Chapter-2

A Broad Profile of the Land, People and Economy

- The Land
- The People
- The Economy
The state of Haryana came into existence on 1st of November, 1966 as the 17th state of the Indian union, as a result of the reorganization of the erstwhile Punjab state into Haryana and Punjab. For administrative purposes as per 2001 Census the state is divided into four divisions (Ambala, Hisar, Rohtak, Gurgaon), 19 districts, 47 sub divisions, 67 tehsils, 45 sub-tehsils, 116 development blocks, 97 towns and 6759 inhabited villages. There are 90 Legislative Assembly seats and 10 Parliamentary seats and there is no Legislative Council in Haryana.

AREA AND SITUATION

Haryana state has an area of 44212 sq. km covering only 1.34 percent of the total geographical area of India and population of 210.82 lakh (2 percent of India's population), the state's landscape and soil fertility are remarkably diverse. Situated in the north of Indian Union, it is bounded by Uttar Pradesh beyond Jamuna river in the east, Punjab on the west, a portion of Himachal Pradesh on the North and extends to the great expanses of Rajasthan in the south. It extends from 27°3" to 31°9" North latitude and 74°5" to 77°6" East longitude. The state has two physical divisions, namely sub-Himalayan region and indo-Gangetic plain, which runs in south-eastern direction almost parallel to each other.

The sand dunes of Bhiwani, Mahendragarh and parts of Sirsa present a striking contrast to lush green lands adjoining Punjab in the north-west. Down in the south lies the industrial belt of Faridabad, Gurgaon, and north-south is the Mewat area criss-crossed by the rocky Arawali hills.

The National Capital, Delhi is surrounded on three sides by Haryana. Nearly half of area of National Capital Region representing about 40% of its population falls within Haryana state.
Although small in size, Haryana is one of the fastest growing states of India. Haryana has third place in per capita income and produced 138.04 lakh tones foodgrains forming 6% share in India's food-grain production in the year 2002.

**History**

The state has a long and chequered past. Haryana finds touching references in the pages of Rigveda. It was here that Mahamuni Vyas wrote Mahabharata and the essence of human life found in the philosophy of Gita. In the Rig Vedic age, the part of Haryana to the west of the Yamuna was included in the Sapta Sindhu country. In the early centuries of the Christian era the land also come to be known as ‘Bahudhanyak’ a land of richness and prosperity. In the early Mughal period the land comprised the Subha of Delhi. In the epic age, this holy land was variously known as the Brahmavarta, Brahmarish Desh, Kurukshtera, dharamkshetra etc. saw the growth of a number of important cities like those of indraprastha, Rohtak, Panipat, Sonipat, Bhagpat, Hastinapur, Kurukshtera, Hansi, Sirsa, Karnal, Jind and Pehowa.

No one is sure how Haryana acquired its name. To some it reminds of the green forest (Haryana ban) which characterized this part of the indo-Gangetic plains. To others it was the chariot (a yana) of lord Indra (Haryana). Some argue that the region owes its name to Raja Harish Chandra.

The Gangetic basin is like a citadel with Delhi as the door and Haryana as the gateway and the Punjab and the glacis. The rise of Gupta empire in the 4th century A.D. tied the whole country in the thread of unity. With the disruption of the empire shaken to the roots by the Huna menace, centrifugal forces were again active. From the ruins of this empire arose, towards the close of the 5th century A.D., the Kingdom of Thanesar which was destined to play an important role in the history of the country. Thanesar was once romanticized by the great poet Bana and the Chinese traveler Hsuan Tasang.
After the death of Harsha (A.D. 647) there was confusion anarchy for sometime. The Mohammedans had been knocking at the gates of India since long and the battle of Taraori insured the ultimate success of Mohammad Ghori over India and laid the foundation Sultanate. The people of Haryana came directly under the heels of Muslim Empire at Delhi and were subjected to extreme hardship which continued for centuries.

