

Haryana

Haryana is a small state and certainly has a lot of neighbours. Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Utterakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi & Rajasthan surround it.

Haryana means ‘the home of God’- *hari* (God) and *ayana* (home).

Haryana shares its capital city with its neighbour Punjab. The city of Chandigarh which lies within the Chandigarh Union Territory, is the capital of both Punjab & Haryana. This is because Punjab & Haryana were, at one time, a large common state.



Capital: Chandigarh



Geographical Setting

- There are two main geographic regions in Haryana, one is a vast, flat fertile plain; the other is a small strip of hilly land in the form of a part of the Shivalik Range. Most of its lands are used for farming.
- **River:** Yamuna is the one main river of Haryana. There are smaller seasonal streams that water through the state, after gushing down the Shivalik Range. The Ghaggar is the most important of these.
- **Season:** This state has an extreme climate. That means summers are very hot and dry. But during winters, the temperature can drop below freezing point. Unfortunately, the state does not have a heavy monsoon, and some parts of it often face drought. The farmers have to depend more on canals and wells for irrigation.
- **Forests:** Haryana has no major forests. Eucalyptus trees have been planted along the highways & wastelands. Shisham trees also grow near the canals.

City Lives: Haryana has some big & very important cities-both historical & modern.



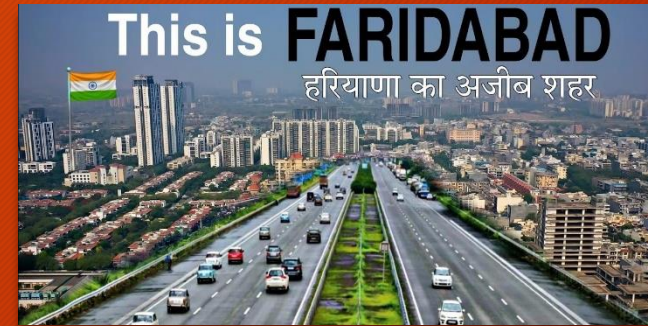
Panipat

Many famous battles were fought here. Now, it is a peaceful city and is also called the City of Weavers, as it is an important textile hub.



Gurgaon

This city is part of the National Capital Region (NCR) of India and is located very close to New Delhi. It has become a very important industrial & financial hub, & is considered to be one of the most modern cities in India.



Faridabad

This is one of Haryana's largest cities. Faridabad is home to the Surajkhand Mela that showcases the vibrant handicrafts of India.

Place of Interests

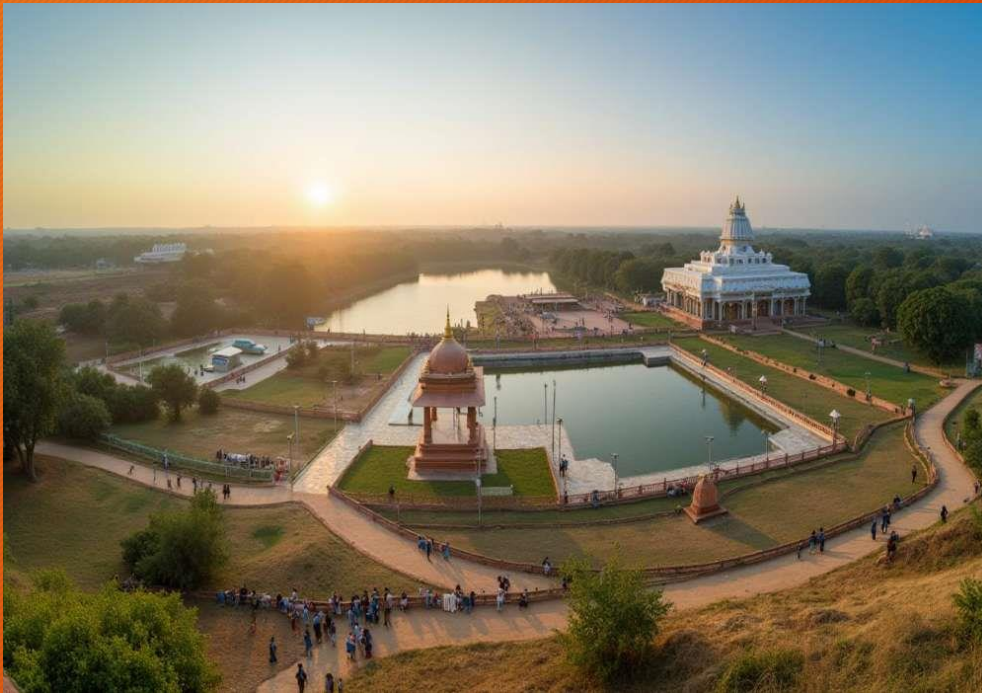
Firoz Shah Tughlaq built this palace hundreds of years ago for himself. There was enough cover for his guards, to make sure no one attacked.



Jal Mahal: This lovely place is built in the middle of a lake (actually a large tank). Shah Quli Khan (Akbar's commander) built this pleasure palace.



