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# HARYANA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



## HISAR

76095



**S. P. BHATIA, IAS,**  
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**HARYANA GAZETTEERS ORGANISATION**  
**REVENUE DEPARTMENT**  
**CHANDIGARH (India)**  
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## FOREWORD

A district gazetteer is a compendium of historical, cultural and socio-economic events of a district reflecting a picture of life as lived by its people. It provides the basic knowledge of all that is required to be known about a district. Above all, it is a reference book of fundamental importance to administrators, research workers and general readers.

This gazetteer presents a most authentic and comprehensive picture of Hisar district and its people from the earliest times. A rapid survey of its history from the pre-historic times indicates that the district has always remained in the mainstream of Indian history. The present volume reflects the tremendous socio-economic changes which the district has witnessed after Independence and particularly after the formation of Haryana. I hope that this gazetteer will be of great interest to all.

The Gazetteers Unit has done a commendable job in bringing out Hisar District Gazetteer.

Chandigarh,  
January 19, 1987

L. C. Gupta, IAS,  
Financial Commissioner Revenue,  
Haryana

# FOREWORD

A nation's past is a composition of historical, cultural and socio-economic values of a nation reflecting a picture of life as lived by its people. It provides the basic knowledge of all that is required to be known about a nation. Above all, it is a treasure trove of fundamental importance to a nation's research workers and general readers.

This present project is a most authentic and complete historical picture of Bihar, based on the people from the earliest times. A rapid survey of its history from the pre-historic times indicates that the Bihar has always remained in the forefront of Indian history. The present volume reflects the various socio-economic changes which the Bihar has witnessed after independence and particularly after the formation of Bihar. I hope that this project will be of great interest to all.

The Government of Bihar has done a commendable job in bringing out this Bihar District Gazetteer.

L. C. Gupta, IAS,  
Principal Commissioner, Patna,  
Bihar

Chandigarh,  
January 19, 1987



## PREFACE

The present volume of the Hisar District Gazetteer is the seventh in the series of Haryana District Gazetteers. The previous editions of the Hisar District Gazetteer were prepared under the British regime from time to time. The first gazetteer of Hisar district was published in 1883-84. It was mainly based on the Settlement Reports and draft gazetteer, compiled between 1870 and 1874 by F. Cuningham Barrister-at-Law. The draft edition of this gazetteer was revised by Colonels Minchin and MacMohan, and Mr. Ogilvie. Shortly after the publication of the first edition of this gazetteer, the area of the district was considerably enlarged in consequence of the abolition of the Sirsa district in November 1884. Tahsils of Sirsa and Dabwali were merged in Hisar district. A revised edition of the gazetteer was, thus, rendered necessary which was published in 1892. This gazetteer was revised by P. J. Fagan, Settlement Officer, Hisar. Another revised edition of gazetteer was published in 1904 and the last edition was published in 1915 which was revised by C.A.H. Townsend, I. C. S.

Significant changes have occurred in the boundaries of the district since the last gazetteer was written in 1915. Two new districts have been carved, taking out areas from the erstwhile Hisar district. In December 1972, the tahsils of Bhiwani, Loharu and a few villages of Hisar and Hansi tahsils were formed into a separate district of Bhiwani. In September 1975, Sirsa and Dabwali tahsils were excluded and Sirsa district was created leaving the district of Hisar in its present shape. The socio-economic scene of the district has also undergone a sea-change over the period.

The present gazetteer of Hisar district highlights the social, cultural, political and economic changes which the district has witnessed after Independence.

Discovery of pre-historic and historical sites at a number of places in the district testify its antiquity. The excavations at Rakhigarhi, Banawali and Seeswal have proved beyond doubt that pre-Harappan and Harappan cultures flourished in the district. The region was closely associated with the political and cultural life of the Bharatas, the Purus and the Kurus, the prominent tribes of the Aryans. Being located on the highway which connected the Ganga valley with the passes of the north-western hills, it was devastated many a time by invaders from North-West. The district remained in limelight even during medieval period. The people of the district took active part in the Uprising of 1857 and subsequent movements launched to free the country from foreign yoke.

A district which was marked by the recurring droughts and famines is now agriculturally one of the most developed district of the State. The extension in irrigational facilities, rural electrification and establishment of Haryana Agricultural University at Hisar has brought spectacular transformation in age-old agricultural economy of the district. The district which earlier grew only coarse grains, can now rightly boast of being cotton belt of Haryana. Asia's biggest and world's second largest Live-stock Farm is situated in the district.

No pains have been spared to keep abreast of developments in the district in many spheres and to collect and make use of the latest possible data from the diverse and scattered sources and to make the publication as accurate and self-contained as possible. Useful appendices, an index, a glossary, a considerable number of illustrations, a select bibliography and General and Irrigation maps of the district have been included in this volume.

Various departments of the state and the Central Government, semi-government organizations and individuals, who made available necessary material for this volume and also helped in many other ways in its compilation, deserve



thanks, It may not be possible to acknowledge each of their contribution individually but special mention must be made of those who were primarily responsible. My thanks are due to Sudershan Kumar Gupta, former Joint State Editor and his team of Research Officers P. S. Ahlawat, S. B. Dahiya and Raghbinder Sanga (since left) who very ably compiled the present volume and A. K. Jain, Editor and Smt. K. Chakarvarty and A.N. Sharma who looked after its printing. Dr. H.A. Phadke and Dr. K. C. Yadav of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra wrote ancient and medieval and modern sections of chapter on History, respectively and Dr. V. K. Sharma of the same university drafted the section on Topography of the district.

The gazetteer is written on a pattern prescribed by the Government of India and I hope it would be of immense help to the administrators, researchers and general readers alike.

Chandigarh,  
January 19, 1987

S. P. BHATIA, IAS,  
State Editor (Gazetteers)  
and Joint Secretary to Government,  
Haryana, Revenue Department





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## CHAPTER I

### GENERAL

#### ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF THE DISTRICT

The district derives its name from its headquarters town Hisar. The town was founded by Firuz Shah Tughlak in the 14th century. He named it after him as 'Hissar Feroza', the fort of Firuz. The name was subsequently contracted to Hisar.

#### LOCATION, BOUNDARIES, AREA AND POPULATION

**Location and boundaries.**—The district of Hisar, lies in between 28°58' and 29°49' north latitude and 75°13' and 76°19' east longitude. It is bounded in the north and north-west by Bathinda district of Punjab, in the east by Jind district, in the south-east by Rohtak district, in the south by Bhiwani district, in the south-west by Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan and in the west by Sirsa district.

**Area.**—With an area of 6,331 sq. kms., Hisar is the largest district in the State. It has four tahsils covering the area as shown below :<sup>1</sup>

Tahsil	Area (Sq. Km.)
Hisar	1,938.30
Fatehabad	2,066.10
Tohana	613.03
Hansi	1,713.57
Total :	6,331.00

**Population.**—According to 1971 Census, the population of the composite Hisar district was 21,32,948 persons. The district lost Bhiwani and Loharu tahsils and part of Hansi and Hisar tahsil to district of Bhiwani in 1972 and Sirsa and Dabwali tahsils to Sirsa district in 1975. The population of the remaining portion of the Hisar district as worked out on the basis of 1971 Census was 11,60,835 persons and it continued to be first in 12 districts of the State.

1. *Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 1978-79*, p. 17.



## HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

The first record of the administrative division of the district is found in *Ain-i-Akbri*.<sup>1</sup> Much of the area lying in the present Hisar district was covered by *mahals* of Agroha, Ahroni, Barwala, Bhattu, Tohana, Hisar, Fatehabad and Hansi. The *mahals* formed part of Hisar Feroza Sarkar of the Delhi Subah.

With the decline of the Mughal empire, the tract comprising Hisar district came under the control of Marathas. The whole of Delhi territory of which the tract formed part, was ceded by the Marathas to the British in 1810. The Delhi territory was divided into two districts, Delhi, directly under the Resident and the outlying district including Hansi, Hisar, Sirsa, Rohtak, Panipat and Rewari under the immediate charge of an Assistant to the Resident. Again in 1819, Delhi territory was divided into 3 districts namely ; the central which included Delhi, southern district comprising Rewari etc. and north-western district comprising Panipat, Hansi, Hisar, Sirsa and Rohtak. In 1820 the north-western district was sub-divided into 2 separate districts, the northern and the western. The western district included Bhiwani, Hansi, Hisar and Sirsa and its headquarters were at Hansi. In 1824, Rohtak which had previously been under the western district was constituted into a separate district to which Bhiwani was transferred. The headquarters of the district was shifted from Hansi to Hisar in 1832. The district was then divided into 4 tahsils of Hisar, Fatehabad, Hansi and Tosham. In 1837, Ratia and Tohana parganas were added to the Hisar district and were formed into a separate tahsil of Tohana. The Sirsa tract was detached in 1837 from the Hisar district and placed under a separate officer styled as the Superintendent of Bhatiana. The pargana of Darba and the pargana of Rori were transferred to Bhatiana in 1838 and 1847 respectively. In 1852, the pargana of Ratia was transferred from Tohana tahsil to Fatehabad tahsil and Barwala pargana was detached from Hisar tahsil and was formed into a separate tahsil of Barwala along with Tohana.

The whole of Delhi territory alongwith districts of Bhatiana and Hisar were transferred to the Punjab in 1858 and the district of Bhatiana was re-named as Sirsa.

In 1861, Bhiwani tahsil was detached from Rohtak and added to Hisar district. The Tosham tahsil was abolished and added to Bhiwani tahsil in the same year. The Hisar district gained 24 villages from Meham-Bhiwani tahsil of Rohtak district ; 18 villages including the town of Bhiwani were added to the Bhiwani tahsil and 6 villages to the Hansi tahsil. Besides, 5 villages confiscated from Nawab of Jhajjar and 12 villages received from the Maharaja of Jind, were added to Bhiwani tahsil and Barwala tahsil respectively. In

1. Abul Fazl, *Ain-i-Akbari* (English Translation by Col. H. S. Jarret) corrected and further annotated by Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Calcutta, 1978, Vol. II, pp. 300-301.

November, 1884, the Sirsa district was abolished and Sirsa tahsil with 199 villages and 126 villages of Dabwali tahsil were added to the Hisar district and formed the Sirsa tahsil. In 1889, 15 villages, forming a detached block known as Budhlada *ilaqua*, were transferred from Kaithal tahsil to Fatehabad tahsil. The Barwala tahsil containing 139 villages was abolished with effect from January 1, 1891 and its area was distributed between 3 contiguous tahsils, 13 villages going to Hansi, 24 to Hisar and 102 to Fatehabad.<sup>1</sup> At the same time 13 villages were transferred from Hisar tahsil to the Bhiwani tahsil and a sub-tahsil was established at Tohana in Fatehabad tahsil.

A village from Fatehabad tahsil and another from Sirsa tahsil were transferred to Bikaner in 1905 and 1906 respectively. Again in 1910-11, the district lost 2 villages to Bikaner. In 1923, the Tohana sub-tahsil was transferred from Fatehabad to Hisar tahsil.

No transfer of territory to or from the district took place till the passing of the Provinces and States (Absorption of Enclaves) Order, 1950, by which the erstwhile princely state of Loharu was merged in the district and 15 villages comprising Budhlada *ilaqua* were taken out of Hisar district and added to Bathinda district. In 1962, 3 villages were transferred from Dadri tahsil of Mahendragarh district to Bhiwani tahsil.

The entire area of the district was included in the new state of Haryana on November 1, 1966. In 1968, Sirsa tahsil was bifurcated into Sirsa and Dabwali tahsil and Bhiwani bifurcated into Bhiwani and Loharu. In 1969, a village was transferred from Dadri tahsil to Bhiwani tahsil. The above administrative arrangements continued till 1972 when whole of Loharu and Bhiwani tahsils, 32 villages of Hansi and 17 villages of Hisar tahsils were excluded and included in the newly formed Bhiwani district.<sup>2</sup> Tohana sub tahsil of the Hisar tahsil was upgraded to a tahsil in 1972. In 1974, 4 villages were transferred from Hansi to Hisar tahsil, 18 villages from Hisar to Hansi tahsil, 2 villages from Hisar to Fatehabad tahsil, 18 villages from Tohana to Fatehabad tahsil, 9 villages from Fatehabad to Tohana tahsil, 10 villages from Fatehabad to Hisar tahsil, 3 villages from Dabwali to Sirsa tahsil and one village from Hansi tahsil to Jind tahsil of Jind district. In 1975, Sirsa and Dabwali tahsils were excluded from the district and a new district of Sirsa was carved out.<sup>3</sup> Thus by the end of 1978, the Hisar district comprised 486

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 46. Punjab Government Notification No. 697 dated the 17th November, 1890.

2. *Haryana Government Revenue Department Notification* No. 6,050-E (IV)-72/45,723, dated December 22, 1972.

3. *Haryana Government Revenue Department Notification* No. 4,139-E (IV)-75/26,094, dated the 26th August, 1975.



villages, divided between tahsils of Fatehabad 166, Hisar 115, Hansi 119 and Tohana 86.<sup>1</sup>

## TOPOGRAPHY

The district is part of the alluvial or Ghagghar-Yamuna plain and its southern and western portions mark a gradual transition to the Thar desert. The topographic pattern of the district owes its existence to geomorphic processes having closer affinity with the climatic aridity, both of the recent and past geologic periods.

Throughout almost the entire district the dominant feature of topography is the occurrence of eolian sand of variable shape and thickness overlying the Pleistocene alluvium which becomes fewer as the eastern border of the district is approached. The only variation from this description is found in the north, a tract locally known as Nali. The mean altitude varies between 210 and 220 metres and it generally slopes from north-east to south-west with a gentle gradient of 1 in 4000.

The district can be sub-divided into following topographic units :—

- (i) Sub-Recent alluvial plain ;
- (ii) Late Quaternary to Sub-Recent sand dune areas ; and
- (iii) Plain with sand dunes.

**Sub-Recent alluvial plain .—**The plain locally known as Nali occurs principally as floodplain sediments along the courses of the Ghagghar and non-existent course of the Jojya. It is gently sloping, trending north-east to south-west in Tohana and Fatehabad tahsils. This part of the district experienced a demographic and agricultural revolution of significant magnitude during fifties.

**Late Quaternary to Sub-Recent sand dune areas.—**The sand dune areas can be classified into conspicuous topographic units having different genetic types of sand dunes-active, semi-active and fossil or fixed. The active and moving sand-dune generally occurs along the western fringe of the district where the mean annual rainfall varies between 200 to 250 mm. The vegetal cover is scant and it resembles the treeless undulating desert, locally known as Bagar. Exceptionally strong uni-directional south-west winds winnow loose sand grains from the surface and transport the material to long distances in the direction of the wind. In this process

---

1. Two sub tahsils, one at Ratia of tahsil Fatehabad comprising 67 villages and the other at Adampur of Hisar tahsil comprising 32 villages were created in 1979 vide Haryana Government Revenue Department Notifications No. 7,195-E (IV)-79/46,999 and 7,195-E (IV)-79/47,001, Dated November 21, 1979.

the landscape configuration undergoes dramatic change and sand hills appear where yesterday was a cultivated field. Active sand dunes vary from uneven sand cover, sand hummocks to small transverse dunes, some rising to about 2 metres above the surrounding surface. At places, extensive grazing and deterioration of scant *Acacia* vegetation on the slopes of stable sand dunes has reactivated the dune building activity. The active and reactivated dunes are Sub-Recent in age.

Of great geomorphic significance are the fossil or fixed dunes which generally lie athwart the south-west winds. They occur as broad features in long narrow chains but assume intersecting, forked, spiral and many other complex forms. They represent the eastward culmination of an intense and wider influence of marked climatic aridity during the late Quaternary. In comparison to the other deserts around the world, the fixed dunes of Hisar district as also those of Thar desert are characterised by a finer composition of sand particles. The median grain size of the sand varies from 0.13 to 0.16 mm in diameter. Almost all the fossil dunes carry a buried soil profile. The deeply weathered soil profile, dark brownish to red in colour, is decalcified and faintly acidic in nature which suggests two extremely dry phases separated by a humid climatic phase in the late Quaternary period when the dunes were formed.

Fossil dunes show larger concentration in south and south-east of Hisar, Bhattu-Badopal-Seeswal triangle south of Fatehabad, and south and south-west of Tohana. The area south and south-east of Hisar represents the northern fringe of a system of fossil dunes best developed in Tosham area of the adjoining Bhiwani district. The dunes generally occur as transverse, broad-based ridges possessing highly variable morphology. The relative relief of individual features varies from under 3 metres to over 15 metres. Some fossil ridges can be traced continuously for 12 kms. and more. In area lying south of Fatehabad, fossil dunes generally occur in conjunction with active dunes of variable thickness and geometric form. Some ridges are up to 6 kilometres long and 15 metres high. A large number of dune and ridge crests are within 2 metres from the surrounding area but relief differences of 5-7 metres are also common. In the Tohana area, the sand forms occur in isolated small knobs, sand mounds and protuberances which do not show any definite pattern of alignment with the wind direction. A majority of dunes are up to 2 metres high but some, such as south and west of Jamalpur, have a relief of the order of 6 metres and above.

**Plain with sand dunes.**—The plain locally known as Hariana is the largest topographic unit. It is the most important area of the district



covering the southern part of Tohana tahsil, eastern part of Hisar tahsil and almost the whole of Hansi tahsil. Sand dunes and sand hills found scattered here and there in the plain give it a broadly undulating character. Patches of older alluvium are either exposed or occur at shallow depths beneath a veneer of sand in *tals* or topographic depressions enclosed by fixed dunes.

#### RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

Ghagghar, the largest seasonal stream in Haryana, enters the district as deeply incised alluvial channel near Jakhal and makes an exit little to the west of Bira Badi (Fatehabad tahsil) covering the distance in a meandering course some 70 kilometres long. The river maintains a rough parallelism with most of the northern boundary, deviating from it by a margin of some 7 kilometres and at times delineating the northern limits of the district.

The Ghagghar is a misfit stream since the scant volume of discharge stands in marked contrast to its large channel width. The river drains large volumes of floodflow during the rainy season mostly between July to September and is generally dry in summer. However, the inflow of ground water takes place till as late as October.

According to different explorers and scientists, the Ghagghar was once an important river system of the north-western India during the Pleistocene period.<sup>1</sup> It is believed that the river began to dry up first in the 11th century and dried-up completely before the 13th century A.D. The hydrographic changes since the historic time resulted in the depletion of discharge into the Ghagghar channel. The Yamuna and the Satluj which formed the eastern and western tributaries of once mighty Ghagghar river system, deserted the parent river to join the Ganga and the Indus systems. There is, however, a snag as it fails to account for the five prominent non-cyclic terraces of the Ghagghar near Panchkula (Ambala district).

The Joiya takes off from the south bank of the Ghagghar about 8 kilometres north of the district boundary at Phulad (Sangrur district-Punjab). The channel makes snake like meanderings and its supply has been seriously lessened by silting up of the head. It is said that it was much bigger than the Ghagghar and used to flow through the district and on through Mansa tahsil (Bathinda district-Punjab) into Sirsa district where it rejoined the Ghagghar. Another dried up channel known as Sukar or Sakru is indicated to the south of Joiya channel. The

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1. O.H.K. Spate, *India and Pakistan*, 1954, pp 485-86.

old dried up courses of these streams run parallel to the Ghagghar and can still be traced—the land between them is known as Sotar valley. The valley is 2 to 4 kms. wide and even more at places. From the appearance of the valley and numerous ancient mounds and remains of old settlements all along its both banks, it is evident that at one time it conveyed a much larger volume of water and probably was the channel of a perennial stream.<sup>1</sup> This may possibly be the dried up course of the Sarasvati of the Rigvedic fame.<sup>2</sup>

The Joiya stream had long ceased to carry water to Sirsa and onward and had become very much smaller than the Ghagghar. This is due in part to the silting up of the head of the former stream and deepening of the bed of the Ghagghar and it was only in high floods that water passed from the Ghagghar into the Joiya at Phulad. Initially, it is said, that Firuz Shah Tughlaq channelled this stream up to Fatehabad town. Later during the 19th century, a Rangoi channel to utilise flood flow of the Ghagghar was dug to connect the Ghagghar with the Joiya and it ran from Qasimpur to Kalandargarh beyond which it ran into the Joiya. Later, the old Joiya channel below Kalandargarh was also canalized. The Rangoi Inundation canal is now used for utilising flood flow of the Ghagghar for irrigating some areas in Tohana and Fatehabad tahsils.

There are two swamps, one at Musa Khera and the other below the town of Fatehabad. These are not perennial and get filled only in rainy season.

## GEOLOGY

Hard rock geology of the district is concealed under alluvial and aeolian deposits. The alluvial deposits of quaternary age are divisible as newer and older. The former usually occurs in the active flood-plain of the Ghagghar river, in the northern part of the district and comprises sand, silt clay and occasional gravel. Calcareous concretions in various proportions are found mixed with other constituents. The sediments are heterogeneous in character, and are deposited on a basement of metamorphic and igneous rocks of pre-Cambrian age. The bed rock topography over which the alluvial deposits rest, slopes towards north-east. The maximum thickness of alluvium as encountered in a borehole at Jhalnian (Fatehabad tahsil) is 345.51 metres below ground level.

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 8.

2. R.S. Bisht, Excavations at Banawali, 1974-77, *Proceedings of the Seminar on Harappan Culture in the Indo-Pak Sub-continent*, Srinagar, 1978.



The aeolian deposits comprising accumulations of sand blown from Thar desert of Rajasthan are mostly confined to south-western part of the district. These sand accumulations occupy vast stretches of land and occur in the shape of sandy flats, mounds and ridges at places attaining dunal shapes over the sandy flats.

### Mineral Resources

**Kankar.**—*Kankar* occurs at several places in the sandy tracts of the district. It is used for road metalling and as building material.

**Saltpetre.**—Saltpetre occurs as very thin whitish yellow, brittle encrustations over the soil, and along the basement of *kacha* constructions in some old and deserted villages. The efflorescence normally appears during the hot months from April to June every year. After the rains, it completely disappears, being washed away in solutions, partly as run off and partly by percolation down into the sandy soils where the nitrates perhaps got denitrified. It is noteworthy that the nitrates are mostly concentrated in the top soil only. Many refineries exist in the district for extraction of saltpetre.

### GROUND WATER

The sub-soil water of the district is overall brackish. The quality of water varies from place to place and from well to well. The sweet water is found from wells located in areas having ameliorating factors like existing or old stream courses, long-standing irrigation, seepage from *kacha* tanks, etc.

At some places wells situated on bare dunes of loose shifting sands yield good quality of water because most of the rain water unable to flow, sinks underground to improve the groundwater by dilution.

The extensive canal irrigation introduced by the Bhakra Nangal Project has caused rapid changes in water table configuration. The water level has risen by 2 to 7 metres in this area between 1974 to 1978. The water table is within 15 metres of the surface along the Ghagghar channel and in the command area of the Ratia branch system. Here the ground water is fresh to marginal in quality and extensively exploited for minor irrigation. The water level is up to 15 metres deep in the central part of the district. Elsewhere, the ground water is very deep, 20 metres and more from the surface. The water is saline and unfit for domestic consumption and agricultural purposes. With the lining of canals now in progress, seepage from canals will drastically reduce, resulting in the slower rate of accretion to ground water resources.

## SEISMICITY

According to tectonic map, the district lies on Delhi-Lahore Ridge which is bounded by thrusts. No earthquake of any significance has originated in the zone in the past. It has, however, experienced earthquakes originating in the great Himalayan boundary fault and the Hindukush region. The notable Kangra earthquake of April 4, 1905 and Chamba earthquake of June 22, 1945 affected the district. The maximum intensity experienced was VI M.M.<sup>1</sup> and the district has been assigned to zone II in seismic zoning map of India where the maximum seismic intensity may reach VI MM. For important structures founded on consolidated soil, a provision of horizontal acceleration of 4 per cent gravity and its 50 per cent regarding vertical acceleration would ensure a reasonable amount of safety.

FLORA<sup>2</sup>

The forests of the district fall under the category of tropical desert thorn and comprise predominantly of xerophytes. Flora is scanty and sparse. Tree species found in forests, cultivated fields, waste lands and habitations are *jand*, *rohera*, *khairi*, *beri*, *reru*, *jal* or *van*, *barh*, *peepal*, *mesquite* or *pahari kikar*, *kachnar*, *amaltas*, *lasura*, *imly*, *banna*, etc. *Shisham*, *kikar*, *siris*, *neem*, *bakain*, *gulmohar*, *parkinsonia* *eucalyptus*, etc. have been planted along rail, road and canal strips and in other private areas. *Eucalyptus* is also planted in agricultural and under farm forestry scheme. The *jand*, *farash*, *khairi*, *castor*, *kana* and *ruhera* have been planted to check soil erosion by high velocity winds.

Common shrubs found are *hins*, *bansa*, *panwar*, *babool*, *mallah*, *karir*, *phoa*, *kip* and *ak*. Medicinal herbs found in the district are *bansa*, *indirain*, *asgandha*, *glo*, *kharuthi*, *bhakhra*, *dhatara*, etc. Their collection becomes uneconomical because these are available in scattered form.

The important grasses found in the district are *anjan*, *dhaman*, *dub*, *kana* and *dabh*. *Anjan*, *dhaman* and *dub* which are palatable fodder grasses are dwindling on account of uncontrolled grazing. The grasses in waste lands are poor in quality and quantity.

*Amarbel* is a common parasite.

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1. M.M. intensity according to Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale 1931 denotes; felt by all; many frightened and ran outdoors. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster or damaged chimneys. Damage slight.

2. The botanical names can be seen in the table at the end of the chapter.



FAUNA<sup>1</sup>

## Mammals

The district is inhabited by a varied groups of animals. Primates are represented by the rhesus macaque or bander and the common langur.

Big cats like tiger and leopard once abundant in the district are no more seen. The carnivore found in the district are : the jungle cat; the small Indian civet; the common mongoose; jackal and the Indian fox.

The grey musk-shrew or *chuchunder* and two species of bats, the common yellow bat and the Tickell's bat are usually seen. The five stripped palm squirrel or *gilheri*, the Indian porcupine or *sahi*, the Indian gerbille, the common house rat and the house mouse are the common rodents found. The Indian hare belonging to the order lagomorpha is also found in the bushes.

Chinkara or ravine deer is seen in the district but its number is decreasing. Blackbuck and the bluebull or nilgai are found in the district. These are more common near Bishnoi villages where the shooting or killing them is prohibited.

## Birds

**Game birds.**—A large number of game birds, some of them residential are found throughout the year while others are winter visitors. Various types of ducks and geese such as eastern greylag goose, barheaded goose, Brahminy duck, common shelduck, pintail, common teal, mallard, gadwall, wigeon, bluewinged teal, shoveller, common pochard, ferruginous duck and tufted duck can be seen at the Ghagghar and tanks during winter. Some other ducks such as comb duck, cotton teal, spotbill duck, large whistling teal, treeduck are found throughout the year at suitable habitat. Dabchick is also a residential bird.

Other game birds like partridges and quails are also common in the district. Indian black partridge (the state bird) and grey partridge are common. Grey quail is a winter visitor, while black breasted or rain quail, jungle bush quail, whistler and rock bush quail, little bustard quail, Indian yellowlegged button quail, Indian bustard quail are resident species.

Sandgrouse, namely the Indian sandgrouse, has been noted as

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1. The zoological names can be seen in the table at the end of the chapter.

resident bird while large pintail sandgrouse, spotted sandgrouse, Imperial or blackbellied sandgrouse visit the district in winter. Their flocks, large and small, regularly visit favourite waterholes.

Among pigeons and doves, Bengal green pigeon is found in the vicinity of villages chiefly on *figus* trees and blue rock pigeon occurs in almost all the villages. Western turtle dove is a winter visitor. Indian ring dove, Indian red turtle dove, Indian spotted dove, Indian little brown or senegal dove and Indian emerald dove are generally found in all cultivated fields.

**Birds of Economic Importance.**—Scavengers like pariah kite, Brahminy kite, whitebacked vulture, king vulture, tawny eagle, greater spotted eagle, white-eyed buzzard eagle, house crow, Indian jungle crow, etc. keep the district cleared of dead animals by feeding on them. The Indian scavenger vulture besides feeding on dead animals, consumes a large quantity of human excreta. Predators like blackwinged kite, Indian *shikra*, laggar falcon, shahin falcon, redheaded merline and kestrel are residential birds of the district. Others like booted hawk eagle, eastern steppe eagle, pale harrier, montagus harrier, marsh harrier, etc. visit the district in winter. These along with spotted owl, eagle owl and mottled wood owl keep a check on the population of not only rodent pests but also various insect pests by eating them.

The challenge of insect pests is also met with by various insect eating birds, both resident and migratory. Swifts, such as Indian house swift, Indian Alpine swift, Indian palm swift and swallows like western swallow, Indian wiretailed swallow and Indian striated swallow consume insects as their staple diet. Shrikes or butcher birds as they are popularly called, feed upon insects. Shrikes found in the district are Indian grey shrike, Indian bay-backed shrike and rufous-backed shrike. Other insect eating birds are king crow, Brahminy myna, Indian pied myna, Indian myna, bank myna and northern jungle myna. Babbblers, warblers and flycatchers of various species feed on different types of insects. Larks and wagtails feed on a considerable amount of worms in addition to insects. Rosy pastor and common starling, both winter visitors may specially be mentioned for their role in destroying numerous insects including locusts on a large scale and thus help in saving crops to some extent.

**Colourful birds .**—The colourful birds add beauty to the varied wildlife of the district. The most common colourful birds are : blue jay, northern green barbet, coppersmith, northern goldenbacked woodpec-



kers, Indian golden oriole, large Indian parakeet, rose-ringed parakeet, pied crested cuckoo, *koel*, common crow pheasant, kingfishers such as small blue kingfisher, white breasted kingfisher, Indian pied kingfisher, redvented bulbul, whitered bulbul, verditer flycatcher, Indian magpie robin, Indian purple sunbird, *lal munia*, Indian spotted *munia* and crested bunting, etc. The national bird of India, the common peafowl is quite common and is seen in orchards, fields and gardens.

Besides, such attractive birds as hoopoe, Indian small green bee-eater, Indian white-eye or baboona are also seen in and around villages.

Besides, different types of storks, cranes, ibis and egrets, lapwings are also found in the district. In the river-bed, one can see various species of terns.

### Reptiles

**Snakes.**—The poisonous snakes like common Indian krait, Russel's viper, *phoorsa* and other snakes like blind snake, Indian python, John's sand boa, wolf snake, rat snake and sand snake are found in the district.

**Lizards.**—The common lizards can be seen in the houses. *kirla* or *girgit* is found in the lawns and hedges and attracts the attention by changing its colours. *Sanda* is found in sandy areas. Besides, a few other types of lizards are found in bushes and areas of thick vegetation.

### Amphibians

**Tortoises.**—Two species of tortoises are found in the district.

**Frogs.**—The common frogs found in the district are : Indian bull frog, Indian cricket frog, Indian burrowing frog and common toad.

**Fish.**—The different water courses of the district abound with many species of fish. The species important from the point of view of food and game are : the feather-back fish; *parri*, *katla*, *mrigal*, *chunni*, *bata*, *siriha*, *rohu*, *magur*, *singhara*, *ghally*. *mallee* and the snake-head fish, *dolla* and *curd*.

### CLIMATE

The climate of the district is characterised by its dryness and extremes of temperature and scanty rainfall. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from November to March is followed by the summer season which lasts up to the end of June. The

period from July to about the mid of September is the south-west monsoon season. The latter half of September and October constitute the post monsoon or transitional period.

**Rainfall.**—Records of rainfall in the district are available for five stations for sufficiently long periods. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in tables I and II. The average annual rainfall in the district is 395.6 mm. The rainfall increases generally from the west towards the east and varies from 339.1 mm at Fatehabad to 428.4 mm at Hisar. About 71 per cent of the annual normal rainfall is received during the short south-west monsoon period, July to September, July and August being the rainiest months. There is significant amount of rainfall in the month of June, mostly in the form of thundershowers and in the rest of the year, there is very little rainfall. The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is very large. In the 50 years period (1901 to 1950), the highest annual rainfall which was 235 per cent of the normal was recorded in 1977. The lowest annual rainfall amounting to only 33 per cent of the normal was recorded in 1938. In the same 50 year period the annual rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 16 years and two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred twice. Considering the annual rainfall at the individual stations, such low rainfall in two consecutive years is quite common in the district. Such low rainfall has been recorded 4 times at Fatehabad and Hansi, three times at Hisar and twice at Tohana for two or more consecutive years. Even 4 consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once at all stations in the district except Tohana. It can be seen from table 2 that the annual rainfall in the district was between 200 and 600 mm in 43 years out of 50.

On an average there are 24 rainy days in a year. This number varies from 21 at Tohana to 26 at Hisar.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 346.7 mm at Hisar on August 16, 1926.

**Temperature.**—There is a meteorological observatory at Hisar and the records of this observatory may be taken as representative of the meteorological conditions prevailing in the district in general. There is rapid increase of temperature after February. The mean daily maximum temperature in May, which is the hottest month is 41.6°C. On individual days the maximum temperature during the summer season may rise up to about 47° or 48°C. The hot scorching winds, which blow in summer add to the discomfort. Afternoon thundershower which occur on some days bring welcome relief, though only temporarily. With the advance of the monsoon by about the end of June, there is appreciable



drop in the day temperatures and the weather becomes cooler during the day time, but the nights are even warmer than those during the summer season. With the added moisture in the monsoon air, the nights are often uncomfortable. After the withdrawal of the monsoon in the latter half of September, the temperatures begin to decrease. The decrease in temperature is rapid after October and the drop in temperature after nightfall is particularly trying. January is generally the coldest month with the mean daily maximum at  $21.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the mean daily minimum at  $5.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . In the cold season, the district is affected by cold waves in the wake of passing western disturbances and the minimum temperature drops down to about  $3.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  occasionally.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Hisar was  $48.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  on May 30, 1944. The lowest minimum temperature was  $3.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  on January 31, 1929.

**Humidity.**—Relative humidity in the mornings is generally high during the monsoon season and during December to February, usually being about 70 per cent or more. Humidity is comparatively less during the rest of the year, the driest part of the year being the summer season with the relative humidity being about 30 per cent in the afternoons.

**Cloudiness.**—During the monsoon season, the skies are mostly moderately to heavily clouded. In the rest of the year, the skies are generally clear or lightly clouded. Cloudy skies prevail for brief spells of a day or two in association with passing western disturbances in the cold season.

**Winds.**—Winds are generally light in the district with some strengthening in force during the late summer and monsoon seasons. During the south-west monsoon seasons while winds from the south-west or west are more common, easterlies and south-easterlies also blow on some days. In the post monsoon and winter season while south-westerly or westerly winds are more common in the mornings, northerlies and north-westerlies are predominant in the afternoons. In the summer, winds are more common from the west or south-west in the mornings. In the afternoons, they are mostly from directions between west and north-west.

**Special weather phenomena.**—Some of the depressions which originate in the Bay of Bengal in the south-west monsoon season, and which move across the central parts of the country reach the district during the last stages of activity and cause widespread rain before dissipating. An occasional post monsoon storm or depression also affects the dis-

trict. Thunderstorms occur throughout the year but the highest incidence is during the monsoon season. Duststorms occur often during the hot season. Occasional fogs affect the district in the cold season.

Tables III to V give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and special weather phenomena respectively for Hisar.

## Botanical Names

## A. Trees

<i>Jand</i>	: <i>Prosopis cineraria</i> (L.) Druce.
<i>Rohera</i>	: <i>Tecomella undulata</i> (Sm.) Seem.
<i>Khairi</i>	: <i>Acacia senegal</i> (L.) Willd.
<i>Beri</i>	: <i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i> (Lam.) Syn. <i>Z. jujuba</i> (Lam.) (non Mill.)
<i>Reru</i>	: <i>Acacia Leucophloea</i> (Roxb.) Willd.
<i>Jal or van</i>	: <i>Salvadora oleoides</i> Decne.
<i>Barh</i>	: <i>Ficus bengalensis</i> L.
<i>Peepal</i>	: <i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.
Mesquite or <i>pahari kikar</i>	: <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> (Sw.) Dc.
<i>Kachnar</i>	: <i>Bauhinia racemosa</i> Lamk.
<i>Amaltas</i>	: <i>Cassia fistula</i> L.
<i>Lasura</i>	: <i>Cordia dichotema</i> Forst. f. Syn. <i>C. myxa</i> auctt. plur. (non Linn.)
<i>Imli</i>	: <i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.
<i>Banna</i>	: <i>Cratava adansoni</i> DC. subsp. <i>odora</i> (Buch.-Ham.) Jacobs Syn. <i>C. religiosa</i> Forst. f. <i>murvala</i> (Buch.-Ham.) Hook. f. and Thom.
<i>Shisham</i>	: <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Roxb.
<i>Kikar</i>	: <i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Delila ex Del. Subsp. <i>indica</i> (Benth) Brenan syn. <i>A. arabica</i> auct non Willd.
<i>Siris</i>	: <i>Albizia lebbek</i> (L.) Benth.
<i>Neem</i>	: <i>Azadirachta indica</i> Juss. Syn. <i>Melia azadirachta</i> L.
<i>Bakain</i>	: <i>Melia azedarach</i> L.
<i>Gulmohar</i>	: <i>Delonix regia</i> (Boj.) Raf.
<i>Parkinsonia</i>	: <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> L.

**B. Shrubs**

<i>Hins</i>	: <i>Capparis sepiaria</i> L. <i>Carissa spinarum</i> L.
<i>Castor</i>	: <i>Ricinus Communis</i> L.
<i>Panwar</i>	: (i) <i>Cassia tora</i> L. (ii) <i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.
<i>Babool</i>	: <i>Acacia jacquemontii</i> Benth.
<i>Mallah</i>	: <i>Zizyphus nummularia</i> (Burm. f.) Wight and Arn.
<i>Karir</i>	: <i>Capparis decidua</i> (Forsk.) Edgew.
<i>Phoa</i>	: <i>Calligonum polygonoides</i> L.
<i>Khip</i>	: <i>Leptadenia pyrotechnica</i> (Forsk.) Decne. Syn. <i>L. spartium</i> Wight.
<i>Ak</i>	: <i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait.) R. Br.

**C. Medicinal Herbs**

<i>Bansa</i>	: <i>Adhatoda vasida</i> Nees.
<i>Indirain</i>	: <i>Citrullus colocynthis</i> (L.) Schrad.
<i>Asgandha</i>	: <i>Withania somnifera</i> (L.) Dunal.
<i>Glo</i>	: <i>Tinospora Cordifolia</i> Miers ex. Hock. F. & T. Thoms.
<i>Kharuthi</i>	: <i>Sida acuta</i> Burm. f.
<i>Dhatura</i>	: <i>Datura stramonium</i> L.
<i>Bhakhra</i>	: <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.

**D. Grasses**

<i>Anjan</i>	: <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> L.
<i>Dhaman</i>	: <i>Cenchrus setigerus</i> Vahl.
<i>Dub</i>	: <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.
<i>Kana</i>	: <i>Saccharum bengalense</i> Retz. (Syn. <i>Erianthus munja</i> (Roxb.) Jesw.
<i>Dabh</i>	: <i>Desmostachya bipinnata</i> (L.) Stapf.

**E. Parasitic Plants**

<i>Amarbel</i>	: <i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb.
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## Zoological Names

## A. Mammals

Rhesus macaque or bandar	: <i>Macaca mulatta</i> (Zimmermann)
Common langur	: <i>Presbytis entellus</i> (Duffresne)
Tiger	: <i>Panthera tigris</i> (Linnaeus)
Leopard	: <i>Panthera pardus</i> (Linnaeus)
Jungle cat	: <i>Felis chaus</i> (Guldenstaedt)
Small Indian civet	: <i>Viverricula indica</i> (Desmarest)
Common Mongoose	: <i>Herpestes edwardsi</i> (Geoffroy)
Jackal	: <i>Canis aureus</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian fox	: <i>Vulpes bengtalensis</i> (Shaw)
Stripped hyaena	: <i>Hyaena hyaena</i> (Linnaeus)
Bheriya	: <i>Canis lupus</i> (Linnaeus)
Grey musk-shrew or <i>chuchunder</i>	: <i>Suncus murinus</i> (Linnaeus)
Common yellow bat	: <i>Scotophilus heathi</i> (Horsfield)
Tickell's bat	: <i>Hesperoptenus tickelli</i> (Blyth)
Five stripped palm squirrel or <i>gilheri</i>	: <i>Funambulus pennanti</i> (Wroughton)
Indian porcupine or <i>sahi</i>	: <i>Hystrix indica</i> (Kerr)
Indian gerbille	: <i>Tatera indica</i> (Hardwicke)
Common house rat	: <i>Rattus rattus</i> (Linnaeus)
House mouse	: <i>Mus musculus</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian hare	: <i>Lepus nigricollis</i> (Cuvier)
Chinkara or ravine deer	: <i>Gazella gazella</i> (Pallas)
Blackbuck	: <i>Antilope cervicapra</i> (Linnaeus)
Bluebull or nilgai	: <i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i> (Pallas)

## B. Birds

Eastern greylag goose	: <i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i> (Swinhoe)
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Barheaded goose	: <i>Anser indicus</i> (Latham)
Brahminy duck	: <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> (Pallas)
Common shelduck	: <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (Linn.)
Pintail	: <i>Anas acuta</i> (Linnaeus)
Common teal	: <i>Anas crecca crecca</i> (Linnaeus)
Mallard	: <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (Linnaeus)
Gadwall	: <i>Anas strepera strepera</i> (Linnaeus)
Wigeon	: <i>Anas penelope</i> (Linnaeus)
Bluewinged teal	: <i>Anas querquedula</i> (Linnaeus)
Shoveller	: <i>Anas clypeata</i> (Linnaeus)
Common pochard	: <i>Aythya ferina</i> (Linnaeus)
Ferruginous duck	: <i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Guldenstadt)
Tufted duck	: <i>Aythya fuligula</i> (Linnaeus)
Comb duck	: <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos</i> (Pennant)
Cotton teal	: <i>Nettapus coromandellianus coromandellianus</i> (Gmelin)
Spotbill duck	: <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i> (Forester)
Large whistling teal	: <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i> (Vieillot)
Tree duck	: <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> (Horsfield)
Dabchick	: <i>Podiceps ruficollis capensis</i> (Salvadori)
Black partridge	: <i>Francolinus francolinus asiae</i> (Bonaparte)
Grey partridge	: <i>Francolinus pondicerianus interpositus</i> (Hartert)
Grey quail	: <i>Coturnix coturnix coturnix</i> (Linnaeus)
Blackbreasted or rain quail	: <i>Coturnix coromandelica</i> (Gmelin)
Jungle bush quail	: <i>Perdica asiatica punjaubi</i> (Whistl)
Whistler and rock bush quail	: <i>Perdica argoondah</i> (Sykes)

Little bustard quail	: <i>Turnix sylvatica dussumier</i> (Temminck)
Indian yellow-legged button quail	: <i>Turnix tanki tanki</i> (Blyth)
Indian bustard quail	: <i>Turnix suscitator taigoor</i> (Sykes)
Indian sandgrouse	: <i>Pterocles exustus erlangeri</i> (Neumam)
Pintail sandgrouse	: <i>Pterocles alchata caudacutus</i> (Gmelin)
Spotted sandgrouse	: <i>Pterocles senegallus</i> (Linnaeus)
Imperial or blackbellied sandgrouse	: <i>Pterocles orientalis orientalis</i> (Linnaeus)
Bengal green pigeon	: <i>Treron phoenicoptera</i> (Latham)
Blue rock pigeon	: <i>Columba livia</i> (Gmelin)
Western turtle dove	: <i>Streptopelia orientalis meena</i> (Sykes)
Indian ring dove	: <i>Streptopelia decaocto decaocto</i> (Frisvald-szky)
Indian red turtle dove	: <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica tranquebarica</i> (Hermann)
Indian spotted dove	: <i>Streptopelia chinesis suratensis</i> (Gmelin)
Indian little brown or senegal dove	: <i>Streptopelia senegalensis cambayensis</i> (Gmelin)
Indian emerald dove	: <i>Chalcophaps indica indica</i> (Linnaeus)
Pariah kite	: <i>Milvus migrans</i> (Boddaert)
Barhaminy kite	: <i>Haliastur indus indus</i> (Boddaert)
Whitebacked vulture	: <i>Gyps bengalensis</i> (Gmelin)
King vulture	: <i>Torgos calvus</i> (Scopoli)
Tawny eagle	: <i>Aquila rapax vindhiana</i> (Franklin)
Greater spotted eagle	: <i>Aquila clanga</i> (Pallas)
White-eyed buzzard eagle	: <i>Butastur teesa</i> (Franklin)
House crow	: <i>Corvus splendens</i> (Vieillot)
Indian jungle crow	: <i>Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus</i> (Sykes)



Indian scavenger vulture	: <i>Neophron percnopterus ginginianus</i> (Latham)
Blackwinged kite	: <i>Elanus caeruleus vociferus</i> (Latham)
Indian shikra	: <i>Accipiter badius dussumieri</i> (Temminck)
Lagger falcon	: <i>Falco biarmicus</i> (Temminck)
Shaheen falcon	: <i>Falco peregrinus peregrinator</i> (Sundevall)
Redheaded merlin	: <i>Falco chicquera chicquera</i> (Daudin)
Kestrel	: <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> (Linnaeus)
Booted hawk eagle	: <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> (Gmelin)
Eastern steppe eagle	: <i>Aquila nipalensis nipalensis</i> (Hodgson)
Pale harrier	: <i>Circus macrourus</i> (Gmelin)
Montagus harrier	: <i>Circus pygargus</i> (Linnaeus)
Marsh harrier	: <i>Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus</i> (Linnaeus)
Spotted Owlet	: <i>Athene brama</i> (Temminck)
Eagle owl	: <i>Bubo bubo</i> (Linnaeus)
Mottle wood owl	: <i>Strix ocellata</i> (Lesson)
Indian house swift	: <i>Apus affinis affinis</i> (J.R. Gray)
Indian Alpine swift	: <i>Apus melba nubifuga</i> (Koelz)
Indian palm swift	: <i>Cypsiurus parvus batasiensis</i> (J.E. Gray)
Western swallow	: <i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian wiretailed swallow	: <i>Hirundo smithi filifera</i> (Stephens)
Indian striated swallow	: <i>Hirundo daurica erythropygia</i> (Sykes)
Indian grey shrike	: <i>Lanius excubitor lahtora</i> (Sykes)
Indian baybacked shrike	: <i>Lanius vittatus vittatus</i> (Valenciennes)
Rufousbacked shrike	: <i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i> (Vigors)

King crow	: <i>Dicrurus adsimilis albirictus</i> (Hodgson)
Brahminy myna	: <i>Sturnus pagodarum</i> (Gmelin)
Indian pied myna	: <i>Sturnus contra contra</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian myna	: <i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i> (Linnaeus)
Bank myna	: <i>Acridotheres gininianus</i> (Latham)
Northern jungle myna	: <i>Acridotheres fuscus fuscus</i> (Wagler)
Blue jay	: <i>Coracias benghalensis benghalensis</i> (Linnaeus)
Northern green barbet	: <i>Megalaima zeylonica caniceps</i> (Franklin)
Coppersmith	: <i>Megalaima haemacephala indica</i> (Latham)
Northern goldenbacked woodpeckers	: <i>Dinopium benghalense benghalense</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian golden oriole	: <i>Oriolus oriolus kundoo</i> (Sykes)
Large Indian parakeet	: <i>Psittacula krameri</i> (Scopoli)
Pied crested cuckoo	: <i>Clamator jacobinus serratus</i> (Sparrman)
Koel	: <i>Eudynamys scolopacea scolopacea</i> (Linnaeus)
Common crow pheasant	: <i>Centropus sinensis sinensis</i> (Stephens)
Small blue kingfisher	: <i>Alcedo atthis benghalensis</i> (Gmelin)
Whitebreasted kingfisher	: <i>Halcyon smyrnensis smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian pied kingfisher	: <i>Ceryle rudis leucomelanura</i> (Reichenbach)
Redvented bulbul	: <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> (Linnaeus)
Whitereared bulbul	: <i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i> (Gray)
Verditer flycatcher	: <i>Muscicapa thalassina thalassina</i> (Swainson)
Indian magpie robin	: <i>Copsychus saularis saularis</i> (Linnaeus)

- Indian purple sunbird : *Nectarinia asiatica asiatica* (Latham)
- Lal-munia* : *Estrilda amendava amendava* (Linnaeus)
- Indian spotted *munia* : *Lonchura punctulata punctulata* (Linnaeus)
- Crested bunting : *Melophus lathamii* (Gray)
- Common Peafowl : *Pavo cristatus* (Linnaeus)
- Hoopoe : *Upupa epops* (Linnaeus)
- Indian small green bee-eater : *Merops philippinus philippinus* (Linnaeus)
- Indian white-eye : *Zosterops palpebrosa palpebrosa* (Temminck)

### C. Reptiles

- Common Indian krait : Family : Elapidae *Bungarus caeruleus* (Schneider)
- Russel's viper : Family : Viperidae *Vipera russelli* (Shaw)
- Phoorsa* : *Echis carinatus* (Schneider)
- Blind snake : Family : Typhlopidae *Typhlops porrectus* (Stoliczka)
- Indian python : Family : Boidae *Python molurus molurus* (Linn.)
- John's sand boa : *Eryx johni johni* (Russell)
- Wolf snake : Family : Colubridae *Lycodon striatus* (Shaw)
- Rat snake : *Ptyas mucosus* (Linn.)
- Sand snake : *Psammophis leithi* (Gunther)
- Common lizards : (i) *Hemidactylus brooki* (Gray)  
(ii) *Hemidactylus flaviviridis* (Ruppel)
- Kirla* or *girgit* : *Calotes versicolour* (Daudin)
- Sanda* : *Uromastix hardwicki* (Gray)
- Other types of lizards found in the district : (i) *Mabuya macularia* (Dum. and Babr.)



(ii) *Ophiomorus tridactylus* (Blyth)

(iii) *Acanthodaetylus cantoris cantoris*  
(Gunthen)

(iv) *Varanus monitor* (Linn.)

#### D. Amphibians

Tortoises found in the district : (i) *Geoclemys hamiltoni* (Gray)

(ii) *Kachuga dhongoka* (Gray)

Indian bull frog : Family : Ranidae *Rana tigrina* (Daudin)

Indian cricket frog : *Rana Limnocharis* (Wiegman)

Indian burrowing frog : *Rana breviceps* (Schneider)

Common toad : Family : Bufonidae  
*Bufo melanostictus* (Schneider)

Parri : *Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas)

Katla : *Catla catla* (Hamilton)

Mrigal : *Cirrhinus mrigala* (Hamilton)

Chunni : *Cirrhinus reba* (Hamilton)

Bata : *Labeo bata* (Hamilton)

Siriha : *Labeo gonius* (Hamilton)

Rohu : *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton)

Magur : *Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus)

Singhara : *Mystus seenghala* (Sykes)

Ghally : *Ompok bimaculatus* (Bloch)

Mallee : *Wallago attu* (Bloch and Schneider)

Dolla : *Channa punctatus* (Bloch)

Curd : *Channa striatus* (Bloch)

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY

#### ANCIENT PERIOD

The name of the district is derived from its headquarters town, Hisar founded by Firuz Shah Tughlaq about A. D. 1354.<sup>1</sup> According to V. S. Agrawala, Aisukari or Isukara, a beautiful and prosperous city of Kuru Janapada referred to by Panini, was the ancient name of Hisar.<sup>2</sup> However, the antiquity of the area can be established on the basis of the discovery of pre-historic and historical sites at a number of places in the district.<sup>3</sup> Some of the most prominent sites are Banawali, Rakhigarhi, Seeswal, Agroha and Hansi.

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1. Afif, *Tarikh-i-Firozshahi*. (Hindi Tr.) S.A.B. Rizvi, Tughlaq Kalina 'Bharat Aligarh, 1957, II, PP. 73-5.

2. V. S. Agrawala, *Panini Kalina Bharatavarsha*, (Hindi) Sam. 2012, p. 86; Panini's *Ashtadhyayi*, 4/2/54.

3. For details of the explorations and excavations reference may be made to the following :—

(i) A. Cunningham, *Archaeological Survey of India Reports*, V, 1872-73, Calcutta, 1875.

(ii) C. Rodgers, *Archaeological Survey of India, Reports of the Punjab Circle*, 1888-89, Calcutta, 1891.

(iii) H. L. Srivastava, *Excavations at Agroha, Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India*, No. 61, Delhi, 1952.

(iv) R. S. Bisht, *Excavations at Banawali : 1974-77, Proceedings of the Seminar on Harappan Culture in the Indo-Pak Sub-continent*, Srinagar 1978.

(v) Suraj Bhan, (a) *Pre-historical Archaeology of the Sarasvati and the Drishadvati Valleys*, Baroda University, Ph. D. Dissertation, 1971, MSS.

(b) *Excavations at Mitathal (1968) and other explorations in the Sutlej-Yamuna Divide*, Kurukshetra, 1975.

(c) Siswal : A Pre-Harappan Site in Haryana, *Puratattva*, 1972.

(vi) U. V. Singh, *Sources of the History of Ancient Haryana (in Sources of the History of India*, II, Ed. S.P. Sen, Calcutta, 1978, pp. 77-94).

(vii) Silk Ram, *Archaeology of Rohtak and Hisar Districts, Haryana*, Ph. D. Dissertation, 1972, MSS.

Banawali, *A Look Back into the Pre-Indus Civilizations*, Special Board of Archaeology, Government of Haryana.



The evidence of the excavations at Banawali and Seeswal (on the lost courses of the Sarasvati and the Drishadvati respectively) provide the earliest phases of the pre-history of the district. The earliest settlers in the district were pre-Harappans who, in the first half of the 3rd millennium B.C. are supposed to have migrated to Banawali from north Rajasthan.<sup>1</sup> They built houses of sun-dried or kiln-baked bricks displaying sense of direction and definite town planning. They were skilled in producing pottery with a wide range of decorative shapes, knew copper smelting, and for their decoration used ornaments of beads, gold, semi-precious stones, terracotta, steatite and bangles of clay, shell, faience and copper. The early and later phases of this culture are also represented at Siswal where evidence of their cultivation of cereals and some knowledge of the art of writing has been found.<sup>2</sup>

The second phase in the pre-history of the district is marked by the advent of the Harappans whose most significant settlements are those discovered at Banawali and Rakhigarhi. The people followed here the pattern of living of the well-known sites of the Harappan culture. At Banawali, the Harappans supplanted the pre-Harappans about 2300 B.C. They were versatile in building planned and fortified township in the 'classical chess-board pattern' whose striking features were streets, defence walls and sanitary arrangements. They used painted designed pottery and their food included barley, meat and fish. Their seals show expert craftsmanship and their cubical and gamesman type of weights made of stone and ivory, a high degree of precision. Their skill in metallurgy is evident from their copper and gold ornaments while their terracotta figurines speak of their folk-art. Rakhigarhi, the other Harappan site in the district, is the most extensive of the known sites in Haryana, and it was perhaps the easternmost principal capital of those people. One of the most important finds discovered here is a steatite seal bearing the figure of a one horned animal (rhinoceros) with classical Harappan script similar to that found at Banawali and other Harappan sites.<sup>3</sup> The general features of the culture show closer affinities with north Rajasthan than with Indus valley and hence the suggestion that

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1. Suraj Bhan, *Sources of the History of India*, II, Ed. S.P. Sen, Calcutta, 1978, p. 110.

