi crop is ripening, with drums and colour. Loor is danced by girls of the Bangar region in Phalgun, with songs in a question-and-answer style. Khoria is a women's dance of the Bangar tract, performed especially at weddings on the night the baraat (the groom's party) leaves the house. Dhamal is a vigorous men's dance of southern Haryana, danced in Phalgun to the beat of the daf (frame drum). Ghoomar is danced by girls in the areas bordering Rajasthan, turning in circles on festive nights such as Holi and Teej. The Gugga dance is performed by devotees of Gugga Pir around Gugga Navami, and Chhathi is danced by women on the sixth night after the birth of a son.

Festivals and fairs: Teej (Hariyali Teej), in the monsoon month of Sawan, is the great women's festival, with swings on trees, songs and sweets such as ghevar. Gugga Navami, in Bhadrapad, honours Gugga Pir (Jahar Veer), the snake deity. Gita Jayanti is celebrated at Kurukshetra on Margashirsha Shukla Ekadashi (November-December), now as the International Gita Mahotsav. The Surajkund International Crafts Mela, begun in 1987, is held every February at Surajkund in Faridabad, with a different Indian state as the theme state each year and artisans from many countries. Other fairs include the solar eclipse fair at Kurukshetra, the Kapal Mochan fair near Bilaspur (Yamunanagar) on Kartik Purnima, the Navratra fairs at Mata Mansa Devi (Panchkula) and Sheetla Mata (Gurugram), and the Mango Mela at Pinjore.

Crafts and dress: Phulkari and Bagh embroidery, in bright silk thread on cotton odhnis and shawls, is shared with Punjab. Durries and panja rugs are woven in Panipat and the villages, and Jhajjar is known for its pottery surahis. Other traditional crafts include moodhas (reed stools), hand-made juttis and brassware at Rewari and Jagadhri. Traditional dress for women is the daaman (a long, full skirt), kurti and chunder (a decorated odhni), and for men the dhoti, kurta and pagri (turban).

Music and literature: Folk music uses the dholak, nagara, daf, been, algoza, sarangi, ektara, chimta and khartal. Haryana also gave India the Mewati gharana vocalist Pt. Jasraj (1930-2020), born at Pili Mandori in present Fatehabad district. In literature, Babu Balmukund Gupt was a pioneer of Hindi journalism, and tradition holds that the poet Surdas was born at Sihi near Ballabhgarh (Faridabad), though this is disputed. The saint-poet Garib Das of Chhudani (Jhajjar) wrote devotional verse in the tradition of Kabir. The Pt. Lakhmi Chand State University of Performing and Visual Arts at Rohtak keeps these traditions alive.

Examples

- Dialects: Bangru or Deswali (centre: Rohtak, Jhajjar, Jind), Bagri (west: Sirsa, Hisar, Bhiwani), Ahirwati (south: Rewari, Mahendragarh), Mewati (Nuh), Brajbhasha (Palwal, Faridabad).
- Saang: open-air folk theatre in verse and song, with men in women's roles; Pt. Lakhmi Chand (1903-1945) of Janti Kalan (Sonipat) is the 'Surya Kavi'.

- Ragini: the most popular Haryanvi folk song form, which grew out of Saang.
- Phag: Phalgun, men and women. Loor: girls of Bangar, Phalgun, question-answer songs. Khoria: women, the night the baraat leaves. Dhamal: men of the south, with the daf. Ghoomar: girls, Rajasthan border.
- Teej (Sawan): swings and ghevar. Gugga Navami (Bhadrapad): Gugga Pir. Gita Jayanti at Kurukshetra on Margashirsha Shukla Ekadashi.
- Surajkund International Crafts Mela: Faridabad, every February since 1987, with a theme state each year.
- Fairs: solar eclipse fair (Kurukshetra), Kapal Mochan (Yamunanagar, Kartik Purnima), Mansa Devi (Panchkula), Sheetla Mata (Gurugram), Mango Mela (Pinjore).
- Women's dress: daaman, kurti, chunder; men's: dhoti, kurta, pagri. Crafts: phulkari, durries (Panipat), Jhajjar surahis.
- Pt. Jasraj (Mewati gharana) was born at Pili Mandori (now Fatehabad district); tradition places Surdas's birth at Sihi near Ballabhgarh.

