



HARYANA

Haryana is bounded by Punjab in the west, Himachal Pradesh in the north and Rajasthan in the south. The river, Yamuna defines its eastern border with Uttar Pradesh. On its part, Haryana surrounds the country's capital, Delhi from three sides namely northern, western and southern. Consequently, a large area of south Haryana comes within the National Capital Region. Economically, Haryana is one of the most developed States of India. Its agricultural and manufacturing sectors have experienced sustained growth since the 1970s. Since the year 2000, the State has also emerged as the largest recipient of per capita investment in India.



HARYANA STATE GOVERNMENT SEAL

CULTURAL SPECIFICITIES

Language

Hindi is the official language of Haryana and is spoken by the majority of the population in this predominantly Hindi-speaking State. Besides, with sizable number of Punjabi speaking Sikh population residing in the State, Punjabi has also been accorded the status of the second official language of the State since the year 2010.

Dress

The vibrancy of the people of Haryana and their simplicity and spirited enthusiasm for life find expression in their costume. The women of the State specially have an attraction towards colour. Their basic trousseau includes *daaman*, *kurti* and *chunder*.

<i>Fact Sheet</i>	
<i>State Day</i>	1 November
<i>Geographical Area</i>	44,212 km ²
<i>State Capital</i>	Chandigarh
<i>Official Language</i>	Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu
<i>State Animal</i>	Blackbuck
<i>State Bird</i>	Black francolin
<i>State Flower</i>	Lotus
<i>State Tree</i>	Sacred fig

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

The people of Haryana celebrate various fairs and festivals with equal pomp, splendour and gaiety. Just like other regions of the country, festivities like Dussehra, Navaratri, Holi, Diwali, Mahavir Jayanti, Guru Parav, Raksha Bandhan, Lohri, Karva Chauth, Krishna Janmashtami, Maha Shivratri, Durga Puja, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Juha and Muharram are celebrated across the State. Apart from these, the State also observes many fairs and festivals, which serve not only as occasions of celebration, but also attract a large number of visitors to the State at different times of the year. Some of these festivals are Baisakhi, Haryana Day, Kurukshetra Festival, Mahabharata Festival, Mango Festival, Sohna Car Rally, Surajkund Craft Mela, Kartik Cultural Festival and Pinjore Heritage Festival.



SURAJKUND CRAFT FESTIVAL

PLACES OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

Several pre-Harappan and Harappan sites have been found in Haryana. The major ones among these are located at Rakhigarhi, Banawali, Balu, Kunal, Agroha, Mittathal and Naurangabad. The Lat and the Humayun Mosque, located in Fatehbad, are two important monuments of the State that are associated with its medieval history.

However, the State is by far most well-known for Kurukshetra. The place has a sacred association with the Vedic Culture as well as the Mahabharata. It is believed that Lord Krishna proclaimed the philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna here at Jyotisar. The very first verse of the Gita describes Kurukshetra as the 'Dharmakshetra' (place of righteousness). According to Hindu mythology, Kurukshetra applies to a circuit of about 128 kilometers, which includes a large number of holy places, temples and tanks that are associated with the ancient Indian traditions and the Mahabharata War.



KURUKSHETRA



RAKHIGARHI



HUMAYUN MOSQUE