2. Suraj Bhan, *Siswal : A pre-Harappan Site in Haryana*, *Puratattva*, 1972. *Sources of the History of India*, II, Ed. S.P. Sen, Calcutta, 1978, p. 110.

3. *The Times of India*, February 19, 1981 and Suraj Bhan, *Excavations at Mitathal (1968) and other Explorations in Sutlej- Yamuna Divide*, Kurukshetra, 1975, p. 101.



'the settlers migrated to Haryana as colonisers probably from Rajasthan'.<sup>1</sup>

The coming of the late-Harappans, whose cultural remains have been discovered at Banawali, Rakhigarhi and other explored sites on the old course of the Drishadvati, mark the final stage of the Harappan culture complex in the region. It reveals overall disintegration of the urban life in favour of smaller settlements with concentration on the fertile belts. The degradation of the standard of living can be seen in the inferior pottery, rarity of art forms, and in the conspicuous absence of the script, seals, clay bangles, steatite and weights. The disappearance of the Harappan culture in the region might have been caused either individually or collectively by various causes—desiccation and spread of desert, the cutting of the courses of the Sarasvati and the Drishadvati in the upper region by the Yamuna, rise in the underground water-level and salinity, affection of the fertility of the soil, silt deposition or natural decay.<sup>2</sup> This might perhaps have led the migration of these people to the north-east and across the Yamuna in search of better living conditions.<sup>3</sup> About the beginning of the first millennium B.C. or a little earlier with the advent of the PGW culture (Painted Grey Ware Culture—generally associated with the Aryans) begins a new era in the history of the region.

The Aryans, at first settled on the banks of the rivers—the Sarasvati and the Drishadvati, and in course of their expansion covered a wider area which included almost the whole of the present Hisar district. The region was closely associated with the political and cultural life of the Bharatas, the Purus and the Kurus, the prominent tribes of the Aryans. The *Brahmana* and the *Sutra* literature<sup>4</sup> refer to various religious rites to be performed at various places on the banks of the above sacred rivers which flowed through the region. The area was probably included in the kingdom of the Pandavas and their successors.<sup>5</sup>

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1. Suraj Bhan, *Excavations at Mitathal (1968) and other Explorations in Sutlej-Yamuna Divide, Kurukshetra*, 1975, p. 111.

2. A. Ghosh, *Indian Pre-History*, 1964 (Ed. V. N. Misra and M.S. Mate), Deccan College, Poona, p. 122 ;

Suraj Bhan, *Sources of the History of India*, II, Ed. S. P. Sen, Calcutta, 1978, p. 110

3. Suraj Bhan, *Pre-historical Archaeology of the Sarasvati and the Drishadvati Valleys*, Baroda University, Ph. D. Dissertation, 1971, MSS.

4. P. V. Kane, *History of Dharmaśāstra*, IV, pp. 557-58.

5. H.C. Raychaudhri, *Political History of Ancient India*, Calcutta, 1953, p. 44.]

After the devastation of the crops by locusts and the destruction of their capital Hastinapura by the Ganga floods, the Kurus migrated to Kausambi. Consequently, their former realm was parcelled into small principalities of which was one Isukara (Hisar) ruled by a minor Kuru family. The Jain *Uttaradhyana Sutra* (14/1) mentions a town Isukara in the Kuru country.<sup>1</sup> Panini mentions quite a few towns of the region—Aisukari, Taushayana and Roni which have been identified with Hisar, Tohana and Rori respectively.<sup>2</sup> Since according to the Puranas,<sup>3</sup> the Kuru Janapada was included in the Nanda empire, the area covered by the district seems to have also formed a part of it.

Agroha seems to have come to prominence about the time of Alexander's invasion. Various known as Agrodaka, Agodaka, Aggalapura, Agara and Agallassoi it was inhabited by a powerful people mustering an army of 48,000 foot and 3,000 horses.<sup>4</sup> It is likely that these republican people might possibly have assisted Chandragupta Maurya in his war against the Greeks. They were included in the Maurayan empire, as the discovery of Ashokan pillars at Hisar and Fatehabad would suggest. The pillars were most probably brought from some near by place of antiquity like Agroha or Hansi and the epigraphs effaced and replaced by Firoz Shah's own genealogy.<sup>5</sup>

After the fall of the Mauryas and the Sungas, the Agras along with the Yaudheyas—the republican tribes of the region, asserted their independence. The Agra or Agacha (San: Agreya) were settled in the region covering Agroha, Barwala (Hisar district) and Naurangabad (Bhiwani district). They issued their coins (mostly of copper and a few of silver) during the second century B.C. from Agroha, their capital.<sup>6</sup> Yaudheyas, the other republican tribe of the region, are known by their coins (their earliest) found at Naurangabad

1. *Sacred Books of the East*, XLV, p. 62.

2. V. S. Agrawala, *Panini: Kalina Bharatavarsha*, (Hindi) Sam. 2012, p. 86; *Panini's Ashtadyayi*, 4/2/54.

3. H. C. Raychaudhuri, *Political History of Ancient India*, Calcutta, 1953, p. 233.

4. *Ibid*, p. 254.

5. *Marg*, Haryana Heritage, Sept, 1974, p. 23;

C. Rodgers, *Archaeological Survey of India, Reports of the Punjab Circle*, 1888-89, Calcutta, 1891;

B. C. Chhabra, 'Asokan Pillar at Hisar', *Vishveshvarananda Indological Journal*, Hoshiarpur, II, Pt ii, September, 1964, pp. 319-22.

6. H. L. Srivastava, *Excavations at Agroha, Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India*, No. 61, Delhi, 1952.



(Bhiwani district) and Hansi, referring to the title of their rulers, the name of their tribe and also their land known as Bahudhana or Bahudhanayaka.<sup>1</sup>

Towards the end of the second century B.C. or in the beginning of the first century B.C., the Yaudheya rule in the area was replaced by that of the Indo-Greeks, a number of whose coins have been discovered from Agroha as also their coin-moulds from Naurangabad (Bhiwani district). The Indo-Greek rule in its turn seems to have been supplanted by that of the Sakas. The absence of either the Saka or the Yaudheya coins from the region during this period may be explained as the overlordship of the Sakas was nominal which did not allow them to issue either their coins in the territory of the Yaudheyas or to permit the latter to issue coins in their name which would have meant their virtual independence. A Buddhist tradition<sup>2</sup> records the extension of Saka Rudradaman's kingdom up to Sialkot, while according to the Junagadh inscription<sup>3</sup> he destroyed the Yaudheyas. The Saka rule in the region may precisely be fixed somewhere between c. 20 B.C. and A.D. 150 admitting that they did not rule all this period.

The region also formed a part of the empire of the Kushanas as is gathered from the discovery of their coin-moulds and terracottas from Naurangabad (in the adjoining Bhiwani district) and coins from Hansi. The Yaudheyas, who had already appeared on the political scene by striking their coins in the late second century B.C., challenged in due course, the Kushana hold over the region, which might not have been possible for them during the times of Kanishka and Huvishka (A.D. 78—138) and also a little later when they were checked by the powerful Saka Rudradaman. According to A.S. Altekar<sup>4</sup> 'the Yaudheyas made a second bid for independence towards the end of the second century A.D., came out successful in their venture and succeeded in freeing their homeland and ousting the Kushanas beyond the Sutlej'. This finds support in the discovery of some of their coins in conjunction with those of the Kushanas at Hansi and the Agroha seal which mentions the titles Maharaja Mahakshatrapa Mahasenapati assumed by the head of their republic.<sup>5</sup> The ultimate victory of the Yaudheyas in their struggle against the Kushanas is also evident from their type of coins showing the standing figure of war-god Kartikeya with spear in his right hand, the left placed on the hips, a peacock

1. Silk Ram, *Archaeology of Rohtak and Hisar Districts, Haryana*, Ph.D. Dissertation, 1972, MSS.

2. *Journal of Ancient Indian History*, Calcutta, 1967-68, p. 116.

3. *Epigraphia Indica*, VIII, pp. 44, 47.

4. A. S. Altekar, *A New History of the Indian People*, VI, 1946, pp. 21, 29.

5. *Journal of the Numismatic Society of India*, XXXII, Pt. II, pp. 154-7.



nearby and on the reverse the figure of goddess with the right hand raised and specially their seals testifying to their reputation as invincible warriors—the holders of the charm of victory.

About the middle of the fourth century A.D. the Yaudheyas submitted to the expansionist policy of Samudragupta, but were perhaps allowed to maintain their existence as tax-paying autonomous people.<sup>1</sup> During the reigns of Kumargupta and Skandagupta, the Hunas invaded India. As no Huna coin has been recovered from the district, it would be difficult to say if it was also subjected to their rule. In the seventh century A.D., the district formed part of the Srikantha Janapada of the Pushpabhutis of Thanesar and thereafter passed under the rule of Bhandi, the cousin of Harsha who probably succeeded to the latter's paternal kingdom at Thanesar after the transfer of the Vardhana capital to Kanauj.<sup>2</sup> Yasovarman, the king of Kanauj during the first half of the 8th century A.D. brought the district under his sway. The poet Vakpatiraja describes Yasovarman's march through Maru (Rajasthan desert), Srikantha and Kurukshetra and places connected with the Bharata war.<sup>3</sup> During the 9th century A.D. the imperial Pratiharas of Kanauj established their hold over the region.<sup>4</sup>

The early 11th century saw the Ghaznavid inroads into the district. Sultan Masud led expeditions to Agroha and Hansi, at the latter place he faced a strong resistance. Masud's son Majdud was appointed governor of Hansi but later, his brother Maudud, the governor of Ghazni, who managed to kill him, brought the region under his direct administrative control. The tradition attributing the foundation of Hansi to Anangapala, a Tomara ruler of Delhi, and the discovery of Tomara coins from Hansi and other places from the adjoining district, probably suggest their recapture of Hansi from the Ghaznavids which, however, they soon lost to the Chauhans. The Ajmer Museum Inscription<sup>5</sup> makes special mention of Arnoraja's expedition to Haritanaka (Hariyana), while the Bijolia inscription<sup>6</sup> refers to the capture

1. Prayaga Prasasti of Samudragupta, lines 22-3. That may possibly be the reason for the absence of any direct evidence of the Gupta rule in this region. The only evidence is the recovery of 33 gold coins of Samudragupta at Mitathal from the adjoining district of Bhiwani.

2. H. A. Phadke; Haryana and the Gurjara Pratiharas, *Haryana Research Journal*, I, No. 3, 1967, p. 5.

3. *Gaudavaho* (Ed. S. P. Pandit), verse 484.

4. This is inferred on the basis of the discovery of Pratihara inscriptions from Pehowa and Sirsa and coins from Rohtak district.

5. Line 15; Dasaratha Sharma, *Early Chauhan Dynasties*, Delhi, 1959, p. 180.

6. *Epigraphic Indica*, XXVI, p. 104; *Journal of Asiatic Society of Bengal*, Calcutta, LV, p. 41 f.

of Delhi and Hansi by Vigraharaja IV. The Chauhans seems to have taken special measure for protecting the area against Muslim incursions. The Hansi inscription<sup>1</sup> of Prithviraja II refers to the appointment of Kilhana (Prithviraja's maternal uncle) of the noble Guhila family, as the guardian of the fort and his building there of a strong high gateway (*pratoli*) having majestic towers with painted flags appearing as it were a challenge to the valour of Hammir (Amirs of Ghazni). The district along with Agroha and Hansi, finally passed on to the Muslim rule after the defeat of Prithviraja III in the second battle of Tarain (1192). Further, the Muslim conquest of Hansi is attested to by the mausoleum (at the northern end of the mound) of Shah Niamat Ullah who, although successfully led the attack in conquering the fort, was himself killed in the action.

The district, in course of its historical growth, made significant contribution to the development of culture as well. Banawali, Rakhigarhi and Seeswal were its centres of activity during the pre-historic times, while during the historical period Agroha and Hansi dominated the scene. The *Divyayvadana*<sup>2</sup> and *Chullavagga*<sup>3</sup> describe Agroha as a centre of Buddhism, whose early importance may also be due to its location on the trade route between Taxila and Mathura. Many Jain sculptural pieces and architectural remains in the district and its adjoining area testify to the growth of Jainism, which according to the literary tradition, was propagated at Agroha by Lohacharya sometime between A.D. 14-28.<sup>4</sup> Another Jain Acharya Jinavallabha propagated Vidhimarga, a rational aspect of Jainism, in the region. Leaving all his proprietary rights in the monastery, garden and temple at Hansi, he dedicated his whole life to the propagation of his new creed.<sup>5</sup> The discovery of sculptural remains at Hansi and Agroha representing different gods and goddesses—Vishnu, Varaha, Kubera, Trinetra, Shiva, Mahishasuramardini and Surya, suggest the influence of different traits of Hinduism, while the burnt birch-barked manuscript and the terracotta tablet containing seven *svaras* (*ni, dha, pa, ma, ga, ri, sa*) in the 9th century characters (the most interesting of the finds at Agroha), reveal interest of the people in learning and fine arts.

#### MEDIEVAL PERIOD

After the battle of Tarain, Sultan Shihab-ud-din Muhammad (Muizz-

1. *Indian Antiquary*, XVI, p. 19, verses 4-6.

2. *Divyavadana*, Ed. P. L. Vaidya, Darbhanga, 1959, p. 67 f.

3. XII. 1.9; J. Przyluski, *Ancient People of the Punjab*, (Eng. Tr.) Chitrabhanu Sen, p. 11.

4. J.C.Jain, *Life in Ancient India as depicted in Jain Canons*, Bombay, 1947, p. 121.

5. Dasaratha Sharma, *Early Chauhan Dynasties*, Delhi, 1959, p. 223.



ud-din Muhammad) Ghuri placed one of his ablest generals in the Indian campaigns, Qutb-ud-din Aibak as in charge of his 'Indian possessions' including Hansi. But it appears that any meaningful control could not be established over the district.<sup>1</sup> Seizing this opportunity, a Rajput clan, Jatus, believed to be an offshoot of Tomaras widely extended their power over parganas of Agroha, Hansi, Hisar and Bhiwani.<sup>2</sup> The Jatus probably did not render more than a nominal submission to the Sultan of Delhi. The Sultans consolidated their position in the region gradually. After the assassination of Bahram in A.D. 1242 the fief of Hansi was given to Ulugh Khan, a high official of the Delhi court (who later ascended the throne as Balban), who governed his charge wisely and well.<sup>3</sup> Agriculture was improved, and from the effects of his justice and conspicuous liberality, the people became contented and prosperous.<sup>4</sup> In March A.D. 1253 when Ulugh Khan was banished from the Delhi Court by Nasir-ud-din Mahmud (Sultan-i-Muazzam Nasir-ud-dunya wau-d din Mahmud)<sup>5</sup>, he was asked to go to his estates in the Shiwalik hills and Hansi. Later, the royal armies marched from Delhi to Hansi with the design of ousting Ulugh Khan (Balban) who retired to Nagaur and his fief of Hansi was bestowed upon Prince Ruknu-din.<sup>6</sup> In February, A.D. 1254, Balban returned to power and later went to Hansi to superintend the military organisation of the Shiwalik hills, which having arranged, he returned to Delhi.<sup>7</sup>

In 1290, the district slipped off from the control of Shams-ud-din, the last of the so-called slave kings and came into the possession of the Khaljis. The new rulers, we are told, followed a policy of ruthless financial exploitation and bloody repression of the people which they tolerated under compulsion until the death of Ala-ud-din (1316). However, after this powerful ruler passed off the stage, the suffering masses rose up against the Khalji tyranny and freed themselves. This situation continued until 1320 when Ghiyas-ud-din, a Tughluq noble, who, having effectively fished in the troubled waters, usurped the Delhi throne. Ghiyas-ud-din brought the people under his tight control. Since Sirsa, until recently a part of the district, was the first place to have been possessed by the Tughlaq noble, the area came to occupy a somewhat

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 20.

2. *Ibid.* p. 101.

3. Ishwari Prasad, *History of Medieval India*, 1952, p. 175.

4. *Ibid.* p. 178.

5. Referred to as Muazzam in *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 21.

6. *History of India as told by its own Historians*, Translated by H.M. Elliot and J. Dowson, Allahabad, 1969, Vol II, pp. 352-53.

7. *Ibid.* p. 355.



important position as long as he remained the Sultan of Delhi. Ghiyas-ud-din was succeeded by the well-known Muhammad Tughlaq. No significant event is recorded in the annals of his times (1325-51). But, in the time of Muhammad's successor Firuz (1351-88) the district shot into prominence. The new ruler came to have somewhat unusual fancy for the tract. Being on the direct road from Khurasan, Multan and the Western Punjab, which ultimately reached Delhi, it had great importance from military and trade point of view. Besides, the place was admirably adapted as a starting point for the hunting expeditions in which the Sultan frequently indulged.<sup>1</sup> Quite understandably, therefore, Firuz did many good turns to the district. It is a great credit to him that he established new towns of Fatehabad and Hisar and built two canals; one taking off from the Ghagghar at Phulad and following the course of the Joiya up to the new town of Fatehabad and the second from the Yamuna to the towns of Hansi and Hisar and is known as Western Yamuna (Jumna) Canal. The headquarters of the *shikk* or division of Hansi which included the tract comprising present Hisar district was shifted from Hansi to Hisar.

After Firuz's death (1388) chaos and confusion spread all around. The situation deteriorated still further when Timur invaded in 1398. Marching eastward along the valley of the Ghagghar, the fierce invader first entered Sirsa and then after a day's stay, reached Fatehabad. The town of Fatehabad was captured without any opposition from the inhabitants. The wealth was looted and a large number of them were killed. Timur then marched by the fort of Rajab-nur (or Rajabpur—possibly the fort of Razabad built during the reign of Firuz Tughlaq) and came to the fort of Ahruni (corresponding to modern Ahrwan), where he pitched his camp. Here, the Ahirs, inhabitants of the place, offered some resistance but they were soon over-powered by Timur's army. The Timur's soldiers set fire to the fort, plundered the houses and not a house was left standing.<sup>2</sup> From Ahrwan, Timur went to Tohana. The inhabitants of this place were robust Jats who had made themselves masters of their neighbourhood.<sup>3</sup> They resisted Timur's advance but being unequal to the fierce invader in strength fled into the deserts and the jungles filled with sugarcane. Timur's soldiers pursued them killed hundreds of them and took many prisoners. From Tohana, Timur proceeded to Samana.

After Timur's departure, chaos and confusion prevailed over the district and it felt the full force of these intestine discords which rent the

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 21.

2. *History of India as told by its own Historians*, translated by H. M. Elliot and J. Dowson, Allahabad, 1969, Vol III, p. 492.

3. *Ibid*, pp. 428 and 498.

Delhi empire in the concluding days of the Tughlaq dynasty. In A.D. 1406, Khizr Khan captured Hisar but it was recovered by Sultan Mahmud in 1408. In 1411, however, the district or tract of Hansi came into the hands of Khizr Khan, who with the help of Amirs of Hisar Firuza defeated Daulat Khan Lodi, who had ascended the throne in A.D. 1413. The latter surrendered and was kept prisoner at Hisar and Khizr Khan took possession of Delhi and founded the so-called Sayyid Dynasty (A.D. 1414). Later in A.D. 1428, the fief of Hisar was conferred on Mahmud Hasan (Later called Imad-ul-Mulk) as a reward for his good services.<sup>1</sup> In the time of Lodis, the district received scant attention of the rulers. Behlol Lodi gave it as a fief to one of his nobles, Muhabbat Khan, who controlled its affairs somehow until 1526, when the Lodis were knocked down by the Mughals.

Hisar was the headqaurters of a strong garrison since Firuz's days. At the time of Babur's invasion, too, a big force was stationed there under the command of Hamid Khan. On getting news of the invasion, this force marched to check Babur's line of advance after Sirhind. On reaching the Ghagghar, the invader came to know of Hamid's coming and he at once sent a big army under prince Humayun to neutralize it. A severe context ensued in which Humayun came out successful and Hamid Khan was defeated. Humayun's forces entered Hisar and sacked it. Babur was very much pleased with Humayun on his first victory on the Indian soil and gave him Hisar as a reward.<sup>2</sup> Humayun retained the district under his direct control until 1530, when Babur died and he became the king of Hindustan. In 1540, Sher Shah Suri drove Humayan out of India and Hisar along with all other possessions of the latter came into the hands of Sher Shah. An administrative genius as the Sur king was, he ruled over the district very effectively having converted it from *shikk* to one of his sarkars and located its headquarters at Hisar. His successors also managed it likewise until A. D. 1555 when Humayun on his advance to Delhi, despatched from Lahore a force which occupied Hisar district without striking a blow. After his victory at Sirhind, Humayun entered Delhi and assigned Hisar to Akbar, being the province Humayun himself had received from Babur, when he first entered India.<sup>3</sup> In 1556, Akbar succeeded Humayun and during his reign Hisar assumed great significance. Placed in the metropolitan province (Delhi Subah) it formed one of its important sarkars. It had 27 *mahals* with an area of 31,14,497 of *bighas* yielding

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 231.

2. B. S. Nizzar, *Panjab under the Great Mughals, 1526-1707 AD*, 1968, p. 16.

3. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. IV, Edited by Wolseley Haig and Richard Burn, 1963, p. 67; B. S. Nizzar, *Panjab under the Great Mughals, 1526-1707 A.D.* 1968, p. 29.



the revenue of 5,25,54,905 *dams* and revenue grant of 14,06,519 *dams*.<sup>1</sup> Out of 27 *mahals*, the following were in the present district :—

(Revenue grant)

Mahals	Area ( <i>bighas</i> )	Revenue ( <i>dams</i> )	Sayurghal ( <i>dams</i> )
Agroha	45,717	17,48,970	6,654
Ahroni (Ahrawan)	19,537	8,57,357	1,60,038
Bhattu	—	4,40,280	—
Barwala	1,36,799	10,97,807	1,09,052
Tohana	1,80,744	46,94,354	1,50,680
Hisar(2)	1,76,512	40,39,895	1,83,879
Fatehabad	83,661	11,84,392	81,867
Hansi	8,36,115	54,34,438	1,30,056

(*Bigha* is 5/8th of an acre, and *dam* is equal to 2½ paise)

These parganas were administrative-cum-fiscal units under the charge of Shikdars.

We hear nothing of the district during the reign of succeeding Mughal emperors up to the death of Aurangzeb in A.D. 1707, when Nawab Shahdad Khan was the Nazim of Hisar (sarkar). He controlled the district till 1738 and it appears that it enjoyed a fair measure of peace and prosperity. Then came Biloches of Farrukhnagar (Gurgaon), who ruled upto 1760 successively. During the Biloch rule, the district became the scene of a sort of triangular duel between the sturdy Sikhs of the north-east, the marauding Bhattis of the north and north-west and the Muslim chiefs of the south.<sup>2</sup> None of them could, however, hold the region permanently except for the Bhattis, who became the masters of Fatehabad pargana, a part of the district.

The struggle between Sikh chief of Patiala and Bhattis dragged for more than 10 years without any definite result. In 1754, the Sikh chief over ran the *mahals* of Tohana, Jamalpur, Dharsul and Shikarpur which at that time belonged to Bhatti chiefs. The Bhattis solicited the aid of the Nazim of Hisar with whose help, they tried to repel the Sikhs. They were,

1. For details see Abul Fazi, *Ain-i-Akbari*, English Translation by Col. S. S. Jarret, Corrected and further annotated by Jadunath Sarkar, 1948, Vol II, pp. 298-300.

2. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1872, p. 36.



however, defeated at Akalgarh (Punjab). The Bhatti chief fled to Hisar. In 1757, the Bhatti chief again fought the Sikhs with fresh re-inforcement of imperial troops, but was overthrown in the battle of Dharsul. The Nazim was killed in this fight. The Sikhs on this occasion appeared to have penetrated as far as Hisar which was sacked. In consequence of the anarchy, the imperial wazir, Najib-ud-daula himself proceeded to Hisar and settled the district. Najib appointed Bhatti chief as the Nazim of Hisar. This step failed to stem the tide of Sikh depredations who during the next 5 or 6 years succeeded in making themselves masters of the *mahals* of Jind, Safidon, Kasuhan and Tohana. In 1774, Maharaja Amar Singh of Patiala along with his famous minister, Dewan Nannu Mal laid siege to the stronghold of Bighar near Fatehabad which fell shortly afterwards. The Raja then took Fatehabad and Sirsa and invested Rania held by the Bhattis. The Delhi authorities again made a vain attempt to maintain their power and strong army under Rahim Dad Khan, a Rohilla chief and governor of Hansi was sent to oppose the Sikhs. The combined forces of Raja Gajpat Singh of Jind and Dewan Nannu Mal overthrew the imperial army at Jind and the Rohilla Chief was killed. As a consequence, Hisar, Hansi and Tohana were taken over by Raja Amar Singh of Patiala. The Raja erected a fort on the old mound of Agroha and a residence at Hisar. The district had become by now the scene of interminable struggle and a large part of it lay an uninhabited waste.<sup>1</sup>

In 1781, a last attempt was made by the Delhi authorities to restore order in the district and Najaf Ali Khan with Raja Jai Singh was despatched to the district with an army, but an arrangement was made by the treaty of Jind under which parganas of Hansi and Hisar along with Rohtak, Meham and Tosham were restored to the Delhi empire, Fatehabad and Sirsa were made over to Bhattis and the remaining territories were allowed to be retained by the Sikhs. Raja Jai Singh was appointed Nazim of Hisar. The plundering expeditions of Sikhs, as also the frequent marches of the imperial and the local armies brought economic ruin of the people. The *Chalisa* famine (A.D. 1783) worsened their lot still further; in fact it completed the final ruin of the district.

Towards the close of the 18th century, an Irish adventurer, George Thomas occupied the district (1798) and made it a part of his raj which stretched from the Ghagghar in the north to Beri in the south, and from Meham in the east to Bahadra in the west. Hansi was his seat of administration where he established himself in the ancient and dilapidated town, remodelled and strengthened its ruined fort and repaired its defensive walls. He divided

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, pp. 37-38.

his raj into 14 parganas of which the following six belonged to this district<sup>1</sup> :—

Pargana	Old Villages	Newly Inhabited Villages	Revenue (Rs.)
1. Hansi	84	32	60,000
2. Barwala	46	11	11,000
3. Tohana	74	26	25,000
4. Jamalpur	70	16	70,000
5. Agroha	44	3	3,000
6. Hisar	250	13	10,000

Thomas who was a wise administrator did not interfere in the affairs of the villages (excepting in matters of assessment, and collection of revenue) which were managed by the traditional headman/men and village panchayats.<sup>2</sup> This arrangement continued up to 1801 when George Thomas was driven out from here by the Sikh-Maratha-French confederacy. From 1801 to 1802, a French officer, Lt. Bourquian controlled the district on behalf of the Marathas. He is said to have rebuilt the towns of Tohana and Hisar. Later in 1802, it was placed under the charge of Illias Beg, a Mughal noble of Hansi.<sup>3</sup>

#### MODERN PERIOD

In the beginning of the 19th century, the British East India Company came on the scene. The Marathas who had supermacy over the district, were ousted from here. The treaty of Surji Arjungaon (1803) signed between the Marathas and the East India Company put a stamp of legality on the change. The company appointed Illias Beg, referred to above, as their Nazim to control the district. The Bhattis in the Sirsa district became very violent and killed Illias. Nawab Bambu Khan, brother of the notorious Rohilla chief Ghulam Qadir succeeded Illias. The people kept the same tough posture. They paid him no revenue and harassed Bambu so much that he left the

1. For details see K.C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas* (Hindi), Vol. II, p. 134.

2. See, for details H. R. Gupta, 'Rule of George Thomas in Haryana', *Haryana Research Journal*, Vol. I, No. 3 (1966), pp. 11—18; K. C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas* (Hindi), Vol. II, pp. 133-37.

3. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 30.



post soon afterwards (1805). Ahmed Bakhsh Khan, the Chief of Loharu succeeded Bambu. The British masters expected much from him but he, too, disappointed them by tendering resignation no sooner than he assumed his charge. Another noble Abdus Samad Khan was tried. But he, too, was harassed by the people. Made of a stiffer fibre, however, he struggled for two long years, but without any gain : conversely he suffered huge losses in men, money and material, and ultimately gave in and resigned the post. From 1808 to 1810, there appears to have been no governor of Hisar at all.<sup>1</sup>

The Delhi Residency of the British India Company had control over the district along with other areas of Haryana. But as detailed above, there was no law and order here and the British Resident, A. Seton sent an adequate force led by Edward Gardiner, a Senior Assistant, in March 1809. The famous James Skinner, who was later given an estate near Hansi, commanded a cavalry regiment of this force. The people gave opposition to it at a number of places, the tough one being at Fatehabad. Here the British fought Bhattis led by their chief Khan Bahadur Khan. The Bhattis fought bravely but being inferior in arms and fighting skill, they were overpowered. Khan Bahadur was expelled from his principality which was taken under direct control (1809). With Hansi as his headquarters of civil administration, Gardiner ruled over the territory by forming it into a sort of a district, for six years.<sup>2</sup>

In 1819, Haryana territory was divided into three divisions, North-Western, Central and Southern. Hisar district along with Panipat, Sonipat, Rohtak and Sirsa formed the North-Western division. Being unwieldy, this division was bifurcated into Northern and Western divisions the very next year. Hisar along with Bhiwani and Sirsa was included in the former and Hansi was made its headquarters.<sup>3</sup> In 1832, 'the Haryana territory' officially designated as Delhi Division, comprising the districts of Hisar, Delhi, Rohtak, Panipat (Karnal) and Gurgaon was brought under the Regulations of the East India Company and included in North-Western Provinces.<sup>4</sup> Hisar was made the headquarters of the newly-formed Hisar district in place of Hansi. These arrangements continued till 1857.

In the Uprising of 1857, the people of Hisar played a significant part.<sup>5</sup> The sturdy Jats, brave Ranghars and bellicose Rajputs, Bishnois and Bhattis rose up against the British as soon as they heard the news of the fall of Delhi

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 33.

2. *Ibid*, p. 34.

3. *Ibid*, pp. 39-40.

4. *Imperial Gazetteer of India, Provincial Series, Punjab*, Vol. I, 1908, p. 250 and K.C. Yadav, *Haryana Studies in History and Culture*, pp.80-84.

5. K. C. Yadav, *The Revolt of 1857 in Haryana*, 1977.



on May, 11. Muhammad Azim, a descendant of the Mughal family of Delhi, who was at that moment an Assistant Patrol at Bhattu, gave them effective lead in the Hisar area. At Hansi, Hukam Chand Jain, his nephew Faqir Chand and a Muslim friend Meena Beg played an important role. All the people accepted Bahadur Shah, the last of the Mughal kings of Delhi, as their emperor.

Hansi was the first station to witness the flame of uprising. On May 15, the 14th Irregular Cavalry stationed there, revolted. They could not, however, make much impact on either their fellow-soldiers or civil population. They rose up and made their way to Delhi. But two weeks later, the Haryana Light Infantry troops and a detachment of the Dadri Cavalry stationed there, did great job and their revolt was fierce. Major Stafford, the Commanding Officer of the Haryana Light Infantry and other officers managed to flee but eleven men, women and children who could not escape were killed. The bungalows of Europeans were set on fire and the houses and shops of the loyalist were plundered. On May 27, the Haryana Light Infantry stationed at Hisar followed suit. They rose up like one man under the leadership of Subedar Shah Nur Khan. The Dadri Cavalry men also did likewise under Rajab Beg. At about 1.00 p.m. a few persons clad in green attacked the Hisar fort where Wedderburn, the Deputy Commissioner, was living with his family. The man at the gate, did not object to their entry into the fort, and as though the whole thing was pre-planned, led them in. Two Englishmen came out on hearing the noise, but they were shot at before they could do anything. The shots served as a signal for a popular rising: the troops were joined by the civil population in a twinkling of an eye. They broke open the district jail, released about two scores of prisoners from there, plundered and destroyed the houses and bungalows of the Europeans and seized the district treasury containing Rs. 1,70,000. Wedderburn, the Deputy Commissioner and twelve other Europeans were killed. Next they occupied the tahsil treasury and seized Rs. 8,000 from there. Having done that, the 'rebels', went to Hansi, where all the rebel troops of the district had already assembled. After staying there for some time, they made their way to Delhi via Rohtak.

By the first week of June, the entire district of Hisar was out of the British control. This unnerved the British authorities at Delhi and they sent General Van Cortlandt, the Deputy Commissioner of Ferozepur to restore order in the district. Another force commanded by Lt. Pearce joined him in the third week of June. The operations began in July. In the second week of July, while he was coming from Sirsa, the General met with stiff opposition at the hands of the villages through which he passed. However, he conquered them easily. He reached Hisar on July 17. The local population, especially the Bhattis, Ranghars, Pachhadas and others in and around Hisar were

mercilessly slaughtered. The house of Prince Muhammad Azim was plundered and destroyed and his Begum was captured.

But Hansi still held out. Here the 'rebels' had collected in large numbers. But surprisingly, they did not offer any opposition to Van Cortlandt when he attacked them. They simply left the place on his arrival. But Van Cortlandt coming away from Hisar, was not worth the gain resulting from the settlement of the Hansi pargana. Taking advantage of his absence, Prince Muhammad Azim attacked Hisar with a big force, comprising 1,000 strong. Capt. Mildway who looked after Hisar could not stand for long against the Prince, and, therefore, Hisar was taken over by Azim. But he was not destined to control it for long, because soon after General Van Cortlandt rushed to Hisar and drove him out.

Azim gave a tough battle to the enemy at Mangali and fought bravely but lost the day and also 400 of his men. After this he left the field with his followers, but was hotly chased by the British. On September 30, he fought the last battle at Jamalpur, where again he met the same fate. Broken-hearted by suffering so many defeats, the prince left Hisar and moved into the Gurgaon district. There he joined Rao Tula Ram and both fought against the British at Narnaul (16 November, 1857). Nothing was heard of the prince<sup>1</sup> or his family after that.

Thus after a long hard struggle General Van Cortlandt established order throughout the district. The work of persecution also went side by side. The proprietary rights of several villages were forfeited, heavy fines were levied on scores of others. Nearly 133 persons were hanged, and properties of hundreds of others were confiscated. Fearing punishment, thousands of persons ran away to distant places.

For quite some time after the uprising, the people of Hisar suffered a great deal. Obviously, the spirit of vengeance on the part of the victor was working there. They were denied almost all the benefits of the raj as a consequence of which they became backward in all respects.

This condition was not to remain for long, however, in the last decade of the preceding century, as elsewhere, the winds of change began to blow here also. With the spread of Western education, urbanisation and technico-economic changes, the people, especially the town dwelling middle classes were influenced. There was political awakening also. In consequence, a number of institutions came up, some idea of which can be gathered from the following tabular statement<sup>2</sup> :—

1. His son died in the battle of Narnaul.

2. K. C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. III, pp. 123-25.



Year	Name of Organisation and Place	Aims and Objectives	Total Membership
1886	Arya Samaj, Hisar	Socio-religious reform of Hindus	59
1888	Central National Mohammadan Association, Hisar	Bettering Muslims lot	50
1888	Anjuman-i-Islamiya, Hisar	Do	29
1889	Arya Samaj, Hansi	Socio-religious reform of Hindus	12
1891	Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Hisar	Do	20

Of these, the attempt of Arya Samaj was most significant. The main credit for this goes to Lala Lajpat Rai, who came to practise as a *vakil* at Hisar in 1886. Very soon a band of enlightened men surrounded him. He placed Arya Samaj and national programme before the people. Lajpat Rai and his associates brought a lot of political awakening to the people of Hisar. As a result, they started taking interest in their municipal affairs, and public life. A branch of Congress was started here in 1886. From 1888 onwards delegates began to go from here to annual sessions of the Congress.<sup>1</sup> It may, however, be pointed out here that these activities were restricted to a limited number of people belonging to the urban middle classes. The rural people were still unaffected.

In 1914 came the World War I which was by all means a big event. The people of Hisar, as those of other districts in Haryana came to the help of the government in its war efforts by supplying men, money and material. A few rich town-dwellers and big zamindars from the villages received jagirs, and other benefits for their war services. The village young, hundreds of them who had offered their blood during the war were discharged from army after the conclusion of the war. The working classes and poor people residing in the towns and villages

1. Lala Lajpat Rai in Haryana; An Autobiographical note, *Journal of Haryana Studies*, Vol. V, No. 1-2, 1973, pp. 28-37.



also suffered on account of the economic depression and sufferings that came after the war. As a result, there was discontent and disaffection all around. Mahatma Gandhi found a great opportunity in this, and launched an all-India agitation when the government wanted to pass the Rowlatt Bills in 1919.

The discontented and disaffected masses of the district took part in the Rowlatt agitation. A protest meeting was held at Hisar on February 18, 1919 in which a strongly worded resolution was passed against the bills. Such meetings were held elsewhere too. But the government took no note of the protests and passed one of the Bills called the Criminal Law Emergency Powers Act in March, 1919. The people of Hisar were furious when they heard about it. They observed hartal in Hisar, took out processions and held meetings opposing the Act right from March 30 to April 6. Later after the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi at Palwal and the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy, some violent disturbances also took place at a number of places. On August 1, 1920 when Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation movement the struggle became quite intense. A large number of persons jumped into the struggle in no time—about 300 volunteers offered themselves for satyagraha. Many students left schools and colleges and several lawyers boycotted law courts. The Swadeshi movement also gained momentum. Hisar municipal committee was one of the municipalities which asked the government to ban the sale of liquor within the municipal limits of the city.<sup>1</sup>

On the whole the movement progressed well. But on February 12, 1922 when Mahatma Gandhi withdrew it after violence at Chauri-Chaura (Bihar), it came to a grinding halt here also.<sup>2</sup> As elsewhere, the withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation movement, gave a sort of setback to the national movement in this district. The congress men were divided into two camps : swarajists who wanted to give up non-cooperation (also called pro-changers) and non-cooperationists, the former being in majority. The former and the Unionist party, a newly formed organisation by Sir Chhotu Ram took part in the elections of 1923, 1926 and 1930.<sup>3</sup>

In 1930, yet another all-India movement, the Civil Disobedience movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi. The movement bestirred

1. *The Tribune*, 12 June, 1921.

2. For details see Jagdish Chandra, *Freedom Struggle in Haryana* (Kurukshetra : 1982), pp. 36—65.

3. For details see K. C. Yadav, *Elections in Punjab, 1920-1947, 1982*.

the nation and Hisar was no exception. Satyagraha Sabhas were formed and volunteers were recruited to go to jail after breaking salt laws. On April 13, 1930 the District Congress Committee organised a large meeting and made salt openly. The salt thus prepared when auctioned, fetched very handsome amount of money. The Panjab Satyagraha Committee appreciated the efforts of Hisar district branch.<sup>1</sup> Strong protests were also made in Hisar against the Press Ordinance on May 2, 1930 : the Hisar Bar Council pleaded for its undoing.<sup>2</sup> From May 11 to 16 (1930) the 'Mutiny (1857) Week' was also celebrated here.

A no tax campaign was also launched in the district. Villages of the Skinner Estate near Hansi were prominent in this struggle. The peasants formed a Kisan Sabha and waged a struggle. The 'Skinners' ultimately yielded and accepted the demands of the peasants.<sup>3</sup> Simultaneously the Salt Satyagraha continued with full force. The government made a large number of arrests to crush the movement. There were indiscriminate lathi charges at a number of places, especially on picketers of liquor shops etc. Fabricated charges were levelled against important persons of the district and they were harassed. The Congress organisation was declared unlawful. Despite all this, however, the struggle went on unabated (except for a brief halt in 1931), till 1933 when Mahatma Gandhi withdrew it and turned it into an individual satyagraha. The new mode of struggle did not make any impressive impact, and after some time even this was withdrawn.<sup>4</sup> The withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience movement gave a set-back to the nationalist effort. The Unionist Party led by Sir Chhotu Ram became very popular and it won almost all the seats to the Punjab Assembly in the general elections of 1937.

In 1938, there was a severe famine in the district. The Congress did a lot of relief work. Subhas Chandra Bose, the then President of the Congress, came to see the relief arrangements himself.<sup>5</sup> He also exhorted the people to take to national work seriously. This gave morale boost-up to the local Congressmen and they became active. After some time there came the world war II (1939). The Congressmen opposed the war efforts of the government. They started at a low note, but by 1942 it warmed up, when the Britishers were asked to quit

1. *The Tribune* 12th and 16th April, 1930.

2. *The Tribune* 6th May, 1930.

3. K. C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. III, p. 116.

4. *Ibid*, pp. 75—79.

5. *Ibid*, p. 184.



India at once. The government action was equally strong. As elsewhere, the Congress organisation was declared unlawful, and its leaders were arrested. Yet the people came out to fight; hundreds of them offered satyagraha. There were some violent activity also; telegraph wires were cut, railway lines were dislocated, and police stations were stoned. There were lathi charges at a number of places and many persons were arrested. As a result of the arrest of leaders and heavy repressive measures adopted by the government, the movement failed and by 1944, it was 'as dead as a door nail'.<sup>1</sup>

As at home, the people of Hisar made sacrifices to the cause of national freedom outside India too. Many officers and soldiers from the district joined the Indian National Army. Of these, two officers and 51 soldiers laid down their lives fighting for India's liberation.<sup>2</sup>

To conclude, the people of Hisar made an impressive effort in the national struggle for freedom. The achievement of Independence on August 15, 1947 was celebrated in the district with great enthusiasm, but it was marred by communal riots after the Partition of the country. The last decades have witnessed changes in many directions. The subsequent chapters will throw light on, what developments have been made in different spheres of activity during this period. We are too near the present to view the historical importance of these changes, however.

1. For details of the 1942 movement see Jagdish Chandra, *Freedom Struggle in Haryana*, pp. 110-111; K. C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. III, pp. 190-91.

2. K. C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. III, pp. 192-93.



## CHAPTER III

### PEOPLE

#### POPULATION

The total population of the present Hisar district worked out on the basis of 1971 Census is 11,27,525 comprising 6,05,677 males and 5,21,848 females. The proportion of Scheduled Castes accounted for 21.6 per cent of the total population as against 18.89 per cent for the state. The occupied residential houses were 1,66,002, the average number of persons per occupied residential house was equal to state average, i.e. 7.

Hisar has the largest population among all the twelve districts of the state and has 11.5 per cent of the state population. The data derived from 1961 Census for the district revealed that the population of the district at that time was 8,11,830. The growth in the decade 1961-71 comes to 38.89 per cent for Hisar district against 32.23 per cent for the state as a whole. After Faridabad and Sirsa, the district registered a highest growth rate during 1961-71. Out of the total population, 9,47,661 persons lived in rural areas and only 1,79,864 persons in urban areas as per 1971 Census. The tahsil-wise population as derived from 1971 Census is given below :

Classification	Tahsil				District Total
	Hisar	Hansi	Fatehabad	Tohana	
(a) Urban					
(1) Number of towns	2	1	1	2	6
(2) Population	95,418	41,108	22,630	20,708	1,79,864
(b) Rural					
(1) Number of villages	114	119	182	71	486
(2) Population	2,68,491	3,15,306	2,77,068	86,796	9,47,661
Total :	3,63,909	3,56,414	2,99,698	1,07,504	11,27,525
Percentage of the district population	32.2	31.6	26.6	9.6	100.0

The district, said to be once traversed by the legendary Saraswati river, has been under human occupance since long. The frequently recurring famines and political strifes prevented the stabilization of any definite pattern of population.<sup>1</sup> The famine of A.D. 1783, locally known as *Chalisa Kal* depopulated the whole area except some irrigated villages in Hansi tahsil. As a result, most of the villages of the district started fresh after this great calamity.<sup>2</sup> Gradually, the tract became populated again by both the pre-famine inhabitants as well as new migrants. When in 1803, the district came under the British control, a large part of it was uninhabited waste.<sup>3</sup> There was demographic stagnation in the district until recent years. The rate of population growth in the then district was 3.35 per cent and 1.58 per cent during the first and second decade of the 20th century. The district entered a period of increasing rate of population growth after 1921. It was 9.97 per cent and 11.93 per cent in 1921-31 and 1931-41 respectively. The decade 1941-51 registered only 3.58 per cent growth as the Muslims migrating to Pakistan were larger in number than the immigrating non-Muslims. The population of the district recorded unprecedented growth rate of 47.33 per cent during 1951-61 decade basically through a heavy dose of net immigration, simultaneous with the extension of irrigation facilities.<sup>4</sup> During 1961-71 decade, the present district recorded an increase of 38.89 per cent. These decennial growth rates of 1951-61 and 1961-71 were much above the corresponding figures for India (21.7 and 24.5 per cent), Punjab (21.6 and 21.7 per cent) and Haryana (33.8 and 32.2 per cent).

The distributional pattern of population in the district is mainly hydrographic in character. Not only has the availability of fresh water for irrigation and drinking purposes brought unequal population numbers in different areas, it has also been mainly responsible for locating many of the settlements at places where they are now located.

**Rural and Urban Population .—**According to 1971 Census, the rural population of the district was 9,47,661. There were 486 villages, of which 475 were inhabited and the remaining 11 were uninhabited. The number of persons per inhabited village worked out to 1,995 in the district as compared to 1,228 in Haryana. The villages in Hansi tahsil were big units with an average population of 2,672 whereas the villages

1. Mehar Singh Gill, *Demographic Dynamism of Hissar District, 1951-71, A Spatial Analysis*, Ph. D. Thesis, MSS, 1979 (Panjab University, Chandigarh).

2. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, pp. 13-14.

3. *Ibid*, 1892, p. 40.

4. Mehar Singh Gill, *Demographic Dynamism of Hissar District, 1951-71, A Spatial Analysis*, Ph. D. Thesis, MSS, 1979 (Panjab University, Chandigarh).



in Fatehabad, Hisar and Tohana tahsils were comparatively small units with an average population of 2,355, 1,526 and 1,222 persons respectively. There were two villages with population of 10,000 and above and 28 villages with population between 5,000 and 9,999. These villages have developed urban like characteristics and accounted for a total population of 2,06,593. Out of the remaining villages, 143 had population between 2,000 and 4,999 and 161 between 1,000 and 1,999. More than 60 per cent of the rural population, thus concentrated in villages with a population varying between 1,000-4,999. There were 125 villages in the population range of 200-900, 16 villages having less than 200 persons and 11 were uninhabited. Of the 16 villages, 7 were located in Hisar tahsil, 6 in Fatehabad and 3 in Hansi. The village Malaheri (Hisar tahsil) had only one person as enumerated in 1971 Census. Barwala<sup>1</sup> of the same tahsil had the highest population (16,917) followed by Pabra (Fatehabad tahsil) 14,405. The characteristics of the district is that many new settlements known as *dhanis* have come up, particularly after the availability of Bhakra Canal water, though these have not been recognised as separate revenue estates so far.

There was no class I town (population one lakh and above) in the district according to 1971 Census. Hisar was only class II town (population ranging between 50,000 and 99,999) whereas Hansi was only class II town (between 20,000 and 49,999). Fatehabad and Tohana were classified as class IV towns (between 10,000 and 19,999). Uklana Mandi fell in the category of Class V town (between 5,000 and 9,999) and Jakhhal Mandi was categorised as class VI town (population less than 5,000).

The population in major towns, viz. Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad and Tohana continued to increase since the beginning of the present century. The towns of Hisar (17,647) and Hansi (16,523) had almost equal population in 1901, while Fatehabad and Tohana were villages having population of 2,786 persons and 5,931 respectively. The following table gives the population of these towns since 1951 :—

Town	Population			Per cent increase in 1961 over 1951	Per cent increase in 1971 over 1961
	1951	1961	1971		
Hisar	35,297	60,222	89,437	70.0	48.4
Hansi	25,837	33,712	41,108	30.4	21.9
Fatehabad	2,968	12,461	22,630	323.2	81.6
Tohana	7,955	12,394	16,789	55.9	35.4

1. Barwala has been made municipality in 1979.



Uklana Mandi got the town status in 1951 while Jakhal Mandi in 1961. The population of Uklana Mandi increased from 3,588 in 1961 to 5,981 in 1971 showing a growth rate of 38.8 per cent. The population of Jakhal Mandi rose from 3,138 in 1961 to 3,919 in 1971, i.e., an increase of 24.8 per cent in a decade.

The population of Hisar town went to over five-fold between 1901-1971 while during the same period the population of Hansi could not go even three times. The population increase in the towns of Hisar, Fatehabad and Tohana was steep between the period 1951-71. The population of Fatehabad was hardly three thousand in 1951 while it rose to 22.6 thousand in 1971, i.e., more than seven times that of 1951. The population of Tohana doubled during the last two decades. In 1951, the population of Fatehabad was 2,968 and that of Tohana 7,955 but in 1971 the population of Fatehabad surpassed the population of Tohana by about six thousand.

The urban population of the district registered only a slow increase during 1901-21 resulting from prevalent high mortality arising from frequent epidemics and famines. In the next three decades, 1921-51, the notable fall in mortality as well as emergence of new towns accounted for the growth in urban population. By contrast, the post-1951 period stands out as one of rapid urbanization and it was strip shaped mainly along the main roads.

**Density.**—The density of population in the district makes a gentle gradient from high to low varying directly with the availability of irrigation water. The area of relatively high density consists of the upland plain locally known as Hariana. The second important tract is the old dry bed of the Ghagghar and its fringe areas and a long narrow strip extending from Tohana-Jakhalmandi axis westward to the Sirsa district. The sand dune infested areas have the lowest density. According to 1971 Census, the density of the district was 178 persons per square kilometre against 227 for the state. Though Hisar had the highest population yet Hansi was most thickly populated town of the district. Hansi had the density of 4,531 followed by Tohana (5,706), Hisar (2,854) and Fatehabad (2,188).

**Sex Ratio.**—According to 1971 Census the sex ratio was 862 females per 1,000 males, 867 for rural areas and 832 for urban areas. The district has been a female deficit area throughout the period from 1901 to 1971. The urban sex ratio has always been lower than its rural counterpart.

**Literacy** .—The percentage of literate population was 22.8 per cent in 1971 against 17.2 per cent in 1961. The growth rate is slightly slow compared to the state average which rose from 19.9 to 26.9. The literacy among male was 32.3 per cent while it was 11.7 per cent among females. Except Jind and Sirsa districts, the Hisar district had the lowest literacy in the state in 1971.

#### LANGUAGE

Hindi is spoken by the largest number of people in the district. Haryanvi is the main dialect. In the west of Fatehabad and Hisar tahsils, Haryanvi is slightly dominated by Bagri. In the *Nali* tract of Tohana and Fatehabad tahsil, the dialect is affected by Panjabi.

The various scripts used are Devnagri for Hindi, Gurmukhi for Panjabi, Persian for Urdu, Roman for English and *lande* for book keeping. The use of Urdu is limited to the older generation. The younger generation mostly use Hindi both in speech and writing.

#### RELIGIOUS LIFE

Hindus constitute the bulk of population representing roughly 90 per cent followed by the Sikhs, Muslims, Jains and Christians.

It is not easy to define Hinduism as religion. It is a collection of diverse beliefs and practices. Hindus worship a pantheon of gods in its various aspects, the chief being the Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva (Mahesh). Rama and Krishna are incarnations of Vishnu. Shakti in her different forms and names and Hanuman are also worshipped. Spirits of streams, trees and other lesser deities are objects of worship, particularly of the people in the rural areas.

The Hindus of the Hisar district are in no sense orthodox although they follow traditional Hindu beliefs. Worship in temples is not strictly necessary but people visit temples either daily or on special occasions. Some people install images and idols of their chosen deity in their homes and go through the ritual of worship.

Shiva worship is very common and Shiva temples or *shivalas* are found in the district in large numbers as compared to other temples. People visit *shivalas* generally on Mondays and worship the deity by pouring milk and water on the *linga* (symbol of the god) enshrined in it. Fairs are also held at many *shivalas* on Shivratri day in the month of February-March. A few important *shivalas* are located at Jagan, Mohabatpur, Harita, Talwandi Rukka, Talanwali, Kalirawan,



Kharya, Juglan, Kharar, Gorchhi, Seeswal, Barwala (Hisar tahsil), Tohana, Pirthala, Dharsul Kalan (Tohana tahsil), Khot Kalan, Data, Rakhigarhi, Sisai Bola, Narnaund, Dhana (Hansi tahsil), Ratia, Dhaulu, Lahriyan, Kirmara and Mehuwala (Fatehabad tahsil).

Closely connected to Shiva is the worship of his consort Devi or Shakti. The goddess goes by various names. The temples of Chandi Devi at Pabra (Fatehabad tahsil), Kali Devi at Hansi and Durga at Banbhori (Hansi tahsil) are worth mentioning. The devotees worship in Devi temples on Saturday but Ashtami in March-April and September-October are special days when large number of devotees visit these temples.

A few persons say 'Bishno Bishno' to pray Vishnu but he is hardly recognised under that name and is the great god of the country under the common names of Rama, Krishna and Jambha Jee. Rama is worshipped by all Hindus and the idols of Lord Rama, Lakshmana and Sita are placed in temples known as *thakurdwaras*. Rama is worshipped on the occasion of Dussehra when Ram Lila, the story of *Ramayana* is staged and fairs are held in various parts of the district. Krishna worship is also wide spread and temples of Krishna are found in villages and towns of the district. Janam Ashtami, the birthday of Krishna is celebrated with great zest all over the district but Hansi, Petwar, Umra (Hansi tahsil), Tohana, Jakhalmandi (Tohana tahsil), Latani (Hisar tahsil) and Pabra (Fatehabad tahsil) are important places for Janam Ashtami celebrations.

Jambha Jee believed to be incarnation of Vishnu is worshipped by Bishnois. Jambha Jee's main preaching was not to harm animals and trees. The birth anniversary of Jambha Jee is celebrated by Bishnois in temples dedicated to him. Most important of them are located at Hisar and Badopal. The place of pilgrimage of Jambha Jee is at Mokam<sup>1</sup> in Rajasthan.

