CHAPTER-3

Haryana State: A Profile

Geographical Location

Geographically, the state of Haryana is one of the smallest states of Indian sub-continent. It lies between 27°3" to 31°9" north latitude and 74°5" to 77°6" east longitude. It is mainly divided into two big land tracts—sub-Himalayan region and Indo-Gangetic plain. Four states and the Union Capital surround the state. Its boundaries touch Himachal Pradesh in the north, Rajasthan in the south, Uttar Pradesh in the east, and Punjab in the west. Besides, it is surrounded by national capital, Delhi in the east.

The state is sprawling on the area of 44,222 sq. kms, that is only 1.34% of the total area of India.

The state constitutes 210.82 lac people, that is 2% of the total population of the Indian sub-continent. Rural population accounts for 70%, whereas urban population constitutes 29%.

The climate of the state is not of moderate type. Rather it is substantially hot in summer season, and considerably cold in winter season. In summer season, the temperature sometimes, goes up beyond 45°C, and it falls below 0°C, that is the freezing point, in the winter season. Another remarkable feature of the climate is that the state survives noisy, dusty winds, dust storms and rainstorms almost throughout the summer season. In the winter
season, it receives sharp cold winds coming from the Himalayan region. As for rainfall, the state receives inadequate and sometimes scanty rainfall. Moreover, the rainfall is unevenly distributed less in winter and more in summer. Besides, the northern parts receive more rainfall than the southern parts. On the average, the state receives 425 mm rainfall. Lack of rainfall often damages the prospect of crops, leading to famines.

**Natural Resources**

The state is not self-dependent in the field of natural resources. The available natural resources are below its requirements. As for forests, only 3.5 percent area of the total land is under forests. Besides, the forests in the state are not of superior quality. Secondly, it is thinly scattered. In the year 1988-99 the state had the forest area 1673 sq. kms. Per-capita forest area is 0.01 hectares as against 0.09 hectares for India as a whole. The forests are concentrated mainly in the upper parts of the state.

As far as minerals are concerned, the state is poor in mineral wealth. It is lacking in the principal minerals such as coal, gas, petroleum, etc. It has only three minerals — iron-ore, limestone and slate. Besides, it has other minerals, but not in large quantity, are lime, kankars, dolomite, quartz, etc.

In the field of water resources, once again the state is not in the sound position as the neighbouring states are. No great perennial rivers like the Raavi, the Beas and the Satluz flow in the state. Only the lesser type of
perennial and non-perennial rivers like the Markanda and the Ghaggar Rivers provide water to the limited area of the state. In the east the river, Yamuna supplies water to a few adjoining districts. A substantial part, especially of the southern districts is largely deprived of the rivers’ water.

In the case of soils, a greater part of the state does not have fertile soils. Only the upper districts are covered with fertile soils — alluvial soils. The rest of the state, especially the southern part is covered with lesser fertile soils or sand soils.

**Historical Background**

The state of Haryana came into existence on November 1, 1966 as the seventeenth state of India. It is one of the smallest states of the Indian sub-continent. The state has a long history full of ups and downs. We find some passing references of Haryana in the Rigveda. It is the land where the great saint, Ved Vyas wrote the epic Mahabharta, and the Lord Krishna delivered the philosophy of the Gita to Arjuna.

In the Rigvedic Age, a great part of the state was included in the Sapta Sindhu country. In the early days of the Christian era in India, the land was named as ‘Bahudhanyak’ — a prosperous land. In the subsequent Mughal period, the land included the Suba of Delhi in its fold. Initially, the land was named variously as Brahmaishi Desh, Kurukshetra, Dharamkshetra, Brahamvarta, etc.
As for its nomenclature, the word 'Haryana' finds mention on an inscription belonging to Muhammad Bin Tughlaq. About the nomenclature of the state, we come across various opinions. To some, it was named after the green forests, the special characteristic of the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Others opine that the region was named after Raja Harish Chandra. According to religious and spiritual literature, the land was used as a Chariot (a yana) of Lord Indra (hari). According to another view, the word 'Haryana' is modified term of Aryana, the early home of Aryanas.

In the ancient India, the whole country was unified into a single thread in the times of the Gupta empire in the 4th century A.D. Subsequently, in the 5th century A.D., the Kingdom of Thanesar emerged following the disruption of the empire by the Hunas. We find reference of the Kingdom of Thanesar in the writings of the great poet, Bana Bhat and the Chinese traveler, Hsuan Tasang.

Muhammad Ghori created a situation of confusion, disorder and anarchy, after the death of Harsh, by destroying the gates of India, and founded the Delhi Sultanate with the ultimate victory over India in the battle of Taraori. With this the people of this state came directly under the Muslim Empire, and underwent various extreme hardships for a long period.

The lot of the people of Haryana could not see bright days even after the snatching of power by the East India Company from the Mughal Emperors.
Later on, the people of Haryana revolted against the British in 1857. Under the British rule the people of this state were subjected to various cruelties and atrocities for actively participating in the First War of Independence. After 1857, the Haryana region was placed under the Punjab administration with the purpose to penalize the people, leading to perpetual socio-economic backwardness.