The state of Haryana has never been a single administration unit before. Most of the areas were acquired by the East India Company in 1803 and transferred to the United Province (U.P.) in 1832. Later on the people of Haryana were up in the revolt against the British in 1857, in the first war of independence. The people suffered tremendously at the hands of British rulers because of their active participation in the struggle for freedom. In the spirit of revenge after 1857 the Haryana region was placed under the Punjab administration. All this was done to punish the people with perpetual backwardness. This also served the purpose of recruitment to the army.

All these years the people had been struggling to have a state of their own. The form of struggle depended upon the exigencies of the situation. After the introduction of the Montague-Chelmsford reforms, representatives of Haryana region raised their voice in the legislature. They demanded an adequate share in the development projects. The people of this region were in forefront during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1921, 1930-32 and 1941-42. This region acquired importance after independence on account of the division of Punjab. The influx of migrants/ refugees from Pakistan into the Haryana region enriched the region to a great extent and speeded up the process of political and economic growth (Gupta, 1999).

In 1956, the Indian states were recognized on linguistic lines. The Haryana territory continued as a part of the erstwhile Punjab till 1966. It had, of
course, been reorganized as the Hindi zone of the former state wherein the present Punjab territory was designated as the Punjab zone.

In 1966, Punjab was reorganized on linguistic lines. This event saw the emergence of Haryana as a separate state. It included the whole of Hisar, Jind, Mahendragarh, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal districts and parts of Sangrur and Ambala districts.

Thus, Haryana which lacked a strict historical unity, assumed the character of a distinct regional entity through the process of its administrative reorganization as Ambala division before independence in 1947, as a separate Hindi speaking zone during 1947-66, a separate state in 1966 (Singh, 1998).

THE LAND

The physical setting

Haryana is essentially a plain area: 94 percent below 300 metres. The plain extends between the hilly tract in the northeast and the sand dune sprinkled desert topography in the south and southwest. The outliers of the Aravallis make their appearance in the southern part of the state. As such, Haryana assumes the shape of a saucer with its depression in the tract around Rohtak.

For a convenient understanding of its topography Haryana may be divided into the following five land form regions:

i. The Siwalik hills in the form of a narrow belt on the northeast; their general elevation ranges from 300 to 1000 metres;

ii. The piedmont plain, locally known as Ghar, connects the hills to its northeast; it is highly incised by seasonal streams emerging from the hills.
iii. The Ghaggar- Yamuna alluvial plain, which forms the main body of the state; within it the main upland plain and the peripheral floodplains along the Ghaggar and Yamuna can be differentiated.

iv. The sound dune infested plain locally known as bagar, in the south-west and sandy undulating plain in southern Haryana; these are extensions of Rajasthan desert and.

v. Badly dissected Aravalli outliers in Bhiwani, Mahendragarh and Gurgaon districts.

Yamuna is the only perennial river in Haryana defining the eastern boundary of the state. The Ghaggar was a mighty stream till the recent geological past but has now been reduced to a status of a seasonal stream through the process of river capture, roughly marks the boundary between Haryana and Punjab.

Besides, several rainfed torrents, locally known as choes, flow down the outer slopes of Siwaliks. Similarly, a number of small seasonal rivulets, namely the Sahibi, Krishnawati, Indoris, and Landoha carry water along the Aravalli outliers into the southern part of Haryana. These all represent inland drainage. But their irrigational potential is highly limited.

The underground water position in Haryana is also not good. In almost two-third part of the state, covering the central and western Haryana the subsoil water is brackish to saline. This restricts tubewell irrigation.

In the piedmont plain, underground water is sweet, but deep and scarce, again creates problem for regular irrigation. In the eastern part of the state, where water is sweet and close to the surface, water logging is as a serious problem in the canal irrigated and low-lying pockets of Rohtak, Sonipat, Jind and Hisar districts. Thus water is the problem over large parts of Haryana.
The climatic conditions in Haryana ranges from sub-humid to arid along a north-east, south-west transact. On the whole, it is subtropical semi-arid tract. This is explained by its continental location on the outer margin of the Thar Desert.