> **Quick revision:** Hindi official; Haryanvi dialects: Bangru/Deswali (centre), Bagri (west), Ahirwati (south), Mewati (Nuh), Braj (Palwal); Saang folk theatre, Pt. Lakhmi Chand 'Surya Kavi' (Janti Kalan, Sonipat), Ragini; dances Phag, Loor, Khoria, Dhamal, Ghoomar, Gugga, Chhathi; Teej, Gugga Navami, Gita Jayanti (Kurukshetra); Surajkund Crafts Mela every February since 1987; phulkari, durries, surahis; daaman-kurti-chunder; Pt. Jasraj (Mewati gharana).

Monuments, Tourist Places and Famous Personalities of Haryana

Kurukshetra: Kurukshetra is Haryana's best-known pilgrimage centre. Brahma Sarovar, a vast sacred tank, draws lakhs of pilgrims for a holy dip during solar eclipses and is the main venue of the Gita Mahotsav; Sannihit Sarovar is another revered tank nearby. Jyotisar, on the Pehowa road, is revered as the place where Krishna delivered the Gita to Arjuna and is marked by an old banyan tree; the Kalpana Chawla Memorial Planetarium stands nearby. Other sites include the Bhadrakali temple (a Shaktipeeth), the Sthaneshwar Mahadev temple at Thanesar, Bhishma Kund at Narkatari, the Kurukshetra Panorama and Science Centre and the Shri Krishna Museum.

Sheikh Chilli's tomb and Harsh ka Tila: At Thanesar stands the tomb of the Sufi saint known as Sheikh Chehli, popularly Sheikh Chilli, said to have been a spiritual guide of the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh. Built in the 17th century in the Persian style, with a white marble dome, a madrasa and gardens, it is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. Next to it lies the large mound of Harsh ka Tila, linked with Harshavardhana's capital Sthanvishvara.

Pinjore, Surajkund and other monuments: The Pinjore Garden (Yadavindra Gardens) near Panchkula was laid out in the 17th century by Nawab Fidai Khan, a foster brother of Aurangzeb, in the Mughal style on seven descending terraces with water channels, fountains and pavilions such as the Sheesh Mahal and Rang Mahal; it was later restored by Maharaja Yadavindra Singh of Patiala and renamed after him. Surajkund near Faridabad is a 10th-century amphitheatre-like reservoir attributed to the Tomar king Surajpal, and the nearby Anangpur dam is also linked with the Tomars. Narnaul has the tomb of Ibrahim Khan Sur, the Jal Mahal and Birbal ka Chhatta; Hisar has Firoz Shah's palace with the Gujri Mahal and the Lat ki Masjid, and the Jahaz Kothi; and Hansi has the old Asigarh fort.

Kos Minars and Panipat: Kos Minars are solid, round brick pillars that the Mughals, from Akbar's reign onwards, built about one kos (roughly 3 km) apart along the royal road from Agra through Delhi to Lahore, the forerunner of the Grand Trunk Road. Several survive in Haryana, in Faridabad, Palwal, Sonipat, Panipat, Karnal and Kurukshetra districts, as protected monuments. Panipat keeps the memory of its three battles: the Panipat Museum explains them, Kala Amb marks the field of 1761, and the town also has Ibrahim Lodi's tomb, Babur's Kabuli Bagh mosque, a memorial to Hemu and the dargah of the Sufi saint Bu Ali Shah Qalandar.