The people of Haryana had been struggling against the British Raj to have a separate state. The representatives from Haryana articulated their demand in the legislature to get a due share in the development works. The people of Haryana played a leading role during the Civil Disobedience Movement launched in the twenties, thirties and forties.

After 1947 the region started acquiring some importance in the socio-economic and political spheres, but still it was lagging behind in comparison of Panjab region. At last it acquired the status of full-fledged statehood on November 1, 1966. Since then the state has been making tremendous, remarkable progress in the every walk of life under successive governments headed by various Chief-Ministers starting with Pt. B.D. Sharma to Sh. O.P. Chautala lately. In the elections held in Feb. 2005, The Congress Party came out victorious with a thumping majority, securing 67 seats, and Ch. Bhupender Singh took oath as New Chief Minister of Haryana on 4th March 2005.
Social Profile

On the social plane, Haryanivi life boasts of a typical character. Their life is characterized by patience, endurance, hard work, courage, valour and somewhat conservatism. The people of different tongues and faiths inhabit the state. Most of the people speak Hindi and believe in Hinduism. About 28% speak Punjabi, Urdu and some other languages and dialects such as Mewati, Ahirwati and Bangru. The state consists of two broad categories of people — The agriculturists and non-agriculturists. Agriculture and its allied activities constitute the main occupation of the people. Almost all the castes in the rural areas engaged in agriculture and its allied services for earning their livelihood. Besides the category of agriculturists, there is another class of non-agriculturists, which is mainly engaged in business and service sector, and lives in towns and cities.

The people of Haryana, particularly aged ones wear dhoti-kurta and turban in the rural areas. But, on the contrary, the city people wear clothes designed after the fashions prevailed in the metro-cities and western countries.

A great majority of people is of vegetarian and they abstain from drinking wine in both rural and urban areas. The main food of the vegetarians comprises food grains, vegetables, milk, curd and whey, A very small part of population eats meat, but not as a matter of routine.
The people of Haryana are of religious temperament. They follow different religions like Hinduism, Sikhism and Muslim religion. They celebrate their festivals with a great gusto. They are tolerant by nature, and do not interfere in the religious and cultural affairs of one another. As and when any social problem or natural calamity arises, they fight against it united.

**Economic Profile**

On the economic plane, the state has made a tremendous progress. According to some estimates, the Gross Domestic Product of the state has been estimated to the tune of Rs 34800.40 crores in the course of the year i.e. 2001-2002 as against Rs 33124.68 crore in the year 2000-2001. Remarkable performance in the fields of trade, transport and construction chiefly contributes to the growth rate of 5.1% in the Gross Domestic Product of the State in the year 2001-2002. During this period the Trade sector records a growth of 9.9%, Transport records 11.4%, and construction 6.1%. During this period, we have a great decline in the production of cotton owing to attack of the insect (American Sundi) on the crop, leading to 47.8% fall in the production. Apart from this, the production of wheat has also declined slightly, that is 2.4%. But some commercial crops such as sugarcane, and oil seeds have compensated this decline by recording an increase of 14.2% and 43.3% respectively.
The above analysis shows that the Gross Domestic Product of the state at constant prices from the Primary Sector comprising Agriculture, Live Stock, Forestry, Fishing and Mining Sectors has increased from Rs. 10911.09 crore in the year 2000-2001 to Rs. 10995.98 crore in 2001-2002. The Gross Domestic Product of the State from the Secondary Sector, which comprises of Construction, Manufacturing, Electricity, Water Supply, Gas etc. has recorded an increase of 5.0% from 2000-2001. The Third Sector, the Tertiary Sector, which covers Trade, Transport, Banking, Public Administration and other services, has recorded a substantial increase of 8.7%, contributing to total Gross Domestic Product of the state in the year 2001-2002.

Since the inception of the state the Agriculture Sector has been continuing to hold a significant position in the state economy. Although its share in the Gross State Domestic Product has been declining owing to natural calamities, fluctuation in rainfall, etc, resulting in fluctuation and instability in growth rate of economy. Besides, rapidly increasing share of Service Sector is also the factor behind the fall in the share of Agriculture Sector.

In the Secondary Sector, manufacturing has shown a substantial rise in its contribution to the state economy. It has increased from 18.7% in 1993-1994 to 20.8% during the period 2001-2002. This rise greatly owes to adoption of
liberal industrial policy, and availability of healthy environment of industrialization to attract a huge investment from foreign countries to increase the growth of industry and to generate additional jobs.

We have also a significant rise in the share of the Tertiary Sector to the state economy. It has increased from 31.3% in 1993-1994 to 40.3% in the year 2001-2002. The Trade Sector has also been continuing to contribute to the Gross State Domestic Product, indicating its good scope and potential in future as well.