Although Shiva and Vishnu are most important, yet they are too great for every day worship. The people worship minor deities which may exercise a beneficent or malevolent influence on the affairs of mankind. Selection is made out of these deities and those selected receive everyday devotion. The more common objects of worship are Bhumia or god of the homestead, Sitla—the goddess of smallpox, Gugga Pir, Ram Dev Pir and Budhla saint.

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1. Mokam is a small village at a distance of 16 kilometres from Naukha Mandi in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. Fair is held here twice a year in commemoration of Jambha Jee who died and was buried here.



Bhumia often called Khera is worshipped on Sundays. People light a lamp and offer bread at the shrine. It is also worshipped at marriages. The first milk of the cow or buffalo is offered to Bhumia. Sitla is worshipped mostly by women for protection against smallpox.

Gugga Pir or Jahar Pir is supposed to be the greatest of the snake kings. Gugga is worshipped everywhere. Gugga shrine usually consists of small one-room building with a minaret at each corner and a grave inside. It is called a *mari* and is marked by a long bamboo with peacock plumes, a coconut, some coloured threads and some *pankhas* with a blue flag on the top. On the 9th of Bhadon (August-September) the long bamboo known as *chhari* is taken round the village to the sound of *deroos* and the devotees salute it and offer *churmas*. Devotional songs known as *Pir Ke Solle* are sung in honour of Gugga. The devotees sing, dance and offer presents. It is believed that the spirit of Gugga temporarily takes abode in the devotee dancer who beats himself occasionally with a bunch of iron chains, though the practice is on the decline. Gugga Pir is also the subject of folk songs. Important *maris* of Gugga Pir are at Pabra, Talwandi Rukka, Nangthala and Hisar (Hisar tahsil), Tohana (Tohana Tahsil), Girahe, Kani Kheri, Thurana, Bhatol Rangran, Petwar, Narnaund, Umra and Hansi (Hansi tahsil).

Ram Dev Pir is another saint whose worship is very much prevalent in the district. Ram Dev is considered incarnation of Krishna and many miracles are associated with him. He is known to have given life to the dead, sight to the blind, sound body to the lepers, and children to barren women. Saints from Mecca, deeply impressed by his super-natural powers, honoured him with the title of Pir. The Pir hails from Rajasthan and a shrine exist at Unicha in Rajasthan. The devotees of the Pir who are mostly persons migrated from Rajasthan, have built shrines of Ram Dev at Jandwala, Ban Madori, Bhoduya Khera (Bishanoyan), Badopal, Dhaulu (Fatehabad tahsil), Talwandi Rukka, Bhairi Akberpur, Landhari Sukhlam Bran and Seeswal (Hisar tahsil).

Budhla saint belonged to Multan and he disappeared in earth by virtue of his spiritual powers. Before the Partition of the country, the Hindus of Multan used to hold a fair on the shrine of Budhla. Now after their migration to the district, shrines of Budhla have been built at Hisar where fairs are also held. Kalapir of Khot Kalan (Hansi tahsil) and Dahdada of Narnaund (Hansi tahsil) are worshipped as local saints.

**Arya Samaj.**—A socio-religious movement for the eradication of illogical and superstitious beliefs, began to flourish in the district towards the close of 19th century. The Arya Samaj was established at Hisar in 1889 and Lala Lajpat Rai was a moving force in its establishment. The movement spread very fast and influenced remarkably the social and religious life of the district. Extension of education, especially of the women and depressed classes, widow re-marriage, protection of cows and propagation of Hindi are some important activities of the Arya Samaj. Though Arya Samaj temples are located in most of the towns in the district, but there is concentration of these temples in Hansi tahsil.

### Sikhs

The Sikhs believe in monotheism and the teachings of the Ten Gurus and *Granth Sahib*. The Sikhs attach great importance to the recitation of *Granth Sahib* and visit gurdwaras where verses from *Granth Sahib* are recited. Besides observing some Hindu festivals, the Sikhs celebrate birth days and martyrdom days of Sikh Gurus and Baisakhi. There is a gurdwara at Hisar which was built in 1923.

### Muslims

Some Muslim families are settled in the district. They have mosques at Hisar, Fatehabad, Hansi and Tohana where they offer *namaz* and celebrate their religious festivals. Many Muslims have faith in a number of saints and Pirs and hold annual *urs* at their tombs. The most important medieval monument is the shrine of Char Kutbs located at Hansi. Besides, there are tombs of Nikke Pir and Pir Akbar Ali Shah at Marh (Fatehabad tahsil) and Dheru Pir at Bhoda Hashanak (Fatehabad tahsil). It is noteworthy that these commemorative gatherings are also attended by Hindus in large numbers.

### Jains

They are of Aggarwal community who have adopted the Jain faith. They worship Lord Mahavira and the images of Tirthankaras. They celebrate the *parvas*, i.e., the festivals connected with the life of Lord Mahavira and Tirthankaras. Jains abstain from meat and are protectors of animal life.

### Christians

Christians are in small numbers in the district. They have a church at Hisar, where they gather on every Sunday for prayers.



## FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

All Hindu festivals are celebrated in the district, the most common are Diwali, Dussehra, Ram Naumi, Janam Ashtami, Shivratri, Gugga Naumi, Holi, Basant Panchmi, Teej and Sankrant. These festivals are celebrated here as in other parts of the country.<sup>1</sup> However, Teej or Haryali Teej, Sankrant, Sanjhi, Goverdhan Puja, Phag and Kartik Snan are special festivals of the district and are celebrated with great festivity. Teej or Haryali Teej is a seasonal festival falling on Sawan Sudi 3 (beginning of August). The rainy season starts gathering momentum near about the said date and trees withered away by the scorching spell of summer put forth tender and green leaves. To celebrate the change of season, the girls eagerly wait for Teej. It is an occasion for the newly married girls to go back to their parents for celebrating first Teej with their girl friends. On Teej, bebies of young girls attired in their best clothes and wearing new multi-coloured glass bangles start pouring in some open space or a tree-grove near the pond and it takes the form of a fair. Stout swings are hung from the trees for the girls to swing. They swing with agility and sing songs. The humour, pathos and passions contained in these songs are really touching. The in-laws of the girl send gifts of ornaments, clothes and sweets and parents also give gifts when married girls go back to their in-laws.

Sakrant and Makar Sakranti is celebrated on Magh-1 (January-February) when people clean their houses and streets and take bath in the tank or canal. The *jagana*, the custom in which father-in-law poses himself to be asleep and is awakened by the daughter-in-law by striking two coconuts. The gifts are also given to the parents-in-law and other elderly people in the house. Friends also exchange clothes on this festival.

Sanjhi is celebrated before Dussehra. An idol of a woman is made on the wall of the house with mud and is decorated with clothes and ornaments. The festival start 10 days before Dussehra and the girls sing songs in praise of Sanjhi for 10 days. On Dussehra the idol is removed from the wall and is placed in an earthen pot pierced with holes and having lighted earthen lamp. The girls carry the pot with idol on their heads alongwith the devotional songs and immerse it in a nearby tank or canal.

Goverdhan Puja is observed on the day following Diwali. Cow-dung cakes representing the Goverdhan Rock connected with Lord Krishna are worshipped.

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1. For details of these festivals, a reference may be made to '*Fairs and Festivals*', *Census of India*, 1961, Volume XIII, Punjab, Part VII-B.



Phag is celebrated on the day following Holi. Menfolk throw coloured water on women and women in turn beat men with *korda* (twisted cloth strips). The men act as if they are powerless or are unable to defend themselves. This leads to much fun and frolic.

Kartik Snan is observed for one month by girls and women in the month of Kartik (October-November). They go to the tank or canal early in the morning to take bath and worship Lord Krishna after the bath. The festival is connected with Lord Krishna who is said to have promised the *gopis* that he will meet them in future in the month of Kartik.

The festivals of Jains, Christians, Sikhs and Muslims are also celebrated in the district.

The fairs in the district are mostly of religious origin but traders install their stalls for sale of different commodities. The important fairs held in the district are listed below :

S. No.	Place	Tahsil	Significance	Date and Duration
1.	Kirmara	Fatehabad	Shivratri fair	Phagun Badi-14 (February-March) one day
2.	Harita	Hisar	Do	Do
3.	Jagan	Do	Do	Do
4.	Pabra	Fatehabad	Durga or Devi fair	Magh-1 (January-February) one day
5.	Banbhoori	Hansi	Do	(i) Chet Sudi-8 (March-April) one day  (ii) Asoj Sudi-8 (July-August) one day
6.	Bas Azam Shahpur	Do	Do	Do
7.	Bas Bad- shahpur	Do	Do	Do

S. No.	Place	Tahsil	Significance	Date and Duration
8.	Tohana	Tohana	Gugga Naumi	Bhadon Badi-9 (August-September) one day
9.	Dhau	Fatehabad	Ram Dev fair	January-February
10.	Bhairi-Akberpur	Hisar	Do	Do
11.	Balsmand	Do	Mahavir fair	(i) Chet (March-April) one day  (ii) Asoj (September-October) one day
12.	Hisar	Do	Sant Budhla fair	Baisakh-1 (April) one day
13.	Agroha	Do	Maharaja Agrasen fair	October one day

#### SOCIAL LIFE

The important social groups in the district are Jats, Bishnois, Brahmans, Sainis, Banias, Gujjars, Ahirs, Rajputs, Kumhars, Aroras, Chamars and Balmikis. Jats, Rajputs, Ahirs, Bishnois and Gujjars form the agricultural backbone of the district.

**Jats .—**Jat is the largest social group in the district. They are of two types, Deswalis and Bagris. The Bagri Jats are confined to the western part of the district. They originally came from Rajasthan after the famine of A.D. 1783. The Deswali and Bagri Jats have so much mixed up now that it is difficult to distinguish Bagri or Deswali Jat. Their language, manners and customs are so similar that is only where the Jats of the eastern and western borders of the district are compared, the difference between them become somewhat apparent. The Jats are fine cultivators and are tough and sturdy community. Though generally agriculturists, they have now turned to many other professions with success. A large number of them are serving in the armed forces and other government services.

**Bishnois .—**Bishnois derive their names from Vishnu as they lay great emphasis on his worship. They also claim that it is derived



from 29 (*bis no*) tenets of their creed as enunciated by Jambha Jee. Originally, the Bishnois adopted a cosmopolitan spirit and admitted persons belonging to any caste or creed. They sink their tribes in their religion and merely give their caste as Bishnoi. They have migrated from Rajasthan and are mostly concentrated in Fatehabad and Hisar tahsils. They retain their characteristic language and dress, which separate them from other castes. They abstain from tobacco and meat and taking animal life and cutting trees. They are fine cultivators.

**Brahmans .—**There are four sections of Brahmans in the district, i.e., Gaur, Khandelwal, Dakaut and Chamarva. Many of the Brahmans own land and are agriculturists. Some of them are engaged in the discharge of religious functions and ceremonies and their importance is witnessed nowadays only at the time of ceremonies associated with birth, marriage and death.

**Sainis .—**They are settled mostly in Hisar, Hanis, Barwala and Kirara and are good agriculturists.

**Banias .—**They are mostly engaged in commerce, industry and service. The village Bania constituted the backbone of the village economy by controlling rural finance and he still continues his hold in the rural areas as he is always ready to meet the unproductive credit requirement of the peasantry. The entrepreneurship has taken them to the industry in a big way and of late, they have installed many big and small-scale industrial units in the district.

Inside the caste, they are divided into Aggarwals, Oswals and Maheshwaris. The Aggarwals are said to be the descendants of the inhabitants of Agroha. They hold Agroha in great reverence and two huge temples in honour of Maharaja Agrasen, the founder of the town, are under construction in the town. Oswals and Maheshwaris trace their origin to the Rajputs of Rajasthan.

**Gujjars .—**The Gujjars of Hisar trace their origin to Rajathan. Their main profession was cattle rearing and milk selling but now they have also adopted agriculture.

**Ahirs .—**Ahirs call themselves Yaduvanshis (Lord Krishna was also from Yaduvansh) and are mostly agriculturists in the district but many of them are in the army.

**Rajputs .—**The Rajputs were known for their valour and chivalry and retain their martial instinct of their ancestors and prefer an army career to agriculture. Though most of the Rajput villages are in Sirsa



and Bhiwani districts, which were part of Hisar district, yet a few Rajput villages are located in Hansi tahsil. They are not efficient agriculturists and unlike Jat women a Rajput woman will not partake in agricultural and other outdoor operations.

**Aroras .—**Although most of the Aroras are migrant from Multan, Lyallpur and Dera Ghazi Khan districts of Pakistan after the Partition of the country in 1947, yet a few Arora families were settled earlier in Fatehabad tahsil. The early settlers were doing rural financing like that of Banias. The Aroras are hardworking and enterprising and are engaged in shop-keeping, trade, service and agriculture.

**Chamars .—**The term Chamar is an occupational term. Besides their old profession of leather and shoe-making, they have shifted to agriculture and services. The community is politically conscious and it has progressed much after Independence and its members now occupy important positions in the services.

**Balmikis .—**Balmikis were the scavengers and even now follow this profession. In rural areas, they are cultivators or agricultural labourers and do not work as sweepers. They also rear pigs, goats and sheep. Education has not made much headway among this caste.

### Inter-caste Relations

Though the caste system is losing its rigidity under the pressure of economic and social forces, aided by liberal laws, it persists in rural areas. Jats and Aroras are more liberal in inter-caste relations which has influenced the social behaviour of other people also. Hatred and scorn for Harijans has decreased but people do not mix with them or dine with them. Inter-dining is only occasional and similarly inter-caste marriages are not common. In political campaigns, caste still plays a prominent role.

### Joint Family System

The family is locally called as *kunba*. A group of families having common ancestors is called *thola*. Two or more *tholas* are jointly called *pana* or *patti*. It was common for several brothers, and occasionally for cousins to live together and farm the land jointly. More often the land was managed jointly while the owners lived separately. The joint family system provided the security to the widows, orphans or other physically incapacitated members of the family.

The joint family system which has been a distinguishing feature of Hindu society since time immemorial, is breaking up under the stress

of the changed economic and social conditions. The disappearance of the joint family system is more marked in urban areas but it is also disappearing in villages.

### Inheritance

The right of inheritance was vested only in the male descendants and the widows had only the life time right whereafter it used to pass to the nearest male member of the deceased. Similarly, the daughters and their issues had no customary rights to succeed but they were entitled to maintenance and to be suitably betrothed and married. After the passage of Hindu Succession Act, 1956, sons, daughters, mother and the widow alongwith other heirs of the deceased inherit the intestate property simultaneously. The daughter has as good a claim to her father's property as a son provided the father does not debar her by law and that too in the case of self-acquired property only. However, generally the girl does not claim any part of the intestate property but in the absence of a brother, she usually retains her right to property.

### Rituals and Customs

**Wedding .—**The wedding is most important ceremony. The preliminary ceremony in it is betrothal. The proposal for betrothal comes from the bride's side. Among Bishnois, the traditional betrothal is on reciprocal basis but can be contracted otherwise also. The bride's father sends a letter written on paper stained yellow with turmeric to the boy's father, which announces to him the date fixed for the wedding. The maternal uncle of the boy or girl brings the *bhat* which consists of presents and necessarily includes the wedding suits for the bride or bridegroom. Friends and relatives present *neota* to the parents of the boy or the girl but the *neota* is on wane and is taking the form of gifts and presents.

A day earlier or on the day when the marriage party is to start, the *ghurchari* is performed. The bridegroom dressed in his wedding suit brought by his maternal uncle, *kangna* or seven-knotted sacred thread tied on his right wrist, (though on wane) and head-dress consisting of a crown or crest over the turban, and generally a *sehra* covering the face is made to sit on the mare's back. The barber leads the decorated mare with bridegroom on its back, while women follow along singing songs peculiar to the occasion and the mother or aunt or an elderly woman carries a utensil containing water. His sister puts her wrap over her right hand, and on it places rice which she flings at his crown as the bridegroom goes along. He goes and worship the god of the homestead. However, no *ghurchari* is performed among Bishnois and they



cover their head with turban only and go to their temple for worship. Thereafter, the *janet* or *baraat* (marriage party) usually comprising the relatives and friends, set out midst music. The *janet* is received by the bride's side and is taken, sometimes in procession with the bridegroom on the mare to a place where arrangements have been made for their stay or towards the bride's house to the accompaniment of the band. After *barauthi* or *milni*, i.e., welcome of the *baraat* by the village panchayat and relatives and friends, *jai mala* is exchanged by the bride and the bridegroom. Among Bishnois, this ceremony is called *dhakao* when the bridegroom performs *chari marna* with the branch of a *ber* tree.

For actual marriage ceremony the Brahman lights the sacred fire and calls upon the girl's father to perform *kanyadan* (formal bride-giving). Then takes place *phas* or binding ceremony when the relatives and friends offer *kanyadan* to the girl. The girl and the boy both circle clockwise slowly four times round the fire. Among the Deswali Jats, the girl leads in the first three *phas* and the boy in the last. The Bagri Jats reverse this; with them the boy leads in the first three and the girl in the last. The latter is followed generally by all other communities. After the fourth phera, the boy and the girl sit down, their positions, however, being changed, the bridegroom now sitting on the girls' right. Among Bishnois, no *phas* are performed and the binding ceremony is *piribadal* or exchange of stools by the bride and bridegroom who also take each other's hand (*hathlewa*). *Anand Karaj* prevails among Sikhs. The bride and bridegroom go round the holy *Granth* and scriptures from [ *Granth* are recited. The civil marriage can also be performed but these are very rare.

The ceremony is highly colourful, picturesque, and at times interesting also. There may, however, be noticed minor variations among certain castes in the performance and observance of these ceremonies.

In the old days, *muklawa* (consumation of marriage) took place after a long time as girls were married at an early age before they attained puberty. Early marriage is no more in practice and this ceremony is performed on the day following the marriage and is termed *patra pher*. But among few communities, *muklawa* is still observed as before. After the *muklawa* or *patra pher* the bride finally settles in the bridegroom's house, and they live as husband and wife.

Among Muslims, the marriage ceremony is known as *Nikah* which is read first to the girl and then to the boy and on acceptance, the marriage is contracted.



**Dowry system .—**The dowry system prevails everywhere. In the past the girl's father out of love and affection for her, used to give some daily necessities of life but of late, the dowry system has become a great evil and it has become increasingly difficult for a poor father to marry even an able daughter without money. Even the dowry legislation of 1961 has not succeeded in achieving its object. People by-pass the law.

The widow remarriage was rare among Rajputs, Brahmans and Banias until recently. *Karewa*, a type of widow remarriage is also called *lata odhna* or *chadar pana* or *churi pahnana*. It is contracted with the brother of the deceased husband and the father of the widow gives one rupee to the brother of her daughter's deceased husband as a mark of giving the daughter to him. Such a marriage generally takes place after a year of the husband's death. If *Karewa* is not ceremonised, *punar vivah* is performed anywhere in their caste. It is ceremonised by putting *jai mala* (garland) around each others neck. However, if the husband died shortly after marriage and the girl has not lived with him or has no issue, she is married with all the ceremonies as usual at marriage. Of late, some-inter-caste remarriages have also held. *Kara* is another form of marriage where a man brings a woman of other caste through a mediator, for rearing children of his previous marriage or as a life companion in his middle age.

The marriage ties are solemn and sacred in the society and hence divorce is not prevalent on any scale. There is a general tendency to suffer hardship resulting from ill-matched marriages and people lead a miserable life rather than to dissolve the marriage. The widow remarriage and divorce are looked down upon in almost all the castes. However, with the coming into force of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, a few cases of divorce are being instituted in law courts.

**Birth ceremonies.—**The birth of a child is an occasion to celebrate, and particularly that of a son. To announce the birth of an infant, a brass plate (*thali*) is rung in the house. A *thapa* (sign of hand) is made with saffron colour at gates of houses of near and dear ones on *chhati* (6th day). Superstitious ceremonies accompany the birth of a child. A branch of the tree is hung on each side of the room as an auspicious sign. On the tenth day, *hom* is performed when sacred fire is lighted and whole house is sprinkled with Ganga water. The Brahman after studying the horoscope of the child announces the name of the boy which is adopted as such or with some modalities. Then the Brahman,

the relatives and friends are entertained to a feast. Among Bishnois, the house is cleaned after 30 days and the ceremony is performed by Gayans, i.e. their religious priests and not by Brahmans. Gayan, the priest, performs the *hom* ceremony by burning the sacred fire and chanting mantras of the Bishnoi faith. Among Aroras, the *chola* is an important ceremony, which is celebrated on the 15th or 17th day of the newly born son when new clothes consecrated by their own Brahman are worn. Muslims summon a Kazi who repeats *azan* in the infant's ear. On the sixth day, the mother takes a bath and sweetened rice is distributed. The name is given on the 40th day by opening the Koran. *Dasottan* (also called *sirdohan* by Bishnois) is performed on the birth of the long awaited son when *hom* is lighted and feast of sweets is served to relatives and friends.

Almost all Hindus perform the *mundan* ceremony when the boy is a few years old. On this occasion, his hair is cut and head shaved for the first time and friends and relatives are entertained to a feast.

**Death rituals.**—Hindus and Sikhs cremate their dead. On the third day, the knucklebones and other small fragments of bone (*phul*) are collected. If they can be taken to be immersed in the Ganga at once, well and good, but they must not be brought into the village in any case and be hung up till finally taken to the Ganga or any other stream. The post-cremation rites include *terhvi* (13th day) and sometimes it is *giarhvi* (11th day), *barhvi* (12th day) or *satarvi* (17th day). Among Bishnois, *Kharch* is performed on 3rd or 4th day when a feast is served to relatives and friends. In the past, *Kharch* was performed on large-scale but it has moderated in recent times. *Kaaj* is another form of *Kharch* which was very frequently performed in other castes but now it is very rarely performed. Children under 8 years of age are buried without ceremony. Muslims, Christians and Bishnois bury their dead. Earlier the Bishonis used to bury their dead in the *poli* (entrance of the house) but now they use a separate burial ground.

### Position of Women

Among agricultural classes, the women work in the fields besides doing domestic duties. In fact, they work for longer hours as compared to the male members. Women help their men in almost all agricultural operations. The position of Rajput women is somewhat different from other communities. They observe *purdah* and do not go out in the fields to help their menfolk or go to the village well to draw water. Harijan women and those of other backward classes do odd jobs with their men in the fields on daily wages during harvesting and weeding. Some of them also work on repair or construction work on roads and canals. Of late, there is a trend for educating girls but people are still hesitant to send the girls for higher education.



The women take active part in almost every walk of life. The Arya Samaj movement has brought significant change in the status of women. The age old social dogmas which debarred women to rise, however, are disappearing. Purdah system though prevalent in the district is no more a taboo. The traditional concept of women being nothing more than a house wife has undergone a revolutionary change and today we see women successfully penetrating fields which were previously exclusive male domains. Now she is zealously taking part in every activity of life. Education has brought about a welcome change in the status of women in the society.

### HOME LIFE

**Villages.**—The villages in different parts of the district differ widely in appearance. The village as a general rule had one or at the most two entrances (*phalsa*) and there was generally no passage right through it. But now the villages are scattered and the trend is to built houses outside the village more frequently along the roads. Outside the village will be found one or more temples, *shivala* or *thakurdvara*. Every village has its *johar* or pond in which rain water is collected for domestic and other use. With the implementation of the rural water supply scheme, non-availability of the water has become a thing of the past. Piped water-supply has been made available to many villages and *dhanis*. After consolidation of holdings, enough vacant land has been left round the village and village roads are now generally broad.

The houses in the rural areas are mostly indetical but of late, the houses of mud bricks and thatched roofs are being replaced by pukka houses. Immediately after the entrance to a house, there is usually a room called *dahliz* or a big hall called *drawaza*. Besides, having a drawing or meeting room it is used particularly at the sides, for cattle and there are mangers and stables where fodder is chopped. There follows an open space or yard known as *angan* and at the rear of this or on either side is a verandah called *dallan* or *bichala* and behind this again are inner rooms for sleeping and living called *kotha* or *sufajobra*. There are innumerable variations, and sometime two or three minor enclosures will be found inside the main enclosure and sub-divided by walls. Within the enclosures are *chuhlas* or hearths. The *hara* or even in which the daily porridge is cooked and milk warmed, is generally outside the entrance and built against the outer wall of the house. The houses are generally single storeyed and the roofs are used for drying wood, fodder or grain and also for sleeping in the summer. The houses usually lack bathrooms and latrines. With the availability of electricity and growing demand for better sanitary and health facilities, the look and pattern of the houses has undergone a change.

The houses in urban areas are pukka and have been provided with modern amenities.



**Furniture and utensils.**—There are generally few articles of furniture in a village house. These consist of bedsteads (*khats*), *moorhas* of different sizes, a few small stools (*pidas* and *patras*). Sometime a few bedsteads are of bigger size and netted with thin strings of different colours and these are used in *dalhiz* for guests and visitors. Modern furniture like chairs and tables are also finding place in village houses.

In urban areas chairs and tables are commonly seen but a few houses of well-to-do are furnished with modern furniture like sofas, wardrobes, *palangs*, *moorhas*, tables and chairs of different description. Possession of furniture is considered to be a sign of social status and taste. Of late, modern appliances like electric heaters, table lamps, radio sets and transistors are gaining popularity. The refrigerators, television sets and room coolers have also made appearance in the houses of the upper class people.

The utensils consist of metal vessels made of brass and bell-metal (*kansi*), iron vessels, earthen vessels and wooden articles. The metal vessels consist of large narrow mouthed cauldrons (*toknas* or *deg*) for storing water or cooking at feasts, smaller vessels of similar shape (*toknis*) for ordinary cooking and carrying water to the fields, still smaller ones (*lotas*, *gadwas*) for dipping into water and drinking, some tumbler shaped drinking vessels (*gilas*), a broad shallow bowl or saucer (*kachola*, *bela* or *batkiya*) for drinking hot liquids and eating *khichri* and *rabri*, *katordan* a vessel for carrying meal to the fields and a tray (*thali*) to eat, a larger tray (*parant*) for kneading dough, a brass ladle (*karchhi*) and a spatula (*khurchana*) for turning bread. The iron vessels consist of thin iron plate (*tawa*) for baking bread and some pairs of iron tonges (*chimta*), a fry-pan (*karahi*), a sieve (*chalni*), an iron bucket (*dol* or *balti*) for drawing water from the well and huge iron cauldrons (*karahis*) used for large-scale parties or for baking *gur*. The earthen utensils commonly used are, the *ghara* or *painda*, a large vessel for carrying water from the well, the *handi*, for cooking vegetables and pulses and *kadhoni*, for boiling milk and *biloni*, for churning curd. The wooden articles like *jherni* or *rai* churning handles are used. Utensils and decorations have undergone a change more particularly in urban areas. The porcelain glass wares, stainless steel and aluminium utensils are now very common.

**Dress and ornaments.**—The dress of rural people is simple. The everyday clothes are usually made from coarse cloth. The male dress consists of a turban, shirt, *dhoti* and *juti*. The usual wrap is the *chadar*, and in the cold weather a thick blanket is substituted. The *khes* is another type of wrap. An *angocha* (handkerchief) is used occasionally. Men in service wear pants or pyjamas and similarly the younger people also wear pants, bushirts, shirts, coats, sweaters, leather shoes or *chappals* but no headwear. This change is

almost universal in urban areas. *Murkis*, *tungal* or *long*, different forms of ear-rings were worn by men but the practice is not in vogue now, however, a gold finger-ring is worn by men in rural as well as urban areas.

A full set of women clothes is known as *teel*. The village women wear a shirt of gent's style and *ghagra*. However, after the Partition, the *salwar* has replaced the *ghagra* and only old women now wear *ghagra*. The population which migrated from Rajasthan locally known as Bagris, wear *lehnga*, although it is also on wane and is generally worn by elderly women. The general dress of the younger women is *salwar* and *kamiz*. The wrap of cotton worn over the head is called *orhna* or *dupatta*. *Peelia*, a sort of headwear, the central part of which is of yellow colour and the rest multicoloured and *chunri* are the other important items of dress. The Bishnoi women wear slightly different dress. They wear long *ghagras* unlike the women of other communities. Their *orhna* is also multicoloured and is broader as to cover the abdomen. They have a distinction in wearing *borla* (prepared from beads) on the forehead. Now a days the common woman's dress is petticoat, sari or *dhoti*, *choli* and *orhna*. The shawl now a days used, was known as *sopli* or *dupla* in the past.

The ornaments worn by women are usually made of gold and silver. The old ornaments previously worn by women numbered no less than 81 including five for the nose alone.<sup>1</sup> These included *tika*, *singar patti*, *borla* on the forehead, *hansli*, *jhalra*, *haar*, *galsari*, *guluband*, *kanthi* round the neck, *bujni* and *bundey* on the ears, *koka*, *purli*, *nath* for the nose, *pachheli* and *kangni* from shoulder to wrist, *anguthi* on the finger, *tagri* round the *lehnga* or sari and *ramjhol*, *chhail kare*, *neveri* and *tati* worn on the legs.

A women's social standing is generally determined by her jewels. The nose ring, the plain armlet and the *chura* or wristlet have a social significance. Now the use of traditional jewellery which was very heavy, as described above, has become out of date and the items of jewellery in common use include necklace for the neck, *purli* or *koka* for the nose and *pajeb* for the ankles. The educated women do not use much jewellery except a chain on the neck and a few bangles on the wrist. The use of ornaments except on special occasions or ceremonies is on the decline.

The practice of tattooing (*khinana*) once common has almost disappeared.

**Food.**—The food of the peasant consisted of wheat, barley and gram in summer and *bajra* in winter. The pulses were a major constituent but green vegetables, where locally grown were also used. The pickle of *teet* was very

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1. M.L. Darling, *The Panjab Peasant in Prosperity and Debt*, 1925, p. 64.



common. The diet of the people was simple but nutrient. Peasants were especially fond of curd, butter and milk. Ghi was used in kitchen and by and large the people were vegetarian. Of late, non-vegetarian food has also found a place in few houses. The most common menu of the people is *roti*, *lassi* and vegetables or pulses in the lunch and *randher* and milk in the dinner. *Randher* is a typical food consisting of *rabri*, made of *bajra* and curd, *sattu*, made of barley, *khichri*, made of *bajra* and pulses and *dalia*, made of wheat. *Rabri* and *sattu* is the diet of summer while *khichri* is that of winter. *Dalia* is taken all round the year but more frequently in summer. On festive occasions, delicacies like *halwa*, *kheer* and *pudhe* are prepared. *Gulgala*, *sohali* and *sakarpore* are common in Sravana. There has been noticeable change in the food habits, whether it is because of economic reasons or otherwise. Instead of milk, tea is popular and so are cold drinks in place of *lassi*. Tea stalls are very common in rural as well as urban areas. Restaurants and other eating places have also been established.

Smoking has been a popular habit of the people since past. Hookah provided a traditional get together, especially of the village elders. The meetings on hookah provided a good opportunity for elders to discuss matters of mutual interest. Of late, the cigarettes and bidis have become common in the district. The use of alcohol, country liquor as well as foreign made liquor is increasing day-by-day. Sweets are very popular in the district and rural as well as urban people are very fond of eating sweets. The *peras*, a milk-sweet of Hansi carry a mass popularity in and outside the district.

The daily chore of village women is cleaning the kitchen with cow dung, yellow clay and water early in the morning before preparing the meals. *Desi ghi* is still preferred to vegetable and hydrogenated oils. The latter is socially prohibited in Adampur and a few villages around it. The Bishnois still prefer to avoid vegetable ghi in their kitchen.

### Games and Recreation

The popular games of the district were wrestling, *kabaddi*, *rassa khichna*, *gindo khuli*, *guli danda* (tipcat) and *jhurni danda*. The first three games were usually played by boys and middle aged people while the latter were popular among boys and children. The wrestling and *kabaddi* continue to be popular sports among the young and middle-aged. Modern games like hockey, football, basketball, *kho kho* and netball played in schools and colleges have more or less replaced the other games. A craze among children to play various games of *buntas* or *kanchas* (round colourful beads of glass) have come up recently.

*Chopar*, playing cards and chess are some of the indoor games which are

played and enjoyed in urban as well as rural areas. Villagers playing *chopar* and cards in the *chopal* or *hathai* are a familiar site.

*Sang* or *swang* was a popular recreation and source of entertainment. The young also took pleasure in playing flute or *algoja* while rearing cattle, but these are no longer seen in villages. Of late, *swang*, a cultural and community entertainments, is being revived with the efforts of the government. The recorded music through gramophone records, tape recorders, transistors and radio sets have made inroads into the simple life of village-folk who pass their time in gossipings and listening to recorded music. Cinema is another sort of popular entertainment which is rapidly taking over all other sorts of entertainment.

Women and girls, after they are free from day's work, get together in a house or a street corner and entertain themselves by community singing. The month of Phalguna (February-March) is a period of merry-making for women. Singing and dancing in the moonlit night is quite common. The women also go gay during the month of Sravana (July-August) when they assemble in an open space in or outside the village where they sing, dance and swing. The life of womenfolk is fast changing and they now take part in various games and tournaments.

Community listening is another popular entertainment of the villagers. The south-eastern part of the district falls in the talecast range where a few people have installed television sets. Drama parties and *bhajan mandlis* move village to village for the entertainment of the people on various occasions. Religious ceremonies, festivals, fairs and marriages too regale the masses when they free themselves from routine work.

#### COMMUNITY LIFE

Community life is somewhat more effectively organised in villages than in towns. A growing town can not claim to be the nucleus of a single community. Its various social and economic groups are more exclusive than inclusive. They do not come into frequent contact with one another. Civic responsibilities no doubt, are applicable to all, but these are not cohesive in their nature. And this is more true of an expanding town which is sprawled over a large area. There is a growing tendency for voluntary social agencies to establish themselves in local areas or small towns and organise community life in some form or other. They also organize mass celebration of important festivals.

The social situation in villages is different. Big and small land-owners, agricultural labourers and other workers are not far apart from each other.



The limited amenities and amusements of village life are equally shared by all of them and require their combined attention.

### Folk Culture

Community life is expressed through folk-songs, dances and theatre. With fast changing conditions, urban life is gradually making an inroad into rural life, taking away some of its inherent beauty and cultural rhythm. The gramophone record is an onslaught on the village *ragi* and radio seeks to replace the folk-songs and dances. But despite increasing urban influence, folk culture still continues to enliven the country-side, which hums with songs and dances on festivals and other occasions. Rohtak radio station is paying much attention to the revival of folk culture in Haryana.

**Folk-songs.**—Folk culture is preserved by women through folk-songs. Women sing folk-songs connected with particular occasion. These songs express hopes, aspirations, love longings, joys and sorrows of the rural people. A good number of these are nature songs sung in particular months.

The month of Sravana (July-August) brings ecstasy in its wake. Teej or Haryali Teej is the main festival of Sravana, falling on third of the lunar month<sup>1</sup>. Village women assemble in the open space in or outside the village or on the roof of a house, most commonly at night and sing Teej songs about 15 or 20 days before Teej. Teej songs include songs of the rainy season and Jahar Pir (Gugga Pir). On Teej, the women come out in colourful costumes for swinging, dancing and singing.

An example of Teej song is given below :

*Saman aiya he maa meri rang bhariya re  
he ri har barsengen musldhar,  
badal garjiya he maa meri jor ka ri*

(Sravana has come, oh mother, with colourful and enchanting weather, the God will bless us with torrential rains, as the sky is overcast with thunderous clouds.)

Another song :

*Meethi to kar de ri maa kothli*

*Joanga bebe ke des papaiya re bolia peepli*

(Oh mother, add sweets to the gifts to be presented to my sister. I will go to my sister's home, as the bird papaya, has announced the onset of Sravana.)

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1- A day before Teej, *Sandhara* or *kothli* comprising gifts is sent to married daughters.

The month of Phalguna (February-March) is very pleasant and inspires the women to singing and dancing. Women start dancing late at night starting on Basant Panchmi. In a famous folk-song of Phalguna a women asks for gifts of ornaments from her father-in-law :

*Susra ji yeh do jore haath,  
bajna nara deo gharwa  
nare ho bin mandī par rahi chal  
chal bin tok riha sansar  
Bahuriya he, ham ke jane thari sar  
nara to thara dewar de gharwae*

(Oh, father-in-law, I entreat with folded hands, get me tinkling ornaments, without these ornaments, my gait is slow and uninspiring and people around talk about this deficiency. Oh, daughter-in-law I am not concerned with the ornaments, ask your brother-in-law to get it for you.)

Marriage is a special occasion when folk songs are sung on different ceremonies. The ladies receive maternal uncle with a song and *arti* :

*Aaj mahilan mera beera unmani  
aaya meri maa ka jaaya beer,  
heeraband liyaya chundri*

(My brother, darling son of my mother, has come to my house and it is an occasion of rejoicing, he has brought a headwear decorated with diamonds.)

The bride and bridegroom are taken to the god of homestead or shrine of Devi and ladies accompanying them sing the following song :—

*Paanch patase pana ka beedla  
le bhayan pe jayo ji,  
jis daali mhara bhayan bethia  
wa dali jhuk jayo ji*

(Visit the God of homestead with five *patase* (a sweet made with sugar) and beetle leaves, the branch of a tree having *Bhumia* will bend to bless you.)

The village women go to a tank or river in the month of Kartika. They remove mud from the tank and place it on its bank and call it *pathwari*. They worship *pathawari* as goddess and sing :



*Pathwari ae khol kiwari*  
*bahar khori teri sichan aali*

*Ke mange se sichan aali*  
*an dhan mange sichan aali*

(Oh Pathwari, open your door, a devotee is waiting for your blessings. The devotee is asking for the blessings of goddess for prosperity.)

There are songs connected with festivals, religious occasions and heroes like Satyawar Savitri, Gopi Chand Bhartri, Alha Udal, Fatta Jaimal and Bhura Badal. *Ragni* is an important folk-song which is sung during the performance of *swang*.<sup>1</sup>

**Folk dances.**—Folk-dancing, an outburst of surging emotions, at times accompanies folk-singing. *Ghumar*, a female folk-dance is popular in Hisar tahsil. In *Ghumar*, the girls dance in a circle. In the following *Ghumar* song, the bride expresses herself as follows :—

*Daman mera bhari door ka jana*  
*men chhail gale jangi, men chhail*  
*gale jangi, bajan de mara nara*

(Dressed in heavy clothes and jewellery, I am to walk long, but I am accompanied by my darling and let jewellery tinkle.)

**Loor.**—is another female dance popular in Fatehabad tahsil and south-western part of Hisar tahsil. It is connected with Holi festival.

**Folk tales.**—The region is rich in legends and folk-tales, many of which form the theme of folk-theatre and songs of village bards. The impact of folk-tales on the social life of the people is manifest in the characters from the tales forming the motifs of the facade of temples and *chopal*. Popular folk-tales of the area are of Gopi Chand Bharthri, Nal Damyanti, Satyawar Savitri, Puran Bhagat, Alha Udal, Maharaja Agarsen of Agroha, Lakhi Banjara (a local hero) and Gujri (a milk maid who later became the mistress of Feroz Shah Tughlaq who made Gujri Mahal for her residence).

**Folk-theatre.**—*Swang* or *saang* is the folk-theatre of the region. For sometime past, it has been on the wane as cinema and recorded music made

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1. *Swang* is a form of open-air theatre and the stage is in the midst of the audience. The formalities of drama like costumes, curtains, make-up, are hardly observed. The audience sit on all the four sides whereas orchestra takes its seat in the middle of the stage. Generally the leader of the *swang* partly plays the role of hero and other actors play different roles including that of females.

an onslaught in the life of rural people. The Government and other voluntary organisations are making efforts to revive this old form of folk-theatre.

### REHABILITATION

The large-scale communal disturbances that followed Independence and the Partition of the country in 1947 inflicted vast suffering on lakhs of people and they were forced to migrate from Pakistan to India and vice-versa. The areas now in Haryana took a leading share in the resettlement of immigrants and a number of immigrants from Pakistan settled in the Hisar district. These immigrants were mainly from Multan, Lyallpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Bahawalpur as shown in the statement below :

District of Origin (in Pakistan)	Number of Displaced Persons Settled		
	Rural Areas	Urban Areas	Total
Multan	42,927	15,470	58,397
Lyallpur	2,059	3,675	5,734
Dera Ghazi Khan	637	790	1,427
Bahawalpur	3,138	1,710	4,348
Jhang	150	127	277
Others	7,055	2,560	9,615
Total :	55,966	24,332	80,298

### REFUGEE CAMPS

Initially a number of relief camps were organised; one of these was set up at Hissar to provide shelter to the refugees. The educational institutions, which kept closed for some months up to February 1948, provided some of the accommodation. The services of the staff and students were utilized in the management of the camp. Students who rendered three months' social service in the camp were considered eligible for the award of certificate/degree of the Panjab University, if otherwise ripe for it without undergoing examinations.

A number of facilities were provided in the camp including free food-grains ration. A dispensary was opened for immediate medical relief. Fruit, multi-vitamin tablets and some special items of diet were issued to refugees on



medical advice. Arrangements were made for cleanliness and street lighting. The camp, thus provided much needed immediate relief to the displaced persons, and provided breathing time to all concerned to plan their future.

Steps were taken speedily to resettle the rural refugees in villages, evacuated by the Muslims, and the urban refugees in towns.

#### RURAL REHABILITATION

Measures were taken for the resettlement of rural displaced persons so as to get them back to normal work and to help the sowing of the rabi crop of 1947-48. Initially, land allotment was made on group basis. Persons who were near relatives or were bound by ties of friendship, formed together into groups and secured temporary allotments. All agricultural displaced persons who owned or held land and were cultivating in Pakistan, were eligible for these. These were later converted into quasi-permanent allotments in April 1948, to encourage cultivators to improve the land given to them. This was a preliminary step towards their re-settlement. Claims were invited from displaced persons, and orally verified at tahsil-headquarters. Unfortunately, in spite of their sufferings many unscrupulous displaced persons made exaggerated demands and obtained excessive allotments. To defeat these tactics, the Government obtained the original revenue records from Pakistan and re-verified the claims of the displaced persons. These also showed that there was a substantial difference between the land left behind in Pakistan by the incoming displaced persons and that abandoned by Muslims in East Punjab. The latter was smaller. To overcome this problem, graded cuts were applied in making allotments to displaced claimants, the bigger holders receiving the largest slab of cuts.

Allottees of land were given assistance by way of agricultural loans for purchasing bullocks, implements, fodder, seed and for the repair of wells and houses. In order to minimise misuse, loans were advanced in kind instead of cash. An amount of Rs. 2,79,072 was advanced in the district during 1947-48 to 1951-52. No resettlement loan was disbursed after 1961-62.

The work of conferring final proprietary rights on allottees was taken in hand in September 1955. Bogus and excessive allotments were cancelled, and only the genuine claim of each displaced person, verified from the revenue record received from Pakistan, was admitted. The proprietary rights have been conferred on 37,775 by March 31, 1979.

**Rural housing.**—Heavy rains had damaged a large number of houses. According to the statistics available, there were 4,170 undamaged houses, 51 repairable houses, and 551 houses beyond repair in the district. Even these houses were unevenly distributed. In some villages the number of houses

was in excess of the needs of the allottees, while in others almost the entire *abadis* had crumbled and not a single house was available. Houses were allotted on a temporary basis in the first instance. Rules for allotment of these houses were framed thereafter. Records including information of the details of evacuee houses in the villages, the number of rooms, the dimensions, the general conditions and the value of the house were prepared and lists of the allottees showing the value of houses left by them in Pakistan were also made. The Halqa Revenue Officer, generally a Naib Tahsildar did the allotment work. A list giving the order of precedence was prepared. After setting aside a few houses for common purposes, allottees were given a chance of selection according to their place on the merit list.

### URBAN REHABILITATION

A number of experiments and schemes to utilise the available Muslim abandoned properties and to develop more housing were put through. All the Muslim abandoned properties were taken over under the Punjab Evacuee Property Ordinance IV of 1947, later replaced by the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950. Such properties comprising houses, shops, vacant sites, *khokhas* and industrial establishments were temporarily allotted to displaced persons on rent. Their permanent disposal started in 1953-54. The properties valuing below Rs. 10,000 (below Rs. 50,000 for industrial establishments) were declared allotable, while those assessed above these figures were to be sold by open auction. Properties lying vacant or in unauthorised possession were similarly auctioned.

In the urban areas of Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad and Tohana there were, 4,053 evacuee properties which were managed by the District Rent and Managing Officers. These properties became a part of the evacuee pool for compensating displaced persons with verified claims. Allotable properties were given away permanently as compensations to claimants against such claims. If the value of a property was in excess of his due compensation, the claimant was allowed to deposit the difference by instalments. Properties occupied by non-claimants were offered to them on annual instalments. By March 1979, 3,893 properties stood permanently allotted to displaced persons out of which 80 per cent were non-claimants. This left a balance of 160 unallotted properties. The main reasons for these remaining were lack of accurate record and in certain cases dispute about their possession.

**Housing schemes.**—The properties abandoned by the Muslims were insufficient to provide shelter to all the displaced persons in the district. The urban housing problem was acute. Following from the fact that most of the urban Muslim evacuees were labourers and artisans and, therefore, their



houses were unpretentious, whereas the incoming urban displaced persons were businessmen and shopkeepers, used to better dwellings. To meet the grave situation arising from the inadequate residential accommodation available and to provide suitable shelter to displaced persons, the government established 8-marla (cheap) housing colony for the middle class at Hisar and 4-marla (cheap) tenements for the poorer at Fatahabad.

#### SMALL URBAN AND HOUSE BUILDING LOANS

The refugees were encouraged to restart their business, trade or other profession. A scheme for providing loans and grants was introduced in February 1948, under the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Act, 1948. The loan was limited to Rs. 5,000 to an individual, Rs. 20,000 to a group of 4 or more displaced persons and Rs. 25,000 to a co-operative society. The grants were restricted to unattached women, widow and others who were unable to repay loans but at the same time wanted monetary help for resettlement. The maximum amount of grant was limited to Rs. 500.

**Small urban loans.**—These loans were advanced to displaced persons to enable them to establish themselves in different vocations. All classes of displaced persons comprising traders, artisans, industrialists, students, lawyers and medical practitioners were helped. These loans carried an interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum and the recovery of the loan was to be started after 3 years of disbursement. The loans together with interest were repayable in equal instalments spread over a period of 6 years. The loans and grants were strictly to be utilised for the purpose for which they were asked for by the applicants or sanctioned by the government. An amount of Rs. 6,09,946 was advanced to displaced persons during 1948-49 to 1956-57.

**House building loans.**—House building loans were advanced for the purchase of plots in model towns and housing colonies to build their own houses. The repayment of the loan was in easy instalments. The loan advanced during 1949-50 to 1955-56 was Rs. 4,47,590.

#### PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

Compensation was paid to displaced persons who had abandoned immovable property in Pakistan, after verifying their claims, under the Displaced Persons (Claims), Act, 1950. Interim compensation was sanctioned for certain categories of displaced persons who were in urgent need of relief. The interim scheme was later replaced by the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954. Under it, scaled compensation was prescribed. It gave proportionately more to smaller claimants, and less to the bigger. This compensation was paid out of the compensation pool, to which the central government had contributed.





## CHAPTER IV

# AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

### INTRODUCTION

Hisar is predominantly an agricultural district. In the past, the life in the district was marked by the recurring droughts, famines and scarcity conditions due to lack of irrigation facilities and scanty and erratic rainfall. The advent of canal irrigation brought big chunks of barren and parched lands under cultivation. A pragmatic approach adopted by way of planning the agricultural production programmes on rational basis was prepared and it started paying quick dividends during the last two decades. The location of Haryana Agricultural University, a high seat of learning and research in agriculture and allied sciences, age old traditions of virile peasantry and long established live-stock farm brought most spectacular transformation in agricultural economy of the district. The district now boasts of providing highest share to the state production of cotton, oil-seeds and gram and is known all over the country for its quality live-stock.

### IRRIGATION

The district is situated in the arid region of very inadequate rainfall. The sub-soil water is deep and unfit for irrigation in most parts of the district. The irrigation was provided to the district by the Western Yamuna Canal and Rangoi Inundation Channel but it provided irrigation to 16.1 per cent of the total cropped area in 1950-51. Hardly 45 per cent of the villages received irrigation. Some were served by inundation channel in the summer season only while the supply of water in other cases was inadequate. The irrigated area formed only 29.2, 13.4 and 13.2 per cent of the total area in the Hansi, Fatehabad and Hisar tahsils respectively.<sup>1</sup> After the commencement of irrigation from Bhakra Nangal Project, the irrigation in the district registered a sizeable increase. The irrigated area increased from 16.1 per cent of total cropped area in 1950-51 to 27.0 per cent in 1955-56, 40 per cent in 1963-64, 43 per cent in 1966-67, 58.4 per cent in 1973-74 and 66 per cent in 1977-78. The well irrigation was introduced in some parts of the district where sub-soil water was fit for irrigation after sufficient availability of power from Bhakra Nangal Project. In 1977-78, the net irrigated area in the district was 357 thousand hectares—330 by canals and 27 by tubewells and wells.

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1. *Effects of Bhakra Dam Irrigation on the Economy of Barani Villages in the Hissar District, 1964-65*, (Economic and Statistical Organisation, Government of Haryana), p. 1.

## Wells and Tubewells

In the beginning of the present century, the area under well irrigation was insignificant because the depth of water was 100 ft. or more below the level of the ground and sub-soil water was unfit for irrigation in most parts of the district. The wells were primarily meant for drinking purposes and were generally located near the village sites or around the village ponds and sometimes supplied irrigation to rabi crops on the land attached to them. A few wells were located in the neighbourhood of canals or the Ghagghar. These wells were invariably worked with *lao* (rope) and *charsa* (leather bucket).

In 1951, only 1.7 per cent of the total irrigated area in the district was under well irrigation. With the availability of sufficient power from Bhakra Nangal Project, the ground water was also tapped through tubewells for irrigation. In 1977-78, 27 thousand hectares amounting to 7.6 per cent of total irrigated area, was under well irrigation.

## Canals

Canal irrigation in the district is mainly provided by two canal systems—the Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal, the oldest in the state, and the Bhakra canal.

Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal was dug originally during the reign of Firuz Shah in A.D. 1355. It was designed to force water from the Yamuna into Chautang river, once a tributary of the Ghagghar, which flowed down to Hansi. It then passed on to the newly built town of Hisar. Firuz Shah's canal seems to have choked and silted up by the 16th century. Akbar ordered the renewal of the canal so that it might supply water all through the year up to Hansi and Hisar. The canal was named Shakhuni. The Shakhuni might well have been a perennial canal, to judge from the two masonry bridges over it, one at Karnal and the other at Safidon. In A.D. 1639, Shah Jahan got the canal improved, using the alignment of Shakhuni for a large section of this canal which was renamed as Shah-nahar.<sup>1</sup> He carried it on to Delhi. The Shah-nahar gradually silted up.

The canal was reopened in 1826-27 and it entered the Hansi tahsil from Jind side and irrigated some villages of Hansi and Hisar tahsils. Till 1893, it did not provide proper and extensive irrigation in the Hisar district. In some villages, there was much waste of water

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1. Abha Singh, *Irrigating Haryana—The Pre-Modern History of the Western Yamuna Canal* (A paper presented at 43rd session of Indian History Congress, Kurukshetra, 1982).



and in parts the irrigation was so extensive that the level of the sub-soil water was raised considerably, the soil damaged and the health of the people injured. Thus while some villages suffered from over irrigation, the people in adjacent villages could not get any water owing to slight difference in levels. This state of affairs led to the construction of the Sirsa branch in 1895 and the Petwar distributary in 1899. Tosham distributary was constructed in 1939. It was remodelled and re-named as Sunder Sub-branch in 1941. These branches of the Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal had rotational closures but with the augmentation of supplies from the Bhakra canal and Augmentation canal,<sup>1</sup> these were made perennial.

**Hansi Branch.**—The Hansi branch of the Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal enters the district from Jind side near RD 23,600 at village Rajthal and throws off four distributaries, i.e. Masudpur distributary, Narnaund minor, Hisar major distributary and Petwar distributary which provide irrigation in the district. The total area in the district irrigated by the system in 1977-78 was 75,604 hectares.

**Sunder Sub-branch.**—A channel of the Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal named Tosham distributary was constructed in 1939 for providing irrigation to Hansi and Bhiwani tahsils. The channel was remodelled in 1941 and named as Sunder Sub-branch and its tail portion as Sunder distributary. It takes off from Butana branch of Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal at RD 83,000. With the augmentation of supplies from Bhakra canal and Augmentation canal, the system was made perennial. The Jui Lift canal constructed in 1971 takes off in the district from Sunder Sub-branch at RD 1,21,350. The total area irrigated in the district by the channels of Sunder Sub-branch during 1977-78 was 22,307 hectares.

**Sirsa Branch.**—The Sirsa branch was constructed in 1895. It entered the district in Tohana tahsil and passed across Fatehabad and ended just outside Sirsa tahsil (Sirsa district). From here a minor carried on irrigation to a point close to Sirsa town. It was not perennial and had rotational closures. In 1954, the Narwana branch of the Bhakra Main Line canal was linked with Sirsa branch near village Budhera (Kurukshetra district) and in 1972, another feeder channel namely Barwala Link canal was constructed to pour water from Bhakra Main

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1. A carrier channel known as Augmentation canal takes off from the Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal at its RD 68,036 near Yamunanagar (Ambala district) and falls back in it at RD 1,25,512 near Munak (Karnal district). Tubewells have been installed along the canal to augment water-supply and to solve the problem of water-logging in the area.

Line Canal into Sirsa branch. The Sirsa branch system was re-oriented with its shifting from Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal to Bhakra canal. The Sirsa branch which came to be known as Hansawala distributary after RD 3,88,500 was abandoned beyond village Hansawala (Tohana tahsil) and its tail end areas were put on the channels of the Bhakra canal. Barwala branch and Pabra distributary off take from the Sirsa branch and provide irrigation in the district.

The Barwala branch, constructed in 1957, off takes at RD 3,42,000 of Sirsa branch and enters the district near village Makhand (Jind district) at RD 51,000. The system was fed from Bhakra canal supplied through Narwana branch. The supplies were augmented in 1972 with the construction of Barwala Link canal from Bhakra Main Line canal and tailing into Sirsa branch. Surbra distributary (RD 25,000-R), Sandlana distributary (RD 25,000-L), Sotha distributary (RD 51,000-L), Nara distributary (RD 51,000-L) Banbhori distributary (RD 51,000-R), Pinhari distributary (RD 75,000-L), Badhawar distributary (RD 75,000-R), Data minor (RD 75,000-L), Gurana distributary (RD 99,000-L), Kharak distributary (RD 99,000-R), Kharkhari distributary (RD 1,20,440-L) Ghirai distributary (RD 1,20,440-L) and Khanpur minor (RD 1,20,440-R) off take from Barwala branch.