Tourism: Haryana Tourism pioneered highway tourism with a chain of tourist complexes on the main roads, many named after birds, such as Blue Jay at Samalkha, Skylark at Panipat and Parakeet at Pipli. Other attractions are the Morni hills and Tikkar Tal, the Sultanpur and Kalesar national parks, the Badkhal and Damdama lakes, Agroha Dham, Adi Badri, the Mansa Devi temple at Panchkula and the excavated mounds of Rakhigarhi.

Personalities in public life: Sir Chhotu Ram (Deenbandhu), Pt. Neki Ram Sharma (Haryana Kesari) and Rao Tula Ram are the region's freedom-era icons, and Lala Lajpat Rai began his public life at Hisar. Chaudhary Devi Lal, born in present Sirsa district and called 'Tau', was Deputy Prime Minister of India (1989-1991). Sushma Swaraj, born in

Ambala Cantonment, became a Haryana cabinet minister at 25, later the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi and Minister of External Affairs.

Science, adventure and the arts: Kalpana Chawla, born in Karnal, became the first woman of Indian origin to go into space, aboard the space shuttle Columbia (STS-87) in 1997, and died when Columbia broke up on re-entry on 1 February 2003. Santosh Yadav of Rewari district was the first woman to climb Mount Everest twice (1992 and 1993). In the arts the great names are Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Lakhmi Chand and Babu Balmukund Gupt, and in sport Kapil Dev, Vijender Singh, Saina Nehwal, Sakshi Malik and Neeraj Chopra.

Examples

- Brahma Sarovar (Kurukshetra): sacred tank, holy dip at solar eclipses, main venue of the Gita Mahotsav. Jyotisar: Gita sermon site with an old banyan tree.
- Sheikh Chilli's tomb (Thanesar): 17th-century Mughal tomb of a Sufi saint said to be Dara Shikoh's spiritual guide; ASI-protected; next to Harsh ka Tila.
- Pinjore (Yadavindra) Gardens: laid out by Nawab Fidai Khan in the 17th century on seven terraces; renamed after Maharaja Yadavindra Singh of Patiala.
- Surajkund (Faridabad): 10th-century amphitheatre-like reservoir of the Tomar king Surajpal; venue of the crafts mela. Anangpur dam nearby is also Tomar.
- Kos Minars: Mughal milestones about one kos (roughly 3 km) apart on the Agra-Delhi-Lahore road; several survive in Faridabad, Palwal, Sonipat, Panipat, Karnal and Kurukshetra.
- Panipat: Panipat Museum, Kala Amb (the 1761 field), Ibrahim Lodi's tomb, Kabuli Bagh mosque, Hemu's memorial, dargah of Bu Ali Shah Qalandar.
- Narnaul: Ibrahim Khan Sur's tomb, Jal Mahal, Birbal ka Chhatta. Hisar: Gujri Mahal, Lat ki Masjid, Jahaz Kothi. Hansi: Asigarh fort.
- Kalpana Chawla (Karnal): first woman of Indian origin in space (Columbia, 1997); died in the Columbia disaster on 1 February 2003.
- Santosh Yadav (Rewari): first woman to climb Everest twice (1992, 1993). Devi Lal ('Tau'): Deputy PM 1989-1991. Sushma Swaraj (Ambala Cantt): Haryana minister at 25, first woman CM of Delhi.

> **Quick revision:** Kurukshetra: Brahma Sarovar, Sannihit Sarovar, Jyotisar (Gita site, banyan), Bhadrakali Shaktipeeth; Thanesar: Sheikh Chilli's tomb (17th century, Dara Shikoh's guide), Harsh ka Tila; Pinjore Gardens (Fidai Khan, seven terraces, Yadavindra Singh); Surajkund (Tomar Surajpal); Kos Minars on the Agra-Lahore road; Panipat: Kala Amb, Lodi's tomb, Kabuli Bagh, Bu Ali Shah Qalandar; Kalpana Chawla (Karnal, 1997, 2003); Santosh Yadav (Everest twice); Devi Lal; Sushma Swaraj.