Political Profile

In Haryana, political process started with the introduction of Monto-Morley Reforms of 1909. During the First World War the state witnessed drastic changes in the political set-up. Besides, the Arya Samaj Movement and the Congress Party speeded up the political process in the state by awakening and politicizing the masses.

The people of this state launched a satyagraha to oppose the Rovelett Act, and the Arya Samaj backed this satyagraha. As a result, the Non-Congress candidates from Haryana won the maximum seats in the Provincial Legislative Assembly Elections in 1921. Following this after two years in 1923, the Unionist Party proved its popularity by sweeping the Legislative Council elections, and maintained the status by winning maximum seats in the Provincial Council elections of 1926, 1930 and 1937. But after the death
of party president, Chhotu Ram in 1945, the party started losing political ground that provided the Congress Party with an opportunity to gain political ground by winning a great number of seats in the Punjab Legislative Assembly Elections in 1946.

From Haryana region two members — Sher Singh and Rao Birender Singh were inducted into the Partap Singh Kairon Ministry in 1952. In 1962 Assembly Elections, Bhagwat Dayal Sharma was roped in to counter the growing influence of Jats in Haryana politics. Consequent upon this, Devi Lal left the Congress Party and formed a separate party, ‘Progressive Independent Party’ that led to a long conflict in terms of leadership between the two stalwarts. By the time the leftist movement backed by Jana Sangha started opposing the Congress Party.

Devi Lal’s Progressive Independent Party vigorously raised the demand of a separate state and put pressure on the Center Government to do so. The Centre Government constituted a Parliamentary Committee consisting of twenty-two members hailing from different parties and both the houses of Parliament to recommend a solution to the problem. The Committee looked into the matter and recommended bifurcation of the state of Punjab. The Minister for Home Affairs made a statement in the Lok Sabha on 21st March 1966 that the Government had given careful thought to the recommendations made by the committee of the members of the Parliament and had decided to
accept in principle that the present state of Punjab be reconstituted on linguistic basis. After a few days on April 3, 1966 the Center constituted the Punjab Boundary Commission consisting of Justice J.C. Shah, S. Dutt and A.M. Philip to demark the dividing line between the two states. The Commission submitted its report in May 1966, recommending the inclusion of certain areas in Haryana. The Parliament passed the Punjab Reorganization Bill on September 18, 1966 and it became the Act of 1966. Consequently, the seventeenth state of Haryana came into existence on November 1, 1966.

B.D. Sharma became the first Chief-Minister of this newly created state. In the next general elections in 1972, the Congress Party won the elections and Bansi Lal formed the government. After the emergency, the Assembly Elections were held in 1977, the Janta Party formed the Government headed by Devi Lal consequent upon winning 75 seats out of 90. But after 24 months about 50 MLAs rebelled against Devi Lal, and elected Bhajan Lal as their leader. Bhajan Lal alongwith 40 MLAs joined the Congress Party when Indira Gandhi came back to power after the Lok Sabha Elections of 1980. In the Assembly Elections of 1982, as no political party got absolute majority, Bhajan Lal of Congress (I) was made Chief-Minister of the state. In the Elections of 1987, Janta Party secured more than ¾ majority and Devi Lal was made Chief- Minister. After the Assembly Elections of 1991, Bhajan
Lal from the Congress Party became Chief-Minister and held this office till 1996. Bansi Lal of Haryana Vikas Party formed the Government with an alliance of BJP, but after about 3 years on July 21, 1999, he resigned in the wake of withdrawal of support by the BJP and then the Congress party, and Om Parkash Chautala became Chief-Minister and continued in this capacity till the dissolution of the Assembly on December 14, 1999. In the Assembly Elections of 2000, The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) led by Om Parkash Chautala secured 47 seats and he became Chief-Minister. In the Vidhan Sabha Elections of 2005, the Congress Party came out victorious by winning 67 seats and Bhupender Hooda became Chief-Minister of the State.

**Administrative Set-up**

The State of Haryana came into existence on November 1, 1966 as the seventeenth state of India. The state is divided into four divisions — Ambala, Gurgaon, Hisar and Rohtak, nineteen districts, 47 sub-divisions, 67 tehsils, 45 sub-tehsils, 116 development blocks, 97 towns and 6759 villages. The state has 90 Legislative Assembly seats and 10 Parliamentary Seats.

Administratively, the Governor is the Chief Executive of the State administration. He has a Council of Ministers consisting of 12 members headed by the Chief-Minister. The council keeps three layers of ministers — Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Chief Parliamentary Secretary/Secretaries.
The State has a State Planning Board headed by the Chief-Minister to formulate plans for the purpose of development. The Board has one Deputy Chairman, 10 official members, and 13 non-official members.

The State has its Public Service Commission consisting of 7 members headed by one Chairman. The Commission's task is to recruit civil servants at the state level. There is a provision of State Staff Selection Commission with one Chairman and seven members. Its task is to recruit persons for subordinate services.