The Barwala branch at RD 1,39,600 bifurcates into Rana distributary and Balsmand sub-branch. The Balsmand sub-branch further bifurcates at its RD 69,840 into Balsmand distributary and Dewa distributary. The Barwala branch along with its distributaries and numerous minors has proved a great boon for the Hisar district.

The Pabra sub-branch is an old distributary of the Sirsa branch and takes off at RD 3,88,500-L and enters the district at village Latani RD 17,000. The Pabra sub-branch along with Sarsod distributary (off take RD 36,680-L of Pabra sub-branch) and various minors irrigate various parts of the district.

The Sirsa branch system which is now entirely a Bhakra canal system, irrigated 1,61,226 hectares of land in the district in 1977-78.

**Bhakra Main Line Canal .**—The Bhakra Main Line canal enters the district near village Balyala at RD 5,29,400 (Tohana tahsil) and its various channels providing irrigation to the district were constructed between 1954 and 1966. The Tohana distributary at RD 5,31,853-R, Bhakra Main branch, Fatehabad distributary, Pirthla distributary, Fetehabad branch and Samani distributary at RD 5,38,630-T take off from the Bhakra Main Line canal. The Bhakra Main branch takes off at



RD 5,38,630 tail of the Bhakra Main Line canal and passes through the northern portion of the district and crosses over to Punjab to enter again in the Sirsa district. The Ratia branch (RD 26,337-L), Dharsul distributary (RD 36,200-L), Kudni distributary (RD 36,200-R), Ghaswa distributary (RD 36,200-L), Ghagghar distributary (RD 45,000-R), Badalgarh distributary (RD 67,500-R), Rattangarh distributary (RD 67,500-L) take off from Bhakra Main branch. The Ratia branch further throws off Birdhana distributary, Ratta Khera distributary, Khundan distributary and Sukhchain distributary. Fatehabad branch off takes at RD 5,38,630 tail of Bhakra Main Line canal and throws off Gorakhpur distributary (RD 71,468-L), Dehman distributary (RD 1,10,468-L), Khjuri distributary (RD 1,10,468-R) and Kishangarh sub-branch (RD 1,60,400-L). The Kishangarh sub-branch at its tail feeds a link channel meant for Rajasthan. The Kishangarh sub-branch with its Khara Kheri distributary, Kherampur distributary, Mirpur distributary, Jakhod distributary, Seeswal distributary, Kohli distributary, Haroli distributary, Khara Barwala distributary and Moda Khera minor provide irrigation to various parts of the district. The Bhakra Main Line canal system provided irrigation to 1,69,010 hectares in 1977-78 in the district.

**Rangoi Inundation Canal.**—It appears to have been originally dug at the beginning of the 19th century, if not earlier, to carry water from the Ghagghar into the Joiya. The channel gradually fell into disrepair. In 1899-1900, the Rangoi canal was strengthened and regraded down to its entry into the Joiya and below that the Joiya itself was canalized. A masonry stop dam was placed at the head of the Rangoi and it supplied water to 28 villages of the Fatehabad tahsil. The supply was, however, restricted during the rainy season. Gradually the bed of the Ghagghar became deeper and there was no overflow from it into the Rangoi. The canal has been repaired a number of times as a famine relief measure. This channel is not being used for irrigation purpose.

**Modernisation of existing channels.**—The area in different reaches of channels have been water-logged due to seepage of water and there is an alarming rise in the water table. As the water resources in Haryana have almost been fully developed, the state government has been engaged in lining of canals to save the seepage losses for further expansion of agriculture in the state. The scheme of modernization of channels has been taken up in the state as a part of integrated irrigation project. The government has undertaken schemes of lining of different channels falling in the district. Burak sub-minor, Khara Kheri distributary, Moda Khera minor and Daha sub-minor have been lined during 1977-78.

### Sprinkler Irrigation

There are certain areas in the district which are uncommanded by the flow irrigation and many of them consist of shifting sand dunes. The farmers adopted lift irrigation for such fields. Sprinkler irrigation was introduced to some of these fields on experimental basis during 1977-78 when 5 sprinkler sets irrigated about an area of 200 hectares.

The comparative figures of irrigated area under different crops during 1977-78 in the state and the district is given in the following table :—

(Thousand hectares)

Crop	Hisar District	State	Percentage of the District Irrigated Area to the Total State Irrigated Area
1. Rice	13	347	3.9
2. Jowar	4	32	12.5
3. Bajra	21	57	37.0
4. Wheat	139	1,208	11.3
5. Barley	4	54	7.4
6. Maize	2	18	11.1
7. Gram	102	253	40.0
8. Other Pulses	2	15	13.3
9. Sugarcane	12	172	7.0
10. Other food including condiments and spices	6	57	10.5
11. Cotton	125	261	48.0
12. Other non-food crops	92	301	30.6
Total :	522	2,776	18.0



## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture occupies the foremost place in the economy of the district. In 1950-51, the net sown area was 74 per cent of the total area. The double cropped area was hardly 6 per cent of the net sown area. The irrigation increased immensely thereafter and in 1977-78, the net sown area was 85 per cent of the total area and about 50 per cent of the net sown area (274 thousand hectares) was double cropped. The land use pattern in 1977-78 was as follows :—

Nature of Land Use	Area (Thousand hectares)	Percentage of Total Area
Forests	7	1.10
Land put to non-agricultural uses or barren and uncultivable	54	8.50
Fallows	30	4.80
Net sown area	541	85.60

The net sown area per cultivator (cultivators and agricultural labourers) was 2.4 hectares in the district in comparison to 2.1 hectares for the state. The agricultural economy of the district is distinctly different for the irrigated and the unirrigated areas. A large irrigated area, which formed 66 per cent of cropped area was under high yielding crops. Its agricultural development is comparable to the best obtained in any part of the country. In unirrigated tracts which were still one-third of the cropped area, the cropping pattern was dominated by low value crops and per hectare yields were also low.<sup>1</sup> With changed cropping pattern which has been possible due to ensured water supply, the district has become the cotton belt of Haryana accounting for about 47 per cent of the total cotton produce of the state. Hisar has already achieved self-sufficiency in foodgrains and has been exporting cotton, cereals, oilseeds and gram to other parts of the country.

## Soils

The soils of the district change gradually from light sand to a firm loam and can broadly be classified into three divisions; a fairly

1. *Techno-Economic Survey of Haryana*, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, 1970, pp. 33-34.

heavy or hardish loam (*rausli*), light sandy soil (*bhur*) and a very heavy clay (*sotar*). The *rausli* type of soils are in Hansi tahsil and parts of Hisar and Fatehabad tahsils. These are fairly good for production provided adequate rainfall or irrigation is received. The *bhur* soils predominate the district and cover the western and south-western parts of the district and in Fatehabad and Hisar tahsils. These soils are light, highly permeable and have little waterholding capacity. The *sotar* soils stretch from east to west in Tohana and Fatehabad tahsils. These soils are impossible to cultivate until well saturated by summer floods.

The soils of the district have two main problem, wind erosion and water-logging.

### Crops

The intensity of cropping shows a marked upward trend since 1954-55 when Bhakra Canal irrigation was introduced in the district. Prior to this, the intensity of cropping was as low as 71 per cent which improved to 115 per cent in 1964-65 and 143 per cent in 1977-78. The cropping pattern has also greatly changed. The barley, *bajra*, gram and fodder crops covered a major area but with the advent of irrigation, the percentage area under barley and *bajra* has greatly decreased and that under rice, wheat, cotton sugarcane and oilseeds have increased. The major crops of the district are *jowar*, *bajra*, cotton, sugarcane, rice and pulses in kharif and wheat, gram and oilseeds in rabi. Cotton, oilseeds, gram and *bajra* are the principal crops of the district. In 1977-78, the Hisar district produced 634.9 thousand tonnes of foodgrains (including 309 thousand tonnes of wheat, 172 thousand tonnes of gram and 113 thousand tonnes of *bajra*, 29.3 thousand tonnes of oilseeds (mostly rape and mustard), 65 thousand tonnes of sugarcane (*gur*) and 220 thousand bales (170 kg. each) of cotton. The cotton production of the district was 47.52 per cent of the total state production and the cotton covered 46.99 per cent of the cotton area in the state.

The food crops hold a paramount position in the cropping pattern. These crops accounted for 63.8 per cent of the total cropped area of the district. The largest area under a single crop was under gram (26.3 per cent in 1977-78) which was 34 per cent in 1950-51 and 42.1 per cent in 1964-65. The area under gram decreased because it is grown on the land where the irrigation is not available or is inadequate. Next to gram, wheat, *bajra*, rice which covered 17.1, 17.1 and 1.5 per cent of the total cropped area respectively were other important food-grain crops. The non-foodgrain crops covered 36.2 per cent of the



cropped area. The oilseeds accounted for 6.6 per cent, sugarcane 1.5 per cent and cotton 15.4 per cent of the total area.

### Cropping Pattern

Low yields of crops in the district has been the basic cause of severity of food problem during the last century. Available agricultural statistics for 1881-82 indicate that average yield of rice, wheat, cotton and oilseeds was 693 kgs., 456 kgs., 58 kgs. and 252 kgs. per hectare respectively. These figures are indicative of the under utilisation of production potential of soil. The yield increased gradually over the years with the availability of water from newly constructed distributaries of Western Yamuna canal towards the close of 19th century. The yield per hectare of many crops increased markedly in the period 1951-1965 due to advent of irrigation through Bhakra canal system. The increase was more than 200 per cent in the case of sugarcane and barley and more than 150 per cent in the case of *bajra* and maize. The development of hybrid seeds, greater use of chemical fertilizers, plant protection and other scientific methods of farming have increased the yield manifold. The increase in the agricultural production was spectacular when high yielding varieties programme was taken up in a big way year after year and maximum land came under high yielding varieties of crops. During 1977-78, 34 thousand hectares of *bajra*, 7 thousand hectares of paddy, 126 thousand hectares of wheat and one thousand hectares of maize were brought under high yielding variety of crops in the district. The average yields of major crops in the district in 1977-78 was as under :—

Yield Per Hectare (in kilograms)

Rice	Wheat	Cotton <i>Desi</i>	Gram	Oilseeds (Rape and Mustard)	Jowar	Bajra	Barley	Maize
2,204	2,221	265	804	527	447	816	1,055	950

The total area under principal crops and their production as compared with those of the state may be seen in the Table given below :

Crop	Area under Crops '000' Hectares	Production '000' Tonnes	Percentage to Cropped Area of the State	Percentage to State Production
1. Gram	214.2	172	18.62	17.82
2. Wheat	139.3	309	10.22	10.86
3. Cotton	125.3	220	46.99	47.52
4. Rape and Mustard	54.0	290	30.51	33.33
5. Bajra	139.4	113	15.69	39.79
6. Jawar	5.2	2	2.87	9.53
7. Maize	2.0	2	2.08	2.15
8. Barley	3.9	4	4.12	3.15
9. Sugarcane	12.0	65	6.12	7.25
10. Rice	13.5	31	3.64	3.21

The most important crop of the district is cotton. In 1977-78, it ranked first in the state in terms of area (125.3 thousand hectares) and production (220 thousand tonnes). The share of the district to cotton area and production of the state was 46.99 per cent and 47.52 per cent respectively and the district was termed as the cotton belt of the state.

The second major crop of the district is oilseeds which is grown as rabi crop. Rape and mustard are major constituents of oilseeds. The total area under oilseeds in 1977-78 was 54.4 thousand hectares and its production was 29.3 thousand tonnes. Rape and mustard occupied the first place in the state both in areas and production with 54 thousand hectares and 29 thousand tonnes respectively and accounted for 30.51 per cent of the total state area under rape and mustard and 33.33 per cent of the total state production during 1977-78.

The gram is another major crop of the district. In 1977-78, it was grown in 274 thousand hectares and its production was 172 thousand tonnes. It covered 18.62 per cent of the total gram area of the state and its contribution to the state production was 17.82 per cent. The district was second, next to the Bhiwani district, in respect of gram area and production.



The principal cereal crop of the district is *bajra* and predominates in kharif. In 1977-78, it covered 139.4 thousand hectares (15.69 per cent of the total *bajra* area of the state) and its production was 113 thousand tonnes (39.75 per cent of the total state production). Though the *bajra* area was second largest, next to the Bhiwani district, yet its production was highest in the state.

### Fruit Crops and Gardens

Fruit gardening was more a hobby than a commercial enterprise in the past and some old orchards still exist where all types of fruit trees were planted irrespective of adaptability and agro-climatic conditions. It was only with the inception of garden colony scheme that fruit cultivation became a commercial enterprise. Such colonies were set up at Hansi and Uklana.

The farmers are now very keen to plant fruit trees. The soil and climate are suited for the cultivation of *ber*, citrus fruits, guava, grapes, pomegranate and mango. These fruits are mostly grown in orchards. In 1977-78, the area under fruit crops was 47.5 hectares out of which mango crop was under 7.25 hectares, *ber* 17.25 hectares, citrus fruits 9.0 hectares, pomegranate 1.25 hectares, peach 0.50 hectare, guava 8.25 hectares and grapes and papaya 2 hectares each.

### Other Crops

There has been a decrease in the area under permanent pastures and grazing land over the period since such lands have been brought under cultivation and the availability of green fodder for the livestock became acute. The steps were taken to increase the area under forage crops to make white revolution a success. New varieties of forage crops like *chari*, Sudan grass, *guar*, oats, berseem and lucerne were introduced to make fodder available round the year. The fodder crops covered 8 per cent of total cropped area of the district in 1977-78.

With increased facilities of irrigation, there is a shift towards vegetable crops also. In 1977-78, vegetable crops covered 2,650 hectares, chillies and potatoes, the principal vegetable crops of the district, constituted about half of the total vegetable area of the district.

### Agricultural Implements and Machinery

The traditional implements commonly used by cultivators are plough (*hal* or *munna*), seed drill (*por*, *orna* or *nali*), spade (*kassi*), axe (*kuhari*), chopper (*gandasa* or *gandasi*), two-pronged pitchfork (*jheli*), three-pronged pitchfork (*tangli*), hoe (*Kasola* or *khurpa*), sickle (*dranti*), flat board for harrowing (*suhaga*) and rake with 6 or 8 teeth (*dandeli*).

These indigenous implements have undergone little change except minor improvements in seed drill, plough and harrows. The farmers are rapidly taking to the use of tractors and other agricultural machinery. In 1978, the mechanised implements were as follows :—

Items	Number
Tractors	3,535
Sugarcane crushers	
(a) Worked by power	259
(b) Worked by bullocks	2,909
Oil expellers ( <i>ghanis</i> )	143
Pumping sets (oil engines)	6,199
Pumping sets (Electric tubewells)	9,011

The Haryana Agro Industries Corporation and the Haryana Land Reclamation and Development Corporation are extending help to farmers for mechanised farming.

### Fertilizers

The general deficiency of soils in nitrogen and phosphate is made up by use of chemical fertilizers. The consumption is increasing at a rapid pace which may be seen from fertilizer consumption during 1975-76 to 1977-78.

Year	Consumption (Tonnes)			
	Nitrogen	Phosphate	Potash	Total
1975-76	9,018	688	142	9,848
1976-77	16,283	1,722	484	18,489
1977-78	19,489	3,576	1,145	24,210

Organic manure is equally important for improving soil fertility. The organic manure is obtained from urban compost and rural compost. The urban compost is prepared by local bodies by consuming urban waste and night soil. The local bodies of Hisar, Hansi, Fatchabad,



Tohana, Jakhal Mandi and Uklana Mandi are preparing urban compost and selling to farmers. The best source of rural compost is cattle dung or farm yard manure. For proper utilization of rural compost, the district has been notified under the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Act, 1949. Steps have also been taken for scientific preparation of compost in villages. The compost prepared and utilized during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Compost Prepared	Compost Utilized
	(Tonnes)	(Tonnes)
1975-76	72,000	44,000
1976-77	88,850	77,770
1977-78	30,879	21,300

Green manuring is another useful soil improving practice. The government is stressing the adoption of the practice in the district because of sandy soils. Green manuring is recommended with sunn-hemp or *guar* but the latter leguminous crop is generally used. Of late, *dhaincha* has been introduced for green manuring. The extent of area under green manuring crops during 1975-76 to 1977-78 was as under :—

Year	Area under Green Manuring
	(Hectares)
1975-76	754
1976-77	1,680
1977-78	1,250

The above figures show that the cultivators are realising the usefulness of green manuring. Incentives by way of remission of water rates and subsidy are given to increase green manuring.]

### Crop Protection

The crops are exposed to the ravages of pests, diseases and weeds. Downy mildew and ergot on *bajra*; *jassids* and boll worms on cotton; root weevil, annalids, blast and *sawank* weed in rice and red hariry

caterpillar (*kutra*) in kharif crops are some of the major pests, diseases and weeds. Wilt in gram; termites, rusts, smut, *Phalaris minor* and *Avena fatua* in wheat; sawfly larve, painted bug and aphid in oilseeds are major pests, diseases and weeds in rabi crops. A package of practices for the control of various diseases and pests is being enforced in the district. These practices include spraying with various pesticides/weedicides, roguing of diseased plants, sowing of disease-resistant varieties, soil treatment and other cultural operations.

The stored grains are damaged by *dhora*, *khapra* and *susri*. These pests are controlled by fumigating the grains in the bins and stores with various fumigants.

Pesticides are supplied to the farmers through Agriculture Department, cooperatives and allied agencies. The facilities are provided for plant protection equipments on nominal hire charges. Subsidy to the maximum limit of Rs. 250 per piece is also provided to the farmers for the purchase of plant protection equipments. To save cotton crop, large scale aerial spray is being conducted in compact area of cotton. A World Bank project namely, "Integrated Cotton Development Project" was started in the district in seventies in few selected blocks (later introduced in whole of the district) with the main object of increasing yield of cotton per unit area.

Locust control needs special mention in this district. The locust cycles have been very frequent in the adjoining desert area of Rajasthan. So the precautionary measures have been adopted against the locust attack. The last attack of the locust in the district occurred during 1978 but there was no loss to the crops.

### Agricultural Cooperatives

By and large, the credit requirement of the peasants led to the formation of agricultural cooperatives. In 1978, there were 339 agricultural credit societies with a total membership of 1,18,765.

The cooperative farming helps the agriculturists to pool their scanty resources for intensive farming. The government provides loans and incentives to these societies. In 1977-78, there were 65 farming cooperative societies with a total membership of 985.

### STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE

The following table gives an idea about the financial assistance provided to the farmers under various acts before Independence :—



Year	Land Improvement Loans			Loans to Agriculturists		
	Hisar Tahsil	Hansi Tahsil	Fatehabad Tahsil	Hisar Tahsil	Hansi Tahsil	Fatehabad Tahsil
Average 1901-02 to 1905-06	1,605	623	1,485	26,505	23,037	35,963
Average 1916-17 to 1920-21	920	N.A.	2,890	42,093	17,500	10,937
1930-31	5,350	700	17,860	2,375	1,900	..

The policy of advancing loans to farmers was liberalised after Independence. The loan advanced during 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given below :

Year	Loan Advanced (Rupees in thousand)
1975-76	91.4
1976-77	132.1
1977-78	157.6

The government has adopted various measures to develop agriculture. The work is looked after in the district by a Deputy Director who is responsible to the Director of Agriculture, Haryana, Chandigarh.

#### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The Hisar district is renowned for its Haryana breed of cattle and Murrah breed of buffaloes and holds unique position in India. According to 1977 livestock census, the livestock population of the district was 8.12 lakh which accounted for 11.9 per cent of the livestock population of the state. The livestock density works out to 128 animals per square kilometre. Buffaloes had significantly larger population and accounted for 40 per cent of the total livestock population in the district. The population of sheep was largest in the state and these were 18 per cent of the total sheep population of Haryana. On the poultry side, there are 60 birds per thousand person in the district as against 122 in the state.<sup>1</sup> In sum, the position of the

1. *Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 1978-79*, pp. 153-54.

village on an average is that it has 567 cattle and 671 buffaloes besides other livestock and poultry. The details of 1977 livestock census may be seen in Table given below :

Category	Haryana	Hisar	(In Hundreds)
			Percentage of District Population to State Population
Cattle	24,418	2,756	12.8
Buffaloes	29,401	3,258	11.1
Horses and Ponies	264	10	3.7
Donkeys	773	76	9.8
Mules	107	4	3.7
Sheep	5,415	1,032	19.2
Goats	5,196	636	12.2
Camels	1,305	187	14.3
Pigs	2,025	154	7.6
Others	144	13	9.0
Total :	69,048	8,126	11.7
Poultry	14,155	783	5.5

#### Milch Animals

In 1977, there were 231 thousand milch animals consisting of 69 thousand cows and 162 thousand buffaloes in the district. There were 53 milch cows and 125 milch buffaloes per thousand persons in the district as compared to 59 cows and 125 buffaloes in the state. The agro-climatic conditions are conducive to livestock population and a good majority of buffaloes and cattle are of superior breeds. A sample study shows that 85 per cent of female and 80 per cent of male among the adult cows were of Haryana breed, while 92 per cent of female and 71 per cent of the male among adult buffaloes belonged to Murrah breed. The rest of the population was of mixed or non-descript breed.<sup>1</sup>

1. *Study of Economics of Raising Cattle and Buffaloes*, Hissar District, Haryana, (1963-66), Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics, New Delhi.



### Cattle Breeding

Initially, the government followed a policy of selective breeding through key village cattle development scheme for enhancing milk production and producing quality draught bullocks. During the First Five-Year Plan, 6 key village centres were established at different places in the district. The upgradation of non-descript stock by selective breeding was a long process and the productivity could increase marginally. It was, therefore, felt that the breeding programme should be stepped up through cross breeding and other development programmes. In the early seventies, the low milk yielders were taken up for upgrading through cross breeding by artificial insemination with Jersey and Holstein Freisian bulls known for their high milch characteristics. The cross breeding facilities were later spread all over the district. Artificial insemination in buffaloes have also been intensified with the progeny tested bulls of Murrah breed. To provide breeding facilities promptly, veterinary-cum-breeding centres were opened in different parts. In 1977-78, there were 58 cattle breeding centres in the district. The cross breeding facilities are also provided through mobile veterinary units. The entire breedable population of 2.38 lakh (0.71 lakh cows and 1.68 lakh buffaloes) has been covered under scientific breeding based on the technology of artificial insemination. The result of the programme was that 9 thousand female crossbred cow calves and 10 thousand female buffalo calves were born by 1977-78. The success of the programme can be well gauged from the fact that daily milk production went up from 525 thousand litres in 1971-72 to 675 thousand litres in 1977-78.

The premier institutions for cattle breeding located at Hisar are discussed below :

**Government Livestock Farm, Hisar .—**It is the biggest livestock farm in Asia and the second largest in the world. It was first started in 1809 as a camel stud to house and train camels for military purposes. The farm was taken over by the government in 1912 and since then it has been managed by the Animal Husbandry Department. The farm initially covered land measuring about 17,400 hectares. Originally, horses, camels and bullocks were bred. The breeding of horses was given up in 1847 and that of camels in 1857. The object of the farm thereafter remained to breed bullocks and mules of superior quality for military purposes and to provide high class bulls and donkey stallions for breeders.

The farm now breeds pedigree bulls for supply in and outside the state. In 1973, the Indo-Australian Cattle Breeding Farm was also located here.

In 1977-78, the farm was spread over 4,212 hectares and maintained 2,428 livestock.

**Progeny Testing Farm, Hisar .**—The farm was established in Government Livestock Farm, Hisar in 1960 under a centrally sponsored scheme for improving the milk yield of Haryana breed of cows and Murrah breed of buffaloes. The farm was taken over by the state government in 1966. The farm undertakes research and extension. For extension, 30 thousand breedable stock in the adjoining villages have been covered and 3 regional centres and 15 sub-centres have been set up in these villages.

The farm aims at improving the quality of village cattle with the ultimate object of increasing milk production through better breed and artificial insemination. In 1977-78, the herd strength of the farm was 850.

**Indo-Australian Cattle Breeding Farm, Hisar** —The farm was established in Government Livestock Farm, Hisar in 1973-74 in collaboration with the Government of Australia to meet the heavy demand for exotic Jersey and Holstien Friesian bulls for cross breeding of indigenous cattle. Initially, the Government of Australia gave a stock of 150 Jersey and 150 Holstien Friesian cows/heifers and 20 bulls to initiate the breeding operations. The studs of exotic breeds are now produced at this farm under local climatic conditions. A frozen semen bank has also been set up for optimum utilisation of semen. In 1977-78, the herd strength of the farm was 625.

### Gaushalas

There are eight *gaushalas* located at Hisar, Barwala, Hansi (2), Agroha, Ratia, Data and Uklana. These *gaushalas* have been opened under religious sentiments to house unproductive cattle and are run mostly on charity and donations. The *gaushalas* running at Hisar, Barwala, Hansi and Agroha have been developed under *gaushala* development programme and they have become financially viable units. Besides financial assistance, the government is providing technical guidance and assistance to these *gaushalas* to enable these institutions to function as breeding and milk producing centres.

### Horse Breeding

A few private stud farms have been established in and around Tohana. To promote these private stud farms and provide them selective breeding facilities, a government horse breeding station was opened at Tohana in 1972. A prized horse 'Pandragon' was initially purchased



for extending breeding facilities in the area. The breeding facilities are also provided to the horse breeders in the state. Of late, a few private stud farms have purchased horse for breeding.

### Sheep and Wool Development

Sheep rearing is traditionally followed by weaker sections of the society and it has good economic potentiality in the district. The common Hisar dale sheep, though comparatively better than the other breeds in the state, is a low-yielder. The wool is also coarse and the annual yield is hardly 1.5 kilogram per sheep.

To increase the wool production, quality sheep rearing was taken up and improved breeding was undertaken with crossing of Hisar dale with exotic Merino and Corriedale. There is a sheep breeding farm at Hisar and five sheep and wool extension centres, one each at Khedar, Kaimri, Bhodya Khera, Kukarawali and Sandol. A wool grading-cum-marketing centre was also set up at Hisar in 1969-70. The centre purchases wool from breeders and after sorting and grading, sells it to actual users. The centre purchased wool worth Rs. 21.19 lakh in 1977-78. There were 1.03 lakh sheep in the district as per 1977 live-stock census and the total production of wool in 1977-78 was 1,875 quintals.

For increasing production and to supplement the income of small/marginal farmers and landless labourers, a special programme of sheep rearing was taken up in 1975-76. The assistance in the form of subsidy towards capital investment for setting up sheep rearing unit is given. Up to 1977-78, 1,641 sheep units have been established in the district.

### Poultry Development

Poultry breeding is still in its infancy in the district and it is only concentrated in and around the towns. According to 1977 live-stock census, there were 0.78 lakh poultry birds in the district and the total egg production was 69 lakh accounting for annual per capita egg availability of 5 as compared to 13 in the state in 1977-78. A turkey farm was set up at Hisar under the Haryana Agricultural University in 1972 with a nucleus stock of 200 birds. In 1977-78, the farm had 1,000 birds and was the only modern turkey farm in India.

### Pig Breeding

Like poultry, pig breeding is also adopted by the weaker sections in the district. The pig breeding in the district is promoted through the pig breeding farm, Hisar. The farm introduced exotic strain with

white Yorkshire pig. The exotic breed is supplied to breeders at subsidised rates. One piggery extension centre is also functioning at Hisar.

### Slaughter Houses

In 1977-78, there were four recognised slaughter houses, one each at Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad and Tohana and 17,299 animals including 6,156 sheep, 9,838 goats and 1,305 pigs, were slaughtered during the year.

### Animal Diseases and their Control

During last century, the common animal diseases prevalent in the district were *sitla* or cow pox, foot-and-mouth disease (*munh-khur*, *goli ki sat* (anthrax fever) and *galghuta*. The people adopted various indigenous methods to cure these diseases. For *sitla*, the sick animal was put in a closed stable and protected from the cold and was sometimes given balls of pounded *bhang*. For foot-and-mouth disease, the animal was administered a pound of molasses and the mouth of the animal was tied for some hours so as to keep it shut. *Goli ki sat* was considered to be a fatal disease and there was no remedy for that. For *galghuta*, the neck of the sick animal was scorched by applying burning grass or the holy man was called to exorcise the disease by making mesmeric passes (*jharna*) over the affected part. These common indigenous treatments are still followed but people have become conscious to have veterinary assistance from veterinary hospitals and dispensaries functioning in various parts of the district.

The first veterinary hospital was opened at Hisar in 1900. Later veterinary hospitals were opened at Hansi (1906), Barwala (1926), Nar-naund (1928), Ratia (1930) and Tohana (1940).

In 1977-78, there were 18 veterinary hospitals, 13 dispensaries and 39 other veterinary institutions located in various parts of the district. A mobile veterinary clinic was also functioning in the district. The Haryana Veterinary Vaccine Institute was also functioning in Hisar. It was originally set up at Dagshai (Himachal Pradesh) and was shifted to Hisar in 1950. It produces various sera and vaccines for curative and prophylactic vaccination. It also looks after the standardisation of vaccines. On an average 1.2 lakh animals were treated annually by these veterinary institutions during 1975-76 to 1977-78 and about 3 lakh animals were vaccinated every year against contagious diseases. The common diseases of livestock in the district are haemorrhagic septic-aemia, rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, surra, black quarter and fowlpox. For effective veterinary aid, the veterinary facilities are being expanded gradually. The livestock wealth is thus well-protected against



fatal diseases and the incidence among the livestock mortality has decreased substantially. In 1977-78, there were 88 cattle which died due to contagious diseases. The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences of the Haryana Agricultural University provides indoor cattle treatment, having facilities of operations and other latest techniques. The veterinary institutions functioning in 1977-78 may be seen in Table VI of the Appendix.

### Dairy Farming

Dairying in the district has been an allied occupation to agriculture. Milk is derived mostly from cows and buffaloes. According to 1977 livestock census there were 1.04 lakh buffaloes and 0.44 lakh cows in milk and total daily milk production during 1977-78 was estimated at 6,750 quintals as compared to 3,000 quintals in 1966.

A small dairy unit with an installed capacity of 4,000 litres of milk a day was established at Hisar in 1967-68. This unit was closed down in 1969. The unit has been revived for supply of milk to Hisar town and production of some dairy products.

A milk collection and chilling centre has been established at Bhuna (Fatehabad tahsil) with an installed capacity of handling 5,000 litre of milk per day. Another temporary milk chilling centre has been set up at Hisar on the premises of the dairy.

Milk required for feeding the milk plants of the Dairy Development Cooperative Federation is collected from the district through milk cooperative societies. The government has initiated scheme for promotion of milk production through incentives like loans at subsidised rate of interest, subsidies to milk cooperative societies. A scheme of mini dairy units involving unemployed youths, ex-servicemen, small farmers and scheduled castes has been launched. Incentives are given for the establishment of such dairy units. In 1977-78, there were 70 milk cooperative societies with a total membership of 4,295 members. On an average 93 quintals of milk was procured daily through these societies.

### FISHERIES

The district with low rainfall, sandy and high temperature has unfavourable climate conditions for fisheries propagation. Though river Ghagghar is the only natural water resource where fish is available, yet the fish can be grown in canals, ponds and other reservoirs. Fishing rights in rivers and canals are controlled by the state government. The Fisheries Development Officer under the control of Director of Fisheries, Chandigarh promotes fish culture

in the district. The fish culture is also propagated in village ponds which are under the control of respective panchayats. In 1977-78, there were 16 ponds with a total area of 14.7 hectares under fish culture in the district. The Fisheries Department has improved number of ponds and supplied fish seed at concessional rates.

There is a fish seed farm at Tohana over an area of 6 hectares where quality fish seed is produced. The average annual fish production in the district is 101.5 quintals. The important varieties of food fish available in the district are as follows :—

Scientific Name	Local Name
<i>Catla catla</i>	Katla Thaila
<i>Labeo rohita</i>	Rohu
<i>Labeo calbasu</i>	Kalbans
<i>Wellago attu</i>	Mullee
<i>Mystus Singhala</i>	Singhara
<i>Mystus aor</i>	Singhara
<i>Mystus Cavasiuss</i>	Tengra
<i>Mystus Vitlasus</i>	Kigigar
<i>Channa marulius</i>	Soul
<i>Channa striatus</i>	Sauts or Drula
<i>Channa gauchua</i>	Douli
<i>Channa punctatus</i>	Karrar
<i>Notopterus chitala</i>	Pari or Moh
or	
<i>Notopterus notopterus</i>	

#### FORESTS

There were no regular forests except *birs* at Hisar and Hansi and these did not contain any timber of value. Generally some trees of the nature of Van (*Salvadora elecdios*), Kikar (*Acacia nilotica*) and Jand (*Prosopis cineraria*) could be seen in the *birs* or in the country-side. There was practically no forest development activity till Independence and only fringe plantation of trees was



along the canals which had a fine growth. A few trees were also planted along the roads with the aid of canal water.<sup>1</sup>

The Forest Department, under the charge of Divisional Forest Officer, Hisar looks after the development of forests in the district. The department has initiated control programmes to halt the march of the desert from Rajasthan and to protect agricultural economy. The total area affected by sand dunes is estimated to be 5,000 hectares. The problem is tackled by planned afforestation of *sarkanda* and other tree species to provide biological barriers. An intensive desert control programme was introduced in the district in 1977.

The department has also undertaken the afforestation of water-logged area in Hansi tahsil. Forest strips have been developed along rail, road and canal banks and act as shelter belts against strong sand bearing winds. The farm forestry is also promoted along with other farm operations. The idea of farm forestry is to make farms more or less self-sufficient in respect of timber, fuel, grazing and other requirements of the cultivators.

The details of afforestation work carried out during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is as under :—

Year	(Hectares)		
	Afforestation under Desert Control Scheme/ Water-logged Area	Afforestation under Farm Forestry	Strip Forests
1975-76	—	10	300
1976-77	56	20	118
1977-78	58	20	140

The forest produce include timber, firewood, grasses and fodder and the income from State owned forests during 1977-78 was Rs. 17,62,554.

The district is deficient in forest and the area under forests in 1977-78 was 7,900 hectares which was hardly 1.25 per cent of the total area of the district. The forest area worked out to 60 hectares per lakh persons.

#### FAMINES

The first famine of which we have any authentic account is that of A.D. 1783, known as *Chalisa Kal* (Samvat 1840). The preceding year had been

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 175.

dry and the harvest was poor but in 1783 it entirely failed. The country was depopulated, the peasants abandoned their villages and thousands died because of disease and want. Only in the neighbourhood of Hansi did the inhabitants held their own, but even there the smaller villages were deserted by their inhabitants who took refuge in the larger villages until the severity of the famine was passed.

Next noticeable severe famine occurred in 1860-61 when large number of cattle died and many cattle and people left the district. The district suffered again in the famine of 1869-70 and influx of starving people from Rajasthan added to the misery.

The scarcity conditions prevailed in the district in 1877-78 but from 1895 the district was normal. The monsoon of 1896 failed almost completely and prices rose very high. The failure of rain led to wide-spread scarcity. Again the district was struck by famine in 1899-1900. There were no famines for the next three decades. In 1929-30, the district was in the grip of scarcity due to successive crop failures in the preceding years. Famine conditions prevailed in the district in 1932-33, 1936-37, 1938-39, 1939-40, 1940-41 and 1941-42 and its intensity was felt in unirrigated areas of Hisar, Fatehabad and Tohana tahsils.

These famines brought great distress to the people and successive failure of rains and crops forced people along with their cattle to leave for the areas with better availability of grains and fodder. The government aid was the remission or suspension of revenue, grant of *taccavi*, sometimes in kind and opening of test relief works. After Independence, the position changed altogether and government became active to the urgent needs of the scarcity hit areas. The developed means of communication and transport enabled the government to transport immediate supply to scarcity hit areas. The worst what we call these days is drought which occurs due to successive failure of rains.



## CHAPTER V

## INDUSTRIES

### OLD TIME INDUSTRIES

The Hissar district has been a cattle breeding and agriculture dominated district since past, and as such no manufacture of importance is reported to have existed there. However, crude saltpetre, coarse country cloth, oil pressing, leather scales and vessels and hookahs and embroidered woollen *orhanas* or *chadars* were a few village manufactures which were carried on in the district towards the close of 19th century.<sup>1</sup> A saltpetre refining unit is also said to have existed at Hansi by 1892.<sup>2</sup>

Besides, usual village crafts like carpentry, blacksmithy, shoe-making and cloth weaving were carried on in almost every village by the village menials such as Khati (carpenter), Lohar (blacksmith), Chamar and Dhanak respectively. The crude saltpetre was made from *shora* or saline earth. The earth was dug out and placed in a heap or mound near the village site, an earthen channel connected the mound with the evaporating pans. The water was poured on the saline earth and the resulting dark brown liquid drained off into the pans and left there to evaporate by solar heat. In some cases the manufacture was carried on by means of solar evaporation alone, while in other, after a certain amount of evaporation, the material was boiled in iron caldron for six hours. In either case, the resulting product was dirty brown crystals of crude saltpetre. These were purified and re-crystalised by the contractors at Hansi and also at the adjoining towns of Sirsa (Sirsa district) and Bhiwani (Bhiwani district).

Coarse country cloth was made in almost every village but the Chief seat of this industry was at Fatchabad. Fatchabad was also known for manufacture of leather scales and *kuppas* (leather vessels) for oil and ghi. These had local reputation and were sold outside the district also. Besides, the leather hookah, metal bound, was quaintly adorned with strips and studs of copper, brass and sometimes silver, roughly engraven.<sup>3</sup>

The *teli* or oil presser was commonly found in the village and the oil pressing was carried on with the *kohlu*.

The embroidered woollen *orhanas* or *chadars* of the district are worthy of mention. Though nothing could be more homely than the material, or

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, pp. 51-52.

2. *Ibid*, 1892, p. 209.

3. *Ibid*, p. 210.

more simple than the design, they were thoroughly good and characteristic in effect. Two breadths of narrow woollen cloth were joined with a curious open work, sewn and covered with archaic ornaments in wool and cotton thread of different colours, needle wrought in a sampler stitch. The cloth was a fine red, though somewhat harsh and coarse in texture and though all the designs were in straight lines, human figures and creatures were sometimes oddly indicated. Besides, *chadars* and *ghagras*, of dark indigo or madder-dyed rough country cloth, with orange coloured silk in bold patterns, diversified by the insertion of small circular mirrors, were made at Hisar and Hansi.<sup>1</sup>

The decade 1891-1900, witnessed a striking extension of industrial enterprise and, there were 8 (6 at Hansi and one each at Hisar and Narnaund) cotton ginning and pressing factories in 1900-01 and 13 units at Hansi, 2 at Hisar, and one each at Narnaund (Hansi tahsil) and Uklana (Hisar tahsil) in 1915.<sup>2</sup> This led to an immense increase in the area under cotton, in the canal irrigated areas of the district. Hansi became the industrial centre for traditional cotton ginning and pressing. Hansi also came to be known for handloom weaving. The special variety of handloom cloth woven at Hansi was known as 'Hansi Check'. Later, the water-logging conditions in the area led to the decrease in cotton production, affecting badly the Hansi ginning and pressing units. The Hansi handloom suffered a great set-back with the migration of muslim skilled weavers in 1947 during the Partition. After Independence, a few agricultural implements manufacturing units came up in Hansi, but there was no large-scale unit in the district till 1955. The first large-scale textile mill was established at Hisar in 1955. Later in 1963, a steel pipe manufacturing unit also went into production. In small-scale sector, the industrial activity was mostly dominated by agro-based industries like dal-making, oil mill, sugar-making, cotton ginning and pressing and handloom textile. The following table would indicate the number of large and small-scale units in the district as on December 31, 1961.<sup>3</sup> :—

Sr. No.	Nature of Production	Name of the Place	No. of Units
1.	Cotton ginning and pressing	Hansi	11
		Hisar	3
		Adampur	2
		Uklana	3
		Jakhal	2
		Tohana	1

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 210.

2. *Ibid*, 1915, p. 176.

3. *Hissar District Census Handbook*, 1961, p. 73-74.



Sr. No.	Nature of Production	Name of the Place	No. of Units
		Budana	1
		Badopal	1
2.	Paddy and rice husking	Tohana	1
3.	Dal-making	Hisar	6
		Fatehabad	1
		Tohana	1
		Badopal	1
		Adampur	2
4.	Sugar-making	Uklana	1
		Mayyer	1
5.	Cloth manufacturing	Hisar	1
6.	Oil Mill	Hisar	1
7.	Re-rolling, moulding and machine manufacturing, utensil making, bolts and nuts and galvanizing of buckets	Hisar	5
8.	Agricultural implements	Hansi	1
9.	Handloom textile	Hansi	7
10.	Ice Factory	Hisar	1

It would, thus, be clear that there was very little progress regarding the establishment of modern industries till the formation of Haryana in 1966.

The district saw the establishment of a number of medium scale industries after 1966. Jindal Industries which started steelpipe manufacture in 1963 established another unit at Hisar and started production of hot rolled iron strips in June, 1971. Haryana Tube, Hisar, went into production of steel

pipes and tubes in 1975, while Ravindra Tubes started production of steel tubes and pipes at Satrod (Hisar tahsil) in 1975. Haryana Polysteel, a state Government undertaking also went into production of steel ingots in November, 1975 at Satrod. Janak Steel Tubes was commissioned in 1976 and the Hansi Cooperative Spinning Mills began production in July, 1977. Thus in 1978, the district had two large scale spinning mills and six large/medium scale steel tubes and pipes mills.

#### LARGE AND MEDIUM SCALE INDUSTRIES

**Hisar Textile Mills, Hisar.**—The textile mill at Hisar was set up in 1955 by the Delhi Cotton and General Mills, Delhi at a cost of Rs. 170 lakh. Initially the mill had 18,720 spindles and gave employment to 1,122 persons. The production jumped up to Rs. 996 lakh in 1971 and 3,322 persons were employed in the mill. In 1977-78, the mill produced cotton and synthetic yarn and sewing thread and its production was worth Rs. 1,505.68 lakh and 2,723 persons were employed. The export during the year was worth Rs. 0.17 lakh of cotton yarn to Australia.

**Hansi Cooperative Spinning Mills, Hansi.**—The Cooperative Spinning Mill was established in 1977, at a cost of Rs. 484 lakh with a capacity of 2,500 spindles, with specific purpose to make yarn available to weavers at reasonable rates. The mill went into production of cotton yarn in July, 1977, with 700 workers. In 1977-78, total production of the mill was worth Rs. 213.81 lakh and it gave employment to 700 persons.

**Jindal Industries Ltd., Hisar.**—Jindal (India) Private Ltd., established a medium scale steel pipes/tubes industry at Hisar in 1963. The unit manufactures mild steel pipes/tubes by high frequency electric resistance welding process. The mill also exports its products to Mauritius, Kuwait and Burma. In 1977-78, the production of the mill was worth Rs. 481.98 lakh and it gave employment to 303 persons. Its exports were worth Rs. 1.6 lakh.

**Jindal Strips Limited, Hisar.**—The Jindal Strips Limited, Hisar established a mill to produce hot rolled strips in June, 1971. Established at a cost of Rs. 80 lakh, the unit manufactures mild steel ingots and square flats hot rolled steel strips and stainless steel alloy steel strips. In 1977-78, the production of the mill was worth Rs. 298 lakh and it gave employment to 324 persons.

**Haryana Concast Limited, Satrod.**—Haryana Polysteel, a joint sector project, promoted by the Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation, later taken over by Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation established



the factory in November, 1975 with capital investment of Rs. 184.69 lakh. It was renamed as Haryana Concast Ltd. in 1975. The company started partial production with one 15/77 tonnes capacity electric arc furnace in 1975. The second furnace was commissioned in 1976. The factory makes ingots and billets for rolling machines. In 1977-78, the factory produced goods worth Rs. 213.81 lakh and gave employment to 390 persons.

**Haryana Tube Manufacturing (P) Ltd., Hisar.**—The company established the unit to manufacture galvanized black steel pipes and tubes in 1975. The total production of the unit was worth Rs. 250 lakh and it gave employment to 144 persons in 1977-78.

**Ravindra Tube Ltd., Satrod.**—This unit was established in 1975 at a cost of Rs. 57.75 lakh, at village Satrod (Hisar tahsil). The unit went into production in 1975. It manufactures mild steel pipes and tubes. In 1977-78, its production was worth Rs. 410.83 lakh and it gave employment to 167 persons.

**Janak Steel Tubes (P) Ltd., Hisar.**—The unit was established at Hisar in 1976 to manufacture mild steel pipes and tubes. In 1977-78, its production was worth Rs. 143.26 lakh and it gave employment to 55 persons.

**Guar Gum Chemical Ltd., Hisar.**—The unit manufacturing guar gum splits and guar gum powder was set up with a capital investment of Rs. 16 lakh. It started production in 1977. In 1977-78, the unit employed 38 persons and its production was worth Rs. 315.69 lakh.

**Haryana Oxygen, Satrod.**—The unit manufacturing oxygen gas went into production in December, 1976. In 1977-78, the unit employed 31 persons and its production was worth Rs. 4.49 lakh.

### Small-Scale Industries

The small-scale industries in the district have increased tremendously as the state government provides various facilities to the entrepreneurs. The small-scale industries are concentrated at Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad, Tohana, Uklana, Bhuna and Ratia. These small-scale units were engaged in the production of agricultural implements, light engineering, steel fabrication, cotton ginning, oil and dal mills, steel wire, aluminium and stainless furniture and utensils, paper product, chemicals, rubber, printing, wood work, leather work and ice making. In 1977-78, there were 70 small-scale units with capital investment of Rs. 22.8 lakh, registered in the district. These units provided employment to 367 persons on the average and the production was worth Rs. 75.4 lakh. The following table shows industry-wise number of units, capital investment, production and employment :—

Industry	Number of Units	Persons Employed	Production Rs.	Capital Investment Rs.
Agricultural implements	7	35	2,10,000	3,50,000
Light engineering	7	35	2,00,000	3,00,000
Steel fabricators	5	30	2,50,000	2,00,000
Cotton ginning	12	60	3,60,000	1,60,000
Dal mills	3	25	50,90,000	2,50,000
Oil mills	1	5	30,000	50,000
Steel wire	2	12	2,00,000	1,50,000
Paper products	1	5	30,000	50,000
Aluminium/Stainless steel utensils	1	5	1,30,000	1,30,000
Aluminium/Steel furniture	1	5	1,00,000	50,000
Chemicals	12	60	3,60,000	60,000
Rubber (cycle tubes)	1	5	30,000	50,000
Printing	2	10	60,000	1,00,000
Wood work	12	60	3,60,000	80,000
Leather work	1	5	30,000	50,000
Ice-making	2	10	1,00,000	2,50,000
Total :	70	367	75,40,000	22,80,000

#### Khadi and Village Industries

Though the large scale and small-scale sector contribute to the industrial progress of the district, yet the Khadi and other village industries meet the day to day needs of the villagers. These industries which are carried on by the artisans on family basis form the acid test of the rural economy. The village carpenter, weaver, blacksmith, shoe-maker and tanner are important functionaries of the village set-up. To promote these khadi and village industries, the Haryana Khadi and Village Industries Board, Chandigarh provides loans and subsidies. During the years 1975-76 to 1977-78, the amount of loan and subsidy



advanced in the district is given below :

Year	Subsidy	Loan
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	56,250	1,68,950
1976-77	1,69,365	9,56,085
1977-78	83,005	7,24,740

### Rural Industrialisation Programme

The rural industrialisation programme was launched by the state government in 1977-78 to generate employment opportunities for the unemployed educated rural youth and raising income levels and living standards of the rural artisans and weaker sections of the society. Under the scheme, two or more educated unemployed rural entrepreneurs belonging to farming, business, scheduled castes and backward classes communities may join to set up an industrial unit. The partners belonging to scheduled castes/backward classes should be literate, while others should be matriculates or I.T.I. diploma holders. None of these persons should have any commercial interest in cities or possess land beyond 7 standard acres. The total capital investment of a unit should not exceed Rs. 1 lakh. There is no bar on individual educated unemployed benefitting from the scheme but the ceiling on capital investment is Rs. 30,000.

Funds for industrial ventures in rural areas are made available on easy terms. The finances required to meet the capital cost of the project together with 3 month's working capital to the extent of 80 per cent is advanced by financial institutions at the subsidised interest rate of 6 per cent, 10 per cent is seed money loan at 4 per cent interest and the remaining 10 percent is contribution of the entrepreneur. A number of other benefits such as 15 per cent cash subsidy on capital investment, over-riding priority in releasing power connections, training stipends, additional allocation of raw material, price preference in government purchase and exemption from sales tax, purchase tax, stamp duty and registration fee are available to the units under this scheme. By March 1978, 10 units were started in the Hisar district. A loan of Rs. 28,000 and a subsidy of Rs. 3,000 was advanced to 5 units in 1977-78.

### Industrial Cooperatives

The development of industrial cooperative societies are essential for the growth of cottage and small-scale industry. The industrial coope-

ratives assist the primary industrial cooperative units in their production, procurement of raw material, and marketing of their finished goods.

The development of industrial cooperatives in the district is looked after by the Assistant Registrar, (Industrial), Hisar. He is assisted by 3 Inspectors and 11 Sub-Inspectors in the district. The industrial cooperative societies in the district are engaged in the manufacture of engineering goods, wood work, utensils, edible oils and soaps, *gur* and *khandsari*, shoe-making and tanning. The following table gives details of the number, production and financial details of the industrial cooperatives in the district during 1975-76 to 1977-78 :—

Particulars	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
No. of Societies	436	431	429
Business turnover (000 Rs)	123.63	144.53	157.81
Working capital (000 Rs)	154.86	168.44	177.47

#### SOURCE OF POWER

The district remained without electricity until 1934 when the towns of Hisar and Hansi were provided with electricity, generated by diesel plants. The diesel generated power was distributed for domestic, commercial and industrial use. However, only small oil and flour mills utilised this power, while large cotton ginning factories employed their own thermal engines to run the factories. In 1956, hydro-electric power from Bhakra Nangal Project was made available to the towns of Hisar and Hansi through the South Punjab Electricity Company. The distribution of electric supply to the two towns was taken over by the State in April, 1962.

In 1977-78, every town and village in the district was provided with power and its distribution in Hisar district was controlled by the Superintending Engineer, Operation Circle, Haryana State Electricity Board, Hisar. The following grid sub-stations were functioning in the district and supplied electricity in the district :—



Grid Sub Station	Number of Transformers Installed	Voltage Ratio	Capacity of Each Transformer
132 KV	1	132/33 KV	20 MVA
	1	132/11 KV	10/16 MVA
	2	132/11 KV	12.5 MVA
	1	132/11 KV	10 MVA
33 KV	2	33/11 KV	12.5 MVA
	10	33/11 KV	4 MVA
	8	33/11 KV	2 MVA
	4	33/11 KV	1 MVA

There were 3,475.15 Kms long 11 KV lines, 3,972.85 Kms long distribution lines and 2,644 transformers of 25 and 1,000 KVA capacity. Electricity units consumed in the district in 1977-78 were as follows :—

Category	Units Consumed (Lakh Units)
Domestic	131.61
Commercial	66.80
Industrial	686.92
Tubewells	547.60
Others	56.90

#### GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES

The District Industries Officer assisted by 6 Inspectors and 11 block level extension officers looked after the promotion of industries up to 1979, when the district industries centre with General Manager as its head was started to provide package of facilities to entrepreneurs. The State government provides land and industrial sheds on easy instalments, financial assistance, machinery on hire-purchase basis, raw material and marketing facilities through various agencies.

**Industrial Areas, Colonies and Estates .—**The government established an industrial development colony on an area of 12 acres having 49 plots at Hisar on Delhi road. Besides, an urban industrial estate with 40 sheds at Hisar and two rural industrial estates with 8 sheds each at Fatehabad and Barwala were set up. The sheds in the industrial estates are allotted on hire-purchase basis.

**Financial Assistance .—**The State government advances loans to small-scale industries under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935. Such loans are granted for construction of factory buildings, purchase of machinery and equipment and working capital to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh against tangible security, either of the applicant or of his surety, the amount loaned being 50 per cent of the security offered. Loans upto Rs. 5,000 are granted on the recommendation of the district loan advisory committee of which the Deputy Commissioner is the chairman; loans exceeding this amount are sanctioned by the Director of Industries, Haryana on the recommendation of the Board of Industries, constituted by the State government against the mortgage of immovable property. The loans advanced in the district during 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given below :

Year	Amount Disbursed	No. of Bene- ficiaries
	(Rs. in lakhs)	(Number)
1975-76	4.81	85
1976-77	5.90	118
1977-78	6.55	153

The State also provides financial assistance through the State owned Haryana Financial Corporation, which was established in the year 1967. The corporation advances loans up to Rs. 30 lakh in case of limited companies and registered cooperatives and Rs. 15 lakh in case of others. The loans advanced by the corporation in the district for the last three years is given below :

Year	Loan Advanced			
	(Small-Scale Industries)		(Others)	
	No.	Amount of loan (Rs. in lakhs)	No.	Amount of loan (Rs. in lakhs)
1975-76	17	46.18	2	46.5
1976-77	12	24.49	—	—
1977-78	12	37.42	—	—



Loans are also provided to the industries by the commercial banks. These banks provide loan facilities for working capital, and export and medium terms loans for construction of factory sheds, purchase of plant, machinery and equipment and for extension of existing units. The banks also meet credit requirements of artisans and village and cottage industries.

**Supply of machinery.**—The central government through National Small Industries Corporation, supplies machinery to small-scale units on hire-purchase basis. Only five to ten percent of the cost of machinery is paid initially and the remaining loan is paid in easy annual instalments. The Haryana State Small Industries and Export Corporation, a State government undertaking, also provides machinery on hire-purchase basis and financial assistance upto Rs. 50,000 on a nominal rate of interest.

**Supply of Raw Material and Marketing Assistance.**—The Haryana State Small Industries and Export Corporation procures and distributes indigenous and imported raw material. The industrial units are allotted raw material on the basis of their assessed capacity. The corporation is a recognised export house and it helps the entrepreneurs in marketing their products in markets all over the world. The small industries are given purchase preference and marketing assistance through their participation in government stores purchase programme.

**Incentives.**—The major part of the Hisar district comprising Hisar and Hansi towns, Hisar I, Hansi I, Barwala, Tohana and Bhuna blocks has been notified as industrially backward areas by the Government of India and 15 per cent capital subsidy and 20 per cent income tax remission is available to units located here. A subsidy of 20 per cent is given to small-scale industrial units for the purchase of diesel generating sets. Interest free loan in lieu of inter-state sales tax paid or payable, exemption from electricity duty and octroi is granted to the industrial units for a period of 7 years.

