

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE STATE

Haryana has a proud history dating back to the Vedic Ages. The state was home to the legendary Bharata dynasty, after which the country was named Bharat. The land of Haryana has been the cradle of Indian culture and civilization. Archaeological investigations performed by Guy E. Pilgrim in 1915 established that 15 million years ago, the early man lived in the Haryana Shivaliks. In Vamana Purana it has been described that King Kuru ploughed the field at Kurukshetra with a golden plough, drawn by the Nandi of Lord Shiva, and reclaimed an area of seven 'Kosas'.

Replete with myths legends and Vedic references, Haryana's past is steeped in glory. It was on the pious land of Haryana that saint Ved Vyas wrote Mahabharata epic. It was here that Lord Krishna delivered the celestial gospel of karam yoga to Arjuna enshrined in Siri Madbhagwad Geeta about 5000 years ago. It was here that the epic battle of Mahabharata was fought. Being the gateway to north India, the region has been the battleground of a number of wars. The Huns, the Turks and Tughlaqs invaded Haryana and decisive battles were fought on this land. At the end of the 14th Century, Tamur led an army through this area to Delhi. Later, the Mughals defeated the Lodhis in the historic battle of Panipat in 1526. Another decisive battle was also fought in 1556 at this very site, establishing the supremacy of the Mughals. Third battle between Marathas and Ahmed Shah Abdali was also fought at Panipat in 1761, in which the Marathas have been defeated. The region of northern Haryana, being in chaotic condition, the various Sikhs established themselves as rulers of Jind, Kaithal, Thanesar and Ladwa. These Sikh rulers, fearing of the encroachments by the Lahore ruler, Ranjit Singh, sought the protection of British Government. By the Treaty of 1809 of Amritsar between the East India Company and Ranjit Singh of Lahore, the region came under the protection of British Government, up to the advent of the British rule and the rise of Delhi as the imperial capital of India.

Bold in spirit and action, the people of Haryana have always formed a bulwark against the forces of aggression and anti-nationalism. In fact, the history of Haryana reads like a saga of the struggle of righteous, forthrightness and proud people of state which are known for their traits of bravery and valour.

An Adjunct to Delhi, Haryana practically remained anonymous until the First War of India's Independence in 1857. After the British crushed the rebellion, they deprived the Nawabs of Jhajjar and Bahadurgarh, the Raja of Ballabgarh and Rao Tula Ram of Rewari in Haryana region, of their territories. These were either merged with British territories or handed over to the rulers of Patiala, Nabha and Jind, making Haryana a part of the Punjab Province.

With the reorganization of Punjab on November 1, 1966, Haryana was carved out as a full-fledged state. Strategically located, Haryana is bound by Uttar Pradesh in the east, Punjab in the west, Himachal Pradesh in the north and Rajasthan in the south. The National Capital of Delhi is surrounded by Haryana. With just 1.37 per cent of the total geographical area and less than two per cent of India's population, Haryana has carved out a special niche of distinction for itself, whether it is agriculture or industry, canal based irrigation or rural electrification, Haryana keeps marching towards modernity. The state enjoys the unique distinction of being among the first in the country to provide electricity, mettle roads and potable drinking water to all its villages.

Tourism

A pioneer in highway tourism, Haryana has set up a vast network of 43 tourist complexes all over the State. Having 839 rooms accommodation in its various outfits Haryana Tourism attracts 70 lakh tourists every year. The State Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to promote tourism. Tourist Complexes have been set up at strategic points along the highways passing through the State. The tourist complexes have been developed around Delhi with the interest of promoting leisure tourism and conference tourism. Besides, tourists facilities have been set up at the district headquarters and in important towns to cater to the needs of tourists and local people. Some of the important tourist complexes are Surajkund and Badkhal Lake near Delhi, Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary (Sultanpur), Sohna and Damdama and the fascinating pocket of pines in the Morni Hills and Pinjore Garden (Pinjore).

Proposal for Krishna Circuit to develop its tourism infrastructure at place related to Mahabharata in Kurukshetra under Krishna Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme has been sanctioned by Govt. of India, Ministry of Tourism for Rs. 9734.70 lacs and first installment of Rs. 1946.94 lacs has been released to HTC by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. Similarly the proposal for development of Tourism Infrastructure Heritage Circuit for Rewari-Mahendergar-Madhogarh-Narnaul under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for Rs. 48.11 crore has been sent to Govt. of India, Ministry of Tourism for sanction/release of the fund.

Surajkund International Craft Mela is held every year in the month of February. The 30th Surajkund International Crafts Mela has successfully been held from 1-15th February, 2016 at Surajkund, Faridabad, Haryana. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana was inaugurated and Hon'ble Governor, Haryana was the Chief Guest for the closing ceremony of the mela. State of Telangana was the Theme State. At least 23 countries participated in the mela including China, Japan, Congo, Maldives, Tunisia, Seychelles, Malaysia, Namibia and Egypt taking part in the mela for the first time and also all the States of India participated in the Mela. Similarly, famous 25th Mango Mela at Pinjore was organized on 2nd and 3rd July, 2016. The festival has been a great attraction for the tourists. The Mela is much awaited annual event that celebrates Mango as the 'King of Fruits'. The Mango Mela is a fun-filled fiesta that provides an excellent opportunity to the public to see and taste good quality of mangoes and be a part of various activities and events.

organized during the Mela. A large number of mango growers of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand has been participated and exhibit different mango variety and mango products.