Free practice questions: parikshasaathi.com/q/haryana-state-gk/

Revision sheet

Every lesson's quick-revision box in one place, for the last read before the exam.

Haryana General Knowledge	Haryana formed 1 Nov 1966 (Punjab Reorganisation Act, Shah Commission); first CM Bhagwat Dayal Sharma, Governor Dharma Vira; Vidhan Sabha 90, LS 10, RS 5; capital and High Court shared at Chandigarh; Rakhigarhi (Hansi, earlier Hisar), Banawali and Bhirrana (Fatehabad); Harsha at Thanesar 606 CE; Tarain 1191/1192; Panipat 1526, 1556, 1761; Hisar 1354; Rao Tula Ram, Nasibpur 1857; Yamuna only perennial river, Hathnikund; Ottu on Ghaggar, Masani on Sahibi; Sultanpur, Kalesar NPs; blackbuck, black francolin, peepal, lotus; Murrah; Surajkund Mela in February.
Ancient Haryana: Harappan Sites, Kurukshetra and Thanesar	Rakhigarhi largest Harappan site in India (Narnaund; long in Hisar district, now Hansi district; iconic site 2020); Banawali (Fatehabad, R.S. Bisht) plough model; Kunal silver crowns; Bhirrana 8th-7th millennium BCE; Mitathal (Bhiwani); Brahmavarta between Saraswati and Drishadvati (Manusmriti); Kuru capital Indraprastha; Jyotisar Gita site; Topra pillar has all seven edicts; Yaudheyas, Kartikeya coins, Khokrakot; Agroha-Agrasen; Harsha crowned at Thanesar 606 CE, later Kannauj; Banabhatta.
Medieval Haryana: Tarain, the Three Battles of Panipat and After	Tomars: Dhillika, Lal Kot, Surajkund; Tarain (Taraori) 1191 Prithviraj won, 1192 Ghori won; Delhi Sultanate 1206; Razia killed near Kaithal 1240; Hisar 1354; Timur 1398; Panipat 21 Apr 1526 Babur beat Ibrahim Lodi; 5 Nov 1556 Bairam Khan beat Hemu; 14 Jan 1761 Abdali beat Sadashivrao Bhau, Kala Amb; Ibrahim Khan Sur's tomb at Narnaul; Banda at Lohgarh; Karnal 1739 Nadir Shah; George Thomas at Hansi; Surji-Anjangaon 1803.
Modern Haryana: British Rule, 1857 and the Freedom Struggle	1803 Surji-Anjangaon; Delhi Territory, then North-Western Provinces; 1857: Nahar Singh (Ballabhgarh) and Abdur Rahman Khan (Jhajjar) executed; Rao Tula Ram of Rewari, Nasibpur 16 Nov 1857, Col. Gerrard killed, Tula Ram died in Kabul 1863; 1858 region merged into Punjab; Lajpat Rai at Hisar 1886; Chhotu Ram born Garhi Sampla 1881, Jat Gazette 1916, Unionist Party 1923, Deenbandhu; Neki Ram Sharma Haryana Kesari; Gandhiji at Bhiwani 1920; Jind to PEPSU, Punjab 1956.
Formation of Haryana (1966), Administration and Polity	Punjabi Suba movement; Sachar (1949) and Regional (1956) formulas; Hukam Singh Committee; Shah Commission 1966 (1961 Census basis); Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966; Haryana 17th state, 1 Nov 1966; Chandigarh UT and shared capital; first CM Bhagwat Dayal Sharma, Governor Dharma Vira, Speaker Shanno Devi; Vidhan Sabha 90 (17 SC), LS 10 (Ambala, Sirsa SC), RS 5; common High Court (Art. 231); Aaya Ram Gaya Ram 1967; Hindi official (1969 Act); BBBP Panipat 2015.
Geography of Haryana: Location, Area and Physiographic Regions	Landlocked; 44,212 sq km (about 1.34 per cent of India); borders Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand (across the Yamuna), Rajasthan; surrounds Delhi on three sides; Census 2011: 2.54 crore, density 573, literacy 75.55 per cent; four regions: Shivaliks (north-east, chos, Morni hills, Karoh peak about 1,467 m), Ghaggar-Yamuna plain (Khadar, Bangar), sandy plain (south-west, Bagar), Aravallis (south, Dhosi hill).
Rivers, Canals and Lakes of Haryana	Yamuna only perennial river, enters at Yamunanagar, Hathnikund barrage (replaced Tajewala); Western Yamuna Canal (Firoz Shah Tughlaq, Ali Mardan Khan, British; Delhi, Hansi, Sirsa branches); Ghaggar (Ghaggar-Hakra system, Ottu barrage, Kaushalya, Tangri, Markanda); Sahibi (Masani barrage, Najafgarh drain); Bhakra Main Line, BBMB; SYL 214 km (122 Punjab, 92 Haryana), Kapoori 1982, long-running dispute; lakes Badkhal, Surajkund, Damdama, Tilyar, Karna, Blue Bird; Brahma Sarovar.
Climate, Soils, Forests and Wildlife of Haryana	Continental sub-tropical climate; summers above 45°C in the south-west, loo, dust storms; January coldest; monsoon July-September, western disturbances in winter; rain over 1,000 mm in the Shivaliks to about 300 mm in Sirsa; alluvial Khadar and Bangar, sandy south-west, kallar/reh, CSSRI Karnal; very low forest cover, sal in Kalesar, chir pine in Morni; Sultanpur NP (Gurugram), Kalesar NP (Yamunanagar, 2003); Bhindawas largest wetland; Jatayu centre Pinjore; blackbuck and Bishnois.