Rainfall ranges from over 100 cms in the northeast to less than 25 cms. in the southwest. The 50 cm isohyets divide the state into two almost equal parts: the west and the east. Agriculturally, the latter is more productive. Not only it receives a higher amount of rainfall in relative terms but also its underground water is sweet facilitating assured water supply for irrigation.

Haryana is not happily placed as far as the forests are concerned; the traditional 'land of greenery' is left with 3.5 percent of the area under forest cover. Vegetation is in the form of open forest on the Siwalik hills, plantation belts along the rivers, canals, railway lines and roads, and tree clusters in and around village settlements.

The Aravalli outliers generally covered with bushes with some sprinkling of trees.

Soil of Haryana can be grouped under following six categories:

i. The very light soils
ii. The lights soils.
iii. The medium soils.
iv. The moderately heavy soils.
v. The heavy and very heavy soils.
vi. The soils on Siwaliks, the piedmont plain and the Rocky Surfaces.

The broad and sub categories of soils as depicted in Singh (1975) has been given in appendix - 1.
HARYANA
ANNUAL RAINFALL

Rainfall in Cms.
- Above 75
- 50 - 75
- 25 - 50
- Below 25

Fig. - 2.2
Source: Jasbir, Singh (1975); An Agriculture Geography of Haryana

Fig. - 2.3
The regional differences in the soil cover of Haryana get reflected in varying cropping patterns and agricultural productivity in the state.

Haryana state is highly deficient in mineral resources. Mineral bearing tracts are confined to the districts of Mahendragarh (limestone, kankar, marble, iron ore and slate), Gurgaon (China clay, quartz, slate and silica sand) and Ambala (limestone). All minerals contribute hardly 0.01 percent to the state's net domestic product.

The People

Haryana with a population of about 2.10 crore people has about 2% of India's total population. However, population of Haryana is an excellent human asset of the country. The people of Haryana are sturdy, industrious, hardworking and better enterprising in the region.

Size and Growth of Population

It is a matter of concern that the decadal population growth rate for India has declined from 23.86 percent during 1981-91 to 21.34 percent during 1991-2001. Where as in Haryana it has risen from 27.41 percent (1981-91) to 28.06 percent (1999-2001).

Faridabad district occupies the first place in the state by recording the highest population of 2,193,276 in 2001 Census, which has witnessed 48.47 percent growth rate during the last decade caused by industrial development attracting in-migrants. The newly created district of Panchkula is the least populated district with population of 469,210.

Sex-Ratio

Haryana has recorded sex ratio of 861 against 933 for all India in 2001. This is the lowest sex ratio since independence and lowest amongst major
states of India. The sex ratio varies from highest sex ratio of 919 in Mahendragarh district to lowest of 823 in Panchkula district.

**Population Density**

In Haryana population density has increased to 477 in the year 2001 from 372 in the year 1991. In 2001 Faridabad district has highest density of 1020 and Sirsa district has the lowest density of 260.

**Rural-Urban Population**

Rural population accounts for 71.00 percent of the state's population whereas urban population constitutes 29.00 percent only. Out of 97 towns/urban Agglomerations in Haryana, 19 falls in class- 1 category, 6 are in class II, 24 in class - III, 32 in class IV, 15 in class - V, and 1 in class - VI, class - I town account for 72.57 percent of total urban population, class- II towns have 5.78 percent, class - III 11.89 percent, class IV have 7.66 percent and class - V have 2.03 percent of total urban population in Haryana.

Faridabad has emerged as the most urbanised district contributing 19.96 percent of urban population to the state. The lowest percentage of urban population was recorded in Mahendragarh (122.46%).

**Literacy**

Literacy Rate According to 2001 Census is shown below in table 2.1. Its rural-urban components have also been computed.

| Table 2.1 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Haryana: Literacy Rate, 2001** |
| **Literacy Rate** | **Total** | **Rural** | **Urban** |
| Persons | 68.59 | 63.82 | 79.89 |
| Males | 79.25 | 76.13 | 86.58 |
| Females | 56.31 | 49.77 | 72.05 |

Source: Census of India (2001), PCA, Series-7, Haryana.
Rewari district, where literacy is 89.04 percent ranks first in the state while lowest male literacy has been recorded in Fatehabad district (68.71%). Female literacy rate is highest in Panchkula district (86.98%) where as it is lowest in Fatehabad distt. (46.40%). Literacy rates are comparatively higher in Haryana than the national average for males (75.85%).