### **Rural Industries Project**

A centrally sponsored scheme to help the process of industrialising rural areas was undertaken in 1971-72. The project envisaged fast growth of small-scale industries utilising locally available raw material and producing goods of local requirement. The project was limited to rural areas and semi-urban areas having population less than 25,000 persons. The project arranges financial assistance to the new and exis-

ting units at cheaper rates and subsidy for the purchase of tools, power and training of artisans. The project also implements Rural Artisans Programme under Intensive Rural Development Programme.

**Quality Marking Centre.**—In order to provide testing and certification facilities to manufacturers of engineering goods, there is a Quality Marking Centre at Hisar. It provides the facilities of testing raw material, semi-finished and finished goods, supply of technical guidance for material and methods of fabrication and standardisation.

#### INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

Industrial labour in the district is generally drawn from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, from where they come for employment. The labour in large and medium units have organised themselves and avail better emoluments, and other benefits like bonus, gratuity, house rent and provident fund. The Industrial units like Hisar Textile Mills and Jindal Strips limited have provided fair price shop and consumer stores. The wages in the small-scale sector are not uniform and vary according to demand and supply. Many small-scale units are seasonal rendering a large labour force as jobless during off season.

In 1977-78, there were 29 trade unions of industrial workers in the district and their list is given in Chapter XVII, Other Social Services.



## CHAPTER VI

### BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

#### BANKING AND FINANCE

During the 19th century when the facilities of modern and co-operative credit were not available, the loans were principally conducted through village money-lender each of whom had his circle of clients in his own and a few neighbouring villages. The rates of interest varied from 12 per cent per annum to  $37\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The interest was always calculated monthly.<sup>1</sup> The interest charged at the periodical settlement of accounts was often excessive even when the debt was secured by a mortgage of land. The re-payments were often made in kind by delivery of grains or cattle and the price at which these were credited were not unfavourable to the money-lender.<sup>2</sup>

#### Indebtedness

During the 19th century, the agricultural indebtedness of a permanent nature was remarkably small in amount in the district. There was, of course, a large amount of floating debt due by agriculturist to the village money-lender but most of the more thrifty and prosperous tribes paid off their debt in good years. The normal rate of interest was 1 per cent per mensem. In case, the debtor's credit failed owing to bad harvest or for any other reason, the account was closed and the debtor was made to execute a bond for whole amount.

It was customary to enter a very high rate of interest in the bond, usually 2 or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per mensem compound interest. In most of the cases the creditor allowed a large discount, if the debtor made sincere efforts to act fairly to his creditor and only insisted the terms of the bond if the debtor repudiated his debt.<sup>3</sup>

Towards the close of 19th century, alienation of land by agriculturists to non-agriculturists increased by about three-fold due to bad harvests. The agriculturists had to shift to other districts and to mortgage their lands before shifting. There was glut of land and consequently fall in prices. The mortgagees were able to extract such hard terms that

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1883-84 p. 32.

2. *Ibid*, 1892 p. 169.

3. *Ibid*, 1915 pp. 167-68.

in practice a mortgage always meant a subsequent sale.<sup>1</sup> To check this, the Land Alienation Act, 1900 was passed and it debarred the non-agriculturists from acquiring proprietary rights of the mortgaged land.

To further save the public particularly agriculturists from exploitation by money-lenders, the co-operative movement was initiated in 1904. However, the movement could not make much headway till Independence and money-lenders continued to get innumerable pecuniary benefits by acquiring a thorough grip over the peasant life.

Cumulative effect of exorbitant rates of interest paid by cultivators and the effect of various malpractices of money-lenders was that debt once contracted kept on accumulating. In order to reform the money-lender and his ways of business, the government took measures to regulate indigenous lending through various acts, viz. the Usurious Loan Act, 1918, the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1930, the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act, 1934, the Punjab Debtor's Protection Act, 1936 and the Punjab Registration of Money Lender's Act, 1938. Besides, the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act, 1938 was enacted which restored lands mortgaged prior to 8th June, 1901.

### Rural Credit

Organised banking was not available in the district prior to the Independence. In the beginning of the second quarter of the present century, a few villages, however, availed the services of the District Central Cooperative Bank, Hisar which was established in 1926. The branches of Traders Bank Ltd. and Bharat Bank Ltd. were opened at Hisar in 1944 and 1945 respectively but these could not function for long. The first regular bank as such was opened in 1946 when the Punjab National Bank started its branch at Hisar.

After the Independence, the different joint-stock banks opened their branches in the district but these were confined mostly to the towns and catered to the needs of industrialists and traders. After the nationalisation of major banks in 1969, the banking industry entered the field of integrated rural credit. The joint-stock banks and different co-operative credit institutions have endeavoured to be responsive to the needs of rural people but the procedural and other difficulties have still kept the indigenous money-lenders in the supreme position in the rural area. To meet the unproductive and emergent unspecified expenditure of the ruralites, money-lenders are always ready at hand. These money-lenders receive deposits, deal in *hundies* and help trade and industry in towns and meet the unproductive and emergent requirements of villagers.

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1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, pp. 167-68.



Few of the money-lenders get themselves registered. In 1978-79, the number of licenced money-lenders was 6.

### Cooperative Credit

The cooperative movement in the district was introduced in 1904 with the enactment of Cooperative Societies Act and the subsequent Act of 1912, with the main object of providing relief to the rural peasantry from the heavy burden of indebtedness. The performance of the cooperative movement during the first half of the 20th century remained very low and it had not achieved the desired results and could meet only small credit requirements of the cultivators. However, it registered considerable progress after the enactments of 1954 and 1961. The cooperative structure afterwards occupied a pre-eminent position in the institutional frame work of the agricultural credit. The government actively implemented the policy of revitalisation and reorganisation of primary cooperative societies to form viable units through the process of amalgamation, extension of area of operation and liquidation.

In Hisar district, like elsewhere, cooperation took the form of agricultural credit cooperation. In course of time, however, non-agricultural cooperative credit societies were also developed. In 1977-78, there were 339 primary agricultural and 30 non-agricultural cooperative credit societies with a membership of 1,18,765 and 3,512 respectively. The financial position of these societies along with short and medium term loans advanced as on March, 1978 was as follows :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Particulars	Agricultural Credit Societies	Non-agricul- tural Credit Societies
Working Capital	1,089.46	31.40
Deposits	20.34	10.03
Owned Funds	219.76	9.06
Loans Advanced during the year	988.85	26.08

**Central Cooperative Bank .—**The District Central Cooperative Bank, Hisar began to function in 1926. In 1977-78, there were 18 banks including head office functioning at different places to provide credit facilities to the rural masses. The management of the cooperative bank consists of the elected representatives of the cooperative societies.

The cooperative central bank has three sources of funds, its own share capital and reserves, deposits from the public and cooperative societies and loans from the State Cooperative Bank. The main task of the bank is to lend to village primary societies and mobilise the deposits. The bank's loans are of short and medium terms and it also provides financial assistance to the primary societies for seasonal agricultural operation and the marketing of crops. The position of Central Cooperative Bank, Hisar and its branches is as follows :—

Description	Position as on 30th June (Rs. in lakhs)		
	1976	1977	1978
Share Capital	115.19	128.05	129.75
Working Capital	827.80	997.01	1,253.1
Deposits	289.55	323.47	429.26
<b>Loans Advanced</b>			
(i) Short term	888.04	1,230.77	1,535.78
(ii) Medium term	26.30	90.38	40.12

**Primary Land Development Banks .—**Land development banks were organised for the purpose of providing long term credit to farmers. These banks obtain their funds from share capital, reserves, deposits and issue of bonds. In 1978, primary land development banks were functioning at Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad and Tohana.

The progress of land development banking is summarised below :

Particulars	Years ending June		
	1977	1978	1979
1. Number	4	4	4
2. Membership	12,761	14,028	15,029
3. Working Capital (Rs. in lakhs)	736.97	827.13	934.01
4. Loans Advanced (Rs. in lakhs)	160.55	252.33	287.87
5. Outstanding Loan (Rs. in lakhs)	647.11	712.17	806.55



### Joint Stock Banks

Commercial banking was started in the district between 1944-46 but rapid expansion came after the formation of Haryana. More and more branches were opened in semi-urban and rural areas of the district. During seventies, the commercial banks re-oriented their lending policies and procedures from security-oriented to production oriented, class banking to mass banking and credit worthiness to repaying capacity. This was a great step towards redressing the pressure of money-lenders in rural areas. The commercial banks spread throughout the interior of the district and in 1978 there were 78 branches of different banks in various parts of the district.

These commercial banks carried on normal bank activities like deposits, remittances and advance against securities and other goods. The State Bank of India as the local agent of the Reserve Bank of India handled all government transactions. The aggregate deposits in various commercial banks in the district were Rs. 3,357 lakh and the advances were Rs. 1,771 lakh. The list of the commercial banks in the district is given in Table VII of Appendix.

### Insurance

Consequent upon the nationalisation of life insurance business in 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has become the sole agency for life insurance and only general insurance remained in private sector. The Life Insurance Corporation of India also entered the field of general insurance in 1964. The general insurance too was nationalised in 1971. Subsequently in 1973 general insurance business was separated from life insurance and General Insurance Corporation of India was formed.

**Life Insurance .**—The district is covered by the Hisar Branch which was opened in 1958. Life insurance schemes have succeeded in mopping up the savings of the people and in 1975-76 a business of Rs. 252.47 lakh with 2,507 policies was completed in the district which had come to Rs. 207.29 lakh with 1,982 policies in 1977-78. There were 16 development officers and 169 agents in the district.

**General Insurance .**—Prior to nationalisation of general insurance in 1971, there were different companies engaged in general insurance business in the district. From 1964, Life Insurance Corporation also entered the field of general insurance. But in 1973 general insurance

business was separated from Life Insurance and General Insurance Corporation of India was established. The corporation carries its business in the district through its subsidiary companies, viz. Oriental Fire and General Insurance Co. Ltd., The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., The National Insurance Co. Ltd. and The United India Fire and General Insurance Co. Ltd.<sup>1</sup> having their offices at Hisar. These companies mobilised a business of Rs. 27.37 lakh with 16,796 policies in 1975-76 and of Rs. 35.41 lakh with 18,795 policies in 1977-78.

### Small Savings

The small savings scheme was started during the World War II by the British government and certain certificates were introduced to float loans from the public to meet out the war expenses. Later, a National Savings Organisation was established to promote the small savings in the country to tap the resources for developing the economy.

A District Savings Advisory Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, Hisar to promote the small savings in the district. Besides this, the National Savings Organisation has posted a District Savings Officer at Hisar for mobilisation of small savings.

Various measures have been initiated by the government to induce the people to transfer their savings to credit agencies for productive economic activities. The voluntary savings are exploited through various schemes like post office savings banks, cumulative time deposits, savings certificates, school savings bank, pay roll savings, and public provident fund, etc.

Post office banks have virtually extended the banking facility to everybody's door-step in rural as well as urban areas. In 1978, there were 28 sub-post offices and 180 branch post-offices where post office savings banks were available. The following table gives the number of savings bank accounts and total deposits in the district during 1975-76 to 1977-78 :—

Year	Savings Bank Accounts Opened	Progressive Total of Saving Banks Accounts	Deposits	(Rs. in lakhs)
			During the Year	Progressive Total
1975-76	7,557	43,967	257.73	3,657.93
1976-77	4,682	48,649	361.57	4,019.50
1977-78	4,370	53,019	388.96	4,408.46

1. The United India Fire and General Insurance Co. Ltd. started functioning in the district from 1-11-1979.



Besides savings banks, other small savings schemes help in augmenting savings. All these measures have helped in raising the saving deposits in the district year after year. The gross and net collections for the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 in this district have been tabulated below :

Year	Collections (Rs. in lakhs)		Position Among the Districts of the State
	Gross	Net	
1975-76	376.43	44.71	Fourth
1976-77	227.34	77.41	Eleventh
1977-78	366.67	62.41	Fifth

#### CURRENCY AND COINAGE

Before the introduction of decimal coinage in 1957, the silver coinage consisted of the rupee, the eight-*anna* and four-*anna* pieces and the nickel coins consisted of the two-*anna* and one-*anna* pieces, besides the copper pice. A rupee converted into 16 *annas* or 64 pice. The *anna* was equivalent to 4 pice.

The decimal coinage introduced in the country from April 1, 1957 took time to become current. The government preceded the switch-over with an extensive public relations programme to facilitate a smooth switch-over. The conversion table were displayed at all prominent places of money transaction. The public took some time to get accustomed to the change and the new coinage became readily acceptable. Naya paisa came to be called paisa and the pre-fix *naya* was dropped from June 1, 1964.

#### TRADE AND COMMERCE

During the 19th century, all trade between Rajasthan and the districts around Delhi went along the Delhi-Sirsa road which passed through the towns of Hansi, Hisar and Fatehabad and all these towns were to some extent centres of this through trade. Later, with the construction of Rewari-Ferozepur railway towards the close of the 19th-century the trade between east and west began to pass along the railway and Hansi and Hisar lost their importance. Likewise, Fatehabad also lost its importance in favour of Bhattu from where the railway

passed, the trade made straight for the railway at Bhattu. However, even then these towns remained the principal markets of the district where surplus produce of the locality was collected and from where the people obtained their necessities such as cloth, salt and other items.

Besides these markets, local trade was also significant in the district. In times of scarcity and high prices, the farmers would purchase gram from adjacent Punjab areas and carry it home for domestic consumption. Sometimes their operations extended to earn profit by purchasing more gram and selling it in the district. Such purchases were frequently made on advances obtained from local money-lender.

In fact the trade activities were low in the district as there was no special manufacture worth nothing. The trade was not extensive nor had it been fostered by railways. The import was only for the purpose of supplying the local demand and the exports consisted of certain amount of surplus local produce.

Even in the beginning of the 20th century, Hansi and Hisar remained simply markets for the collection and export of local produce, especially cotton at Hansi. On the other hand, Tohana developed into an important collecting centres. From the district as a whole, the most important articles of export were cotton, gram and rapeseed while cotton-piece and salt were the most important articles imported.<sup>1</sup>

After Independence and particularly after the formation of Haryana, the district made rapid progress in agricultural production. Besides, a few large scale industrial units were also established. The main exports from the district comprised cotton, gram, rapeseed, steel pipes and tubes, whereas the principal imports were salt, gunny bags, kerosene, iron and steel and other raw material for different industries.

### Regulated Markets

Till sometime back, the major portion of agricultural produce was sold in the local trade centres through middle-men. These *mandis* were unorganised where unhealthy market practices deprived the cultivator to get fair price for his produce. Sometimes in times of scarcity, even the benefit of higher prices ruling in the trade centres were denied to the cultivator who was forced to make over his entire produce to the village money-lender in settlement of the accounts.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915. pp. 177-178.

2. *Ibid*, 1892, p. 211.



In order to eliminate unhealthy market practices and to ensure fair prices to the growers for their produce, the government regulated the markets under the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961. Such markets are administered by market committees which consist of representatives of the government, traders, farmers and the cooperative societies. These market committees regulate and help farmers to secure fair prices for their produce. In 1978, there were 11 regulated markets in the district and some important details about these markets are given below :

Sr. No. and Year of Regulation	Regulated Market	Sub-market Yard	Number of Villages Covered	Main Arrivals
1.	Hisar (1941)	Balsmand	70	Gram, cotton, <i>bajra</i> , wheat, <i>gowar</i> , moong, <i>sarson</i>
2.	Hansi (1941)	Sisai Bola, Narnaund, Mundhal	147	Wheat, <i>bajra</i> gram, <i>sarson</i> , cotton, <i>gowar</i> chillies, <i>gur</i> , potatoes
3.	Adampur (1966)	Agroha, Seeswal Old Grain Market	36	Gram, cotton, <i>bajra</i> , wheat, <i>sarson</i> , <i>gowar</i>
4.	Bhattu (1971)	—	36	Gram, <i>gowar</i> <i>bajra</i> , cotton <i>desi</i>
5.	Barwala (1971)	Sarsod, Pabra	24	Wheat, gram, <i>bajra</i> , <i>gowar</i> , <i>sarson</i> , <i>taramira</i> , cotton <i>desi</i> , <i>gur</i>
6.	Fatehabad (1966)	Badopal	115	Wheat, gram, <i>bajra</i> , <i>sarson</i> , cotton, <i>gowar</i>
7.	Bhuna (1971)	—	30	Gram, wheat, <i>bajra</i> , <i>gowar</i> , cotton, <i>sarson</i> , paddy

Sr. No.	Regulated Market and Year of Regulation	Sub-market Yard	Number of Villages Covered	Main Arrivals
8.	Uklana (1951)	—	19	Gram, <i>bajra</i> , cotton, wheat, <i>sarson</i> , <i>toria</i> , maize, <i>gowar</i>
9.	Jakhal (1965)	—	15	Wheat, <i>bajra</i> , maize, paddy, gram, <i>sarson</i> , cotton, chillies, <i>gur</i>
10.	Tohana (1964)	New Sabzi Mandi Tohana	62	Wheat, gram, <i>bajra</i> , paddy, oilseeds, cotton, chillies
11.	Ratia (1976)	—	56	Cotton, gram, wheat, paddy, oilseeds and <i>bajra</i>

The annual arrival of different commodities in the above markets during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given in the Table VIII of Appendix. The main sources of income of the market committees are market fee, licence fee, composition fee, etc. The income of the market committees is spent for the welfare of the concerned yards, sub-yards and purchase centres.

#### Fairs

No commercial fair as such is organised in the district. The religious fairs where petty business is conducted are held in various parts of the district and have been described in Chapter on 'People'. The cattle fairs are other important commercial fairs which are held at four different places in the district. Although cattle fairs are held in other districts, yet the important cattle breeds of Hisar district bring additional significance to the cattle fairs of the district. The biggest cattle fair of the district is that of Hisar, held four times a year at the Mela grounds, and the other fairs are at Fatehabad twice a year, Hansi four times a year and Barwala twice a year.



The cattle fairs were organised by the concerned Panchayat Samitis and municipal committees but the organisation of cattle fair was taken over by the government on November 24, 1970, on the enactment of the Haryana Cattle Fairs Act, 1970. The income derived from the organisation of cattle fairs in the district during 1977-78 was Rs. 10.08 lakh.

### Co-operation and Trade

The progress of co-operative societies in the field of marketing and processing has been quite noticeable. There is a district wholesale cooperative supply and marketing society in Hisar which is assisted by 9 primary marketing societies. These societies operate the wholesale business and also provide facilities to their members by renting or owning godowns and thereby facilitate grant of advances against pledge of produce and sale of member's produce. They act as an agency of the government for procuring agricultural produce and distributing the agricultural inputs like improved seeds and fertilizers. These societies procured foodgrains worth Rs. 309.05 lakh in 1975-76 and Rs. 349.65 lakh in 1977-78. The distribution of fertilizers and improved seeds through these societies was of Rs. 381.45 lakh and of Rs. 262.45 lakh respectively. The membership, share capital and working capital of these societies from June 1976 to June 1978 are given below :

Particulars	Position as on June 30		
	1976	1977	1978
1. Number	9	9	9
2. Membership	4,187	4,207	4,355
3. Share Capital (Rs. in lakh)	7.37	7.49	7.64
4. Working Capital (Do)	91.03	84.50	65.84
5. Owned Fund (Do)	35.12	35.53	40.19

### Consumer's Cooperative Stores

There is a Central Cooperative Consumer Store at Hisar. Store supplies quality goods to the consumers at reasonable price. The short supply commodities are also distributed through the store and it also supplies various goods of common use to the rural area through cooperative marketing and village service societies. In 1977-78, there were 9 such societies.

The consumer cooperative store aims at checking the price line and provides essential commodities at reasonable rates. The store made a net sale of Rs. 75.79 Lakh in 1977-78 against Rs. 53.62 Lakh in 1975-76.

### State Trading

Major fluctuations in prices of foodgrains have led to state trading. The state agencies entered the market for purchase and sale of foodgrains at appropriate stages so as to strengthen its power to influence the course of prices and to prevent anti-social activities like hoarding and profiteering from getting the upper hand.

For distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities, initially the government started a net work of fair price shops in urban and rural areas. With a view to ensure availability of wheat, rice and sugar in the open market for consumption by the general public, the government promulgated the Punjab Foodgrains Licencing Order, 1964 and Punjab Rice Dealers Licencing Order, 1964 which required dealers to obtain licences for storage and sale of these commodities. The government further promulgated the Wheat Licencing and Price Control Order, 1973 and introduced state trading in wheat. Under the licencing order, no person can store for sale more than five quintals of wheat without obtaining a licence. Further a dealer cannot at any one time stock more than 250 quintals of wheat if he is a retailer or a *chakki* owner (flour mill owner) and not more than one thousand quintals if he is a wholesaler. The state government has also promulgated the Haryana Prevention and Hoarding Order, 1973 and Restriction of Stocks by Producer (Order 1973) to avoid hoarding of stocks. These restrictions were, however, relaxed in 1976 and the producer was allowed any quantum of stock between April and October every year.

For the distribution of wheat *atta*, *maida*, *suji*, rice and sugar, the district authorities have appointed wholesalers at different places for import of these commodities. The number of wholesalers functioning in 1978 were 2 each at Hisar, Hansi and Uklana and one each at Bhattu, Narnaund, Barwala, Uklana, Fatehabad, Adampur, Tohana, Bhuna and Ratia.

The distribution of wheat, wheat *atta*, rice and sugar is done through a network of fair price shops. In rural areas, cooperative societies function as fair price shops. A few private parties were allotted fair price shops in the absence of cooperative societies. In 1977-78, there were 458 (80 urban and 378 rural) fair price shops in the district. The



rates of different commodities supplied through fair price shops were fixed as under :—

Commodity	Rate (Rs. per kilogram)			
	1975	1976	1977	1978
1. Wheat	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30
2. Wheat <i>atta</i>	1.20	1.22	1.28	1.34
3. Rice				
(a) Superior	3.00	3.50	4.25	5.50
(b) Common	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.20
4. Sugar	3.00	7.00	4.00	3.50

As regards coarse grains, there is no control over the distribution of gram, *bajra*, maize and barley and consumers purchase requirements from the open market by bidding system or through a licensed foodgrains dealer. There were 1,426 foodgrains licensees in 1978 in various markets of the district. To exercise control over the prices, the state government has promulgated the Haryana Coarse Grain (Export Control) Order, 1972. Under this order, movement of coarse grains like *bajra*, maize and barley, outside the state may not take place without obtaining a permit from the district authorities.

Thus, while a battery of legal provisions exists to regulate the purchase, storage and distribution of essential articles, mostly food and distribution arrangements have been organised to physically ensure that supplies get to the consumers, in practice a mixed system of a free and regulated distribution exists. It is tightened when there are shortages and allowed to work freely when supply-demand position is stable.

### Weights and Measures

Nothing much can be said about the multiplicity of the weights and measures prevalent in the district in the distant past.

The recognised official unit of length at the settlement of 1863 was the *gatha* of 99 inches. The cloth measure in common use was 3 *ungals* = 1 *giri* and 16 *girihs* = 1 *gaz* (yard) or 0.9144 metre. The zamindar adopted the measures of length as 2 *balisht* = 1 *hath* = 18 inches and 2 *haths* = 1 *gaz* = 36 inches or 0.9144 metre. The *hath* was in reality an indefinite length. About the area, the zamindar had no

unit of his own. The *bigah* equivalent to  $5/8$  acre was taken as the unit of area and the zamindar became accustomed to this unit of area.

The smaller measures of weight employed for gold were 8 *rattis* or *chawals* = 1 *masha*, 12 *mashas* = 1 *tola*, 5 *tolas* = 1 *chhitank* and 16 *chhitanks* = 1 *ser* or 0.933 Kg. The grains were invariably measured by weight units as 2 *chhitanks* = 1 *adhpao* =  $1/8$  *ser*, 2 *adpaos* = 1 *paobhar* =  $1/4$  *ser*, 2 *paos* = 1 *adhser*, 2 *adhsers* = 1 *ser*, 5 *ser*s = 1 *pansera* or 1 *dhari*, 20 *ser*s = 4 *dharis* or 1 *dhaun*, and 40 *ser*s = 2 *dhauns* or = 1 *man* or 0.373 quintals. No measures of capacity were used.

The fodder was sold by *pulis* or bundles and the quantity contained in the *puli* was indefinite. The *jowar* and *bajra* stalks were sold by being tied in a *jeori* or rope 7 *haths* long. The quantity which can be thus tied, was called a *paral* and weighs 2 or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  maunds.

For the division of grain at the threshing flour, an earthen vessel (*matka* or *chati*) was used.<sup>1</sup>

Up to 1941, there was no uniform standard of weights and measures and to remedy this evil the Punjab Weights and Measures Act, 1941 was enacted. To bring uniformity and standardise the weights and measures and to facilitate international trade, the metric system of weights and measures was introduced in 1958.

The Inspector Weights and Measures, Hisar supervises the enforcement of accurate weights and measures through frequent inspection and periodical stampings.

### Storage and Warehousing

In villages, people store agricultural produce in houses, *kothas* (bins) or in bags. In markets, the commission agents and co-operative marketing societies maintain godowns. Mills and factories maintain godowns at their premises to stock raw material.

The godowns maintained by private dealers vary greatly and are generally not of desired specifications. To organise better warehousing, the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing Corporations) Act, 1956 was passed and repealed by the Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962. The Haryana Warehousing Corporation was established under the later Act on November 1, 1967. The corporation was authorised to acquire and build godowns and run warehouses for the storage

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, pp. 216-17.



of agricultural produce and other notified commodities. In 1977-78, the corporation was running 8 warehouses in its own godowns at Bhattu, Uklana, Tohana, Barwala, Jakhal, Hansi, Fatehabad and Ratia. Additional godowns from private parties have also been hired to meet the growing demand of storage space. Farmers and other agencies are availing of the services of corporation to store their produce. The storage charges vary from commodity to commodity. However, for major foodgrains such as wheat, rice, barley, maize, etc. it is 33 paise per bag per month.

Food Corporation of India maintained warehouses at Hisar and Adampur and the Central Warehousing Corporation at Hisar, Bhattu, Tohana, Barwala and Fatehabad. Besides, a few private enterprises are also running warehouses and cold storages.





## CHAPTER VII

### COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing much is known about the ancient routes passing through the district. However, Rakhigarhi, Banawali and Agroha are said to have been important trading centres and these places had regular commercial contacts with other towns indicating thereby that the region had been linked with inland trade routes. The time-honoured northern highway which connected the Ganga valley, the Himalayan regions and the central India with the passes of the north-western hills and the Arabian sea across the Indus plains passed through the district.<sup>1</sup> However, no evidence or remains of any ancient route is available. The ancient routes continued to be followed in medieval period and no specific improvement seems to have been made. The means of communication were very poor though the foundation of imperial towns of Hisar and Fatehabad in 14th century A.D. gave an enhanced impetus to these places. The most important route, before the advent of Mughals, from North-West Frontier to Delhi was through Talamba to Pak Pattan, Dipalpur, Fatehabad, Ahrawan and Tohana to Delhi.<sup>2</sup>

Up to the middle of the 19th century, the district did not have any important road except Delhi-Sirsa road which passed through Hansi, Hisar, Agroha and Fatehabad. A small portion of road around Hansi and Hisar was metalled and the remaining road was unmetalled. Though there were many kacha roads but these got in terrible conditions during the rains. In the sandy tracts carts were little used owing to the sand hills and the communication was by camels and hence kacha roads were replaced by camel tracks. The first railway was introduced in the district when the Delhi-Rewari railway constructed in 1873, was extended to Bhatinda in 1883 passing through Hansi, Hisar, Adampur and Bhattu. With the construction of the railway, the bulk of the grain traffic and other trade was diverted to it from Delhi-Sirsa road which had so far been the main line of communication and trade. In 1889-90, the principal roads in the district were Delhi to Sirsa (a section of Delhi-Multan road) and Hansi to Bhiwani. Of these two, only a small

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1. R.S. Bisht Excavations at Banawali 1974-77, *Proceedings of the Seminar on the Harappan Culture in Indo-Pak Sub-continent*, Srinagar, 1978.

2. B.S. Nijjar, (i) *Punjab under the Sultans* (1000-1526 A.D.) p. 126.

(ii) *Punjab under the Great Mughals 1526—1707 A.D.*, p. 228.

part of Delhi-Sirsa was metalled. There were other roads from Hisar to Bhiwani, Hisar to Tosham, Hisar to Tohana, Tohana to Ratia, Ratia to Fatehabad and Hansi to Barwala, but all these were unmetalled with the exception of short distances near the towns. Cart traffic along these roads could go where the soil was firm and it was impracticable in sandy tract where the place of carts was taken by camels. The road from Tohana to Ratia which ran for a considerable part of its length through the Ghagghar valley, became impassable in the rains although the scanty rainfall did not hinder the traffic on the other roads to any appreciable extent. There was also a good unmetalled road along the right bank of the Western Yamuna (Jumna) Canal.<sup>1</sup>

With the beginning of the 20th century, the Delhi-Ferozepur railway passing through Jakhal and Tohana and the Ludhiana-Jakhal railway were constructed. The Ludhiana-Jakhal railway constructed in 1901 was extended to Hisar in 1913. Sadulpur-Hisar railway connecting Hisar with Sadulpur (Rajasthan) was constructed in 1911. With the opening of railways designed to have the maximum opportunities for earning revenues, the road development was neglected and it may be interesting to know that but for small mileage of Delhi-Sirsa road and Hisar station road, all the other roads were unmetalled. The unmetalled roads were for the most part in very bad condition. In sandy areas, these were completely covered by drifting hillocks of sand and the way-farer found it easier to trudge across the neighbouring fields. The wheeled traffic was confined to large towns and the ordinary means of transport was the camel.<sup>2</sup> In 1915, the only metalled (*kankar* soled probably) was Fatehabad-Bhattu which was a railway feeder road and all other roads except a small portion of Delhi-Sirsa road, were unmetalled.<sup>3</sup> No worthwhile progress was made in the road development till the Independence and only Delhi-Sirsa road (a section of Delhi-Multan road) was taken over by the Public Works Department from the District Board in 1924 and metalled. In 1947, the total metalled road length in the district was 137 kilometres which included Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki road (119.74 kilometres) and roads at Hisar and Hansi towns, 17.64 kilometres. Besides, there were a few *kankar* roads.

After Independence, greater emphasis was laid on the development of the communication and large number of roads were constructed. The progress of road development was marked after the formation of

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 218.

2. *Ibid*, 1904, pp. 190-91.

3. *Ibid*, 1915, map.



Haryana in 1966. In 1970, the government embarked upon a crash programme to link every village with a metalled road. In 1978, the district had a network of 1,888 kilometres of metalled roads and 407 villages out of 486 villages were connected by metalled roads.<sup>1</sup>

## ROADS AND ROAD TRANSPORT

### Roads

At the time of Independence, the Hisar district had 137 kilometres of metalled roads. The post Independence era particularly after the formation of Haryana witnessed a considerable expansion in the road construction. The phased progress of road development achieved in the district since 1947 along with position as it obtained in 1978 is given below :

Period	Total Metalled Road Length	Length Per 100 Sq. Km. of Area
1947	137.00	2.16
First Five Year Plan 1951-56	289.69	4.57
Third Five Year Plan 1961-66	710.81	7.30
1968	797.75	12.6
1975	1,519.72	24.0
1978	1,888.25	29.80

The above table would indicate that the progress was marked after the formation of Haryana. This road length when examined on area basis shows that the district has about 29.80 kilometres on 100 square kilometres of area against 35.30 kilometres in the Haryana. The development of roads in the district shows that metalled roads increased by about 247 kilometres between 1961 and 1966 and the increase mainly took place under the state highways and district major roads. The other categories of roads did not increase. In 1970, the government embarked on a crash programme of village link roads also and the length of the metalled roads increased to 1,888 kilometres in 1978. The

1. All villages of Hisar district have been connected by link roads by 1982.

roads have been classified on the national pattern, i.e. national highways, state highways, major district roads, other district and village link roads. The roads maintained by the Public Works Department in the district in 1978 are given below :

Class of the Roads	Length (kms)		
	Metalled	Unmetalled	Total
National Highway	119.74	—	119.74
State Highways	374.05	3.89	377.94
Major District Roads	157.88	0.20	158.08
Other District Roads and Village Link Roads	1,236.58	158.94	1,395.52

A brief description of important roads is given below :

#### National Highway

**Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki road (National Highway No. 10).**—The Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki road is the only national highway and the oldest road of the district. Prior to the Partition, it was known as Delhi-Multan road and follows the alignment of the old trade route from North-West Frontier to Delhi. It was unmetalled up to 1924 and only a small portion around the towns of Hisar and Hansi was metalled. The road was taken over by the Public Works Department from the District Board in 1924 and was metalled. Initially it was a single lane road of a metalled width of 9 feet (2.7 metres) and the overtaking of a vehicle was a serious problem as the shoulders of the road in the sandy areas were of a very soft material. It was gradually improved upon, width being improved from 9 feet (2.7 metres) to 12 feet (3.6 metres) and later to 22 feet (6.7 metres) in its entire length falling in this district.

The road passes right through the heart of the district entering it from Delhi side at 120 kilometres and passing through Hansi, Hisar and Fatehabad, it leaves the district at 239.74 kilometres after covering a length of 119.74 kilometres.

#### STATE HIGHWAYS

**Kalka-Ambala-Pehowa-Kaithal-Narwana-Fatehabad road (State Highway No. 2).**—The Narwana-Fatehabad section of the state highway enters the district from Narwana side at 185.28 kilometres near village Surewala (Jind district).



From here the road passes through Uklana, Bhuna and joins Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki road at Fatehabad covering a total length of 48.43 kilometres in the district. The traffic coming from important towns of Chandigarh, Ambala, Kurukshetra to Fatehabad passes through this road. The width of the road varies from 18 feet (5.5 metres) to 22 feet (6.7 metres) and its whole length is metalled and bitumen surfaced.

**Gohana-Jind-Barwala-Agroha-Adampur-Bhadra road (State Highway No. 10).**—The road enters the district from Jind side at 81.29 kilometres near village Mirchpur (Hansi tahsil). The road passes through Kheri Jalab, Barwala, Adampur, Agroha and crosses the boundary of the state to enter Rajasthan and goes to Bhadra covering a length of 84.79 kilometres in the district. The section from Kheri Jalab to Barwala was under construction in 1978. The other sections of the road are metalled, bitumen surfaced and 12 feet (3.6 metres) wide.

**Karnal-Asandh-Jind-Hansi-Tosham-Sodiwas road (State Highway No. 12).**—The road enters the district from Jind side near village Rajthal (Hansi tahsil) and after crossing Narnaund, joins Delhi-Hisar road at Hansi and proceeds onward to Tosham crossing the district boundary near village Hajampur (Hansi tahsil) covering a length of 40.71 kilometres in the district. The road is 12 feet (3.6 metres) wide and is metalled and bitumen surfaced.

**Panipat-Safidon-Jind-Bhiwani-Loharu road (State Highway No. 14).**—The Jind-Bhiwani section of the road enters the district from Jind side at 76.52 kilometres near village Kagsar (Hansi tahsil) and leaves the district boundary at 95.86 kilometres near village Bandaheri (Hansi tahsil) covering a length of 19.34 kilometres in the district. The road is 12 feet (3.6 metres) wide and is metalled and bitumen surfaced.

**Nizampur-Narnaul-Mahendragarh-Dadri-Bhiwani-Hansi-Barwala-Tohana-Munak road (State Highway No. 17).**—The Bhiwani-Hansi section of the road enters the district boundary from Bhiwani side and joins Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki road at Hansi. The road passes through Uklana, Tohana and crosses the district boundary near village Himatpura and goes to Munak (Sangrur district, Punjab). The road covers a length of 67.93 kilometres in the district. The width of the road varies from 12 feet (3.6 metres) to 18 feet (5.5 metres) and is metalled and bitumen surfaced.

**Barwala-Hisar-Rajgarh road (State Highway No. 19).**—The Hisar-Rajgarh section of the road starts from Barwala and joins Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki road at Hisar from where it proceeds to Rajgarh and crosses the district boundary near village Chaudhriwas rest house and covers a length of 51.15 kilometres in the district. It is a 18 feet (5.5 metres) wide road and is metalled and bitumen surfaced.

**Budhlada-Ratia-Fatehabad-Bhattu-Bhadra road (State Highway No. 21).**—

The Budhlada-Ratia section of the road enters the district from Budhlada (Bhatinda district, Punjab) side near village Bahmanwala at 32 kilometres and crosses the Ghaggar over a bridge near Ratia. The road further proceeds to Fatehabad where it joins Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki road. From Fatehabad, it proceeds to Bhattu and crosses the district boundary to enter Rajasthan at 97.59 kilometres near village Ramsara. The Fatehabad-Bhattu section is an old road which was initially constructed during the late 19th century to provide road link to the newly laid Rewari-Bhatinda metre gauge railway line. The entire length of the road in the district is 65.59 kilometres and except the small portion (about 0.89 kilometres) near the Rajasthan border, it is metalled, bitumen surfaced and 12 feet (3.6 metres) wide.

### Major District Roads

The major district roads provide important links with different towns and villages of the district. These roads are : Narwana-Tohana road (4.50 kilometres), Hisar-Balsamand road (24.60 kilometres), Balsamand-Burak road (6.80 kilometres), Hisar-Tosham road (11.78 kilometres up to district boundary), Tohana-Dharsul-Ratia-Rori road (57.98 kilometres up to district boundary), Jakhal-Dharsul-Bhuna-Pabra-Sarsod road (64.57 kilometres) and Bhattu-Ludesar-Jamalpur road (Bhattu-Ludesar section up to district boundary, 12.45 kilometres).

### Other Roads

The other roads include other district roads and village link roads. The district is well provided with metalled roads and up to the end of 1978, 407 villages of the district were connected with roads.

### Canal Inspection Roads

There are well maintained unmetalled inspection roads along the banks of the canals for serving only light vehicular traffic. These are maintained by the Irrigation Department and are not meant to be used by the general public.

### ROAD TRANSPORT

**Means of Conveyance.**—In ancient India we hear of bullock drawn carts and horse carriages as means of conveyance. The very rich rode on elephants and animals used by ordinary people were camels, horses and asses. The people travelled in groups and formed caravans mainly for pilgrimage to holy place or for trade. The roads were not fit for vehicles. The danger of theft and violence was usually too great to permit the passage of small unprotected convoys. The internal trade routes and the means of conveyance during the medieval period remained much the same as in the ancient period and there was no improvement in roads right up to the close of the 19th century. There



was also no substantial improvement in the means of conveyance. Towards the beginning of the 20th century, the chief means of transport of goods by road was the bullock cart and for passengers by road, a light springless cart known as *ekka* was almost the universal means of locomotion. In the sandy areas of the district, the camel was the chief means of transport of merchandise.

With the passage of time, metalled roads were constructed and subsequently improved vehicles came to ply on them. However, the growth of road transport was retarded as the roads in the sandy areas of the district were single lane roads with shoulders of very soft material where overtaking of vehicles presented a serious problem. Steadily, the roads have been widened and shoulders have been stabilized and through traffic can lately be seen on various roads of the Hisar district. The different means of conveyance available in the district comprise *thelas* and carts, horses and donkeys, country carts, tongas, bicycles, rickshaws, motor cycles and scooters, jeeps and station wagons, motor cars and buses, trucks, tractors and tempos (three wheeled motor transport). The tempo, which has appeared in this district a few years ago, has become a popular means of public transport, especially in rural areas. Tempos are also gainfully employed for carrying goods on short haulage.

The total number of registered vehicles on road in the district during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given in Table below. It indicates that there has been an all round increase in the number of vehicles. It was sharp in the case of trucks, buses, tractors and two wheelers. The increase in buses and trucks is indicative of the progress of road transport, passenger as well as goods.

Vehicles	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Cars	251	286	360
Taxis	10	15	17
Jeeps	355	363	376
Other Public Service Vehicles	227	235	374
Goods Vehicles	821	905	995
Tractors	1,995	2,205	2,452
Motor Cycle & Scooter	2,550	2,836	3,028
Auto-Rickshaw	22	25	27
Miscellaneous	224	193	1780
<b>Total :</b>	<b>6,455</b>	<b>7,063</b>	<b>9,409</b>

### Passenger Transport

Prior to the Independence, only a few private transport companies operated their buses in the district but afterwards the passenger transport was shared between public and the private sector. However, in 1972, the passenger transport in the district was entirely nationalised and routes operated by the private companies, viz., Hisar District Transport Company, Ltd., Hisar ; Hisar Nilibar Cooperative Transport Society Ltd., Hisar ; Lahore Sargodha Transport Company Private Ltd., Hisar ; Kapur bus Service, Hansi ; Ganjibar Bus Service, Hansi ; and Hansi Cooperative Transport Society, Hansi were taken over by the Haryana Roadways. It led to expansion and improvement in the frequency of bus service. The Haryana Roadways, Hisar with a fleet strength of 270 buses on March 31, 1978 catered to the bus routes in the district and inter-state routes extending to Punjab, Delhi and Rajasthan. The passenger transport spread over the district extensively and connected every corner of the district with important places in and outside the State.

The local city service is operated in Hisar town. The station wagons, tempos, three wheeler scooters have been registered as taxis and provide transport in urban areas and from convenient points in rural areas.

### Goods Transport

The operation of goods vehicles is entirely in the hands of private operators. It is largely run by single vehicle owners and is mostly unorganised. Nevertheless, there are two redeeming features. First, the system of booking agencies has developed which caters to the needs of operators and traders. The operators are provided with parking godowns and warehousing facilities and the traders with a regular satisfactory service. Second, the private operators have organised themselves to reduce competition to regulate traffic and to share profit. The trend now is to prefer goods transport by road even for long distances because the goods transport is prompt, quick and provides door-to-door delivery. The tractors are also used for transporting produce to the market towns. In 1978, there were 995 trucks and 2,452 tractors on road in the district.

The private truck operators are members of truck unions which supplies trucks at scheduled tariffs. There are private goods transport companies at each tahsil quarters and grain markets in the district.

### RAILWAYS

There are two broad gauge (1.676 metres or 5' 6" wide) and two meter gauge (3'3/8" wide or 1 metre) railway lines which serve the district. Hisar is



an important railway junction where Rewari-Bhatinda railway line passes and Ludhiana-Hisar and Sadulpur-Hisar railway lines terminate and it provides a transit for traffic from broad gauge to meter gauge for traffic to Sadulpur and Sirsa. Jakhal is another railway junction where Ludhiana-Hisar and Delhi-Bhatinda-Ferozepur railway lines cross.

**Ludhiana-Hisar Railway Line.**—It is a broad gauge line. Ludhiana-Jakhal section of the railway line was constructed in 1901 and was extended to Hisar in 1913. It enters the district from Ludhiana side, the first station falling thereon is Jakhal junction. It traverses the district through Kudni, Jamalpur Shekhan, Pirthla Laloda, Gajuwala, Uklana, Daulatpur, Barwala, Bugana, Dhansu and terminates at Hisar. It covers a distance of 83 kilometres in the district.

**Delhi-Bathinda-Firozepur Railway Line.**—It is a broad gauge railway line and was constructed in 1897. It passes through the north-eastern corner of the district and crosses Ludhiana-Hisar railway at Jakhal. It enters the district from Delhi side, the first station falling thereon is Tohana. It traverses through Himatpura and Jakhal.

**Delhi-Rewari-Bhatinda Railway Line.**—The Delhi-Rewari metre gauge railway line was constructed in 1873 and entered to Hisar in 1883 and further extended to Bhatinda in 1884. It is the oldest railway line in the district and with its opening, bulk of the grain traffic and other trade was diverted to it from Delhi-Sirsa road. It enters the district from Rewari side, the first railway station falling on it is Hansi. It traverses the district through Mayyer, Satrod, Hisar Junction, Neoli Kalan, Jakhod Khera, Adampur, Khabra Kalan and Bhattu and covers 80.74 kilometres in the district.

**Hisar-Sadulpur Railway Line.**—It is a metre gauge railway line and was constructed in 1911. It enters the district from Sadulpur side and after crossing Chiraud, it terminates at Hisar. It covers only 21 kilometres in the district.

#### FERRIES, BRIDGES AND NAVIGATION FACILITIES

All the major roads wherever they pass through streams, canals or their tributaries have bridges. The Ghagghar, the only major stream of the district is dry for the greater part of the year but the ferry service managed by the local gram Panchayat is available at Ratia, Allawalwas, Kalotha, Jakhal and Sandhanwas which is used by the villagers for transport of the animals and going to their villages during the rains. The income from these ferries is very small and these are maintained more for the convenience of the neighbouring villages than for the general traffic.

## CIVIL AVIATION

The Hisar aerodrome was commissioned in 1965. The aerodrome is under the control of Civil Aviation Club, Hisar and is being used for imparting flying training. In 1970-71, a privately managed air service was introduced from Delhi-Patiala-Hisar and Delhi which was terminated after a period of about 6 months.<sup>1</sup>

## TOURIST FACILITIES

Before the advent of railways, the old time serais served the people by providing shelter and other facilities. Till the beginning of this century, there existed a number of serais on all the principal roads, but with the change of times and improvements in the means of transport, these serais have ceased to exist as an institution. Nevertheless, almost every village and the town has a *chopal* or a dharmasala, the maintenance of which is a tradition of the area. There are many dharamsalas in towns which owe their origin to the generosity of the rich residents. There are no good hotels worth the name in the Hisar district except Flamingo motel at Hisar run by the Haryana Tourism Corporation having 4 suites. There are rest houses at all important places in the district for the stay of touring officials. These rest houses are maintained by Public Works Department, Irrigation Department, Forest Department, Haryana State Electricity Board, railway and civil authorities. A list of the rest Houses is given in table IX of Appendix.

## POSTS, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONES

## Post Offices

Towards the close of the 19th century, there were 14 imperial post offices located at Hisar, Balsamand, Barwala, Hansi, Narnaund, Agroha, Bhuna, Bhattu, Fatehabad, Ahrwan, Ratia, Tohana, Pabra and Jamalpur.<sup>2</sup> The number of post offices increased to 27—6 sub offices and 21 branch offices in 1912 and 36—9 sub offices and 27 branch offices in 1935.<sup>3</sup>

In 1966, there was a head post office, 20 sub post offices and 173 branch post offices. These post offices were under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Hisar Division, Hisar. There was a steady increase in the post offices and in 1978 the number of

1. In 1982, a regular domestic flight was introduced between Delhi-Hisar-Chandigarh for the facility of civil population.

2. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892-93, p. 219.

3. *Hissar District Gazetteer Part B, Statistical Tables*, 1912, Table 31 and *Ibid*, 1935, table 31.



post offices was one head office, 41 sub post offices and 246 branch offices. All the villages in the district were provided with daily mail delivery and in Hisar, Hansi, Barwala, Tohana, Uklana and Fatehabad, the mail was delivered twice on all the days of the week except Sundays and national holidays.

### Telegraphs

Towards the close of 19th century, there was only one telegraph line along Delhi-Rewari-Bhatinda railway line in the district with telegraph offices at each railway station. There were postal telegraph offices at Hisar and Hansi. In 1966, there was a telegraph office at Hisar and 16 post Offices which provided telegraph facilities. In March 1978, the telegraph facilities were available at the Central Telegraph Office, Hisar and 24 post offices in various parts of the district as per list in table X of Appendix.

### Telephones

In 1978, telephone exchanges were functioning at the following places :—

Name of Exchange	Year of Establishment	No. of Telephone
1. Hisar	—	1,638
2. Hansi	1952	294
3. Tohana	1956	191
4. Uklana	1957-58	99
5. Adampur	1959	90
6. Jakhal	1960	54
7. Fatehabad	1961	234
8. Barwala	1968	50
9. Bhattu Kalan	1969	34
10. Ratia	1975	38
11. Bhuna	1976	27
12. Badopal	1976	14

The automatic dialing system was introduced at Hisar in 1975. Besides, telephone facilities for the general public were available at 34 public call offices at Central Telegraph Office, Hisar; Hisar Textile Mill, Hisar; Multani Chowk, Hisar; Model town, Hisar; Patel Nagar, Hisar; Railway station, Hisar; Hisar city, Hisar; Hisar Kachery; Hisar, Agricultural University, Hisar; Hisar Nai Mandi; Fatehabad city; Fatehabad Nai Mandi; Hansi; Hansi Anaj Mandi; Barwala city; Barwala Mandi; Badopal; Barsi; Bhuna; Bhattu Kalan; Dhana; Jakhal Mandi; Mandi Adampur; Narnaund; Putthi Mangal Khan; Ratia; Sisai; Satrod Khurd; Sanyana; Tohana city; Tohana Mandi; Uklana Mandi; Mundhal and Kharar.



## CHAPTER VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Miscellaneous occupations falling under tertiary sector of economy not finding mention elsewhere are described in the following pages. These professions comprise services; public, defence, private, personal and domestic or self employment to meet the daily needs of people. The growth of these occupations depends greatly on economic development. During the beginning of the 20th century, almost three-quarters of the population of the district were engaged in agriculture or in occupations auxiliary thereto or were dependent on such persons. The remaining quarter of the population, except a few who were employed in state service or railways earned their livelihood by supplying the wants of the agricultural population.<sup>1</sup> To name a few, these occupations included potters, blacksmiths, carpenters, shoe-makers, barbers, *teli*, water-carriers, and the like. These services in villages were customary and they patronised their clients. In towns, the position was not very different but sometimes the payment was cash and few of them had opened their shops. These occupations have undergone a major change and now conforms broadly to the all-India pattern.

#### PUBLIC SERVICES

Persons in public services form a very small proportion of the total population but have major role in every activity of the district. These include number of persons employed in administrative departments and offices of state government, central government, quasi-government organisations, local bodies, etc. Roughly half per cent of the total population of the district was employed in public service in 1881 and there was hardly any improvement till the Independence giving in general the idea about the absence of the government involvement in the welfare of the masses. The chief functions of the British administration were law and order and revenue collection. After Independence the expansion in the welfare activities of the government led to creation of several development departments. Consequently, the number of employees increased and 1.2 per cent of the population were employed in public service in 1966. After the formation of Haryana in 1966, various

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 55.

development programmes were launched by the Haryana government and there was a significant growth in the number of public services and in 1976, more than 2 per cent of the population was involved in it. The following table indicates the growth of public services during 1976 to 1978 :—

Year	Employment in Public Services				
	Central Government	State Government	Quasi Government	Local Bodies	Total
1976	2,768	17,813	3,658	1,213	25,452
1977	1,825	15,978	4,276	1,192	23,271
1978	1,794	16,930	4,949	1,156	24,829

The persons in the government service are given dearness allowance related to the cost of living. Grade IV employees are provided with liveries. Loans and advances for the construction of houses, purchase of vehicle and celebration of marriages of children are granted to government employees.

Group Insurance scheme was introduced for all State government employees in 1976. Under this scheme each employee contributes rupee one per month which is deducted from his pay and provisions have been made to provide Rs. 5,000 to the family of the employee who dies while in service. The government has also made provisions for family pension, ex-gratia grant, free medical aid, free educational facilities up to the degree level to the children of the deceased government servant and employment to one or more members of the family besides house rent allowance or the retention of government house on usual rent for a year after the death of the government servant. Some categories of government employees are eligible for rent free accommodation. The government have also provided residential accommodation to government employees against a deduction of 10 per cent of the pay. Since government houses are limited, the allotment is made seniority-wise. The government employees who have not been provided with government accommodation, are paid house rent allowance according to classification of town on the basis of population. The rate of house rent allowance at Hisar, and Hansi is 7.5 per cent of the pay.

Employees in public service are not restricted from forming associations or unions to voice their grievances and to safeguard their service interest.



## DEFENCE SERVICES

The district was fairly popular as a recruiting ground for the British army and contributed a large number of recruits to different branches of the defence services during the two World Wars. The soldiers of the district gave prestigious performance during World War II and the military cross was awarded each to Sub. Bir Singh (village Biana Khara-Hansi tahsil) and Maj. Thandi Ram (Village Nehla-Fatehabad tahsil).

A large number of soldiers from the district fought gallantly for the country's defence during Jammu and Kashmir Operation, 1948 and the three aggressions from 1961 to 1971. The details of the officers and soldiers of the district who were awarded gallantry awards for their distinguished services on the battlefield are given below :

Recipient	Resident of Village/Tahsil	Award
<b>Jammu and Kashmir Operation, 1948</b>		
1. Brig. K.V. Lamba	Fatehabad/Fatehabad	Vir Chakra
2. Maj. Thandi Ram	Nehla/Fatehabad	Vir Chakra
3. Sepoy Ram Singh	Chandpura/Tohana	Vir Chakra (Posthumous)
4. Hon. Lt. Sheo Chand	Kuleri/Fatehabad	Vir Chakra
5. Sepoy Ran Singh	Balak/Hisar	Vir Chakra
6. Sepoy Har Chand	Amani/Tohana	Ashok Chakra (Posthumous)
<b>Indo-Pak Conflict-1965</b>		
1. Sqn. Ldr. S.N. Bansal	Hisar/Hisar	Vir Chakra (Posthumous)
2. Sub. Man Singh	Rajli/Hisar	Shaurya Chakra
<b>Pakistan Aggression, 1971 and after</b>		
1. 2nd Lt. Hawa Singh	Mirzapur/Hisar	Vir Chakra (Posthumous)
2. Hav. Kishan Singh	Kajla/Hisar	Vir Chakra (Posthumous)
3. Maj. Sher Singh	Abrer/Hisar	Sena Medal

1	2	3	4
4.	Sqn. Ldr. S.N. Rathore	Hisar/Hisar	Vayu Sena Medal
5.	Comdr. B.S. Uppal	Hisar/Hisar	Nao Sena Medal
6.	Wing Comdr. Tejwant Singh	Uklana Mandi/Hisar	Shaurya Chakra

Seventy one soldiers belonging to the district were reported killed or wounded during the Pakistan Aggression, 1971.

The state government have granted several concessions to the armed forces personnel and their families belonging to Haryana. These concessions include rewards in the form of cash and annuity to winners of gallantry decorations; employment concessions by way of reservation of vacancies, age and educational relaxation; and pension, ex-gratia grants and educational grants to the armed force personnel or the families of those killed, disabled or declared missing. These concessions are graded according to the status of the personnel or the extent of disability. Further facilities by way of reservation of industrial and residential plots, houses of the Housing Board, Haryana and exemption from house tax are also provided to the ex-servicemen.

The Zila Sainik Board, Hisar looks after the welfare of the ex-servicemen and the families of the serving defence personnel. Two funds namely Post War Service Reconstruction Fund (raised during the World War-II) and the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of ex-servicemen (raised in 1964) have been created by the Government of India for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their dependents. The income from these funds is mainly utilised for grant of stipends to ex-servicemen/their dependents and grant of loans to the ex-servicemen for their rehabilitation.