Kurukshetra: The battle between Kauravas & Pandavas in one of the greatest events in Hindu mythology. This great battle was fought at Kurukshetra in Haryana. It was during this battle that Lord Krishna had a divine discourse with Arjuna, the Pandava Prince. This discourse came to be the Bhagwad Gita-the sacred book of the Hindus.



History, Language & Culture

- A lot of people believe that Haryana is where Hinduism was born. The Vedas, the ancient Hindu manuscripts, were also believed to be written here. These were written when the Aryans made the north of India their home.
- Almost every invader who came to India from the north passed through Haryana. Many important wars were fought here. The Huns, The Turks & the Afghans all forced their way through this land, fighting battles as they went. Chandragupta Maurya overcame all the invaders and established the massive Mauryan Empire. During this period, Haryana and Punjab were considered one region.

History

- The Bhuns were defeated by a strong king called Harshavardhana, who went on to build a vast kingdom. During his rule, education, culture & systems flourished. The famous Nalada University was at its peak during his time.
- Harshavardhana finally became old and feeble, and his empire was soon dissolved. A few hundred years later, invaders like Muhammad of Ghazni & Muhammad Ghorī started invading north India. A general called Qutb-ud-din- Aibak laid the foundation of the Delhi Sultanate. The Lodhis were the last of the Delhi Sultanate to rule this area.

Panipat

- Panipat became the scene of some important battles that decided India's fate. Three major battles were fought here.
- A powerful king Babur established the Mughal empire. He fought a fierce battle at Panipat against Ibrahim Lodhi, who was ruling the region as head of the Lodhi dynasty.
- Babur's grandson Akbar the Great also fought a bloody war at Panipat- this time with a Hindu king named Hemu, who was trying to expand his kingdom. Akbar defeated him easily, and the Mughal rule continued as strong as ever.
- Years later, the Marathas were trying to advance into north India. A Muslim dynasty called the Durrani had defeated the Mughals and were in power in the region that is Haryana. There was a massive battle at Panipat between the Marathas and the Durrani, where the Durrani defeated the Marathas and held on tightly to their kingdom.

Under British Rule

- British had overcome other European powers like Dutch and the Portuguese, and had taken over most of India. They easily overpowered the Mughals and what was left of the Durranis. They soon controlled all of India. During that time, Haryana was still a part of the Punjab state.
- After independence, India was divided into India and Pakistan. Many Muslims would live in Pakistan and most Hindus would live in India. A part of the Punjab state went to the Pakistan.
- All through this time, Haryana was still a part of Punjab, which considered Punjabi speaking Sikhs and Hindi speaking Hindus. There was demand to split the state, which was supported by both communities. Finally, in 1966, Haryana became a separate state, made up mainly of Hindi-speaking people.

Culture:

- A lot of people who live here are farmers. They have many traditions and legends- and of course, many festivals and dances too.
- Haryana is probably the only lone state that has villages named after musical ragas. Ragas are musical compositions that were created by great musicians years and years ago.
- The folk-music of Haryana is the foot-tapping *kud* and is very popular-not only in Haryana but in its neighbouring states too. There are some communities who are specially musical. *Bhatts*, *Jogis* and *Saangis* are some of them.
- The people here are so creative that they even make music using matchsticks, papayas and the seeds of mangoes.

Gugga Naumi Festival



Gita Jayanti Festival





Khoria dance

This delightful dance is usually performed during weddings. The dancers wear bright skirts with billowing dupattas. One dancer begins by singing a folk song. The others join in and dance in a circle, twirling away.



Saang

Saang is actually a form of mimicry. It is very popular in Haryana-as well as some its neighbouring states. Sometimes, men dress as women and perform this.



Phag Dance

This is also called the phalgun dance. It's very popular among the farming community during February & March, a time when farmers take a brief rest from their busy jobs.

Chance pe Dance...

Loor Dance is performed during Holi. Groups of girls sing in turn, clap and dance. The songs tell stories of falling in love, getting married & life after the wedding.



Dhamal Dance is performed to express love, joy, sorrow & hope. This dance style is so old that people believed that it was performed during the time of Mahabharata.



Dhamal Dance, Haryana

Dress Up: The people, especially women in villages, wear colourful cloths.

Men's wear; Men have a very simple style of clothing. Typically, they wear a white dhoti, a white kurtas and a long cloth on their shoulder.



Traditionally women wore a long colourful skirt that was called *daaman*. They would team this with a long blouse called *Kurti*.



Foods



Bhura Roti Ghee

People in Haryana turn old rotis into a yummy dish called bhura-roti-ghee.



Cucumbar Curry

Kachri is a kind of wild cucumber that is like a small melon. People make many kinds of dishes with kachri.



Alsi ki Pinni

People cook these little laddus called Alsi ki Pinni in Punjab as well. They are made of a seed called alsi & mixed with flour, ghee & sugar.

Phogat Sisters

Mahavir Phogat, his daughters-Geeta, Babita, Ritu & Sangita-and his nieces-Priyanka & Vinesh-are all wrestlers. Mahavir Phogatr beat the odds and trained them to become successful wrestlers.

The blockbuster movie Dangal was based on their lives.



Thank You