In so far as rural literacy in concerned Rewari ranks first and Fatehabad last. Similarly Distt. Ambala occupies the first position in urban literacy while Kaithal records the lowest rate.

**Work Participation Rate**

Percentage of main workers to total population has improved by one percent from 28.66 percent during 1991 census to 29.62 percent during 2001 census.

In this context the Female workers has more than doubled and has gone upto 13.37 percent during 2001 census as against 6.01 percent during 1991 census. On the other hand the male work participation rate has decreased surprisingly from 48.26 percent at 1991 census to 43.63 percent during 2001 census.

Interestingly the work participation rate in marginal capacity has increased by almost five times during the decade 1991-2001. It has gone upto 10.14 percent during 2001 Census from 2.34 percent during 1991 census.

The percentage of non workers has decreased from 69.00 percent during 1991 census to 60.24 percent during 2001 Census which is a favourable trend for welfare of society.

**The Economy:**

Haryana state is deficient in minerals and forests resources and agriculture forms the kingpin of its economy. Although the state has made
rapid progress in industrialization during the last 36 years even-then agriculture is the backbone of Haryana economy. In the year 2000-01 agriculture and animal husbandry contributed Rs. 16666.91 crore forming 31.7 percent, secondary sector 29.6 percent and tertiary sector 38.7 percent of gross income (at current prices). Agriculture is the main source of livelihood in the state. About 75% of state's population depends directly on agriculture. In 2001 about 52% of the workers were engaged in agriculture sector against about 62% in the year 1981.

The distribution of land is inequitable. Average size of land holdings declines from west to east.

There are two main crop seasons (i) Kharif (July to November) and (ii) Rabi (December to March). Kharif crops include rice, jowar, bajra, maize, cotton, sugarcane, groundnut and pulses. Rabi crops are wheat barley, gram, rapeseed and mustard and pulses.

The net area sown and total cropped area has increased from 3423 thousand hectare and 4599 thousand hectare in the year 1966-67 to 3650 and 6350 thousand hectares respectively in the year 2001-02.

Despite a poor mineral resource base, the state has made tremendous progress in the industrial sector. The growth has been impressive since 1966. The number of large and medium units have increased from 162 in 1966 to 1149 in Oct. 2002.

The number of registered factories has gone up from 1270 in 1966 to 8631, in the year 2000. Today Haryana state is the largest producer of passenger cars, tractors and motorcycles made in the country.

The state has 350 big industrial units having foreign collaboration to mention only a few: Maruti Udyog, Hero Honda, Escorts, Tractors, Frick India,
Kelvinators of India, Haryana Petro Chemicals, Safety Glass, Taylor Instrument etc.

Some major units in the public sector are H.M.T. Limited, National Fertilizers Limited, India Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Bharat Electronics Limited etc.

Haryana has made remarkable progress - not only in production of paper, cotton textile, cement and sugar. It has surfaced many advanced states in India in the field of cars, two wheelers, tractors, scientific instruments, power loom weaving, handloom weaving etc. About 25% of India's total sanitary ware it manufactured here. One out of every four bicycles bears the stamp of Haryana, factories. Ambala alone accounts for more than 1/3rd of country's total export of scientific instruments. Yamuna Nagar meets 60 percent of the defence forces demand of ammunition bauxites, Panipat, the ‘weavers city of India’, supplies 75 percent of the total requirement of woolen blankets to the Indian Army. The state has benefited to a great extent from its advantageous location i.e. proximity to the national capital of Delhi.

After Singh (1998) Haryana can be regionalized into following three socio-economic regions.