#### SERVICES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

With the growth of economic activity, employment avenues increased within private sector also. Although the people preferred government employment due to security of service and benefits of dearness allowance, house rent allowance, etc., yet the private sector absorbed a significant section of the population. The skilled and experienced persons in private sector get an edge even over the government employees in the matter of wages and other benefits. The provision of bonus, overtime allowance, contributory provident fund and non-transferable status of the employment were quite a few provisions which made



employment in private service attractive. The industrial and commercial establishments, shops, schools and other educational institutions provide most of employment in private sector. Over 11 thousand persons were employed in the district in private sector in 1977-78. There are adequate measures under various labour laws to look after the welfare of workers in industrial establishment.<sup>1</sup>

The commercial establishments and shopkeepers in towns employ assistants, shop assistants, salesmen and helpers. The working conditions and wages of these employees are regulated through the provisions of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958.

The pay scales of teachers in private institutions are same as of those in government institutions. The teachers in private colleges like those in government colleges are governed by scales prescribed by the University Grants Commission.

#### PERSONAL SERVICES

These services include barbers, washermen and tailors.

**Barbers.**—The hair dressing, hair cutting and shaving services are rendered by barbers.

The barber performed customary services to his clients. He combined the occupation of shaving and hair cutting and messenger of news of weddings and other auspicious events. He took leading part in all family ceremonies. He was not given any fixed remuneration but was given a share in harvest like other village menials.

The old practice of family barber has faded away. The barbers in rural areas still patronise their clients and visit their houses for service and get the remuneration in kind. At some places they have opened shops or use the front room of their houses but visit the houses of their clients when called. In urban areas, the barbers have opened their shops and a few of them have employed barbers on monthly wages. The barbers in Hisar town have their union and its members follow the rules and regulations, rates and other matters.

Barbers particularly in rural areas play an important role at social ceremonies. The *nain* (wife of the barber) does some sort of hair cleaning and hair dressing for women in villages. Her presence on some social and religious ceremonies is necessary. This age-old practice have vanished in urban areas and is also decreasing in rural areas.

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1. For more details see Chapter on 'Other Social Services'.

The number of barbers, hair cutters, hair dressers and related workers in 1976 was about 1,837.

**Washermen .—**Washermen include *dhobis*, launderers and dry cleaners. In rural areas, people do their own washing. In urban areas, washermen collect clothes from their customers. Of late, with the introduction of synthetic yarn clothes, washing by *dhobis* is on the wane. The people get their terrycot or terene clothes dry cleaned or wash these clothes themselves and get it pressed from *dhobis*. Many *dhobis* have now opened pressing stalls on street corners and do pressing work at their laundry shops where they do washing and dry cleaning also. Many exclusive shops for dry cleaning have also been opened which are equipped with automatic and steam pressing plants.

In 1976, there were 615 persons engaged in this service.

**Tailors .—**It includes tailors, dress makers, and related workers. They are widely spread in urban and rural areas. In urban areas the tailors make shirts, bushirts, pants, coats, pyjamas, ladies suits and blouses while in rural areas they make shirts, pants, pyjamas and ladies suits. With the passage of time, the style of clothes have undergone a complete change in the urban areas and the people increasingly wear modern clothing and latest fashion wear. The tailoring charges vary from place to place and shop to shop but rates are lower in rural areas than in urban areas.

The number of tailors in 1976 was 2,790.

#### SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS

The scope of self-employed is very wide. It includes weavers, shoe-makers and cobblers, sweepers, potters, pedlers, hawkers, priests and all those persons who produce articles of use or provide their individual services on demand. Another class is that of rickshaw pullers, *rehra* and tonga drivers and auto rickshaw and tempo drivers. The following paragraphs will detail the activities of all these self employed persons.

The time old weavers, shoe-makers, sweepers, potters and priests are spread throughout the district and serve the rural as well as urban people. Most of them in rural areas help the farmers in their fields and perform customary professional services on the occasion of marriages and other ceremonies. The shoe-maker and cobbler with his equipment hanging by the shoulder may be seen hawking for his services in the



street. They usually attend to repairing and mending of shoes. The potters make ordinary vessels mostly for the use of villagers but also make pitchers and *surahis* during summer season. The sweepers engaged in cleaning houses in urban areas get a few rupees per month in addition to a *chapati* daily or weekly and occasionally small gifts in cash and kind on festivals and other ceremonies. Performance of religious ceremonies has been a full time occupation of priests who conduct worship and perform rites in accordance with religious scriptures and recognised practices in temples or at the house of their clients. Some of them practise the art of astrology and palmistry. They make their living in return for their services.

Hand cart pedlers and hawkers go about the towns and villages hawking their goods. They sell articles of daily use, vegetables, fruits, eatables, general merchandise, crockery, clothes and toys.

Transport has also attracted quite a few persons who have hired rickshaws, some have managed to own auto rickshaw or tempo through bank loans. Still another category is of *rehra* or horse cart or tonga drivers. The *rehra* drawn by camels or bullocks or horse cart is used for transporting luggage, grains or other miscellaneous things and is popular in *mandis*. The tonga which was very popular before the Partition, is very rare sight though a few tongas are used for haulage between the town and sub-urban villages. The rickshaw which appeared after the Partition, provides a cheap means of conveyance and has become very popular for local haulages. Of late, the auto rickshaw and tempos have appeared on the scene. The tempos are used for sub-urban haulage whereas auto rickshaws ply in towns and supplement rickshaw and local bus service.

These are few self-employed persons which needed special mention but the account will be incomplete if we do not mention professions like *thatheras*, *halwais*, *pan bidi* sellers, cycle, scooter and motor cycle repairers, and soft drink bottlers. The services of these miscellaneous self-employed persons meet the daily requirement of the community at large and follow the general pattern of daily Indian life in a town or a village.

#### DOMESTIC SERVICES

The domestic service include cooks, servants and maid servants. Employing of a domestic servant was considered as a sign of affluence, in the past. People of high class in towns and some land-lords in

villages used to engage servants for domestic work. These servants were drawn mostly from under employed population. A domestic servant was paid between Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per month in addition to meal and clothes till about the first quarter of 20th century. With the passage of time and opening of other avenues which provided increasing opportunities of employment elsewhere, the domestic service has become costlier and is not easily available. However, part time maid servants to supplement their meagre family income help in washing and cleaning of utensils on an average payment of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per month. A few domestic servants who come from other parts of the country, have been employed by affluents and are paid Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 per mensem beside food and clothing. In rural areas hardly any family employs servant for domestic work. The *halis* besides attending to agricultural operations do domestic chores for their masters.



## CHAPTER IX

### ECONOMIC TRENDS

#### LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

In the beginning of the 20th century, almost three quarters of the population of the district were engaged in agriculture and in occupations auxiliary thereto or were dependent for their means of subsistence upon persons so engaged. Excluding the persons in the service of the state or railways, all the remaining quarter earned their livelihood by supplying the wants of the agricultural population.<sup>1</sup>

There was hardly any change in the livelihood pattern till the Independence when according to the 1951 Census 75.9 per cent of the population of the then district depended on agriculture, 5.4 per cent on production and the rest on commerce, transport and other services. The irrigation from the Bhakra Nangal Project was first provided to the district in 1952-53 and extended progressively to more and more areas. The agricultural pattern of the district underwent transformation into an improved agricultural pattern and there was a shift in the system of land utilisation. The intensity of cropping also increased which in turn provided more employment at the farms throughout the year. Increased agricultural production added to the scope of employment and even necessitated the inflow of labour. The loading of grain and its transport and marketing also provided employment. The increased agricultural production which is a pre-requisite to industrialisation brought the development of industries like flour mills, cotton ginning and pressing factories, textile mills, etc. The 1961 Census revealed that 79.6 per cent of the workers in the then district were actually working as cultivators and agricultural labourers, 6.7 per cent working in industries and 13.7 per cent working in construction, trade and commerce, transport and communication and other services.

The break up of workers' participation into different industrial categories has been worked out for the present district on the basis of 1971 Census. Out of the total population of 11,27,525 persons, 3,19,548 were engaged in some kind of economic activities. The workers were thus 28.3 per cent of the district population as against 26.4 per cent

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 55.

of the state. The district ranked third as regards the labour participation rate. The classification of the workers into different industrial categories as per 1971 Census is given below<sup>1</sup> :

Industrial Category	Workers	Percentage to Total Workers
(i) As Cultivator	1,73,481	54.3
(ii) As Agricultural labourer	54,934	17.2
(iii) In Mining, Quarrying, Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Plantation, Orchards and Allied Activities	7,303	2.3
(iv) In Household Industry	8,448	2.6
(v) In Other than Household Industry	15,351	4.8
(vi) In Construction	4,355	1.3
(vii) In Trade and Commerce	21,616	6.8
(viii) In Transport, Storage and Communication	5,684	1.8
(ix) In Other Services	28,376	8.9

#### STANDARD OF LIVING

Towards the close of 19th century the average annual consumption of foodgrains by a family of a man and wife, two children and an old person was reported to be as follows<sup>2</sup> :—

Class	Annual Food Consumption (in Kgs)						
	Wheat	Gram	Bajra	Moth	Mung	Urd	Total
Agriculturists	—	—	1,188.5	236.9	—	—	1,425.4
Non-Agriculturists	221.1	110.1	335.7	—	147.4	72.8	887.1

It was estimated that the ordinary household expenditure of a peasant family in easy circumstances averaged from Rs. 8 to 10 per month while that of a shopkeeper was as much as Rs. 15 or 20<sup>3</sup>.

The commercial classes were generally well off as they generally managed to turn a monthly profit at least equal to their expenditure.

1. *Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 1978-79*, pp. 31-34.

2. *Hissar District Gazetteer, 1883-84*, p. 28.

3. *Ibid*, p. 32.



On the whole, the agricultural classes were also in fairly comfortable circumstances in spite of the adverse agricultural conditions under which they lived and this was largely due to the absence of any excessive pressure of population on the soil.<sup>1</sup>

Around the beginning of the present century, the availability of food was the only measure of standard of living in the absence of educational, health and other essential facilities. After Independence, the increase in agricultural production due to mechanisation, use of fertilizers and improved seeds and increased irrigation facilities led to much improvement in the economic well being of the agriculturist. This, in turn, helped them in wiping out their debts and have an improved standard of living. Slowly and steadily they began to adopt modern facilities. Most of the people now have pucca houses, moderately furnished. Means of transport, electricity, proper clothing, medical care and above all more employment have made a decent rural living. With the extension of educational facilities and awakening, the rural life is coming closer to town life.

#### PRICES AND WAGES

##### Prices

No authentic record of prices is available for the period prior to 1861. Prices of the principal foodgrains are available for the subsequent years which show the price trends prevailing in the then Hisar district during the second-half of the 19th century and the first-half of the 20th century. These prices can be seen in table XI of the Appendix which gives retail prices from 1861-65 to 1953. The prices rose considerably over the period and the rise was more than 600 per cent. The World War I in 1914, caused a sudden rise in prices. The upward trend of prices continued up to 1929 when the general depression brought a big slump in the market accompanied by unemployment. Due to successive failure of harvests from *kharif* 1928 onward, the district was in the grip of famine in 1929-30. The catastrophic fall in the prices of agricultural produce coupled with failure of harvest during 1931-1936 reduced the resources of the agriculturists to a very low level. In 1936-37, the prices of all important crops rose to some extent and the price rise was steep after the outbreak of World War II in 1939 but the district was shattered by famine which continued upto 1941-42. After 1941-42, the district was free from famines and the prices of agricultural commodities rose appreciably. The central government imposed price control in December, 1941 which continued up to January,

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1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, pp. 113-114.

1943 when decontrol on prices was announced. The state government fixed the maximum wholesale price of wheat of average quality in 1944. In 1945, statutory control over prices of wheat, wheat products, barley, paddy, *bajra* and *jowar* was announced by the state government. The control over the prices of barley, *bajra* and *jowar* was lifted in 1947 and of wheat and gram in 1948.

The prices during the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) showed a zig-zag movement. The prices of foodgrains and other articles showed an upward trend in 1952 and continued steady thereafter with a dip in 1954-55 when almost all major crops except wheat registered a steep fall. The prices in the Second Plan period (1956-61) exhibited an upward trend till the government adopted the policy of state trading in foodgrains from April 1, 1959 and the price rise was arrested. However, the state trading was abandoned in 1961-62 owing to improvement in the food situation and the central government in collaboration with the state government adopted a policy of procurement to build up a buffer stock with a view to stabilise the prices of the foodgrains.

The prices of agricultural produce increased enormously during the Third and Fourth Five Year Plans, the increase being unprecedented during the Fourth Plan. The comparison of prices of basic commodities prevailing during 1957-58 and 1977-78, as given in the following table, would reflect enormous increase in the prices during the last two decades :—

Commodity	Prices in Rupees Per Kg.	
	1957-58	1977-78
(1) Wheat flour	0.45—0.46	1.40—1.60
(2) Pulses	0.42—0.82	3.00—4.10..
(3) Mustard Oil	2.19	8.00
(4) Milk	0.44	2.00
(5) <i>Desi</i> Ghi	5.00	25.00
(6) Sugar	0.81	2.85
(7) Coarse Rice	0.52—0.62	2.00

The Economic and Statistical Organisation, Haryana has worked out consumer price index of working classes taking price index as 100



for the year 1972-73. The price index of Hisar district was 134 in 1975 and 144 in 1978 as compared to 141 and 151 of the state.

## WAGES

During the last quarter of the 19th century, the wages of the skilled and unskilled labour per day were 25 to 30 paise and 12 to 15 paise respectively. The hired labour were generally employed in weeding and harvesting and the labour were in nearly all cases village menials. The wages varied, when the harvest was good and the work plentiful. The labour got comparatively high wages, sometimes up to 25 paise plus a meal per day. The agricultural labour were by no means dependent on field labour alone but practised other handicrafts such as weaving, curing skins, etc. During the beginning of the 20th century, the labourer in dry years usually got 20-25 paise and one meal a day but during good harvest the wages rose to 50 paise and one meal a day. These high wages were, of course, prevalent at the harvest time. The wages of skilled and unskilled labour rose in the subsequent years and varied between one rupee 15 paise to one rupee 40 paise for skilled labour and 40 paise to 60 paise for unskilled labour in 1927. There was a steep fall in the wages after 1929-30 and the skilled labourer was available between 40 to 50 paise per day and unskilled labour from 12 to 25 paise per day during the year 1932.

In 1937, the common rate of daily wage in the Hisar district was 25 paise per day. The masons were paid at the rates varying from 50 paise to one rupee. The wages of blacksmith also varied from half rupee to one rupee. The ploughman got monthly wages between Rs. 6 to Rs. 10. The outbreak of the World War II in 1939 caused a rise in wages of both skilled and unskilled labour. When the wage census was taken in December 1943, the rate of daily wages for unskilled labourers in the district was 75 paise and that of carpenter and blacksmith was Rs. 2.10. The daily wages of mason varied from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.56. The minimum monthly wages of ploughman were Rs. 13 whereas the maximum were Rs. 27.

In 1951, the lowest rate of wage of unskilled labour was Rs. 1.50 per day in Hisar district which was six times the rate of 1937. The daily wages of carpenter and other skilled labour varied from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5.

The wages remained constant during fifties but after 1959-60 the wages began to rise and rise was steep after 1969-70. The maximum daily wage of a labourer in 1957 was Rs. 4.00 which increased to

Rs. 6.42 in 1967 and Rs. 10.43 in 1972. In 1978, the highest daily wage of a skilled worker was Rs. 16.33 and that of agricultural labour Rs. 13.25. The wages in the district were higher than the state average. It may also be noticed that wages of an unskilled labourer increased about three times in the district between 1960 and 1978 while in the same period the wages of skilled labourers increased by more than four times.

#### GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

In the absence of any data, it is difficult to arrive at the magnitude of unemployment or under-employment in the district. However, some idea of employment situation can be gathered from working of employment exchanges in the district.

**Employment Exchanges .—**The District Employment Exchange was established at Hisar in 1947 and upgraded to Divisional Employment Exchange in 1974. A University Employment Information and Guidance Bureau, Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar and a Town Employment Exchange, Hansi were opened in 1971. In 1977-78, there were three employment exchanges in the district. The statistics maintained by these employment exchanges is the only source of assessment of employment situation although the data is subject to a number of limitations. The relevant figures are set out below :

Year (ending December)	No. of Employment Exchanges	No. of Registration during the Year	No. of Vacancies Notified	No. of Applicants placed in Employ- ment	Applicants on the Live Register
1976	3	18,623	3,690	1,838	19,880
1977	3	21,362	5,989	2,687	23,935
1978	3	22,406	6,770	3,218	26,070

The problem of unemployment in the district is complex. Generally, there is shortage of experienced skilled work force and on the other hand there are large number of applicants having no work experience. On December 1978, there were 26,070 applicants on the live register of the employment exchanges functioning in the district. Out of these applicants only 790 were skilled workers and the remaining were un-skilled. Of the un-skilled workers 10,308 were matriculates 2,439



graduates and 335 were post-graduates and the remaining were non-matriculates. Thus there was an acute problem of unemployment for the un-skilled educated applicants. The number of persons seeking employment (as per live register) has increased from 19,880 in 1976 to 26,070 at the end of December, 1978.

However, the employment exchanges functioning in the district have improved quality of services with the help of employment market information and vocational guidance facility. The employment information is collected from all the establishments in the public sector and those establishments in the private sector which employed 10 or more persons. The industry-wise data is tabulated quarterly. This data indicates the employment trend in various industries.

In 1978, there were 416 establishments in the public sector and 209 in the private sector on the record of the employment exchanges in the district. The employment in the public and private sector has increased from 35,443 in 1976 to 36,451 in 1978.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The community development programme in the district was launched in 1953 when the first block at Hansi was established. By 1962, the entire rural population of the district was covered by the development blocks. The district has 10 blocks and the number of villages, rural population covered and the area of each block as in 1978 is given as under :—

Block	No. of Villages	Population Covered	Area (Sq. Kms)
1. Hisar I	27	65,165	433.73
2. Hisar II	58	1,15,591	981.27
3. Tohana	79	81,684	554.40
4. Barwala	37	94,597	533.74
5. Hansi I	40	99,104	619.19
6. Hansi II	29	88,249	439.83
7. Narnaund	34	79,099	412.00
8. Fatehabad	56	1,08,526	854.02
9. Bhuna	53	1,39,949	781.00
10. Ratia	77	94,940	704.22

The community development programme in the district has embraced multifarious fields like distribution of chemical fertilizers among the farmers, reclamation of land, pavement of lanes, inoculation/vaccination of animals and opening of adult education centres. These community development programmes have a great impact on the community life in villages. It has helped to bring significant changes in their life pattern and thinking. Villagers have shed their earlier opposition to modern techniques of agriculture. They now unreservedly take advantage of the facilities provided by the development institutions and are actively participating in the cooperative movement, small savings, health and sanitation, cattle development and similar other activities.

Block	Pop. (1951)	Pop. (1961)	Area (sq. km.)
1. Haryana	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11
2. Punjab	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11
3. Uttar Pradesh	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11
4. Bihar	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11
5. Madhya Pradesh	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11
6. Gujarat	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11
7. Maharashtra	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11
8. Karnataka	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11
9. Andhra Pradesh	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11
10. West Bengal	1,15,111	1,15,111	1,151.11



## CHAPTER X

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

#### ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Hisar district consists of four tahsils namely ; Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad and Tohana. The number of villages in each tahsil in 1978 is given below :

Sub-Division	Tahsil/Sub-tahsil	No. of Villages
Hisar	Hisar	83
	Adampur (Sub-tahsil)	32
Hansi	Tohana <sup>1</sup>	86
	Hansi	119
Fatehabad	Fatehabad	99
	Ratia <sup>2</sup> (Sub-tahsil)	67
Total :		486

To decentralise the authority in the administrative set-up, the district is divided into 3 sub-divisions, Hisar, Hansi and Fatehabad. Fatehabad and Hansi sub divisions were created in 1961 and 1964 respectively and are coterminous with their respective tahsils where as Hisar sub-division was created in 1965 and coincides with the tahsils of Hisar and Tohana. In 1978, the strength of the sub-division and tahsil officers was as follows :—

Sub-Division	Tahsil	Officers	Strength
1	2	3	4
Hisar	Hisar	Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil)	1
		Tahsildar	1
		Naib Tahsildars	2
	Adampur (Sub tahsil)	Naib Tahsildar	1
			1
	Tohana	Tahsildar	1
		Naib Tahsildar	

1. A Sub-division was formed at Tohana in 1981.

2. Ratia Sub-tahsil was upgraded to a tahsil in 1981.

1	2	3	4
Hansi	Hansi	Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil)	1
		Tahsildar	1
		Naib Tahsildars	2
Fatehabad	Fatehabad	Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil)	1
		Tahsildar	1
		Naib Tahsildars	2
	Ratia (Sub-tahsil)	Naib Tahsildar	1

#### DISTRICT AUTHORITIES

**Deputy Commissioner .—**The Deputy Commissioner is overall in-charge of the general administration in the district. He is under the administrative control of Commissioner, Hisar Division, Hisar.

As Deputy Commissioner, he is executive head of the district with multifarious responsibilities. As District Magistrate, he is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. He is the principal executive magistrate for the enforcement of security measures and exercises judicial powers under certain sections of preventive chapters of the code of criminal procedure. As Collector, he is the chief officer of the revenue administration in the district and is responsible for collection of revenue and all dues recoverable as arrears of land revenue. He is the highest revenue judicial authority in the district.

He supervises the maintenance of land records and agricultural statistics, besides the management of government land and estates. He is also entrusted with the implementation of land reforms and distribution of *taccavi* and other loans to agriculturists. The supervision of acquisition and requisition of land and administering relief measures in case of drought, flood and other natural calamities are some of his other duties. He also acts as the District Election Officer and Registrar for registration work. The miscellaneous duties include civil defence, Jails reformatories and poor houses, liaison with military authorities, welfare of defence personnels, collection of loans and supply of all sorts of information about the district. The co-ordination work of the Deputy Commissioner forms a very important part of his overall responsibilities. While co-ordinating the activities of various departments in the district, whenever necessary, he takes care not to interfere in their internal administration, and the procedures, methods and policies of their parent departments. He holds periodical meetings of all the district-officers with a view to review the progress of work done by the several departments and in co-ordinating and intensifying their efforts. He has to possess



a clear picture of the objectives of all departments so as to evolve an integrated approach to various developmental activities. The Deputy Commissioner has been authorised to inspect the offices of all the departments in the district and he may call for any report or information regarding those offices and their working. In reality, he is the head of the district administration, a co-ordinating officer among various departments and a link between the public and the government. He executes the policies, administers the rules and regulations framed by the government from time to time and also looks after the welfare, needs and requirements of the people.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner has been appointed to relieve the Deputy Commissioner of the work relating to rural development.

**Sub-Divisional Officer.**— The Sub-Divisional Officer is the chief civil officer of the sub-division. In fact, he is a miniature Deputy Commissioner of the sub-division. He has to perform executive, magisterial and revenue duties in the sub-division. An appeal from the orders of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in judicial cases pertaining to preventive chapters of the code of criminal procedure lies with the District and Sessions Judge. In revenue matters, he is Assistant Collector Grade I, but under certain Acts, the powers of Collector have been delegated to him.

**Tahsildar/Naiib Tahsildar.**— The Tahsildar and Naiib Tahsildars are the key officers in the revenue administration and exercise powers of the Assistant Collector Grade II. While deciding partition cases, the Tahsildar assumes the powers of Assistant Collector Grade I. The Tahsildar and Naiib Tahsildar perform the functions of sub-registrars. They assist the development staff for the execution of development plans, construction of roads, drains, embankments, soil conservation and reclamation, pavement of streets, filling up of depressions and work connected with rural reconstruction. The district is divided into 353 *patwar* circles and each circle is looked after by a Patwari who works under the immediate supervision of a Kanungo.

The Lambardar (a non-official) is quite an important functionary in the administration. He collects and deposits the land holdings tax, looks after the law and order in his area and any breach thereof is reported by him to the nearest police station and to the Deputy Commissioner's agency. He is assisted in his work by village chowkidar.

#### General Arrangement for Disposal of Business

In addition to sub-divisional and tahsil staff, there are two principal officers, the General Assistant and the Additional General Assistant who assist the Deputy Commissioner on all matters which are dealt in the Deputy Commissioner's office. Their duties are clearly demarcated. The

General Assistant is responsible for functions and works relating to establishment, revenue and defence etc., whereas Additional General Assistant looks after the work relating to panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, complaints and enquiries and low and middle income group housing schemes.

Various district committees have been constituted in the district. These committees help to redress the grievances of the people ; to review the progress of agricultural production and development ; to work out the ways and means to improve health and sanitation conditions ; to take suitable steps for the welfare of the ex-servicemen and their dependents; to work out integrated development of the towns and watch the progress of revenue collection and disposal of surplus land.

**Development Organisation .**—To implement various development schemes in the district , it has been divided into 10 blocks viz. Hisar I, Hisar II, Narnaund, Barwala, Tohana, Ratia, Fatehabad, Bhuna, Hansi I and Hansi II. The development block is looked after by an elected body known as Panchayat Samiti. Block Development and Panchayat Officer functions as an executive officer of the Panchayat Samiti and has the administrative control over the block. Each block has been provided with extension officers from the development, industries, agriculture, co-operative and Panchayat departments who function under the control of the Block Development and Panchayat Officer. This procedure helps in co-ordination of several developmental activities in the block.

For the implementation of programmes relating to the uplift of rural women in the blocks, the Block Development and Panchayat Officer is assisted by Mukhya Sevikas and Gram Sevikas. Various programmes undertaken by them include kitchen gardens, arts and crafts centres, *balwadis*, home decoration, poultry farming, etc.

Panchayats have been constituted at the village level to look after the development work.

#### POLICE ADMINISTRATION

The police administration is under the Senior Superintendent of Police, who next to Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The Senior Superintendent of Police functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Hisar Range, Hisar.

In 1977-78, there were 12 police stations and 6 police posts in the district.<sup>1</sup>

1. For details about the functioning of police, see chapter on 'Law and Order and Justice.'



## JUDICIARY

The District and Sessions Judge is the head of judicial administration of the district. The District and Sessions Judge functions under the direct control of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The District Attorney conducts civil cases in the courts of the district under the guidance of Legal Remembrancer, Haryana and criminal cases under the guidance of Director of Prosecution, Haryana, who is also the administrative and supervisory head of District Attorneys. In 1977-78, the District Attorney, Hisar was assisted by one Deputy District Attorney and 10 Assistant District Attorneys.

## OFFICIAL RECEIVER

There is an Official Receiver at Hisar appointed by government on the recommendations of the District and Sessions Judge. The Official Receiver is incharge of the insolvency estates. In case, a person applies for insolvency his property is put under his charge, and he disposes it according to the orders of the insolvency court keeping 7.5 percent of sale proceeds as his remuneration. He also acts as court auctioneer and gets 4 per cent commission on the auction proceeds.

## OATH COMMISSIONERS

There are 40 Oath Commissioners in the district. Out of these 26 are functioning at Hisar, 8 at Hansi and 6 at Fatehabad. They charge one rupee as attestation fee for each affidavit attested.

## REGISTRATION

The Deputy Commissioner is responsible for registration work in the district. The Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars perform the functions of sub-registrars.

## NOTARY PUBLIC

There is one Notary Public in the district for preparation and attestation of affidavits, certification of documents and administration of oaths, etc. The fee for attestation of affidavits is Rs. 2.50 and for certifying and authenticating the documents as original is Rs. 5.





## CHAPTER XI

### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

#### HISTORY OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

From the time of Firuz-Shah, Hisar was the headquarters of a *sarkar* or revenue division. In the time of Akbar, the *sarkar* of Hisar Firoza embraced the whole of the present district besides Sirsa, Rohtak and adjacent territory. Prior to the British annexation, there was no definite land revenue system and whatever reached rulers of the tract was in the form of the proceeds of forays by bands of armed men.<sup>1</sup> So far as there was any system, the demand was assessed in kind at a very variable proportion of the gross produce of the land. The rulers did not concern themselves with the distribution of its demand inside the village community, and all they looked to was the realisation of that demand from the community as a whole. The position has been summed up thus : "For many years prior to the British annexation, the tract included within the district had been practically a deserted waste, and there were neither cultivators to pay revenue, nor crops wherewith to pay it, nor any ruling power to collect it<sup>2</sup>."

The first summary settlement of the tract now included in the present Hisar district after its occupation by the British was made in 1809 for a period of 10 years by W. Fraser. It was followed by two other short term settlements. All these settlements were characterised by an exorbitantly high demand. In 1840, Brown settled the tract regularly for the first time and reduced the demand considerably.

The Nali circles of Fatehabad tahsil could not be settled by Brown in 1840 because of the uncertainty of boundry between the British territory and the Patiala State territory. Later in 1852, these villages were settled by Dumergue. The first revised settlement was made by Munshi Amin Chand in 1863 and was sanctioned for a term of 30 years. It further reduced the demand by 12½ per cent. In 1872, it was decided by the government to curtail the term to 20 years, however, it was allowed to run for 37 years as the new assessment was introduced only with effect from Kharif, 1890.

During 1889-92, the district was re-assessed by Anderson. The assessment imposed by him was based entirely on cash rents showing an increase of 58

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, p. 10 and *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 227.

2. *Ibid.*, 1892, p. 227.

per cent on the previous demand. Canal irrigated land was assessed to *barani* rates but owners' rates were imposed on the irrigation done in addition to the existing occupiers' rates. The settlement was sanctioned for a period of 20 years.

The district was resettled by C.A.H. Townsend during 1906—10 and the settlement was sanctioned for a period of 30 years. The details of the settlement tahsil-wise may be seen in *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, pages 220 to 233. However, brief description of tahsil-wise incidence of land revenue imposed in the 1906-1910 settlement is discussed as follows.

The Hansi tahsil was divided into two assessment circles, known as *barani* and *nahri*. The incidence for *barani* circle was Re. 0.72 (44.8 paise) per cultivated acre. In the *nahri* circle the rate for unirrigated land being Re. 0-8-0 (50 paise) per cultivated acre and for irrigated land being Re. 0-12-0 (75 paise) per cultivated acre. The *nahri parta* was assessed at rate of Re. 0-4-0 (25 paise) per acre. The Hisar tahsil was divided into three assessment circles, known as *bagar*, *barani* and *nahri*. The *bagar*, circle was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-5-0 (31 paise) per cultivated acre, while the *barani* circle was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-6-6 (40.6 paise) per cultivated acre. In the *nahri* circle the rates for unirrigated land were Re. 0-7-6 (46.9) paise per cultivated acre and irrigated land being Re. 0-12-0 (75 paise) per acre. The *nahri parta* in this circle was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-4-6 (28.1 paise) per acre. The Fatehabad tahsil was divided into five assessment circles, known as *bagar*, *barani*, *nahri*, *nali* and *rangoi*. The *bagar* circle was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-5-0 (31 paise) per cultivated acre. The *barani* circle was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-7-9 (48.4 paise) per acre. In the *nahri* circle, the unirrigated land was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-10-6 (65.6 paise) per acre and the *nahri parta* was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-4-0 (25 paise) per acre. The *nali* circle was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-9-0 (56.25 paise) per acre for *barani* land, Re. 0-12-0 (75 paise) per acre on *sailab* land and Re. 0-13-0 (81.2 paise) for *nahri* land. The *nahri parta* on land irrigated by Sirhind canal was assessed at Re. 0-4-0 (25 paise) per acre. Three villages of the circle were assessed at a higher rate, while the waste land was assessed for Rs. 4,000 a year. In the *rangoi* circle, the irrigated land was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-11-6 (71.9 paise) per acre, while all other land was assessed at the rate of Re. 0-7-6 (46.9 paise) per acre. A fixed demand was imposed on grazing land.<sup>1</sup>

The settlement worked well except in the years of bad rainfall, especially when two such follow each other in succession when the revenue

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1915, pp. 219—229.



was suspended liberally. In 1920-21, the collection of land revenue was 46 per cent of the demand in Fatehabad tahsil, 67 per cent in Hansi tahsil and 56 per cent in Hisar tahsil. Again due to successive failure of crops from kharif 1928 onward, the district was in the grip of famine in 1929-30 and collection of revenue was as follows :—

Year	(Revenue collection as percentage of demand)		
	Fatehabad Tahsil	Hansi Tahsil	Hisar Tahsil
1928-29	65	74	58
1929-30	34	62	43
1930-31	68	78	78

The hardship was further aggravated due to fall in prices in thirties and subsequent failure of crops and famine conditions in 1932-33, 1936-37, 1938-39, 1939-40, 1940-41 and 1941-42. The prices began to rise in 1941 and there was no major crop failure after 1941-42 and the land owners were better-off. The settlement sanctioned for 30 years, ran for several next years. The land revenue fixed at the last settlement had lost its relationship with income from land. There was sufficient increase in irrigated acreage. A phenomenal rise in the land values, development in road communication, decrease in mortgage debt and enormous rise in prices brought considerable prosperity to the land owners.

The government in order to avail a share of the enhanced income from land, levied surcharge in 1954 under the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954. Under the Act, every land owners who paid revenue in excess of Rs. 10 was liable to pay a surcharge thereon to the extent of one quarter of land revenue if the amount payable by him as land revenue did not exceed Rs. 30 and two fifth of the land revenue if it exceeded Rs. 30.

The special charge was levied under the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charges) Act, 1958, from the rabi harvest of agricultural year 1957-58. The rate of special charge was based on the income tax pattern with different slabs for different categories of land-owners. The slab rates were such that the incidence of special charge mainly fell on those who could afford to pay it. While the land holders paying revenue ('Land revenue' plus surcharge) up to Rs. 50 had been exempted from the provisions of the Act, those paying more than Rs. 1,000 were subjected to 300 per cent increase in land revenue.

A cess on commercial crops namely, cotton, sugarcane and chillies at the rate of Rs. 4 per acre in the case of land which was irrigated by canal water and Rs. 2 per acre in case of other land, had been levied from kharif 1963 under the Punjab Commercial Crops Cess Act, 1963. Areas under Commercial crops, sown solely for domestic use upto one *kanal* in the case of chillies and 2 *kanals* in the case of sugarcane or cotton were exempt from this levy.

An additional surcharge on the land revenue at the rate of 50 per cent was levied for the development of Kurukshetra University /town in 1967. Initially, this had been levied for kharif 1967 and rabi 1968, but it was extended for kharif and rabi harvests of the agricultural year 1968-69, under the Haryana Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Act, 1969. The levy of additional surcharge was further extended upto 1973-74 but it could only be collected upto 1972-73 on account of the enforcement of the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973.

The state government took the view that the collection of these levies had become cumbersome not only for the revenue agency but also for the cultivators. To meet the situation, the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973 repealed the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954, the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charges) Act, 1958, the Punjab Commercial Crops Cess Act, 1963 and the Haryana Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Act, 1969 and consolidated these levies into a single tax known as the land holding tax. However, the land holding tax shall not be levied and charged on land which is liable to special assessment under Section 59 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, or the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Assessment) Act, 1955. Further, during the period the above tax is levied and charged the land shall not be liable to payment of land revenue by way of general assessment under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, or the payment of local rate under the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961. The Act brings out a concept of holdings on the basis of a family rather than the individual as a unit for the purpose of imposition of tax and provides for graded taxation on the basis of holding size. The present (1978) rates of land tax are as under<sup>1</sup> :—

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1. The landowners of land holdings measuring 2.5 hectares or less were exempted from the payment of this tax with effect from November 15, 1978 by the Haryana Land Holdings Tax (Amendment) Act, 1978. Later a surcharge at the rate of 10 per cent on holdings exceeding 4.80 hectares but not exceeding 6 hectares and 15 per cent on holdings exceeding 6 hectares was levied with effect from June 16, 1979. Provided that no surcharge shall be leviable and chargeable in respect of the first hectares 4.80 of the land holdings.



Class of Land  
(specified in  
Schedule I)  
Comprising the  
Land Holding

Rate of Tax

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| I   | (a) Seventy paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ;<br>(b) One rupee per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ;<br>and<br>(c) One rupee and thirty five paise per 0.05 hectare for<br>remaining land. |
| II  | (a) Sixty paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ;<br>(b) Ninety paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ;<br>and<br>(c) One rupee and twenty paise per 0.05 hectare for the<br>remaining land. |
| III | (a) Forty paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ;<br>(b) Fifty paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ;<br>and<br>(c) Sixty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.                    |
| IV  | (a) Twenty-five paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one<br>hectare ;<br>(b) Forty paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four<br>hectares ; and<br>(c) Fifty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.           |
| V   | (a) Ten paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ;<br>(b) Fifteen paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four<br>hectares ; and<br>(c) Twenty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.                   |

Hisar District comprises the following assessment circles :—

1. Nahri
2. Barani
3. Bagar
4. Nali
5. Rangoi

The tahsilwise classification of land in different circles is as follows<sup>1</sup> :—

Tahsil	Class and Kinds of Land					
	Assessment Circle	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V
Hisar and Tohana	Nehri	<i>Nehri</i>	<i>Nehri (non-perennial Chahi)</i>	Un-Irrigated	<i>Sailab</i>	<i>Banjar Kallar Thur Sem Tal area</i>
	Barani	Do	Do	—	Unirrigated <i>Sailab</i>	Do
	Bagar	Do	Do	—	<i>Sailab</i>	Un-irrigated Tal Area <i>Banjar, Kallar Thur and Sem</i>
	Rangoi Nali	Do	Do	—	—	Tal area <i>Banjar, Kallar Thur and Sem</i>
Hansi	Barani Nehri	<i>Nehri (Prennial)</i>	Do	—	Unirrigated	<i>Banjar, Kallar, Thur and Sem</i>
Fatehabad	Bagar Nehri Barani	<i>Nehri</i>	<i>Chahi</i>	—	Unirrigated Tal Area	<i>Banjar, Kallar, Thur and Sem</i>
	Rangoi Nali	Do	Do	Unirrigated	Tal area	<i>Banjar, Kallar, Thur and Sem</i>

1. The classification of lands in the Hisar district is as per Schedule I of the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973.



**Special Assessment.**—The Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887 was amended by the Punjab Act XIII of 1952 to provide for special assessment of land put to non-agricultural use i.e. brick kilns, factories, cinemas, shops, hotels, houses and landing grounds and other similar purposes. The work of special assessment was started in 1955. In the meantime it was decided to levy the special assessment on *ad-hoc* basis as a multiple of the existing land revenue with *kharif* 1955. Exemption was provided for hill areas including sub-montaneous areas (for 10 years) ; gardens ; orchards ; houses occupied by owners for agricultural purposes or purposes subservient to agriculture ; small-scale cottage industries ; factories (for 10 years) ; and any public, charitable or religious purpose. It was further provided that residential houses in occupation by owners , with a rental value not exceeding Rs. 300 would be exempted from special assessment. The enforcement of special assessment was suspended from *kharif* 1964.

#### LAND REVENUE AND SPECIAL CESSES

**Land Holding Tax.**—The Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973 was enforced in 1973 and thereafter the collection of land revenue, surcharge, special charge, cess on commercial crops, additional surcharge and local rate was stopped and only land holding tax was collected. The collection of land holding tax during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year ending	Land Holdings Tax (Rs.)
1975-76	90,38,438
1976-77	84,98,950
1977-78	83,21,710

**Special Cesses.**—The cesses levied in the district included *lambardars'* cess, local rate and the Patwari cess. The *lambardars*, for collection of land revenue, were appointed during the settlement of 1840-41 and utmost looseness of practice was found to have prevailed in the matter of appointment of headmen or Mukaddams, as they were then called.<sup>1</sup> In many villages, there were several *lambardars* and one or more *lambardars* were appointed for each *pana* or *thula*. In some villages, the revenue of the whole village was collected by all *lambardars* jointly and they divided *pachhotra* equally. In other villages, each *lambardar* collected the revenue of his particular *pana* or *thula* and appropriated the *pachhotra*. Mukaddams or substitute *lambardars* were appointed in those village where proprietor, an absentee landlord

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 152.

was the real *lambardar*. Initially, these Mukaddams were personal servants of the landlord and were remunerated by the landlord paying them a certain percentage on his *jamabandi* or rent roll. Later, each absentee landlord was called upon to propose one or more men to be appointed as *lambardar* as his substitute under formal orders of the Collector. Their remuneration was also fixed at the usual 5 per cent *pachhotra* on the land revenue or sometimes at a certain percentage, generally 3 or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  on the landlords' rent roll.<sup>1</sup> In 1891, Zail Inamdars were appointed for *zails*, groups of villages and these *zails* have been arranged with a view of including, as far as possible, only the same or similar tribal elements in one *zail*. Besides, Sufedposh Inamdars were also appointed. They were selected as useful men to the government but for some reason or the other were not made Zaildars. They were not attached to any *zail*. The entitlement of each Zail Inamdar would be an *inam* assigned from the revenue. These *inams* were of first, second and third class and were of the value of Rs. 120, Rs. 100 and Rs. 80 per year respectively. The Sufedposh Inamdars were also distributed in two grades, the remuneration of which was Rs. 60 and Rs. 40 per annum respectively.

Till 1948, Zaildars and Sufedposhes continued to supervise and assist in the collection of land revenue. These institutions were finally abolished in 1952 and now only *lambardars* are responsible for the revenue collection. Prior to the enforcement of the Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973, the *lambardar* was paid *pachhotra* at the rate of 5 per cent of land revenue. Since various levies were consolidated into land holdings tax, the *lambardars'* allowance was fixed at 3 per cent of the new tax.<sup>2</sup>

Local rate has grown from small beginnings. It included road, school, dak and hospital cesses. These cesses were later consolidated into local rate which was subsequently enhanced a number of times and was later governed by the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad Act, 1961, when it was 50 per cent of the Land Revenue. With the enforcement of the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973, it was decided that during the period the land holding tax is levied, the land shall not be liable to the payment of local rate.

The *patwar* cess varied from village to village falling heaviest on small villages and the average for the whole district was 5.7 per cent on the land revenue. Upto 1885, the proceeds of *patwar* cess were not funded nor were the Patwaris graded. Each Patwari received the proceeds of the

1. Report of the Revised Settlement of the Hissar District, 1887-92, by A. Anderson and P.J. Fagan, p. 61.

2. It was raised to 5 percent in 1980-81.



cess levied in his circle. In 1885, the *patwar* cess was funded and Patwaris were arranged in three grades, the pay of which was Rs. 10, Rs. 9 and Rs. 8 per month respectively. In 1890-91, the *patwar* cess was sanctioned at a uniform rate of 5.2 per cent. The *patwar* cess was remitted in 1906.

**Water rate .—** Water rate (occupier's rate) were initially levied on the area irrigated during each crop under the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873 which was later referred by the Haryana Canal and Drainage Act, 1974. The rates were revised a number of times and the last revision was made in rabi 1949. The income for the 3 years since 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year ending rabi	Amount
	(Rs.)
1975-76	2,48,22,357
1976-77	2,92,32,849
1977-78	2,56,74,303

**Betterment charges .—**Betterment charges are levied under the Punjab Betterment Charges and Acreage Rates Act, 1952. It is levied on areas served by irrigation projects to recover part of the cost of the projects. The income from this levy from 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income
	(Rs.)
1975-76	25,94,436
1976-77	22,17,820
1977-78	1,64,603

#### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

An estate, which is usually identical to a village, is the unit of revenue administration. Each estate is individually assessed and its record of rights and register of fiscal and agricultural statistics maintained separately. All the proprietors are by law jointly responsible for payment of land revenue. Each estate is represented by one or more *lambardars* in its dealings with the government. Estates are grouped into *patwar* circles under the charge of a Patwari, while 15 to 20 circles form the charge of a Kanungo, whose duty is to supervise the work of Patwaris.

In 1978, the district was divided into tahsils, *kanungo* circles, *patwar*

circle and revenue estate as follows :—

Tahsil	Kanungo Circles	No. of Patwar Circles	No. of Revenue Estates
(7)			
Hisar	Hisar; Adampur; Bir-Hisar; Landhari Sukhlam Bran; Mangali; Balak; Balsmand	112	114
(2)			
Tohana	Tohana; Bhuna	33	71
(5)			
Hansi	Hansi; Narnaund; Kheri Jalaib; Sisai Kali Rawan; Barwala	101	119
(7)			
Fatehabad	Fatehabad; Ratia; Nagpur; Bighar; Bhattu Kalan; Badopal; Birdhana (Bhirrana)	107	182
Total :	4                      21	353	486

The following staff in the tahsils attend to the revenue work :—

Tahsil	Number of Tahsil- sildars	Number of Naib Tahsil- dars	Number of Office Kanun- go	Number of Asstt. Office Kanungo	Number of Kanun- gos	Number of Patwar- ris
Hisar	1	2	1	1	7	112
Tohana	1	—	1	1	2	33
Hansi	1	2	1	1	5	101
Fatehabad	1	2	1	2	7	107
Total :	4	6	4	5	21	353

The head of revenue administration in the district is the Collector (Deputy Commissioner). He is a steward of the state and is bound to respect and



preserve from encroachment every private right in the soil, which has been created or confirmed by the state. He must ensure and assist in the measures to prevent the damage to crops from causes which are in any degree controllable by man. He must encourage and assist in every effort made by a right-holder for the development of his estate. The Sub-Divisional Officer is Assistant Collector of the First grade but as a measure of decentralising, the powers of Collector under certain acts have been delegated to the Sub-Divisional Officer for their respective tahsils.

The Tahsildar is an important official and is in charge of the tahsil for revenue work including revenue judicial work. He has to control the *patwar* and *kanungo* agency. He has to collect revenue punctually, to point out promptly to the Collector any failure of crops or seasonal calamity, which renders suspension or remission necessary and to carry out within his own sphere other duties connected with land revenue administration. His work involves extensive touring, providing opportunities to deal on the spot with partition cases and other matters connected with the appointment of Lambardars, lapses of land revenue assignments, etc.

The Patwari is appointed for a circle consisting of one or more villages. Besides the proper maintenance of records, the Patwari is required to report to the Tahsildar any calamity affecting crops, cattle or the agricultural classes and to bring to his notice alluvial and diluvial action of rivers, encroachments of government lands, the death of revenue assignees and pensioners, progress of works made under the agricultural loans and similar laws, and the emigration or immigration of cultivators. He undertakes surveys and field inspections, aids in other government activities like distribution of relief, etc; prepares papers showing the land holdings tax demand due from each landowner and furnishes all information that may be required to facilitate the collections. He himself is not permitted to take any part in the collection of the revenue except when any Lambardar refuses to accept the total demand from each land-owner and no immediate alternative arrangement can be made.

The Patwari is under the immediate supervision of a circle supervisor known as Kanungo. The Kanungo is responsible for the conduct and work of Patwaris. He constantly moves about his circle, supervising the work of Patwaris, except in the month of September, when he stays at tahsil headquarters to check *jamabandis* received from Patwaris. There is an Office Kanungo in each tahsil who is Tahsildar's revenue assistant. His chief work is the maintenance of revenue records. He has also the charge of the forms and stationery required by Patwaris; keeps the account of mutation fee, records the rainfall and maintains the register of assignees of land revenue

and other miscellaneous revenue registers. He is the custodian of all the records received from Patwaris and a well ordered Kanungo's office is an important factor in the revenue management of a tahsil.

At district headquarters, there is a District or Sadar Kanungo assisted by a Naib Sadar Kanungo. The Sadar Kanungo is responsible for the efficiency of Kanungos and is normally in camp inspecting their work for at least 15 days in every month from October to April. He is the keeper of all records received from Kanungos and Patwaris. He maintains copies of the prescribed statistical registers for each assessment circle, tahsil and the district.

#### LAND REFORMS

The Hisar district, owing to its recent (towards the close of the 18th century) colonization and development, offers facilities for the novel study of growth of landed rights. Scarcely in any case, the history of rights in land go back further than that social upheaval of the district which was caused by the *san chalisa* famine of 1783. Prior to the famine, village communities were very sparsely scattered over the area at long distance from each other. Each separate household or family would break-up and cultivate what little land was required for its sustenance without interference from any other inhabitant, the cultivation being in scattered patches round the inhabited site. The demands of the state was distributed over land or over cattle or partly over the one or partly over the other. Cultivators were constantly throwing up their holdings in seasons of scarcity and moving off to places where conditions were more favourable. The difficulty under such circumstances was of course to get sufficient land cultivated. Upto this period, nothing of the nature of the landed rights as between individuals had come into existence.

After the establishment of the British rule, many new villages were founded and were farmed out to individual members of the commercial classes for arrears which accrued in payment of the very heavy assessment imposed in the early years of the British rule. There were also number of villages which were transferred by sale or alienation by the original cultivators themselves to individuals. The person who thus got the position of authority and influence in these villages came gradually to be treated proprietors of the land and realised profits in the shape of rent from the actual cultivators, either settled by themselves or who had been in cultivating possession at the time of transfer and had then sank to the level of tenants. The farmers or lessees of such villages, acquired the status of proprietors and were recorded as such during the settlement of 1840-41. These estates came to be known as *zamindari* or *pattidari* tenures.



In addition to the above, a large number of old and deserted villages were re-settled by the original holders whom the advent of settled conditions after the famine of 1783 induced to return to their ancient abodes. In such villages, the corporate rights of the cultivating brotherhood as opposed to the individual rights of a sole farmer or lessee as mentioned in the previous paragraph, were the first to come to the surface. The land was plentiful and each family or household in the village could appropriate and cultivate as much as it needed without pressure on the members of the community. The proprietary rights existed in the brotherhood generally, and each member or rather each separate household paid a share of the government demand proportion to the area of the village land actually cultivated by it from year to year. Such was the origin of the tenure which is now classed as *bhaia-chara* in which each proprietor has an interest in the village. In process of time, as the cultivating brotherhood became more attached to their village lands and less ready to leave them in seasons of difficulty, they called in and settled cultivators of different tribes from the surrounding areas, especially from Rajasthan. This was done with the object to increase the area under cultivation and to lessen the burden of state demand on each individual member or household of the community. These new settlers were admitted to all privileges enjoyed by the original members of the community. In many cases, village menials were admitted to the same status as these new settlers. Besides these settlers, there were *boladars* who settled in the village as tenants of the brotherhood in its corporate capacity.

During the settlement of 1840-41, the tenants were roughly divided into three classes i.e. those who had held land continuously for many years at a fixed rent and were not liable to ejectment; the tenants in brotherhood or *bhaiachara* villages who paid rent at the same rate as the members of brotherhood and who so long as they paid this rate were never ejected, and those who cultivated from year to year under fresh agreement.

These tenancies were further classified during 1863 settlement and a definite status was fixed on different classes of tenants. The ordinary division into tenants with or without right of occupancy was adopted. The occupancy tenants were; those who had continuous possession of land and paid rent at fixed rates; those from whom proprietors had realised profits in the shape of rent and their possession dated earlier to the settlement of 1840-41, and those in *bhaiachara* villages who had paid at the village *bach* rates and their possession dated earlier to 1849. All other tenants who did not satisfy these conditions were tenants without occupancy rights or tenants-at-will. Thus after the settlement of 1863, there were three classes of cultivators, proprietors, occupancy tenants and tenants-at-will. The proprietors

held 7 per cent of the cultivated area, occupancy tenants 66 per cent and tenants -at-will 27 per cent. The tenants rapidly extended their cultivation and the proprietors did not object as the greater the area of land under cultivation, the larger were their profits. The increased competition for more land and the consequent increased value of land induced proprietors to stop new cultivation except at higher rents and to demand higher rents for the land brought under cultivation since the settlement of 1863. The tenants in the expectation of a further grant of occupancy rights at the next settlement refused to pay higher rents and there were large number of ejectment proceedings under the Tenancy Act of 1868. As the act provided no security to the tenants in respect of lands brought under cultivation after 1868, the tenants had to pay the proprietors demands or be ejected.

The Punjab Tenancy Act of 1887 was enacted and this hardly provided any security to tenants. Most of suits to dispute liability to ejectment by setting up a title of occupancy rights, were decided against the tenants. The following table would show the cultivating occupancy after the enactment of the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887 up to the 1931-32 and it continued upto the independence :—

**Hisar District (the then Hisar, Fatehabad and Hansi tahsils)**

Year	Proprietors	(Percentage of Cultivated Area)	
		Tenants with Occupancy Rights	Tenants-at-Will
1890	47.3	12.4	40.3
1911-12	48.2	12.2	39.6
1921-22	47.4	11.8	40.8
1931-32	47.0	11.6	41.4

After Independence the Government decided to bring land reforms especially to carry out its policy of 'land to the tillers' in order to improve the conditions of tenants and increase agricultural production. The following legislations are applicable in the district :—

- (1) The East Punjab Utilisation of Lands Act, 1949
- (2) The Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Act, 1952
- (3) The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1952



- (4) The Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953
- (5) The Punjab Bhudan Yagna Act, 1955
- (6) The Punjab Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1957
- (7) The Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961
- (8) The Haryana Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972

Under the East Punjab Utilisation of Lands Act, 1949 the government enforced the optimum utilisation of cultivable land, and any land left uncultivated for 6 or more consecutive harvests was acquired and leased out for a term ranging from seven years to twenty years for cultivation, priority being given to Harijans.

Under the Punjab Abolition of *Ala Malikiyat* and *Talukdari Rights* Act, 1952 the rights of an *ala malik* in the land held by an *adna malik* were abolished and the *adna malik*, was required to pay compensation for proprietary rights.

The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1952, declared all occupancy tenants as owners of the land.

The Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953 provided protection to the tenants against ejectment and conferred rights on them to pre-empt and purchase their tenancy in certain circumstances, and fixed a ceiling on the land holdings and utilize the surplus area for resettlement of ejected tenants, landless labourers and small land owners. The ceiling fixed for the land holdings was 30 standard acres for local owners and 50 standard acres for displaced persons from Pakistan.

By March, 1978, 755 cases of surplus land were decided and 2,698 standard acres of land was declared surplus in the district. The resettlement of eligible tenants on 2,698 standard acres was done by March, 1978.

The state government gives financial assistance to the tenants and landless agricultural labourers who are resettled on the surplus area for reclamation, and also advances loan for building houses and sinking wells.

In 1972, on the recommendation of the Central Land Reforms Committee, the Haryana Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972 was enacted. This Act repealed the provisions of the two earlier Acts in so far as they relate to the ceiling on land holdings and utilization of surplus area. The new Act provided for the assessment of permissible area in relation to a family instead of an individual, and reduced the permissible area limit to 7.25 hectares of land under assured irrigation capable of growing at least two

crops in a year, 10.9 hectares of land under assured irrigation capable of growing at least 1 crop in a year or 21.8 hectares in respect of any other land including *banjar* and land under orchards. In case, the family comprises more than three minor children, an additional area at the rate of 1/5th of the permissible area of the primary unit is permitted for each additional member, provided that the total does not exceed twice the permissible area of the unit. The head of a primary unit has also been given a right to select for each of his major sons (or widow and minor children of a predeceased son) area equivalent to the permissible limit of primary unit. Further, unlike the Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953, the new Act provided for vesting the rights of surplus area in the government and for its utilization for settlement of tenants and other economically weaker sections of society, for example members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, landless persons, agricultural workers and others.