Agriculture, Dairy, Industries and Sport in Haryana	Green Revolution from 1966 (Kalyan Sona, Sonalika); all villages electrified 1970, first state; wheat and mustard (rabi), rice/basmati, cotton, bajra, sugarcane (kharif); Murrah buffalo, Hariana cattle, Vita; Karnal: NDRI (1955), CSSRI, IIWBR, NBAGR; Hisar: CCS HAU (1970), CIRB, LUVAS; Gurugram Maruti 1983; Faridabad engineering; Panipat weavers and refinery 1998; Yamunanagar plywood; Ambala instruments; Bhiwani Mini Cuba; Neeraj Chopra gold.
Language, Folk Culture and Festivals of Haryana	Hindi official; Haryanvi dialects: Bangru/Deswali (centre), Bagri (west), Ahirwati (south), Mewati (Nuh), Braj (Palwal); Saang folk theatre, Pt. Lakhmi Chand 'Surya Kavi' (Janti Kalan, Sonipat), Ragini; dances Phag, Loor, Khoria, Dhamal, Ghoomar, Gugga, Chhathi; Teej, Gugga Navami, Gita Jayanti (Kurukshetra); Surajkund Crafts Mela every February since 1987; phulkari, durries, surahis; daaman-kurti-chunder; Pt. Jasraj (Mewati gharana).
Monuments, Tourist Places and Famous Personalities of Haryana	Kurukshetra: Brahma Sarovar, Sannihit Sarovar, Jyotisar (Gita site, banyan), Bhadrakali Shaktipeeth; Thanesar: Sheikh Chilli's tomb (17th century, Dara Shikoh's guide), Harsh ka Tila; Pinjore Gardens (Fidai Khan, seven terraces, Yadavindra Singh); Surajkund (Tomar Surajpal); Kos Minars on the Agra-Lahore road; Panipat: Kala Amb, Lodi's tomb, Kabuli Bagh, Bu Ali Shah Qalandar; Kalpana Chawla (Karnal, 1997, 2003); Santosh Yadav (Everest twice); Devi Lal; Sushma Swaraj.

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