1. National Capital Region (Haryana Zone)
2. Western Haryana
3. North-Eastern Haryana

1. National Capital Region (Haryana Zone)

Covering the southeastern part of the state, this region spreads over an area of about 100 kilometre radius around Delhi. It includes Faridabad, Gurgaon, Rohtak and Sonipat districts as well as Rewari and Bawal tahsils of Mahendragarh district and Panipat tahsil of Kamal district. Its total area works out as 13,398.60 sq. kms. of 30.31 per cent of the total area of the state.
By its very nature, it is a sub-region of a national level planning region. Its most distinguishing features include: a strong interaction with the national capital of Delhi, a high degree of industrial and urban development and massive commuting.

Table 2.2

Haryana: Regional Divisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Sub-regions</th>
<th>Administrative units tehsils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Capital Region</td>
<td>(i) Inner Zone</td>
<td>Faridabad, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh, Sonipat and Panipat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Haryana Zone)</td>
<td>(ii) Outer zone</td>
<td>Gohana, Maham, Rohtak, Jhajjar, Rewari, Bawal, Nuh, Ferozepur, Jhirka and Palwal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Haryana</td>
<td>(i) Northern</td>
<td>Dabwali, Sirsa, Fatehabad, Tohana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Middle</td>
<td>Hisar, Hansi, Bawani Khera, Bhiwani, Loharu, Dadri, Mahendragarh, Narnaul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iii) Southern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-eastern Haryana</td>
<td>(i) The Siwalik hills and the</td>
<td>Kalka, northern part of Naraingarh and Jagadhari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dissected foothill zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Upper Ghaggar-</td>
<td>Ambala, southern half of Jagadhri and Naraingarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yamuna divide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iii) Karnal-Kurukshetra tract</td>
<td>Karnal, Assandh, Kaithal, Guhla, Pehowa, Kurukshetra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iv) Jind plain</td>
<td>Narwana, Jind, Safidon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The region can be further divided into two zones: the inner and the outer. The inner zone is in most intimate contact with Delhi. As a result, it is urbanising fast and land prices are exceptionally high here. The outer zone, by comparison, is under a lower degree of impact emanating from Delhi. Its major link with the national capital is through commuting. Certain parts of this tract
are not so developed. These include in particular the Nuh-Ferozepur Jhirka tahsils of Gurgaon district, Bawal tahsil in Rewari district, and Meham and Jhajjar tahsils in Rohtak district. This is attributed mainly to the physical constraints to which these tracts area subject to.

2. Western Haryana

The hallmark of the Western Haryana is its sand dune infested topography and semi-arid climate. Rainfall is universally less than 50 cms and underground water is generally brackish to saline. Good agriculture requires canal irrigation.

The region is further divisible into three zones: northern, middle, and southern. The northern zone, adjoining Punjab is canal irrigated. It experienced immigration of the Sikh agriculturists when Bhakra canal system was extended to this area in fifties. Now it is noted for commercial agriculture in cotton. The middle zone is much less productive agriculturally but has been politically active. Quite frequently the chief ministers of Haryana hailed from this tract. No wonder, it is fairly provided with social infrastructure in the form of educational and health institutions, piped water supply and road transport. The southern zone is the least developed. It is deficient in infrastructure. Irrigation is highly inadequate. Inferior grains dominate the cropping pattern.

3. Northeastern Region

The northeastern region displays balanced development of agriculture and industry. This is the hearth of the Green Revolution in wheat and rice in the state. The contributory factors included a highly dependable irrigation system, fertile soils and progressive farmers. Agro-based industry has emerged in a big way. Urbanisation is picking up fast.

However, some striking spatial disparities are met within this region. One may, in fact, distinguish four sub-regions in this case. These include: (i)
the Siwalik hills and the dissected foothill zone, which is honeycombed with small, deep ravines leading to extensive soil erosion, and consequently resulting in poor agriculture: (ii) the upper Ghaggar- Yamuna divide, which has traditionally been relatively developed both industrially and agriculturally, under the impact of the Amritsar-Calcutta railway route passing through it: (iii) Karnal-Kurukshetra tract where the Green Revolution met its greatest success, and the (iv) Jind plain which was earlier a part of a Princely state and by that legacy is not much developed (Table 2.2).