The Punjab Bhudan Yagna Act of 1955 was passed to promote the Bhudan movement, with the object of resettling landless cultivators on land received through voluntary donations.

Under the Punjab Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1957 all Jagirs, *muafis* and jagir pensions excepting military jagirs or grants made to religious or charitable institutions granted on or before August 4, 1914 were resumed.

**Consolidation of Land Holdings.**—The consolidation of land holdings was started during the British period in 1920 through cooperative consolidation societies. After Independence, the urgency of consolidation was realised and the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Act, 1948, was passed.

Under the Act, the work of consolidation of land holdings in the Hisar district was started in 1949 and has been completed in 481 villages. It was in progress in 1 village and was to be taken up in 4 villages.

#### OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE : STATE AND CENTRAL

In addition to the land revenue, there are various other sources from which the state derives its revenue. A brief description of these is given below :

**Stamp Duty.**—This duty is collected under the Court Fees Act, 1870, and the Indian Stamp Act, 1899. Both these Acts have been amended a number of times. The Court Fees Act was last amended by the Court Fees (Haryana Amendment) Act, 1974. The Stamp Duty Act was last amended by the Haryana Act, No. 7 of 1967. Both these Acts require the Collector



(Deputy Commissioner), District and Sessions Judge and all the Sub-Judges to ensure that the applications for all suits and other relevant documents are properly stamped according to schedule. The collection of Stamp duty under these Acts during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 was as follows :—

Year	Judicial (under the Court Fees Act)	Non-Judicial (under the Stamp Act)	Total
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	11,02,965	87,87,540	98,90,505
1976-77	11,67,918	69,61,277	81,29,196
1977-78	13,33,315	98,38,654	111,71,969

**Registration Fee.**—The Deputy Commissioner is the Registrar in the district. The Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars are Sub-Registrars and Joint Sub-Registrars respectively.

Appeals from the orders of the Sub-Registrar are heard by the Registrar. The Inspector-General of Registration, Haryana at Chandigarh, exercises a general superintendence over all the registration offices in the state and has power to make rules consistent with the Indian Registration Act, 1908.

The following statement gives the number of registered documents, aggregate value [of the property, and the receipts for] the year 1975-76 to 1977-78 :—

Year	No. of Registration		Aggregate	Amount	Other	Total
	Immovable	Movable	value of	of	Receipts	Receipts
	Property	Property	property	Ordinary		
				Fees		
			(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	11,392	1,136	13,73,29,000	11,28,472	23,455	11,51,927
1976-77	19,132	1,293	2,10,44,456	19,87,730	52,476	20,40,206
1977-78	25,502	728	11,47,29,039	8,95,428	39,772	9,35,201

**Excise and Taxation.** —For the administration of Excise and Taxation Acts, the district is under the charge of the Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Hisar. He is assisted by 3 Excise and Taxation Officers and 5 Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers. These officers function as assessing authorities under the Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973 and the Central

Sales Tax Act, 1956. The field staff include 27 Inspectors on taxation side and 5 Inspectors on excise side. The Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner functions under the administrative control of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana, Chandigarh.

Since the district adjoins the states of Rajasthan and Punjab, four sales tax barriers have been set up at Modakhara, Balsmand, Hanspur and Tohana. Apart from checking evasion of sales tax, the staff posted at the check barriers is also entrusted with the work of checking the vehicles under the Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, 1952.

The state and central acts enforced by the Excise and Taxation Department in the district on the excise side are; (1) The Punjab Excise Act, 1914, (2) The Punjab Local Option Act, 1923, (3) The East Punjab Molasses (Control) Act, 1948, (4) The Opium Act, 1878, (5) The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, (6) The Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948, and (7) The Medical and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.

The excise revenue collected from various sources such as licence fee, duty, assessed fee, permit fee, etc., during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 is shown below :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	2,17,14,140
1976-77	2,49,52,226
1977-78	2,90,35,637

On the taxation side, the state and central Acts, administered by the department in the district are : (1) The Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973, (2) The Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940, (3) The Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1955, (4) The Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, 1952, (5) The Punjab Entertainments (Cinematograph Shows) Act, 1954, (6) The Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) Act, 1939, (7) The Punjab Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Taxation Act, 1956, and (8) The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.

**Sales Tax.**—It is a tax on the sale or purchase of movable goods in one form or another. It is levied under the Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973 which has replaced the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, since May 5, 1973. Some of the commodities which are consumed by relatively poor sections of people have been exempted from taxation, whereas luxury goods



which are consumed by the well to do people are taxed at a higher rate. Thus motor vehicles, auto-cycles, refrigerators, clocks and watches, iron and steel safes and almirahs, radios and radio-parts, gramophones, tape recorders, imported liquor are some of the items which are taxed at the rate of 10 per cent.

The important goods exempted from the tax are electric energy, agricultural implements, fertilizers, vegetables (except when sold in tins, bottles or cartons), fresh fruit, sugar, textiles, goods sold to the Indian Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Association, the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE), United Nations Technical Assistance Board, Save the Children Fund Association, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, World Health Organisation and cooperative societies certified by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Special concessional treatment has been given to a few selected items such as foodgrains, declared goods<sup>1</sup> ready-made garments, tractors, pesticides, raw wool and knitting wool and raw hides.

The collection from the sales tax in the district during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Total Collection (Rs.)
1975-76	2,45,38,530
1976-77	2,74,84,897
1977-78	3,35,35,881

**Central Sales Tax.** —The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 provides for levy of tax on sales made in the course of inter-state trade and commerce. The states have been authorised to administer this Act on behalf of the Government of India. The entire collection of this tax is appropriated by the states. This central fiscal enactment has given the states a major source of revenue which is increasing day by day. The rate of tax was 3 per cent on inter-state sale to registered dealers or on declared goods to registered or unregistered dealers and 10 per cent on inter-state sale to unregistered dealers. Under Section 8(5) of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, the state Government have been empowered to reduce the rate of tax on certain classes of goods, or class of dealers, or traders if it is expedient to do so in the interest of the state.

1. Goods which are of special importance in inter-state trade have been treated as declared goods.

The collections of revenue under the Central Sales Tax Act from 1975-76 to 1977-78 were as under :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	1,33,76,223
1976-77	1,85,21,694
1977-78	2,16,69,927

**Property Tax.**<sup>1</sup>—The property tax is leviable under the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940. This tax is charged at the rate of 10 per cent of the annual rental value of the building and lands situated in the rating areas (municipal area). A surcharge of 50 per cent of tax is also levied from April 1, 1967. The self occupied residential houses are, however, exempt from the levy of tax to encourage construction activities in the state.

According to Section 7 of the Act, the assessment of the property units in the rating areas is to be revised after every 5 years, unless this period is extended or reduced by the state subject to a maximum period of 3 years. Property unit which is assessed at an annual rental value of upto Rs. 300 is exempted from the levy of property tax. In case of widows and orphans, the exemption limit is upto the annual rental value of Rs. 600. The revenue collected under the Act during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 is shown below :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	14,91,660
1976-77	18,42,547
1977-78	1,99,953

**Passengers and Goods Tax.**—The Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, 1952 came into force on August 1, 1952. The Act provides that a tax shall be levied on all fares and freights in respect of passengers carried and goods transported in transport vehicles for the public in the state. The rate of tax, which was 25 per cent of the fare or freight paid by a passenger, was enhanced to 35 per cent on July 21, 1967 and to 40 per cent on October 7, 1969. In 1977-78, it was 60 per cent of the fare and freight. However, in some cases the levy is charged in lumpsum.

1. The Act was repealed with effect from April 1, 1977.



The collections made under the Act during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 were as under :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	1,23,15,647
1976-77	1,47,53,353
1977-78	1,67,53,802

**Entertainment Duty.**—The Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936 was replaced by the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1955, on November 4, 1955. The rates of duty have been changing over the years. The rate of tax on the payment of admission to a show, which had been 50 per cent since 1967-68, was raised to 60 per cent from December 12, 1970 and 75 to per cent from January 19, 1971. The rate was revised to 100 per cent from January 15, 1973.

The collections from the entertainment duty during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 were as follows :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	38,23,078
1976-77	39,35,340
1977-78	45,42,900

**Show Tax.**—The Punjab Entertainment Tax (Cinematograph) Shows Act, 1954, came into force in May, 1954. The show tax is levied on the exhibitions for every show on the number of occupied seats of a cinema house. Later in 1974, the show tax was made 10 per cent of the entertainment duty payable.

The collection of tax from 1975-76 to 1977-78 under this Act was as under :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	3,89,226
1976-77	3,95,545
1977-78	4,77,678

**Motor Spirit.** —This tax was levied under the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) Act, 1939. The rate of tax had changed a number of times. In 1970-71, it was 6 paise per litre on petrol and other motor spirit items. However, since July 21, 1967, the stage of levy of tax has been shifted from 'last sale' to 'first sale' within the state. This change has minimised the difficulty experienced earlier by traders and only depots of oil companies who make 'first sale' pay the tax.

The collection of this tax during 1975-76 to 1977-78 were as under :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	28,03,805
1976-77	34,70,642
1977-78	48,23,073

**Professions Tax.** —Every person who carries on trade, either by himself or through an agent or representative or who follows a profession or calling or who is in employment either wholly or in part, within the state, is liable to pay for each financial year (or a part thereof) professions tax under the Punjab Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Taxation Act, 1956. The maximum limit of the tax was Rs. 250 per annum payable by a person whose income is more than Rs. 25,000 and the minimum is Rs. 120 per annum, payable by a person whose gross income ranges between Rs. 6,000 and 8,000. However, no tax is charged from the persons whose annual income is below Rs. 6,000.

Previously this Act was administered by the Finance Department through Treasury Officers in the state. Since April 1, 1964 it has been transferred to Excise and Taxation Department. Now, the Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers function as the assessing authority under the Act.

The collection of revenue in the district under this Act during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 was as shown below :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	5,04,310
1976-77	5,94,006
1977-78	1,17,431



**Central Excise Duties.** —The central excise is administered by the central government. In 1977-78, the Hisar district was under the charge of Assistant Collector, Central Excise, Rohtak.

The main sources of central excise duties, are iron and steel products, motor spirit, superior kerosene oil, aviation turbine fuel, refined diesel oil, cotton yarn, spun yarn and steel ingots.

The collections of central excise duties during 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given below :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	3,41,68,319
1976-77	5,40,71,615
1977-78	6,05,05,685

**Income Tax.** —The Indian Income Tax Act of 1922 has been replaced by the Income Tax Act of 1961 with effect from April 1, 1962. The collection under this Act during 1975-76 to 1977-78 were as under :

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	89,90,000
1976-77	92,45,000
1977-78	99,00,000

**Estate Duty.** —The Estate Duty Act, 1953 (34 of 1953) came into force on October 15, 1953. The duty is leviable on the estate of those dying after this date. Proceedings for this levy have to be initiated within 5 years of the death but no time has been fixed for the completion of assessment. The collections under this Act during 1975-76 to 1977-78 were as follows :—

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	2,61,000
1976-77	2,25,000
1977-78	2,22,000

**Wealth Tax.** —The Wealth Tax Act, 1957, came into force from the assessment year 1957-58. In case of an individual, the tax is leviable if the net wealth exceeds Rs. 1 lakh and in case of Hindu undivided family, if it exceeds Rs. 2 lakh. The collections under this Act for the years 1975-76 to 1977-78 were as under :

Year	Total Collections
	(Rs.)
1975-76	1,90,000
1976-77	2,20,000
1977-78	3,15,000

**Gift Tax.** —The Gift Tax Act, 1958, was enforced on April 1, 1958. It is leviable subject to certain exemptions on all gifts made after April 1, 1957 if the total value of the gift (movable and immovable) exceeds Rs. 5,000. The collections under this Act for the period 1975-76 to 1977-78 were as follows :—

Year	Total Collection
	(Rs.)
1975-76	30,000
1976-77	34,000
1977-78	58,000



## CHAPTER XII

### LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

#### INCIDENCE OF CRIME

At the beginning of the 19th century, the settled population in the district was extremely scanty and there was almost no cultivation. The land was, however, the scene of many border raids and forays. There was a regular system on which these raids were conducted. Sometimes one or two men would steal off towards the encampment of their foes and endeavour to carry off by stealth a few of their cattle. These were called simply *chor* (thieves). Or a band of six or ten armed men would make a dash upon some grazing herd, drive off its armed herdsman and carry away the herd by violence. Such a band was called *dhar* and the members of it *dharvi*. But sometimes a leader of note, would organise a large expedition of two or three hundred men, some of them mounted on ponies, and take them for a foray fifty miles or more into the enemy's country, carrying off their cattle and other spoils by sheer force. Such a raid was called *katak*. When those attacked raised the country and pursued the raiders, the pursuing force was called *var*, and it was the rule for the *katak* to divide into two parties, one to drive off the spoil and the other to keep back the pursuers. The men who were most successful in these exploits were most honoured among their fellows.<sup>1</sup>

In the beginning of the 20th century, the cattle theft was the principal crime of the district which continued as a relic of the old days and was practised mostly by Muslim Rajputs (Ranghars) and the Pachhadas and the crime was regarded as a venial offence by many of the agricultural tribes. The number of thefts of cattle that took place was far in excess of the number registered at various police stations. The reason for this was the prevalence of the habit of taking *bunga* and the presence of a considerable number of *rassagirs* among the inhabitants. *Bunga* was the reward paid by the owner of the animals stolen for their recovery. The *rassagir* was the habitual trafficker in stolen cattle. When a man had his cattle stolen his first effort was to track the animals. If he was not successful in finding them in this way, he usually applied to the nearest *rassagir* for assistance. There was a

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1. J. Wilson, *Final Report of the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab, 1879—83*, p. 31.

sort of freemasonry among *rassagirs* and usually the owner would be informed in a very few days, of the amount of *bunga*, he must pay, before he could get back his animals. After a little haggling, the *bunga* was agreed upon and paid to the *rassagir*. Then if the *rassagir* was an honest man, as honour was reckoned among thieves, the owner was told where he would find the cattle and on going to the place, which was invariably some isolated spot, the owner would find his cattle grazing contentedly with no clue to the actual perpetrator of the theft. In such cases, the owner was thankful to get back his animal and no report was made. Most of the *rassagirs* were men of considerable prominence, and it was almost impossible to get any evidence against them. Their ability to spirit away stolen animals (especially camels) bordered on the marvellous.<sup>1</sup>

The highway robberies were fairly common particularly during the famine. The most frequent method employed was for the robber to masquerade as a foot-sore traveller to ask for a lift from the owner of a passing camel. The front seat on a camel is the easiest position and the pseudo traveller was usually given the seat behind, with the result that in a very short time the camel owner was felled from the camel by a stunning blow, and when he came to his senses, could find no traces of his camel or the person whom he had helped. A variant of this method was for the robber to pass as a merchant wanting to hire camels; once the camels were obtained and the village left far behind, the *modus operandi* was similar to that already described. This method required for its successful execution more than one robber. Dacoities were not common and were chiefly confined to wandering gangs of Sansis. There were two criminal tribes in the district, the Bauriahs and the Sansis. The former were a criminal tribe only in name and most of them lived quietly in villages and earned an honest livelihood as tenants or as daily labourers. They, however, committed thefts when compelled by famine to leave their native villages. The Sansis were a wandering tribe who lived by pilfering.<sup>2</sup>

The people were as a rule law abiding. The crimes of violence were of rare occurrence and those that were perpetrated were generally the result of sudden quarrel and committed without premeditation.

The following table would show the incidence of various crimes in the district since 1910 :—

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1904, pp. 209-210.

2. *Ibid*, p. 210.



## Number of Cases Registered

Year	Murder	Culp- able Homi- cide Not Amount- ing to Murder	Abduct- ion and Kid- napping	Rape	Dacoity	Robbery	Burg- lary	Theft
1910	4	7	7	8	—	2	115	77
1920	5	6	6	10	5	5	105	58
1930	10	7	7	22	20	25	270	145
1940	17	15	12	21	17	27	168	137
1950	31	7	3	18	12	24	194	208
1960	15	12	7	20	3	4	98	123
1970	25	19	15	20	1	2	209	231
1971	33	9	11	12	1	5	109	185
1972	30	13	11	23	—	1	136	274
1973	43	16	9	8	—	3	128	217
1974	22	14	4	6	2	4	137	234
1975	18	18	15	6	1	3	157	210
1976	3	2	15	5	1	1	38	71
1977	26	10	24	15	1	8	287	428
1978	34	4	29	8	2	5	360	640

The communal disturbances in the wake of the Partition in 1947 diminished the respect for decency, morality and the law. The acute economic depression, however, aggravated lawlessness and there was general rise in the crime. The work of the police was rendered difficult as it got depleted with the migration of Muslim personnel and as a result of political changes and abolition of non-official agencies of Zaildars, and Sufedposhes who were strong pillars of administration and provided valuable support to the police. But the police force geared up and faced the situation and took sometime for conditions to become normal. The serious violent crimes like murder, dacoity, robbery, rape and abduction had high incidence in 1930, 1940 and 1950. The dacoity and robbery after 1950 are now rare occurrence

and only a few stray cases are reported. However, the murder figures fluctuate depending upon sudden outburst of violence due to land disputes, illicit relations, domestic quarrels, blood feuds and lure of property, etc. The incidence of murder is mainly confined to rural areas. Burglary and theft are quite common in the district. However, a large number of theft cases are of minor nature. Cheating is not common though some cases of cheating have been reported since 1972.

Offences against local and special laws comprise cases of public nuisance and those covered under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, the Punjab Excise Act, 1940 (including illicit distillation) and the Public Gambling Act, 1867. Besides, the offences under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914 and cases under various regulatory traffic Acts have also been on the increase with the increased number of vehicles in the district. The following table would indicate a steady increase in these offences particularly after 1950 :—

**Number of Cases Reported under the Various Acts**

Year	Excise Act	Arms Act	Gambling Act	Motor Vehicles Act
				(Accidents)
1910	—	6	—	—
1920	2	12	—	—
1930	15	21	6	1
1940	26	35	8	1
1950	119	126	16	8
1960	256	84	86	9
1970	674	129	97	41
1975	1,706	395	278	59
1976	738	91	104	14
1977	1,547	175	227	99
1978	1,350	108	232	125

Cases under the Excise Act including illicit distillation have increased after 1970. Similarly offences under the Arms Act gradually increased and these were highest in 1975.

Gambling was not common upto 1950, when only 16 cases were reported. Gradually cases of gambling increased and these were highest in 1975 when 278 cases were detected.



## POLICE

In 1851, the then Deputy Commissioner ordered all villages to be surrounded with a thick hedge of thorns or a deep ditch having only one gateway (*phalsa*) for protection against thieves. The gateway was closed at night by a gate or fence of thorns and was guarded by the village watchman so that no suspicious character may come in and no cattle may go out.<sup>1</sup> Later under the Police Act, 1861, the enforcement of law and order was given over to the police. In 1866, the police in the district was under the District Superintendent and there were police stations at Hisar, Barwala, Tohana, Fatehabad, Ratia and Hansi and police outposts at Balsamand, Agroha and Khot.<sup>2</sup> According to 1881-82 police report, the district was in the Ambala Police Circle under the Deputy Inspector General of Police at Ambala. The police in the district was under the Superintendent and the police stations were at Hisar, Balsamand, Barwala, Tohana, Hansi, Narnaund, Fatehabad and Ratia and police outposts at Agroha and Madanheri.<sup>3</sup> According to police report of 1890-91, the district was transferred to the control of Lahore Police Circle, Lahore. The police stations were at Hisar, Balsamand, Barwala, Hansi, Narnaund, Fatehabad, Ratia and Tohana and a police outpost at Agroha and road post at Madanheri.<sup>4</sup>

In 1915, the Superintendent of Police was incharge of the police force in the district and the district was transferred back to the Eastern Police Range under the Deputy Inspector General of Police at Ambala. There were police stations at Hisar, Barwala, Balsamand, Hansi, Narnaund, Fatehabad, Ratia, Tohana and Bhuna and a road post at Agroha.<sup>5</sup>

At present (1978), the police administration in the district is under the Senior Superintendent of Police, who next to Deputy Commissioner, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The Senior Superintendent of Police is assisted by one Assistant Superintendent of Police and 4 Deputy Superintendents of Police. The Senior Superintendent of Police functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Hisar Range, Hisar. The tahsil wise police stations and police posts are given below :

1. Ameen Chand, *Settlement Report and History of the Hisar District*, 1866, part-II, p. 61 (Urdu).

2. Ibid, pp. 58-59.

3. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, p. 60.

4. Ibid, 1892. p. 221.

5. Ibid, 1915, p. 235 and Ibid, Vol. II B, *Statistical Tables*, 1912. Table 47.

Tahsil	Number and Names of Police Stations	Number and Names of Police Posts
Hisar	4 City Hisar Sadar Hisar Barwala Adampur	2 Balsamand Uklana
Hansi	3 City Hansi Sadar Hansi Narnaund	
Fatehabad	3 Fatehabad Bhuna Ratia	1 Bhattu
Tohana	2 Tohana Jakhal	
	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 3

The strength of the police force in the district during 1978 is given below :

Designation	Strength
Senior Superintendent of Police	1
Assistant Superintendent of Police	1
Deputy Superintendents of Police	4
Inspectors	7
Sub-Inspectors	38
Assistant Sub Inspectors	97
Head Constables	168
Constables	1,085

The civil police is detailed for duty at the police stations, police posts. Each of the station is under the charge of a police officer, known as Station House Officer generally in the rank of Sub-Inspector assisted by one or more second officer, a Head Constable, a Moharrir or Clerk-Constable and a number of Constables depending upon the load of work. The Station House Officers of the police stations at Hisar and Fatehabad are in the rank of Inspectors. The Station House Officer maintains law and order and investigates offences occurring within his jurisdiction. There is a village chowkidar who is responsible for reporting crimes within his area and reports all births and deaths in the village.



The district armed reserves are kept in the Police Lines, Hisar for utilisation during exigency that may arise in connection with the maintenance of law and order. However, the Haryana Armed Police contingents are also deployed for the protection of vulnerable points in the district.

The railway police in the district functions under the Assistant Inspector General of Police, Ambala Cantonment. It is entrusted with the duty of preventing crimes on the railway lines and railway stations. There is one railway police station in the district at Hisar.

Radio wireless sets have been provided at all the police stations and police posts in the district. Wireless sets have also been fitted in the vehicles of all gazetted officers.

**Home Guards.**—Home Guards, a voluntary force was first organised in the district in 1960 to meet eventualities of law and order, civil defence, fire fighting, natural disasters and internal security. The overall charge of the Home Guards for the district is with the District Commandant, Hisar. In 1977-78, the district had 2 urban and 6 rural companies with a strength of 802 volunteers.

## JAILS

The district has one District Jail at Hisar and one Borstal Jail at Hisar. Initially, a jail was set up in a rented building but the jail building was constructed in 1856. It was upgraded as a Central Jail in 1965 but reverted to District Jail in 1966. The jail is spread over an area of 32 acres and 143 acres of agricultural land is available for cultivation by the prisoners. The prisoners also work in the workshop making furniture. Having an accommodation for 700 prisoners in 1977-78, the jail is under the charge of the Superintendent of Jails, who is assisted by 2 Deputy Superintendents and 6 Assistant Superintendents.

The jail is for convicted prisoners including female prisoners. It also serves as a judicial lock-up and hence undertrials are also kept.

The Borstal Jail, Hisar was established in 1976 for convicted children and women only. Located on Rajgarh road, the jail is spread over 31 acres and has accommodation for 317 prisoners. The jail is under the charge of a Superintendent of Jails, who is assisted by one Deputy Superintendent and 3 Assistant Superintendents including one female Assistant Superintendent. Police stations are provided with police lock-ups for keeping accused persons during investigation of cases.

## JUSTICE

There are three kinds of courts existing in the district, civil, criminal and revenue.

Towards the end of the 19th century, the Deputy Commissioner was the District Judge and District Magistrate. One of the four Extra Assistant Commissioners was invested with the powers of a Subordinate Judge for the purpose of civil business and another was entirely entrusted with revenue work. There was also a *Munsiff* at the Sadr.<sup>1</sup>

In the beginning of the 20th century, the Deputy Commissioner was the District Magistrate, to hear appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the II and III class and exercised the powers of Magistrate I class and tried all offences not punishable with death under Section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Deputy Commissioner was the Collector and Registrar of the district. The District Judge and two Extra Assistant Commissioners were other Judicial officers. The District Judge was the head of the principal civil court and magistrate of I class. As magistrate, he was under District Magistrate and as a civil court, he was under the control of the Divisional Judge at Ferozepore (Punjab). The Tahsildars at Hansi, Hisar and Fatehabad were invested with powers of II class magistrates and Naib Tahsildar of Tohana was a magistrate of III class. There were two *Munsiffs* at Hisar who exercised purely civil powers and disposed of petty suits. Besides, 3 Honorary Magistrates were invested with various criminal, civil and revenue powers. For civil and criminal jurisdiction, the district was in the Ferozepur Sessions Division. The Divisional and Sessions Judge, Ferozepur visited the district 3 or 4 times a year to hear cases committed for trial and to inspect civil and criminal courts of the district.<sup>2</sup>

By 1915, the Hisar district was declared a Sessions Division and the District and Sessions Judge was located at Hisar.

After the Independence, the District Magistrate and other executive officers continued to function as judicial officers till the Punjab Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions Act, 1964 was enforced in October, 1964. On adoption of this Act, the judicial magistrate came under the direct control of high court and District and Sessions Judge. The judicial officers below the rank of District and Sessions Judge, who exercised only civil powers before the separation of judiciary from executive were empowered with both civil and criminal powers. The magistrates exercising criminal powers who were earlier under the control of Deputy Commissioner were also placed under

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 220.

2. *Ibid*, 1904, pp. 206-207.



District and Sessions Judge and the executive magistrates were only left with magisterial powers for security measures to maintain law and order.

At present (1978) the civil and criminal justice in the district is under the overall control of the District and Sessions Judge, Hisar. At the headquarters, there is one Senior Sub-judge, one Chief Judicial Magistrate, a Sub Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate I class and Additional Sub-Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate. Besides there are three courts of Sub Judges-cum-Judicial Magistrates, one at Hansi and two at Fatehabad.

After the passing of the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, some of the functions of the civil, criminal and revenue courts were made over to the panchayats. Where cases lie in the exclusive jurisdiction of the panchayats, their cognizance by other courts is barred. The Chief Judicial Magistrate is empowered to revise their decisions and he in turn can delegate these powers to the *Illaq* Magistrate.

### Revenue Courts

The collector is the highest revenue judicial authority in the district and an appeal or revision against his orders lies to the Divisional Commissioner and Financial Commissioner. The Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars are Assistant Collectors 2nd grade but in partition cases Tahsildar assumes the power of Assistant Collector 1st grade. The General Assistant to Deputy Commissioner, and Sub Divisional Officers (Civil) are Assistant Collectors 1st grade but Sub Divisional Officers (Civil) have been delegated the powers of collectors under certain Acts.

### District Attorney

The District Attorney, conducts civil and criminal cases in the courts of the district. For civil cases he is controlled by the Legal Remembrancer, Haryana and for criminal cases by the Director of Prosecution, Haryana. The latter is the administrative head of the District Attorney. In 1977-78, the District Attorney, Hisar was assisted by one Deputy District Attorney and 10 Assistant District Attorneys.

### Bar Association

The three bar associations at Hisar, Hansi and Fatehabad were founded in 1870, 1940 and 1961 respectively. The total strength of these bar associations in 1977-78 was 467. These associations provide the practicing advocates with a forum to improve their working conditions and to safeguard their interests.





## CHAPTER XIII

### OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The departments not mentioned in other chapters are described here briefly.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The three wings of Public Works Department (PWD) located in the district are Buildings and Roads, Public Health and Irrigation.

**Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads).**—The department looks after the construction and maintenance of buildings and roads in the district. The work has been divided into two divisions, i.e., Provincial Division, Hisar and Construction Division, Fatehabad. Each of these divisions is headed by an Executive Engineer who is assisted by various Sub Divisional Officers. These Divisions are under the overall supervision of the Superintending Engineer, Hisar Circle, Hisar. The Provincial Division looks after the construction and maintenance of buildings and roads in most parts of Hansi and Hisar tahsil and a small part of Fatehabad tahsil. Actually, 202 villages of the district fall in the jurisdiction of the Provincial Division. The Construction Division, Fatehabad looks after the works in Tohana tahsil and Fatehabad tahsil and the remaining parts of Hansi and Hisar tahsils, and 284 villages fall under its jurisdiction.

Besides, the Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki national highway is looked after by the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Hisar. There are three sub-divisions one each at Hisar, Fatehabad and Hansi which look after the maintenance of the national highway. The Division is under the supervision of Superintending Engineer, National Highways Circle, Hisar.

The operation, maintenance and repair of the machinery belonging to the P.W.D. (B&R) in the district is looked after by the Mechanical Division, Hisar having sub-divisions at Hisar, Fatehabad and Tosham (Bhiwani District). The electrical installations and maintenance in the district are carried out by the Electrical Sub-division, Hisar of Electrical Division, Rohtak.

There is also a Survey Sub-Division for survey works of roads, and a research laboratory for research work pertaining to buildings and roads, both located at Hisar.

**Public Health.**—The public health works in the district is looked after by the Public Works Department (Public Health). The work has been divided into three divisions represented by the Public Health Division No. I, Hisar, Public Health Division No. II, Hisar and Public Health Division, Sirsa each headed by an Executive Engineer. Four sub-divisions located at Hisar assist Division No. I; and 4 sub-divisions, 2 located at Hisar and one each at Tohana and Hansi assist Division No. II. The Division No. I is mainly concerned with the works relating to sewerage and water-supply in Hisar town whereas Division No. II looks after public health works in Hansi, Tohana and Hisar tahsils. The Public Health Sub-Division, Fatehabad of Public Health Division, Sirsa looks after the work in Fatehabad tahsil. The overall supervision of the public health works in the district is under the Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, Public Health Circle, Bhiwani.

**Irrigation.**—The main source of canal irrigation in the district are Bhakra Main Line canal and Sirsa branch, Hansi branch and Sunder sub-branch of the Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal. The canal irrigation in the district is looked after by 3 divisions, i.e. Fatehabad Division, Hisar; Tohana Division, Tohana; and Hisar Division, Hisar; each headed by an Executive Engineer. Each of the division is assisted by various sub-divisions. These divisions are under the supervision of Superintending Engineer, Hisar Bhakra Canal Circle, Hisar. The Fatehabad division looks after channels taking off from Sirsa branch and Kishangarh sub-branch of the Fatehabad branch. The division extends irrigation right up to Rajasthan border and is also concerned with irrigation in a part of Bhiwani and Jind districts. The Tohana Division is entrusted with the regulation of water from the Bhakra Main Line Canal, which tails off at Balyala in five different channels; Bhakra Main branch, Pirthala distributary, Samani distributary, Fatehabad branch and Fatehabad distributary and also looks after irrigation from these channels which also extends to Sirsa district. The Hisar Division looks after the maintenance of irrigation works and development of canal irrigation relating to Masudpur distributary, Hisar Major distributary, Narnaund distributary, Petwar distributary of the Hansi branch and Sunder sub-branch extending irrigation in a small part of Bhiwani district. It also looks after irrigation in a small part of Bhiwani district. The irrigation in the district is controlled through these divisions but as the canal divisions do not conform to the civil jurisdiction of the district and follow different channels, the jurisdiction of these divisions go beyond the civil jurisdiction of the district and similarly the irrigation in a part of the district is also managed by the Sirsa Division located at Sirsa through its Fatehabad Sub-Division, Fatehabad,



**HARYANA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD**

The operation and the distribution of the electric supply in the district is under the supervision of Superintending Engineer, Operation Circle, Hisar. Three operation divisions at Hisar, Hansi and Fatehabad look after the work in different parts of the district. Each of these divisions are under the Executive Engineer who is assisted by Sub Divisional Officers. These operation divisions also deal with the construction, energisation of new high tension and low tension transmission lines, pole-mounting sub-stations and energisation of different categories of electrical connections, viz. domestic, commercial, industrial, tubewells, etc.

A Maintenance and Protection Division and a Carrier and Communication Division have been set up at Satrod (Hisar) to look after the maintenance of grid sub-stations and carrier connection in Hisar, Bhiwani and Sirsa districts. Both these divisions are under the control of Maintenance and Protection Circle, Chandigarh.

**COOPERATIVE DEPARTMENT**

The Cooperative Department is represented in the district by the Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies (General Line) and Industrial Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies both stationed at Hisar. These officers work under the supervision of the Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Hisar. The department is responsible for the promotion and growth of cooperative movement in the district. The cooperative movement has grown over the years and it now embraces a number of activities like, agriculture, industries, marketing, consumer stores, labour and construction, irrigation, house building, poultry, milk supply, transport and banking. The department arranges credit requirement, agriculture requisites, marketing, consumer goods and other needs of the societies. The Assistant Registrars are further assisted by various inspectors for different fields.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES**

The department is responsible for the procurement of foodgrains and the distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities through fair price shops. The activities are regulated through control/licensing orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The department is represented by a District Food and Supplies Controller who is assisted by a District Food and Supplies Officer, 5 Assistant Food and Supplies Officers and 27 inspectors and 33 Sub-inspectors. In 1978, there were 80 fair price shops in urban areas and 378 in the rural

areas. These fair price shops also distributed levy sugar to consumers against distribution cards.

#### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The district treasury is under the control of a Treasury Officer assisted by Assistant Treasury Officers (one each for the sub-treasuries at Hansi, Fatehabad and Tohana).

The treasuries receive central and state revenues including sale of stamps and disburse the state and central payments and maintain account pertaining to these receipts and payments. The cash transaction of these treasuries is conducted through State Bank branches at these places.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The department is represented by the District Public Relations Officer who is assisted by one Assistant Public Relations Officer, posted at Fatehabad and other subordinate staff including publicity assistants, cinema operators, drama and *bhajan* parties and radio mechanics.

The department maintains liaison with press and the public and undertakes publicity drives through meetings, cinema shows, drama performances and public contact with a view to inform and educate people about various programmes and policies of the government. The District Public Relations Officer also keeps the government informed of public reactions to its plans and policies and conveys public grievances to the district and state authorities. He is incharge of community listening scheme under which radio sets have been allotted to panchayats, cooperatives and schools.

#### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Economic and Statistical Organisation under the administrative control of Planning Department, Haryana is represented in the district by the District Statistical Officer. The District Statistical Officer collects, compiles, analyses, and maintains statistics relating to various socio-economic aspects of the district, checks and scrutinises periodical progress reports prepared by the Block Development and Panchayat Officers and various other district officers. He prepares district statistical abstract and municipal year book. He conducts various socio economic surveys maintains record about the arrival of essential commodities, checks season and crop reports and conducts annual census of government employees. He coordinates the statistical activities of various department in the district and renders them technical guidance regarding the collection and compilation of statistics.

The District Statistical Officer has been given additional charge of the District Planning Officer for formulation of district development plans under the overall guidance of the Deputy Commissioner.



## CHAPTER XIV

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

After the transfer of the Hisar district alongwith Delhi territory to the Punjab from North-Western Provinces in 1858, the municipal administration in some form was introduced in the towns of Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad, Ratia and Tohana. A municipal fund was raised in these towns by cesses or duties for watch and ward purposes.<sup>1</sup> The surplus of the fund was administered by a committee of townsmen. As the system lacked the essentials of local government, a more regular form of local government under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1867 was introduced in the district with the constitution of Hisar and Hansi municipalities in 1867. In 1873, a new enactment was passed under which municipalities of Fatehabad, Tohana and Ratia were constituted in 1874-75. The municipalities of Ratia and Tohana were abolished in 1886-87.<sup>2</sup> In 1891, an amended Act was passed which declared those towns, for which it was inexpedient to constitute regular municipalities, as Notified Areas. Accordingly, Tohana was declared as a Notified Area in 1898 and Fatehabad was converted into a Notified Area in 1899. Later in 1917, Jakhal Mandi was also declared as Notified Area. The Notified Area of Tohana and Jakhal Mandi were converted into Small Towns in 1924 and that of Fatehabad in 1952. Uklana Mandi was also constituted into a Small Town in 1953. In 1954, Tohana and Uklana Mandi and in 1955 Fatehabad and Jakhal Mandi were converted into class III municipalities. In 1973, the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 was enforced and municipalities of Jakhal Mandi, Uklana Mandi and Tohana were converted into Notified Areas. Narnaund and Ratia were declared as Notified Areas in 1974 and 1976 respectively. Again in 1978, Barwala was declared into a Notified Area and Narnaund ceased to be a Notified Area. As such, in 1978, there were 3 municipalities and 5 Notified Areas.<sup>3</sup> The main sources of income of the local bodies include octroi,

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1. Amoen Chand, *Settlement Report and History of the Hisar District, 1866*, (Urdu) part II, p. 59.

2. Nothing certain about the date or even the year of the constitution of these municipalities can be said but the tables showing municipal income from 1870-71 to 1890-91 appended in *Hisar District Gazetteer, 1883-84*, and *Hisar District Gazetteer, 1892*, include the income of Fatehabad, Tohana and Ratia (all class III municipalities) from 1874-75 onward. It can thus be inferred that these municipalities were constituted in 1874-75. The income statement is absent after 1886-87 in the case of Ratia and Tohana thus indicating their abolition.

3. All the Notified Areas were converted into Class III municipalities in 1979.

toll tax, cycle tax, cinema show tax, water rate, *tehbazari*, licence fee, building tax, rent on municipal property, sale of compost, etc. A detailed account of each local body is given in the following pages and would show that the local bodies are quite alive to provide better civic amenities to the residents.

### Hisar Municipality

The municipality of Hisar was first constituted in 1867 as a class II municipality. It was made class I municipality in April, 1957. The last municipal committee of Hisar functioned upto 1968 when it was superseded. Since then, the affairs of the municipality are being looked after by an administrator, appointed by the government. The municipality covers an area of 31.34 sq. kms. and serves a population of 89,437 persons (as per 1971 Census).

The drinking water was a problem before the Independence and for some time even after the Independence. The people used to draw water from 60 feet deep wells with ropes and buckets which was inconvenient and expensive. A moderate start was made by the municipality in 1950 with the construction of a tubewell in Katra Ram Leela and it added few more tubewells in subsequent years. The water was supplied through public stand posts fixed in different parts of the town. In 1969, waterworks were installed at a cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Later, the water supply was augmented and in 1977-78, the per capita supply was 91 litres per day and there were 370 public stand posts and 7,050 private water connections in the town.

The underground sewerage has been commissioned in a part of the town and the rest of the town is provided with surface drains. The residents are encouraged to have underground sewerage connection. By 1977-78, there were 1,654 private connections and 4 sets of public lavatories.

Kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting till 1936 when electricity was introduced in the town. In 1977-78, there were 1,770 electric bulbs and 69 fluorescent tubes in the town for street lighting. Besides, 6 illuminated road indicators have been installed at important points. The roads are metalled and streets are well-paved. In 1977-78, the total length of metalled roads was 30 kms. There are 21 parks in the town, Patel park, Lajpat Rai park and Madhuban park are quite important. There is a swimming pool, children's library and Kala Kendra in the Madhuban park.



The conservancy and public health services are under the supervision of a Chief Sanitary Inspector. For sanitation, he is assisted by one sanitary inspector, 12 jamadars and 238 sweepers. The night-soil is removed by private sweepers in covered baskets and wheel barrows to the municipal dumps, from where it is removed to the compost depots in tractors, tempos and carts. There are 5 tractors fitted with trollies, 2 tempos and 36 refuse carts. The manure prepared in compost depots is sold out. The municipality maintains a fire fighting unit comprising three fire engines. The staff consists of a fire officer, one assistant fire officer, 3 leading firemen, 6 driver operators and 21 firemen.

The municipality is running a library containing 9,880 books and two reading rooms, one in Patel Nagar and the other in Model Town.

The main sources of municipal income are octroi, rent, *tehbazari*, water tax, licence fee, show tax, cycle tax and proceeds from sale of compost manure. The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1975-76 to 1977-78 as given below, show that the municipality is making every possible effort to augment its resources to provide better civic amenities to the residents.

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs)	(Rs)
1975-76	47,28,113	45,25,965
1976-77	47,22,980	49,65,194
1977-78	55,86,525	52,68,652

### Hansi Municipality

The municipality at Hansi was first constituted in 1867 as a class II municipality under the Punjab Municipal Act passed in 1867. The last elected municipal committee was superseded in January, 1969. Since then, the municipality is looked after by an administrator, appointed by the government. The municipality covers an area of 9.07 sq. kilometres and serves a population of 41,108 (as per 1971 Census).

Prior to 1962 when piped water supply was commissioned, the source of water supply was handpumps and a few sweet water wells. In 1977-78, there were 2,447 private water connections and 167 public stand posts. The water supply per capita per day was 72.80 litres in this town.

The town is provided with surface drains. The construction of underground sewerage was undertaken in 1971 at the cost of Rs. 42,08,000 and is still under execution. The streets are wide and well paved. The municipality maintains 20.48 kilometres of metalled roads. Kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting prior to the introduction of electricity in 1936. In 1978, there were 575 electric bulbs and 418 fluorescent tubes in the town for street lighting. The municipality maintains 3 small parks in the town. The conservancy and public health services are under the supervision of a Senior Sanitary Inspector. For sanitation, he is assisted by a sanitary supervisor, 3 sanitary jamadars and 115 sweepers. The night-soil is removed by the sweepers and carried to the municipal compost depot in tractor trollies or wheel barrows. The manure prepared in the compost depot is sold to farmers. The municipality maintains a fire fighting unit comprising 2 fire engines. It also maintains a library-cum-reading room.

The main sources of municipal income are octroi, rent, *tehbazari*, water tax, licence fee, show tax, cycle tax and sale proceeds of manure. The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs)	(Rs)
1975-76	47,96,120	48,25,382
1976-77	22,29,209	21,78,549
1977-78	22,60,920	22,96,181

#### Fatehabad Municipality

The municipality of Fatehabad was first constituted in 1874-75 under the enactment passed in 1873. It was converted into a Notified Area in January, 1899 and class III municipality in 1955. In 1971, it was upgraded to class II municipality. With the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, the elected committee was superseded and thereafter the affairs of the municipality are looked after by an official administrator. The municipality covers an area of 10.36 sq. kms. and serves a population of 22,630 persons as per 1971 Census.

In 1978, the town was partly covered by piped water supply and there were 186 public stand posts and 805 private connections. Besides, there were 2 tubewells.

The town is served with surface drains. The underground sewerage schemes was started in 1962 and by 1977-78, it could cover a part the town and was still under execution. There were 64 private connections and 9 public lavatories.



Kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting prior to the introduction of electricity in the town in 1957. There were 165 electric bulbs and 318 fluorescent tubes in this town for the street lighting in 1977-78. The municipality maintains six small parks in the town. It is also running a library-cum-reading room.

The conservancy and public health services are under the supervision of a Senior Sanitary Inspector who is assisted by one sanitary inspector, 2 sanitary jamadars and 65 sweepers and one vaccinator. The night-soil is removed through tractors and sullage carts to the municipal compost depot. Covered wheel-barrows have also been provided. The manure so prepared is sold to the farmers. The municipality has a small fire fighting unit comprising a fire engine with one leading fireman, six firemen and 2 drivers.

The main sources of income of the municipality is octroi, toll tax, water rate, rent and *tehbazari*. The income and expenditure from 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1975-76	14,39,243	14,03,833
1976-77	12,06,366	13,12,951
1977-78	13,36,520	12,14,231

#### Notified Area, Tohana<sup>1</sup>

Tohana was first constituted as a municipality in 1874-75 under the enactment passed in 1873. It was, however, abolished in 1886-87 under the amended Act of 1891. Tohana was declared a Notified Area in 1898. It was converted into a small town in 1924 and a class III municipality in 1954. With the passage of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, the elected municipal committee was superseded and it was converted into a Notified Area. An administrator appointed by the government looks after the affairs of the Notified Area. It covers an area of 4.53 sq. kms. and serves a population of 16,789 (as per 1971 Census).

The town is provided with piped water supply which was installed in 1973. In 1978, the per capita water supply was 60 litres per day and there were 95 public stand posts and 1,056 private water connections. The streets are paved and provided with surface drains. An underground sewerage was under execution in 1978, however, 2 sets of public flush latrines have been provided. Prior to the introduction of electricity in 1957, kerosene

1. It was converted into a class II municipality in 1979.

oil lamps were used for street lighting. In 1978, there were 108 electric bulbs and 214 fluorescent tubes for street lighting in the town. For sanitation, the Notified Area has employed 1 sanitary *daroga*, 2 sanitary jamadars, and 35 sweepers. The night-soil is removed in wheel barrows and dumped in the compost depot. It runs a library and two reading rooms. The Notified Area derives its income mainly from octroi, water rate, *tehbazari*, licence fee, building tax, rents and sale of compost. The income and expenditure of the committee during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	6,43,322	8,35,005
1976-77	8,96,173	8,26,207
1977-78	10,74,681	10,82,211

#### Notified Area, Jakhal Mandi<sup>1</sup>

Jakhal Mandi was declared as a Notified Area in 1917. It was later converted into a Small Town in 1924. Again in 1955, it was converted into a class III municipality. The last elected municipal committee was superseded in 1973 with the passage of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 and the town was declared a Notified Area. It covers an area of 0.13 sq. kilometre and serves a population of 3,919 persons according to 1971 Census.

The piped water supply was provided to the town in 1967. In 1977-78, the per capita water supply was 80 litres per day and there were 222 private water connections and 22 public stand posts. The streets are well paved and provided with open surface drains. The underground sewerage was provided in 1965 and in 1978, there were 19 private connections. Prior to the introduction of electricity in May, 1958, kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting. In 1977-78, there were 94 electric bulbs for street lighting. For sanitation, the Notified Area has employed 14 sweepers to remove night-soil and refuse to compost depot located outside the town. The manure so prepared is sold to the farmers. It maintains a park and a library-cum-reading room. The main sources of income are octroi, water rate, *tehabazari*, rent and licence fee. The income and expenditure of the Notified Area during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	2,60,995	3,86,949
1976-77	2,97,730	3,75,060
1977-78	4,64,883	4,82,797

1. It was converted into a class III municipality in 1979.



**Notified Area, Uklana Mandi<sup>1</sup>**

Uklana Mandi was formed into a Small Town in 1953. It was converted into a class III municipality in 1954 ; With the passage of Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, it was declared as a Notified Area in 1973. It covers an area of 0.75 sq. kilometre and serves 5,981 persons (as per 1971 Census).

The piped water supply was provided to the town in 1966-67. In 1978, the per capita water supply was 80 litres per day and there were 556 private water connections and 19 public stand posts. The streets were well paved and provided with surface drains. The underground sewerage, at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,31,000, was under execution. Prior to the introduction of electricity in 1957, kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting. In 1978, there were 51 electric bulbs and 80 fluorescent tubes in the town for street lighting. For sanitation, the Notified Area had employed, 12 sweepers. The night-soil and refuse is removed to compost depots in wheel barrows. The main sources of income are octroi, water rate, *tehbazari*, and show tax. The following table shows the income and expenditure during 1975-76 to 1977-78 :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	3,45,253	3,53,566
1976-77	4,22,554	3,39,055
1977-78	6,14,681	4,89,454

**Notified Area, Ratia<sup>2</sup>**

Ratia was constituted into a municipality in 1874-75 but was abolished in 1886-87. Again in 1976, Ratia was declared as a Notified Area. It covers an area of 4.0 sq. kilometres and serves a population of 7,740 persons (as per 1971 Census).

In 1978, the street lighting was provided to the town and there were 19 bulbs and 6 fluorescent tubes fixed at different places. For sanitation, there were 7 sweepers.

The main sources of income are rent, octroi and *tehbazari* and its income and expenditure during 1977-78 was Rs. 3,36,204 and Rs. 2,23,167 respectively.

**Notified Area, Barwala<sup>3</sup>**

Barwala was declared a Notified Area in 1978. It serves a population of 16,917 (1971 Census).

1. It was converted into a class III municipality in 1979.
2. It was converted into class III municipality in 1979.
3. It was converted into class III municipality in 1979 and later abolished in 1982.

The town was partly provided with piped water supply and in 1978, the per capita water supply was 10 litres per day and there were 245 private water connections. The pavement of streets, drainage and street lighting were taken up by the local body in 1978. The income, mainly derived from octroi and water rate, and expenditure of the Notified Area during 1978-79 was Rs. 2,08,440 and Rs. 1,35,582 respectively.

### TOWN PLANNING

The town planning in the Hisar district is looked after by a Divisional Town Planner, Hisar who is assisted by an Assistant Town Planner. The Department of Town Planning provides technical assistance to local bodies for improving of road junctions, road widening and for planning of their residential areas. In Hisar town, a potential area around the town was notified to check unplanned and haphazard growth in and around the town. A planned scheme was framed for the town to accommodate a projected population of 2.5 lakh by 2001 A.D. Two residential urban estates, one behind the Pushpa theatre known as urban estate No. 2 and the other as defence colony have been established in the town on an area of 331.36 acres and 43.454 acres, respectively. Besides, a commercial urban estate on an area of 36.34 acres has also been established and 451 commercial plots have been earmarked.

### PANCHAYATI RAJ

The panchayats have existed in villages from ancient times, though such panchayats were not established under any law. The heads of various tribes or communities were members of such Panchayats. These panchayats played a vital role in the life of the people. With the passage of time, such community panchayats became ineffectual. After Independence the panchayats were revived.

The Panjab Gram Panchayats Act, 1952, with its subsequent amendments, and the Punjab Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, are the legal bases for the rural local government, popularly called Panchayati Raj. The structure comprises two tiers, a panchayat at the village level and a Panchayat Samiti at the block level. However, these do not constitute a hierarchy but have defined spheres of activity and independent sources of revenue. Previously, there used to be a *Zila Parishad* at the district level, but the institution was abolished in 1973.

### PANCHAYATS

Generally, there is one panchayat for each village, but in few cases of small villages having a population of less than 500 persons, there is a joint panchayat. A panchayat consists of 5 to 9 members called as *panches*.



There is at least one Scheduled Caste *panch* and one woman *panch*. In 1977-78, there were 433 panchayats in the district and the total membership of all panchayats was 4,298.

**Functions .—**The main functions of panchayats are rural development with particular reference to increase the agricultural production. It includes agriculture, animal husbandry, health and sanitation, education, social welfare, village public works, sports and recreation. In fact panchayats are supposed to work in almost all spheres which concern the betterment of village community. The details of public utility work done by panchayats in the district from 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given below :

Particulars	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
1. Wells constructed	167	198	235
2. Buildings constructed for veterinary dispensaries and first-aid-posts	—	1	2
3. Dispensaries constructed	2	1	1
4. Land cleared from harmful weeds (Hectares)	13,200	15,000	15,332
5. School buildings constructed	29	51	76

**Judicial Powers .—**The panchayats are empowered to try certain minor offences like petty thefts, trespasses, encroachments on public property and public nuisance. The panchayats have also been given powers to try cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. They are empowered to impose fines. They are not bound by the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and as such lawyers are not permitted to appear in the proceedings before a panchayat. The Chief Judicial Magistrate hears appeals against the orders of the panchayats. He is empowered to transfer cases from one panchayat to another.

The panchayats try civil and revenue suits for recovery of movable property or the value of such property; for money or goods due on contract or the price thereof for compensation for wrongfully taking or injuring movable property and suits mentioned in clauses (j), (k), (f) and (n) of sub-section 3 of section 77 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887. The panchayats are under the control of District Judge in civil suits and collector in revenue suits and they are also appellate authorities.

**Source of Income .—**The panchayats are authorised to levy taxes, duties and fees. Apart from miscellaneous items, the main sources of income are grants-in-aid from the government, income from *shamlat* land, voluntary contributions, 3 per cent of the land holdings tax of the panchayat area, fees and fines. The income and expenditure of panchayats in the district from 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given below :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	57,70,868	55,04,135
1976-77	46,81,452	36,71,511
1977-78	57,71,081	59,69,718

### Panchayat Samitis

The district has been divided into 10 blocks each having a Panchayat Samiti. Each Panchayat Samiti has primary, associate, co-opted and ex-officio members. Out of primary members, 16 members are elected by *panches* and *sarpanches*, 2 members by members of cooperative societies within the jurisdiction of the Panchayat Samiti and one member by members of market committees in the block. If this membership does not include 2 women and 4 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, the balance is made up by co-option. Every member of the Haryana Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of which the block forms part, is an associate member. The Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) having jurisdiction in the block and Block Development and Panchayat Officer are ex-officio members. The ex-officio and associate members do not have the right to vote. The Block Development and Panchayat Officer of the concerned block is the ex-officio executive officer of the Panchayat samiti. The chairman and vice-chairman are elected by the primary and co-opted members from amongst themselves for a term of three years.

**Duties** —The duties of Panchayat Samiti are numerous, being an important agency of the Panchayati Raj. It is the duty of the Panchayat Samiti to provide for and make arrangements for carrying out the requirement of the block in respect of agriculture, animal-husbandry and fisheries, health and rural sanitation, communication, social education, co-operation and miscellaneous development works.

**Income** —The income of the Panchayat Samiti is derived from a Samiti fund which comprises; apportionment made by the government out of the balance of district fund; 7 per cent of the total land holdings tax realised within the area of Panchayat Samiti, taxes, cesses and fees imposed by the Panchayat Samiti, grants, contributions and funds allotted by the government, local bodies and panchayats as well as rents and proceeds accruing from property vested and managed by the Panchayat Samiti. These are authorised to impose taxes with the prior permission of the government. The government also provides funds whenever any subject is transferred to their control.



A portion of the cattle fair income is also transferred to the Samiti. The income and expenditure of the Panchayat Samitis in the district from 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	22,90,757	22,64,130
1976-77	29,89,570	23,63,562
1977-78	46,69,081	29,04,880





## CHAPTER XV

### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before the advent of the British, there were indigenous schools which provided elementary education. There were Mussalman *maktabs* presided over by the village mosque attendant (Maulvi). He taught the village boys passages out of the Koran by rote, as part of his customary duties. There were Nagri schools also where rural Pandit (Brahman) taught the boys to write in *mahajani* character.<sup>1</sup> The education in these schools was either gratuitous or the remuneration was provided by the scholar. These Maulvis or Brahman did not get anything like training for teaching and they normally knew as much as they taught in their schools. They were very much respected in the society.

The courses in these schools were very elementary in type and extended up to four years or so. The curriculum comprised 3 R's, the admission age was not fixed and the pupil could join school at any time of the year. There were no academic session and everything was flexible and depended entirely on the teacher who changed the session or promoted the pupil to next higher class according to capabilities or abilities of the individual student. As soon as the pupil mastered the elements of reading and writing, that finished his education. Sometimes, the teacher would move from village to village staying about 3 to 4 months at each place and taught the elements of reading, writing and arithmetic. In return, he got a small fee in cash or grain from the parents of the pupils.

The methods in these indigenous schools were crude and pupils were subjected to monotonous repetitive oral drill and loud recitation for hours.<sup>2</sup>

No serious efforts were made by the British for quite sometime and it was only in 1843 when James Thomson (1843-53) was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Provinces that he directed all his subordinates to encourage people to receive education in indigenous schools scattered over the country. In 1856, a *tahsildari* school was opened at Hisar and a town school at Hansi. The course of instruction in these schools were reading, writing, grammer, composition, arithmetic, mensuration, algebra upto quadractics, the first four books of Euclid, the history and geography

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, pp. 112-113.

2. *Haryana Research Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 21-22.

of India, general geography, ancient history, the elements of political economy and planetable surveying. The medium of instruction was either Hindi or Urdu and in many instances both the vernaculars.<sup>1</sup> Besides, village schools to meet the needs of the peasantry were opened in a circle comprising ten to twenty villages. After the merger of the district in Punjab in 1858, the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab took charge of the educational establishments. However, due to administrative difficulties, the vernacular schools were entrusted to the Deputy Commissioner, a Deputy Inspector of Schools assisted the Deputy Commissioner for professional supervision. A scheme was launched to improve the existing indigenous schools and opening new schools at the centre of six villages. The progress in the district, however, was very slow and it remained most backward district in the Punjab. In 1892, the district had 1 Anglo-vernacular middle school at Hisar, 2 Vernacular middle schools, one each at Hansi and Barwala and 15 Vernacular primary schools including *zamindari* schools.<sup>2</sup> The Hissar school was maintained by municipal fund supplemented by district fund, whereas Fatehabad and Hansi schools were maintained entirely from municipal funds. The other primary schools including Vernacular middle school, Barwala were maintained by the District Board. The *zamindari* schools were opened at Mangali (Hisar tahsil), Kharbala (Hansi tahsil) and Ratia and Kirmara (Fatehabad tahsil) to supply rudimentary education like simple reading, counting and accounts. These schools were closed during harvest time. There was only one missionary girls school at Hisar.<sup>3</sup>

The progress of education was very slow and in 1904, there was an Anglo-vernacular high school at Hisar, 3 vernacular middle schools, one each at Hansi, Barwala and Tohana and 25 Vernacular primary schools. There was a Vernacular primary school for girls at Hansi. Besides, there were a few indigenous schools.

The schools were under the charge of the Deputy Commissioner. The Inspector of Schools, Delhi advised the Deputy Commissioner professionally.

1. *Report on the State of Education in the NWP, 1859-60*, p. 36.

2. The vernacular primary schools and *zamindari* schools were located as follows.—

Tahsil	Villages	Tahsil	Villages	Tahsil	Villages
Hisar	1. Nangthala 2. Kirori 3. Kurri 4. Landbari 5. Mangali ( <i>zamindari</i> school)	Hansi	1. Narnaund 2. Sisai 3. Kharbala ( <i>zamindari</i> school)	Fatehabad	1. Fatehabad 2. Chuli 3. Mohammad pur 4. Tohana 5. Ahrwan 6. Ratia 7. Kirmara (last two <i>zamindari</i> schools)

3. *Hissar District Gazetteer, 1892*, pp. 223-224.



The Inspector of Schools was assisted by a District Inspector and an Assistant District Inspector of Schools.

No tentative progress seems to have been made during the following years. The position in 1915 remained more or less the same except up-gradation of a few primary schools and opening of a few new primary schools. Female education showed some signs of progress as girls schools were opened at Hansi and few other places but it still was very backward. It is interesting to note that a Zaildar of Khanda Kheri (Hansi tahsil) opened a girls school in his village and this school received grant-in-aid from the District Board. The percentage of literates to total population of the then district of Hisar remained static for quite sometime and increased slightly from 2.7 in 1901 (also 2.7 in 1921) to 3.3 in 1931.<sup>1</sup> There is no record available which could show any efforts made by the voluntary organisations except that a Jat High school was opened at Hisar in 1928. The district had been in the grip of severe scarcity and famines year after year and no worthwhile attention could be paid to the education.

Things changed materially after Independence and the education spread at a rapid pace. The prejudices against western education disappeared and the state Government and voluntary organisations took keen interest in the spread of education. As a result, a number of new schools and colleges were opened after Independence. The Punjab College of Veterinary Sciences was opened at Hisar in February, 1948. A Government College and a Dayanand College opened at Hisar in 1950. Another college, Fateh Chand College for women opened at Hisar in 1954. The College of Agriculture and College of Basic Sciences and Humanities were established at Hisar in 1962 and 1964 respectively. The pace accelerated after 1966. The College of Animal Sciences opened at Hisar in 1966. The Chhaju Ram Memorial Jat College, Hisar was established in 1967 and Nehru Memorial College, Hisar and Chhaju Ram College of Education, Hissar were established in 1968. In 1970, three more colleges namely Sanatan Dharam Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Hansi; Indira Gandhi College, Tohana; and Manohar Memorial College, Fatehabad were established. The Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar came into existence in 1970 as a result of bifurcation of the composite Punjab Agricultural University. A College of Sports and a College of Home Science were established in 1972 and 1973 as the constituent colleges of the Haryana Agricultural University. In 1977-78, the district had 8 degree colleges, one teachers training college, an Agricultural University constituting two colleges of veterinary sciences, one college of sports, one

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1. The literacy data for the present Hisar district is not available. Anyhow, the data for the then Hisar district which included the present Sirsa district and a few villages of the present Bhiwani district is available. The trend of the then Hisar district can be taken to represent the 'position in the present Hisar district.

college of agriculture, one college of Home Science and one college of basic science and humanities, 102 high, higher secondary schools, 108 middle schools, 380 primary schools including pre-primary schools, 3 government industrial schools for girls, 1 industrial training institute, 1 rural artisan training centre and 3 recognised private industrial institutes.

#### EDUCATIONAL SET-UP

The District Education Officer is responsible for the administration and control of all primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools in the district. He is directly under the administrative control of the Director of Public Instruction, Haryana, Chandigarh. The district education officer is assisted by one Deputy Education Officer and three Sub-Divisional Education Officers, (one each at Hisar, Hansi and Fatehabad) and 10 block education officers. The area of operation of block education officer is normally coterminous with the development block. An Assistant Education Officer looks after the promotion of physical education in the schools in the district.

#### GENERAL EDUCATION

##### Pre-primary Education

Pre-primary education, which caters to the need of children in the age group 3—6 years, has not yet developed and is not well organised. Although there is only one government pre-primary school in the district, yet a few voluntary organisations run nursery schools, mostly located at Hisar, Hansi, Tohana and Fatehabad. The Haryana Child Welfare Council and Central Social Welfare Board have opened 11 *balwadis* (nursery schools) in various parts of the district. Besides an *anganwadi*, a child integrated service project was working at Hisar. It aims at total development of children by providing integrated nutrition, immunisation, health and education services to pre-school children.

##### Primary and Middle Education

The course of primary education covers children of age-group 6—11 and consists of five classes from I to class V. Primary education has been made compulsory since April, 1961. The education at this stage is free and all primary schools are mixed. Teachers are provided at the pupil teacher ratio of 40 : 1. In 1978, there were 379 primary schools and these were almost evenly distributed all over the district.

The middle schools consist of class VI to VIII. The pupil teacher ratio of 30:1 has been adopted for this stage and the education is free in all government schools. In 1978, there were 108 middle schools in the Hisar district.



The medium of instruction in the schools is Hindi. The teaching of Hindi as a medium of instruction and first language starts from class-I. English is taught from class VI as a second language. Sanskrit, Urdu, Telugu or Punjabi is taught as a third language in classes VII and VIII. To provide safeguards to the linguistic minorities, provisions have also been made for the teaching of Urdu/Punjabi as an additional subject from class I provided 10 pupils in a class or 40 in whole of a primary school or a primary section of a middle, high or higher secondary school are desirous to study this language. But the medium of the instruction and the first language even for such schools remains Hindi.

### Secondary Education

As only a limited number of students can pursue higher education, the secondary stage is of terminal character for most of the students. Thus, the secondary education has been made broadbased, so as to prepare some of the students for higher studies and teach most of them to earn their livelihood. Accordingly, a few high schools were converted to higher secondary schools. In 1978, the district had 95 high schools and 7 higher secondary schools. At secondary stage, the education is free for students, whose family income is less than Rs. Rs. 1,000 per annum in the case of boys and less than Rs. 3,000 per annum in the case of girls. Reduced fees is charged from boys whose family income is between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000 and girls whose family income exceeds Rs. 3,000.

The students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes are given stipend at the rate of Rs. 8 per month provided the income of their parents/guardians does not exceed Rs. 1,800 per annum. They are also allowed refund of examination fee. The students belonging to Scheduled Castes are exempted from payment of tuition fee. The students of Other Backward Classes are allowed this concession only if the income of their parents/guardians does not exceed Rs. 1800 per annum.

Scheduled Caste students are also given stipend under the Government of India post-matric scholarship scheme. The rate of stipend varies from Rs. 27 to Rs. 75 according to income slabs of their parents. They are also allowed refund of examination fee, tuition fee and other compulsory non-refundable charges.

No tuition fee is charged from the children of serving defence personnel or deceased/disabled defence personnel.

All the government schools are equipped with a book bank, from which text-books are made available to the students belonging to

Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and other economically weaker sections.

The following table gives the position of school education in 1977-78 at a glance :—

Schools	No. of Schools				No. of Scholars	
	Private	Govt.	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Primary(including pre-primary)	3	377	371	9	32,123	15,805
Middle	3	105	95	13	25,007	8,290
High	16	79	81	14	49,469	16,380
Higher Secondary	—	7	5	2	3,329	2,190
Colleges						

The post-matric classes in the district were started only in 1950, when Government College, Hisar and Dayanand College, Hisar were established. Fatch Chand College for Women first established at Lahore in 1935 was rehabilitated at Hisar in 1954. Subsequently, Chhaju Ram Memorial Jat College was established at Hisar in 1967 and the Nehru Memorial College at Hansi in 1968. In 1970, the Sanatan Dharam Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Hansi, the Indira Gandhi College, Tohana and the Manohar Memorial College, Fatehabad were set up. In 1978, the district had nine colleges, seven colleges were under private managements, one government college and another constituent college of Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.

**Government College, Hisar.**—The college was established in 1950 in a building on the railway road. The building was shared by the Punjab Veterinary College which was shifted to the Cattle Farm in 1961. The college shifted to its new campus located on the Rajgarh road in 1976. The new campus was spread over an area of 49 acres and was laid out near the Haryana Agricultural University at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college offers courses in science, humanities and commerce up to degree level and post-graduate course in political science and economics.<sup>1</sup>

In 1977-78, the college had 1,624 students (1,404 boys 220 girls)

1. Post-graduation in English was started in 1980.



on its roll, of which 129 belonged to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. The college had 67 members on its teaching staff. The college has N.C.C. Infantry and Air-wing units. It has a well-equipped library with 30,921 books. The book bank loans text book to the needy students. It has a botanical garden and a life science museum. The college brings out annually a magazine named 'Morning Star'.

**Dayanand College, Hisar.**—The college was established in 1950 in a 22 acre campus located near old grain market. It was founded by local Arya Samaj but was taken over by the D.A.V. College Managing Committee, Delhi in 1960. The college has commodious teaching blocks, hostel and extensive play-grounds. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra the college provides degree courses in science, humanities and commerce. Evening classes for degree course in humanities were started in 1965.

In 1977-78, the college had 1,381 students (1,274 boys and 107 girls) on its roll, of which 119 belonged to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. It had 63 members on its teaching staff. It had two NCC companies and one NSS (National Service Scheme) unit. The college library has 18,241 books, while newspapers and magazines are subscribed for the reading room. A book bank provides books to the brilliant and needy students. The college brings out its annual journal 'Avedan'.

**Fateh Chand College for Women, Hisar.**—The college was established in 1935 at Lahore (Pakistan) and was rehabilitated in 1954 at Hisar. It is spread over an area of 7 acres and has a commodious building, three-storeyed hostel and extensive play grounds. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra it provides degree courses in humanities and science. It has one NCC platoon and one NSS (National Service Scheme) unit. The college has a well-stocked library containing 13,112 books and subscribes to 46 newspapers, periodicals and magazines for the reading room. A book bank loans books to brilliant and needy students.

In 1977-78, the college had 712 girl students on its roll which included 4 students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. It had 21 full time and 1 part time members on its teaching staff. The college publishes its annual journal named 'Ansul'.

**Chhaju Ram Memorial Jat College, Hisar.**—The Jat High School, Hisar established in 1928 was raised to the level of a degree college in 1967. It is managed by Chhaju Ram Memorial Jat College Managing Committee, Hisar. The college is located in a spacious building

having extensive play-grounds and a hostel with modern amenities. The college is affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra and provides courses in humanities, science and commerce up to degree level.

The college library is housed in a spacious building and is well-stocked having more than 15,000 books. It also contributes to 86 newspapers, periodicals and journals for its reading room. A book bank established in 1971, loans books to the needy deserving students. In 1977-78, the college had, 1,389 students (1,343 boys and 46 girls) including 73 belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. It had 37 members on its teaching staff. It had one unit of NCC and one unit of NSS (National Service Scheme). The college brings out its annual journal named 'Chandralekha'.

**Nehru Memorial College, Hansi<sup>1</sup>.**—The college was established in 1968 and shifted to its present building located 4 kilometres east of Hansi on Hansi-Rohtak road in 1969. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in humanities and commerce up to degree level. It has a small library located in the college hall and it subscribes to 14 newspapers, magazines and periodicals for its reading room. A small book bank loans books to the needy and poor students.

In 1977-78, there were 223 boys on its roll including 30 belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. It had 14 members on its teaching staff. It had one NCC company and one NSS unit. The college brings out its annual journal named 'Ashi'.

**Sanatan Dharam Mahila Mahavidyalya, Hansi.**—The college was established in 1970 and is located in a portion of the building of the Sanatan Dharam Girls High School. It is affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra and provides course in humanities up to degree level.

It has a small library having 3,763 books and subscribes to 23 newspapers, magazines and periodicals for its reading room. A book bank meets the text books requirements of needy and poor students.

In 1977-78, it had 277 girls on its roll including 5 belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. It had 10 members on its teaching staff. The college had one unit of NSS.

**Manohar Memorial College, Fatehabad.**—The college was started in 1970 and is located in a 20 acre campus on Ratia road. The college

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1. The college was taken over by the Government in 1980 and is now named as Government College, Hansi.



offers instructions in humanities and commerce up to degree level and is affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

In 1977-78, the college had 801 students (634 boys and 167 girls) including 82 belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes on its roll. The teaching staff consisted of 20 members. The college has a small library with 8,040 books. There is a book bank for loaning text books to needy students. It had one NSS unit. The college brings out its annual house journal 'M.M. College Magazine'.

**Indira Gandhi College, Tohana<sup>1</sup>.**—The college was started in 1970. It shifted to its own building located on Tohana-Bhuna road. The college campus spreads over an area of 5 acres. It is affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra and provides course in humanities up to degree level. It has one unit each of NCC and NSS.

In 1977-78, the college had 471 students (331 boys and 140 girls) including 41 belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. It had 15 members on its teaching staff. The college brings out annually a magazine named 'The Priya Darshini'.

#### PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Hisar district assumed an important place in the map of agricultural research, training and development with the setting up of Haryana Agricultural University in 1970.

**Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.**—The University came into existence on February, 1970 as a result of the bifurcation of the composite Punjab Agricultural University. It was established with the object of imparting education in agriculture, veterinary and animal sciences, agricultural engineering, home science and other allied sciences, advancement of learning and prosecution of agricultural research and dissemination of results of researches to the farmers.

The university campus is spread over an area of 3,445 acres and is located on Rajgarh road between Government College and mini secretariat. It has separate buildings for its constituent colleges, the Giri Centre of students welfare and activities, Nehru library, administrative building, Gandhi Bhavan having a chain of museums, printing press, hospital, school, club, community centre, rest house, faculty houses and hostels.

The university imparts instructions leading to bachelor degree in agriculture (B.Sc. Hons. Agri.); home science(B.Sc. Home Science);

1. The college was taken over by the government in 1980 and is now named as Government College, Tohana.

veterinary and animal sciences (B.V. Sc. & A.H.); and sports and humanities (B.S.H.). The post-graduate and doctorate degree programmes are offered in different disciplines of agriculture, veterinary and animal sciences, basic sciences and humanities. Besides, different departments of the university provide short term and certificate courses in various disciplines. Each department is the functioning unit in the university and 3 functions of teaching, research and extension education are integrated in each department.

**College of Agriculture.**—The college was started as an under-graduate institution in July, 1962 and was initially affiliated to the Panjab University, Chandigarh. It was transferred to the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana in December, 1962. It became a constituent college of the Haryana Agricultural University in 1970. The college offers B.Sc. Hons. course in agriculture for students after pre-university or higher secondary and after matriculation or higher secondary (part-I). The course extends to 5 years for students who join the college after matric. The college provides facilities for M.Sc. and doctorate degrees in agronomy, entomology, extension education, horticulture, plant breeding, plant pathology, soils and vegetable crops.

**College of Veterinary Sciences.**—This college was established after the Partition in February, 1948 to help students migrated from the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore, to continue their studies. It was taken over by the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana in December, 1962 and became a constituent college of the Haryana Agricultural University in February, 1970. The college offers an under-graduate course in veterinary and animal sciences. The college also runs one year certificate courses for veterinary compounders and stock-assistants. The college brings out a bi-annual professional journal 'The Haryana Veterinarian'.

**College of Animal Sciences.**—The college of animal sciences, the only one of its kind in the country, was established in 1966. It became the constituent college of the Haryana Agricultural University in 1970. The college provides under-graduate courses in different disciplines of animal science to the students of the college of veterinary sciences, college of agriculture and college of home science. It provides facilities for post-graduate training leading to M.Sc. and doctorate degrees in animal breeding, animal nutrition, animal production physiology and livestock production and management. A number of short term courses in artificial insemination and physio-pathology of reproduction and courses on milk products are also conducted. The college caters to the needs of entire campus community including students, for



milk. The college publishes an annual magazine named 'Haryana Pashu Vigyan'.

**Indira Chakravarty College of Home Science.**—The college was started in 1973 as a constituent college of the Haryana Agricultural University. The college offers courses for B.Sc. Home Science, M.Sc. in food and nutrition and home science extension education and one year certificate courses in home economics. It also conducts short term courses in bakery, food preservation, interior decoration, etc.

**The College of Basic Sciences and Humanities.**—The college was established in 1964 under the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. It became the constituent college of the Haryana Agricultural University in 1970. The college provides under-graduate courses in basic sciences and humanities to students of other constituent colleges. It has facilities of M.Sc. and doctorate courses in agricultural economics, bio-chemistry, botany and plant physiology, genetics, microbiology, sociology, zoology and statistics.

**The College of Sports.**—The college was established as the constituent college of the Haryana Agricultural University in 1973. The college is located in the Giri Centre of students welfare and activities. The college provides facilities in different games and is responsible for sports activities of students of all constituent colleges of the university. It provides academic training coupled with scientific coaching in sports with a view to produce sportsmen.

The post-graduate programme in different disciplines of constituent colleges of the university are coordinated by the Dean post-graduate studies. The total number of students on roll in different departments of the university in 1977-78 were 615.

The university has been conducting problem-oriented researches and disseminating their results through its extension set-up for the benefit of farming community. The university has its main research station at Hisar and two multi-disciplinary regional stations at Bawal (Mahendragarh district) and Karnal. Two crop research stations one for cotton at Sirsa and the other for rice at Kaul (Kurukshetra district) have also been established. Another research unit at Yamunanagar (Ambala district) tackles problems of sugar-cane pest control.

The university has a Directorate of Extension Education which is located in Gandhi Bhavan. The Bhavan houses the museum of evolution of agriculture and progress of Haryana and vanishing rural antiques. The Directorate transmits the research findings to the farmers through

a net-work of Krishi Gyan Kendras established at each district headquarters of the state. The university helps the growth of rural economy through release of improved varieties of crops, development of high yielding crossbred cows, propagation of high yielding breeds of poultry, recommendations regarding amelioration of soils, standardisation of production technology and cheap and effective methods of pest control.

### Technical Education and Industrial Training

There is no school or college of technical education. However, there is one industrial training institute at Hisar, 3 Government industrial schools for girls, one each at Hisar, Hansi and Tohana and a rural artisan training centre at Hansi. These institutions ensure a steady flow of skilled workers in different engineering and non-engineering trades. Besides, Chhaju Ram College of Education, Hisar; Nehru Memorial College, Hansi; and National High School, Tohana offer training in art and craft. The period of training ranges from one year to two years for different trades.

The successful trainees are awarded the National Trade Certificate of All India Council of Vocational Training, New Delhi. Incentives are provided by way of award of stipend of Rs. 25 per month per student on poverty-cum-merit basis to one-third of the students on roll in each institution. The quantum of stipend is raised to Rs. 45 per mensem in the case of students belonging to Scheduled Castes. The ex-servicemen and their dependents are also awarded stipend for training. The medical aid, workshop clothes, and hostel accommodation is provided free of cost to all trainees.

### Teachers Training

The district has only one college of education at Hisar.

**The Chhaju Ram College of Education, Hisar.**—It was established in 1968. The college campus is spread over an area of 5 acres and has extensive playing fields and separate hostels for boys and girls. The college is managed by the Chhaju Ram Memorial Jat College Managing Committee, Hisar.

Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, the college offers the degree course in pedagogy to 250 students every year. In 1977-78, the college had 250 students (120 boys 130 girls) including 16 belonging to Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes.

Besides, the college offers courses in nursery teachers training, art and crafts teachers training, J.B.T.(Home Craft) and food preservation. The nursery teachers training course is conducted by the



Education Department, while the other courses are conducted by the Industrial Training Department.

There were 18 members on its teaching staff. The college brings out its college magazine named 'Satluj'<sup>1</sup>.

### Adult Education

To spread literacy among villagers and acquaint them with new scientific developments and methods for increasing agricultural production, the Farmers Functional Literacy Programme jointly sponsored by the state and central government was started in the district. In 1977-78, there were 60 centres and 1,690 persons attended these centres during the year.

The programme was expanded in 1978 when National Adult Education Programme was launched.

### NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

National Service Scheme(N.S.S.) was introduced in the educational programme of the country in 1969. The scheme was adopted in the colleges of Haryana in 1970-71. It aims at educating the students through community service. It enriches the students personality and deepen their understanding of the social environment in which they live. It helps the students to develop an awareness and knowledge of the social reality and to have a concern for the well being of the community.

Under the scheme, the students undertake activities designed to tackle social problems and promote social welfare. Its activities are multifarious and include adult education, tree plantations, family and child care, rural cleanliness, blood donation, etc. N.S.S. volunteers also render valuable help at the time of natural calamities like floods and famines.

N.S.S. training is imparted regularly during the academic sessions and through out-door camps. The programme under the scheme are project oriented as per guidelines provided by the central government from time to time. The theme for the special camping programme from 1976-77 has been 'Youth for Rural Reconstruction'.

The scheme is functioning almost in all the colleges of the district. In 1977-78, 1,147 students(808 boys 339 girls) in various colleges of the district had opted for the scheme.

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1. The magazine is now named as 'Shaikshiki.'

## NATIONAL CADET CORPS

The National Cadet Corps (N.C.C.) was introduced as part of educational programme in 1948, to develop the qualities of leadership, unity and discipline. Later in July 1963, after the Chinese aggression, it was made compulsory for all able bodied under-graduate boy students at college level. In 1969, two other programmes namely the N.S.S. (National Service Scheme) and sports, were introduced as an alternative to N.C.C., which is no longer compulsory. The N.C.C. training is imparted regularly during academic sessions and through outdoor camps.

In 1977-78, 1,292 cadets (1,046 boys and 246 girls) in senior division and 1,392 cadets (1,292 boys and 100 girls) in junior division had taken up N.C.C. in different institutions of the district.

## SPORTS

Sports activities in the district include school tournaments, panchayat tournaments and open tournaments. The promotion of sports and organisation of these tournaments are looked after by the District Sports Officer, Hisar who is assisted by two coaches.

**Coaching Centres.**—There are 4 coaching centres established in the district for promotion of sports. These centres provide facilities of spacious play-ground where school and college students and departmental/club players regularly attend coaching classes for specialised training in sports. Coaching camps to prepare players for different competition are held from time to time. Selected talented young players are sent to centralised state level coaching camps for advanced training. The list of coaching centres is given below :—

Nehru Stadium, Hisar (Basketball)

Nehru Stadium, Hisar (Atheletics)

Jat College, Hisar (Football)

Nehru Stadium, Hisar (Football)

Besides, there are two rural coaching centres in each of the 10 development blocks of the district.

The district has a stadium named Nehru Stadium at Hisar and this stadium is the nucleus of district sports activities. To encourage young players, the state government awards sport scholarships at the rate of Rs. 30 per player. The District Olympic Association under



the presidentship of the Deputy Commissioner and other associations of different games help promote sports activities. These associations organise open tournaments and arrange exhibition matches of outside teams with local teams.

### Libraries and Museums

The important libraries in the district are :

District Library, Hisar; Gandhi Adhyan Kendra, Hisar; Chatterjee Memorial Library, Hisar; Sushila Bhawan Trust Library, Hisar; Sanatan Dharam Library, Hisar; Lala Lajpat Rai Municipal Library, Hisar; Singh Sabha Library, Hisar; Vivekanand Library, Hisar; Bar Library, Hisar; Municipal Library, Hansi; Baba Banda Bahadur Library, Hansi; Jain Library, Hansi; Municipal Library, Tohana; Municipal Library, Fatehabad; Notified Area Committee Library, Jakhal; Notified Area Committee Library, Uklana Mandi and the Public Relation Information Centre, Mini-Secretariat, Hisar. Besides, different schools, colleges and Haryana Agricultural University are also maintaining their libraries.

There is no museum in the district except that maintained by the Haryana Agricultural University in its Gandhi Bhavan. The museum exhibits the evolution of agriculture, progress of Haryana and vanishing rural antiques.

### CULTURE

The discovery of sculptural pieces, architectural remains, paintings and carvings on ancient pottery suggest a significant contribution of the district to the growth of culture. An important discovery of terracotta tablet containing seven *svaras* in the 9th century characters, from Agroha, reveals the interest of the people in learning fine arts.

The literary traditions of the district can be traced back to the beginning of the 13th century when Sheikh Farid, a Sufi saint remained at Hansi and preached Sufism. The writings of Sheikh Jamal-ud-din Hansvi, Khalifa Qutb-ud-din Munavar Hansvi, Gulha Mira and Ismail Shah of Hisar are in Sufi traditions. Sant Nischal Dass born in 1760 in Hisar was greatly influenced in his writings by Kabir. He composed three volumes namely, *Vichar Sagar*, *Mukti Parkash* and *Vritti Prabhakar*. His *Vichar Sagar* was acclaimed as one of the greatest contributions of his times by Swami Vivekanand. Ram Dass, the author of *Sudama Chritra*, *Ashcharya Adbhut Granth*, *Ramayana*, *Kartika Trang*, *Ganga Vyahlo* and *Tirath Mahatam*; Jagat Dutt Mishr Gaur of *Dharam Pariksha*; Murli Dass of *Guru Mahima*, *Usha Chritra*, *Sukhdev Lila* and *Baramashi*; Nand and Mukand and Hasno were poets

and writers of Hisar who flourished in 18th and 19th centuries. The modern noted Hindi poets and writers who led their literary pursuits at Hisar are Uday Bhanu Hans and Vishnu Prabhakar. *Sant Sipahi*, *Desan Mein Des Haryana* and *Sankh aur Shehnai* are noted books of Uday Bhanu Hans.

There is no academy or institution for the promotion of fine arts, drama, dance or music in the district. However, a few amateur cultural, dramatic and musical societies or privately run music schools organise cultural functions in the district. Some of these also provide private coachings in these arts.

Colleges and other educational and technical institutions lay a great emphasis on the promotion of cultural pursuits. Some colleges have introduced music and dance as the regular discipline in the course of studies while others have cultural societies for the promotion of fine arts, music, dance, drama, etc. The societies organise cultural functions and partake in various cultural competitions and youth festivals organised at regional and university levels.



## CHAPTER XVI

### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The diseases common in the district are fevers, dysentery and diarrhoea and respiratory diseases. The epidemic diseases like cholera, plague and small-pox were prevalent in the past but with modern and advanced medical and public health services, these epidemics have vanished from the district. The plague first appeared in the district in 1903 and continued to show itself with greater or less severity in subsequent years. In 1904, and 1905, the epidemic was particularly violent and carried off many persons. The epidemic visited the district with great severity in 1910, 1925 and 1926 but was entirely eradicated in 1930. Cholera is imported from outside the district and the earliest available records indicate large number of deaths due to cholera in 1879. The mortality due to cholera was high between 1890-1900 and in 1927, 1938 and 1948. No death has been reported due to cholera after 1950. The small-pox was always present in the district to a greater or less extent. It was severe in 1901, 1908, 1912, 1926, 1929, 1933, 1938 and 1939. After Independence, the mortality due to small-pox was very low, but it continued to lurk in endemic form in various parts of the district breaking out in cyclic epidemic every five-six years. The disease was eradicated from the district as a result of the efforts made under Small-pox Eradication Programme launched in 1962 and no case of small-pox has been reported after 1964.

These epidemics are now things of the past. The fevers which caused 4,508 deaths in the district in 1977-78 included malaria, enteric fever, measles, influenza and other fevers. Mortality due to fevers was severe in 1916, 1920 and 1939 and again in 1942. The mortality due to fevers declined after Independence due to availability of medical facilities and preventive measures taken by the government. Epidemic of malaria erupts during the monsoon. Although due to sandy soils and dry climate, the district is not severely affected by the epidemic but the National Malaria Control Programme controlled the disease to a great extent. The incidence of malaria increased during the last few years and the cases reported during 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78 were 83,599, 68,860 and 82,024 respectively. The respiratory diseases come next to fevers as the cause of mortality in the district and have not shown any marked decline. The table below would indicate the incidence of mortality due to different diseases in the district during 1976-77

to 1977-78.

### Mortality

Year	Total Deaths From			
	Fevers	Dysentery & Diarrhoea	Respiratory Diseases	Other Causes
1976-77	4,385	56	4,084	3,636
1977-78	4,508	71	4,050	3,739

### MEDICAL FACILITIES

As in other parts of Northern India, two systems of medicine—Ayurveda and Unani were practiced in the Hisar district. There is nothing on record which could indicate the extent of prevalence of these two systems. The allopathic system of medicine was introduced during the British rule somewhere in the mid of the 19th century. As the allopathic system was based on scientific lines and progressive research in the field of medical science, it became popular with the passage of time. The allopathic dispensaries and hospitals were opened to provide medical facilities on an increasing scale.

The first dispensary in the district was opened around 1860 at Hisar. Later in 1876-77, two other dispensaries were opened one each at Hansi and Fatehabad. The dispensary at Hisar was under the charge of an Assistant Surgeon, whereas the Hospital Assistants looked after the dispensaries of Hansi and Fatehabad. Later, two dispensaries were opened at Barwala and Tohana in 1887 and 1891 respectively. Thus, towards the close of the 19th century, there were 5 dispensaries. The dispensaries in the district were under the general control of the Civil Surgeon.<sup>1</sup>

During the beginning of the 20th century, the progress was slow and 3 more dispensaries one at Ratia (1910) and one canal dispensary each at Narnaund and Gorakhpur were opened by 1915. The district board also instituted a travelling dispensary under the charge of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon for providing medical facilities in the interior of the district. The work done in the larger dispensaries was of a high order and these dispensaries were freely resorted to by the poorer classes and to a large extent by the well-to-do middle classes. Operations for stone and cataract were done and the people realised the benefit

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, p. 62 and *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, *Statistica Tables*, Table No. XXXVII.



of allopathic system for these diseases. Other operations such as removal of tumours, amputations for necrosis, etc. were also performed with good results. The large attendance was itself a guarantee of the good work done. *Vaids* and *Hakims* were still found in most of the towns but they were slowly becoming less popular.<sup>1</sup>

During the following period up to Independence, a few more dispensaries were opened but these could hardly provide medical facilities to the people. After Independence, the government felt concerned about extending medical and health services to the people at large. More and more medical institutions on modern lines were opened and provided with necessary equipments and other facilities. Many new programmes to control and eradicate diseases were undertaken.

The medical and health services in the district are under the charge of the Chief Medical Officer. He is assisted by two Deputy Chief Medical Officers, one for medical and the other for health services. In addition, a District Tuberculosis Officer, a District School Medical Officer, a District Malaria Officer and a District Family Welfare Officer work under his control.

The medical service is essentially a hospital organisation for rendering medical relief to the public through allopathic and Ayurvedic institutions. In 1978, the number of allopathic institutions in the district was 54 viz. five civil hospitals, one T. B. hospital, three hospitals run by voluntary organisations, two tuberculosis centres, 18 rural dispensaries, three urban dispensaries, one police dispensary and one Jail dispensary run by the police department. Five canal dispensaries, one railway dispensary, three Employees' State Insurance dispensaries, and 11 primary health centres. Besides, there were 24 Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries. There were many private clinics and registered medical practitioners which provide medical and health facilities to the people. A list of these institutions is given in Table XII and XIII of Appendix. A brief description of some important institutions is given in the following pages :—

**Civil Hospital, Hisar.**—Located on the Hisar-Sirsa road, the hospital was established initially as a dispensary around 1860. It has departments of medicine, surgery, ENT, eye, dental, orthopedic, pediatrics, gynecology, X-ray, and Lab services. It provides facilities for diagnostic and therapeutic radiology as well as Laboratory and blood bank. In 1978, it had 200 beds and the staff consisted of 12 doctors and 55 members of auxiliary and para medical staff. The number of indoor and outdoor patients was 7,214 and 74,079 respectively.

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 242.

**Civil Hospital, Hansi.**—The hospital is located on Delhi-Hisar road and was initially established as dispensary in 1876-77. It has the departments of medicine, surgery, dental and X-ray and gynecology.

It provides facilities for diagnostic and therapeutic radiology as well as laboratory. In 1978, it had 50 beds and the staff consisted of 3 doctors and 15 members of auxiliary and para medical staff. The number of indoor and outdoor patients was 1,064 and 29,134 respectively.

**Civil Hospital, Fatehabad.**—Initially started as a dispensary in 1876-77, the civil hospital is located on Sirsa road. It has the departments of medicine, surgery, gynecology and dental.

It provides facilities for diagnostic and therapeutic radiology as well as laboratory. In 1978, it had 50 beds and the staff consisted of 3 doctors and 13 members of auxiliary and para medical staff. The number of indoor and outdoor patients was 2,233 and 38,017 respectively.

**Civil Hospital, Tohana.**—The hospital located at the railway road was initially established as a dispensary in 1891. The new hospital is located on the Hisar road and it has departments of medicine, surgery and gynecology.

It provides facilities for diagnostic and therapeutic radiology as well as laboratory. In 1978, it had 60 beds and the staff consisted of 3 doctors and 15 members of auxiliary and para medical staff. The number of indoor and outdoor patients was 2,281 and 46,025 respectively.

**Civil Hospital, Adampur.**—The hospital was established in 1971 in a rented building and its own building near the bus stand was under construction in 1978. It has the departments of medicine, surgery and gynecology.

It provides facilities for diagnostic and therapeutic radiology as well as laboratory and blood bank. In 1978, it had 15 beds and the staff consisted of one doctor and 4 members of auxiliary and para medical staff. The number of indoor and outdoor patients was 113 and 15,295 respectively.

**Sewak Sabha Charitable Trust Hospital, Hisar.**—The hospital located on Sirsa road, was established in 1957. It has the departments of medicine, surgery, and gynecology.

It provides facilities for diagnostic and therapeutic radiology as well as laboratory and blood bank. In 1978, it had 75 beds and the



staff consisted of 8 doctors and 17 members of auxiliary and para medical staff. The number of indoor and outdoor patients was 2,027 and 21,574 respectively.

**Chura Mani Vishnu Devi Maternity Hospital, Hisar.**—It was founded in 1954 and is located on Hisar-Delhi road. The hospital provides facilities for laboratory and radiology. It has a maternity, general, private and children wards. In 1978, it had 90 beds and the hospital staff consisted of a Medical Superintendent, 2 doctors and 17 members of auxiliary and para medical staff. The number of indoor and outdoor patients was 6,779 and 19,896 respectively.

**N.C. Jindal Eye and General Hospital, Hisar.**—It was started in 1968. Located in Model Town, the hospital has clinical and operation facilities. In 1977, it had 200 beds and the hospital staff consisted of 3 doctors and 34 members of auxiliary and para medical staff. The number of outdoor patients in 1977 was 73,669.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

The modern concept of good health lays greater emphasis on prevention of diseases. The younger generation must be given health education which is the most important activity for effective preventive measures. Likewise, family welfare and maternity welfare require greater attention if the problem of over population has to be solved. It is equally necessary to take suitable measures to prevent adulteration of food, promote the use of nutritive articles of food, supply of safe and clean drinking water and take other such steps as will improve environment hygiene. The primary health centres have been provided in the district for integrated health services in addition to providing medical care. The primary health centres are aided by the UNICEF and provide maternity and child welfare, immunisation, health education and family welfare facilities.

**School Health Service.**—The first school health clinic was started in the Civil Hospital, Hisar in 1960. In 1973, the school health services were, however, made integrated part of hospitals, primary health centres and rural dispensaries. The District School Medical Officer looks after the school health services in the district and renders advice to heads of the school in health matters and proper sanitation arrangements. The school children studying in the I, VI and IX classes are thoroughly checked and arrangements are made for the treatment of those found ill. During 1977-78, 5,685 children were examined and out of these 3,228 were found ill and treated.

**Family Welfare.**—The family welfare programme earlier known as family planning programme was launched in the district in 1958 when the District Red Cross Society opened a clinic at Hisar. The family welfare programme in the district is carried out under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer, who is assisted by the District Family Welfare Officer. The family welfare services are provided through family welfare units attached with each of the civil hospitals, dispensaries, primary health centres and sub-centres. A centre is attached to the Civil Hospital, Hisar to provide special facilities for medical termination of pregnancy and sterilisation.

The District Red Cross Society and Family Planning Association of India were also running family welfare centres at Hisar, Fatehabad and Tohana.

The family planning practices cover methods for limitation of families as also for spacing of children. These include sterilization of male or female and the insertion of IUCD (intra uterine contraceptive device, popularly known as the 'loop'), the use of conventional contraceptives like diaphragm, jellies, foam tablets and oral pills. The contraceptives are distributed through contraceptive depots/centres including rural post offices. Besides, free medical and surgical services, transport and diet are arranged for sterilization cases. Cash incentives are also offered. The following data would show the progress of family planning work during 1975-76 to 1977-78 :—

Year	Conventional Contraceptives Distributed	Sterilization Cases	IUCD Cases
1975-76	18,479	7,342	6,331
1976-76	43,354	28,485	13,796
1977-78	25,040	1,431	3,974

**Maternity and Child Health.**—The maternal and child health care is provided at all the civil hospitals, dispensaries and primary health centres. Free pre-natal and post-natal care and free delivery services are provided at the houses in the rural areas. These services are also provided by the Red Cross Society at the maternity and child health centres at Hisar and Uklana.

Nutrition to infants and mothers is provided through UNICEF aid in the form of milk feeding programmes and provision of vitamins at all the primary health centres and maternity and child health centres.



**Sanitation .—**The health department is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of sanitation. The Chief Medical Officer has the overall charge of sanitation work in the district. The sanitary inspectors look after the sanitation work within their jurisdiction under the guidance of the Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Health). In urban areas, the local bodies look after the removal and disposal of refuse, night soil and waste and cleanliness of the surroundings of the town.

The underground sewerage was not available in any village but Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad and Jakhal Mandi had the facility of underground sewerage in most parts of the town.

**Water Supply .—**The sources of drinking water in most parts of the district are open percolation wells situated by the side of ponds which are filled with rain water or canal water. The underground water is brackish except the *Nali* belt along the Ghagghar. To ensure clean drinking water a National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme was launched in 1954 and up to the formation of Haryana in 1966, 32 villages were covered under the programme and were served with piped water supply. By 1978, the piped water supply was available in 96 villages.

The water supply in the urban areas is the responsibility of the concerned local body. At the time of formation of Haryana in 1966, only Hisar, Hansi and part of Fatehabad were provided with piped water supply. The supply was not enough and hardly came near the optimum per capita supply recommended for the towns. After the formation of Haryana, the existing water supply schemes were augmented and the towns of Tohana, Jakhal, Uklana and Barwala were provided with piped water supply.

## CHAPTER XVII

### OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

This chapter covers the description of labour welfare, uplift of weaker sections of the society, welfare of old, infirm and destitute persons and prohibition.

#### LABOUR WELFARE

Prior to Independence, there was no regular government organisation to watch and ensure the welfare of labour and to settle disputes and other connected labour problems. A separate Labour Department in the composite Punjab was established in 1949. Till 1966, all labour matters relating to the Hisar district were looked after by the Labour Officer, Rohtak and Conciliation Officer, Bhiwani. Shortly thereafter, these two offices were combined and a Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer was posted at Bhiwani. His jurisdiction extended to Hisar, Bhiwani and Sirsa districts and he worked under the overall charge of the Labour Commissioner, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer, Hisar looks after the proper and effective implementation of various labour laws in this district. As Conciliation Officer, he initiates proceedings for the settlement of industrial disputes as provided by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and tries to settle them by mediation and by joint discussions. If he fails to settle the disputes, he submits his report to the government and matter is referred to the Labour Court or Industrial Tribunal<sup>1</sup> for adjudication.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

Labour Legislation is necessary to tackle economic and social problems as civil laws in general do not particularly deal with labour problems. The labour laws are motivated by humanitarian approach as propounded by the International Labour Organisation and are based on the principles of social justice. Labour, under the Constitution of India is a concurrent subject and both the central and state legislatures are empowered to make laws. Accordingly, the state government has also enacted certain labour legislation to suit local needs. The more important labour laws in force and their main

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1. There is a National Tribunal also to which reference is made by the Central Government to cover such cases as are of national importance or those in which establishments in more than one state may be affected.





provisions are detailed in Table XIV of Appendix. However, the Factories Act, 1948 is one of the most important labour legislation. It is administered by the Inspector of factories, Hisar under the overall supervision of Chief Inspector of Factories and Labour Commissioner Haryana through a Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and an Additional Chief Inspector of Factories.

The state government has appointed a Certifying Surgeon for whole state with headquarters at Faridabad who has been provided with a mobile van fitted with x-ray plant and laboratory. His duties are to visit the factories having hazardous operations, check-up the health of workers and take remedial measures to forestall any deterioration.

### **Industrial Relations**

The relations between the employees and the employers are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer, Bhiwani is responsible for enforcing it in the district. His efforts are directed towards fostering amicable relations between the management and the workers by removing, as far as possible, the causes of friction by prompt intervention and by timely redress of the grievances of the parties. Emphasis is laid on settlement of disputes through direct negotiations across the table or voluntary arbitration rather than through adjudication.

The functions of the Conciliation Officer are advisory and he has no direct power to make or vary awards. He has been successful in bringing about a large number of agreements between the parties. During the period from January, 1975 to December 31, 1978, 486 disputes were handled by the Conciliation Officer in the district. Of these, 196 were settled through his intervention, 35 were referred to adjudication/arbitration, 93 were withdrawn, 147 were rejected /filed by the government and the remaining 15 were pending for disposal at the end of the year.

### **Works Committees**

To promote harmonious relations between the employers and the workmen, to consider matters of mutual interest and to solve day to day problems, there is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for setting up a works committee in the industrial establishment employing 100 or more workers. Such committees consisting of equal number of representatives of the management and workmen exist in the following industrial establishments:—

- (i) Hisar Textile Mills, Hisar
- (ii) Jindal Industries, Hisar
- (iii) Jindal Strips, Hisar



### Strikes

There seems to be good relations and harmony between the employers and workers and only 80 industrial disputes occurred in the district during 1978. There were 3 strikes /lock outs in 1978 involving 5,534 workers as a result of which 17,482 man-days were lost.

### Trade Unions

The trade union movement in the district has gained momentum which is reflected in the number of registered trade unions under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. On December 31, 1977 there were 29 registered trade unions in the district. The names of these unions is given in Table XV of Appendix.

### Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme

The Government of India initiated the subsidised industrial housing scheme in September, 1952. Under this scheme only one establishment viz. Hissar Textile Mills Hisar has provided residential houses to their workers.

### Labour Welfare Centres

A government labour welfare centre with educational and recreational facilities to workers and their families has been opened at Hisar. The centre provides training in tailoring and embroidery to women, facilities for indoor and outdoor games, radio sets and musical instruments for recreation and cultural activities. Variety programmes are also organised occasionally.

### Employee's Provident Fund Scheme

The Employees Provident Funds Scheme framed by the Government of India under the Employee's Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, was designed to provide security to workers. The scheme was introduced on November 1, 1952. Initially, it was applicable to the factories employing 50 or more persons, but the limit was lowered from December 31, 1960, and factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons were covered under the scheme.

The provident fund contribution is deducted at the rate of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent from the monthly wages of the employees subscribing to the fund and an equal amount is contributed by the employers. The rate of contribution was enhanced from  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent to 8 per cent on January 1, 1963, in respect of industries/classes of establishments employing 50 or more persons. In Hisar district 133 factories/establishments were covered under this scheme by March 31, 1979 and 12,718 workers out of a total of 14,396 workers subscribed to the scheme.

The entire amount is deposited with the State Bank of India in Employees Provident Funds Account. The administrative charges at a fixed rate are contributed additionally by the employers. The fund rests with the central board of trustees having nominees of the central government, the state government and representatives of the employers and employees. The Central Provident Fund Commissioner at New Delhi is the Chief Executive Officer. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner at Chandigarh is responsible for the implementation of the scheme in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The subscribers can withdraw money from their provident fund for certain approved purposes. To afford financial assistance to the nominees/heirs of the deceased subscriber, a Death Relief Fund was set up in 1964 and a minimum of Rs. 1,000 is assured by way of relief. A non-refundable advance is also granted in case of individual retrenchment in order to mitigate the immediate hardship.

A subscriber is allowed to withdraw the full amount standing to his credit in the fund on completing 15 years of membership ; or on attaining the age of 55 years ; or after retirement from service ; or on retirement on account of permanent and total incapacity for work ; or on migration from India for permanent settlement abroad and termination of service in the case of mass as well as individual retrenchment.

In the Hisar district 283 provident funds claims were settled and about Rs. 3,06,625.40 was paid to the claimants during 1977-78.

#### **Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme 1976**

Notified by the Government of India, this scheme came into force on August 1, 1976. The scheme applies to the employees of the factories/establishments which are covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. An employer is required to pay 0.5 per cent of the aggregate of basic wages, dearness allowance (including the cash value of food concession) and retaining allowance, if any, payable to the employees and 0.1 per cent of the aggregate of basic wages for meeting the expenses in connection with the administration of the insurance scheme.

On the death of an employee who is a member of the fund, the person entitled to receive the provident fund accumulations of the deceased, shall, in addition to such accumulations, be paid an amount equal to the average balance in the provident fund account of the deceased during the preceding three years provided that the average balance in the account of the deceased member is not below the sum of Rs. 1,000 at any time during the preceding 3 years. The payment shall not exceed Rs. 10,000.



**Family Pension-cum-Life Assurance Scheme, 1971**

This scheme was introduced by the Government of India by amending the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and was enforced on March 1, 1971. It provides family pension to the heirs of the members of the fund who die prematurely while in service. Employees who were subscribing to the fund before February 28, 1971, were given choice to opt for this scheme which has been made compulsory since March, 1971 for all those subscribing to the fund.

Although no additional liability on the members is levied under the scheme,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of his wages is transferred to Family Pension Fund out of the amount of the subscriber as well as employers contributions payable under the Employees Provident Funds Scheme.

The members who join the family pension-cum-life assurance scheme at the age of 25 years or less and retire after attaining the age of 60 years, are eligible for retirement benefits under this scheme to the tune of Rs. 4,000. Similarly those leaving service for reasons other than death are also allowed withdrawal benefits at certain rates. For those who join this scheme after 25 years of age, certain percentage of reduction in benefits has been prescribed.

The benefits are admissible only if the member has contributed for 2 years, otherwise his own share of contribution to family pension fund along with interest at the rate of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent is refundable to him.

**Employee's State Insurance Scheme**

It is designed to provide security in the form of cash benefits to the industrial workers against sickness, maternity disablement and death due to employment injury. Periodical payments of cash are made to all insured persons in case of sickness, suffering from disablement, confinement and miscarriage and to the dependents while the person dies as a result of an employment injury. Artificial limbs, artificial denture, spectacles and hearing aids are also supplied to the insured persons. The workers drawing wages upto rupees one thousand or less per mensem working in the factories employing 10 or more persons and using power in the manufacturing process are covered under the Employee's State Insurance Act, 1948. This scheme is not applicable to the mines covered by the Mines Act, 1952 and workers working in railway running sheds, tea plantations, defence concerns and the seasonal factories. An employer has to pay twice the employees' contributions from the day the benefit provisions of the Act are extended to that area.

The scheme functions under the administrative control of the Director General, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi. In

Haryana, this scheme is executed through the Regional Director, Employees State Insurance Corporation, Chandigarh, who inspects factories, collects contributions, arranges payment of cash benefits.

The provision of medical care is the statutory responsibility of the state government and facilities are to be given according to the standard laid down by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation. Seven-eighth share of the expenditure incurred on medical care is contributed by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation and the remaining one-eighth of the total expenditure is born by the state government. The expenditure on other cash benefits is to be met by the Corporation entirely out of the Employees' State Insurance Fund.

Periodical payments are given to an insured employee in case of sickness and employment injury. An amount of Rs. 100 for funeral ceremony and periodical payment in the shape of pension is paid to the dependents of an employee if he/she dies of an employment injury. The scheme was first introduced in the district at Hisar in 1961 and in 1978, it was functioning at Hisar and its suburbs and covered about 7,600 employees working in Corporation.

#### **SOCIAL WELFARE**

##### **Old Age Pension**

The protective umbrella of social security in the form of old age pension was provided to the old, destitute and disabled persons in 1964 for the first time. The pension amount was fixed at Rs. 15 per month. The old, destitute or disabled persons who were in the age group of 65 years or above in the case of men and 60 years or above in the case of women and who were without subsistence or support were made eligible for the pension. The scheme was scrapped in 1967 but was revived in April, 1969 and the pension amount was enhanced to Rs. 25 per month. The quantum of pension was enhanced to Rs. 80 per mensem in April, 1977. The number of beneficiaries during the years 1975-76 to 1977-78 varied between 600 to 650.

##### **Family and Child Welfare Project**

The Government of India, Department of Social Welfare introduced family and child welfare project in the community development block of Fatehabad in 1967. The project provides all round development of pre-school children by utilising the services of various institutions in the block, including the family itself. It provides training to young mothers in home management, modern craft and allied subjects. It is directed towards laying a sound foundation for future adults. In the implementation of the programme, the block panchayat samiti, is directly involved. The Sarpanch



is the chairman of the functional Committee and the non-official woman social worker is the executive vice-chairman. The programme has institutional base at the headquarters of the block which disperses activities in the rest of the block through the various sub-centres.

During the Fourth Five Year Plan, the project was run by the Central Social Welfare Board through the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and the entire expenditure was met by the Government of India. The control of the project run by the State Social Welfare Advisory Board has, however, been taken over by the state government with effect from April, 1974.

### Advancement of Backward Classes

The Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis and Other Backward Classes<sup>1</sup> residing in the district are as under :—

#### Scheduled Castes

Ad Dharmi, Bauri or Bawaria, Bazigar, Balmiki, Chura or Bhangi, Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Regar, Raigar, Ramdasia or Ravidasi, Dhanak, Dumna, Mahasha or Doom, Kabirpanthi or Julaha, Khatik, Kori, Koli, Mazhabi, Megh, Nat, Od, Perna, Sansi, Bhedkut or Manesh, Sapela, Sikligar, Sirkiband and Sansi.

#### Vimukt Jatis

Bauria, Nat, Sansi.

#### Other Backward Classes

Aheria, Aheri, Heri, Naik, Thori or Turi, Baragi, Bairagi, Bharbhunja, Bharbhuja, Bhat, Bhatra, Darpi, Ramiya, Bhubalia Lohar, Chimba, Chhipi, Chimpa, Darzi, Tank, Daiya, Dhobi, Dakaut, Dhimar, Mallah, Kashyap Rajputs, Faqir, Gwaria, Gauria or Gwar, Ghasi, Ghasiara or Ghosi, Gadaria, Gwala, Gowala Garhi, Hajjam, Nai, Jhangra Bhahman, Joginath, Kanjar or Kanchan, Kahar, Jhinwar or Bhinar,

1. Scheduled castes have been defined in Article 344 of the Constitution of India. Vimukt Jatis cannot be such a tribe, gang or class of persons or any part of tribe, gang or class of persons which were deemed to be criminal tribes under the Criminal Tribes Act VI of 1924. Other Backward classes include Backward classes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, recognised as such by the state government on the basis of educational and economic backwardness coupled with some social stigma akin to untouchability.

Kumhars (including Prajapatis) Khati, Kuchband, Lakhera, Lohar, Maniar, Madari, Mirasi, Mochi, Nais, Nalbad, Pinja, Raigar, Rai Sikhs, Sighikant, Singhiwala, Thathora, Tampora, Teli, Vanzara and Julaha.

The different professions adopted by these classes include agricultural labour, sweeping and scavenging, leather tanning, shoe-making, basket and rope making, pigs and sheep rearing, hair cutting, iron smithy, washing and dyeing, etc.

The Department of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes has adopted certain measures for the benefit of these classes in pursuance of the Directive Principles embodied in the Constitution of India. These schemes were taken up to ameliorate their conditions and to bring them at par with other castes.

**Removal of Untouchability.**—Article 17 of the Constitution of India abolished untouchability and forbids its practice in any form. The practice of untouchability has also been declared an offence under the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 now known as the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. Despite these constitutional and legal guarantees, it is existing in one form or the other, especially in rural areas.

To eradicate untouchability, a special programme is carried on through community centres known as Sanskar Kendras and Balwadis. These are started at places where there are large concentrations of members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. These centres are open to all classes irrespective of caste or creed. Besides the 3R's (reading, writing and arithmetic), women are taught cooking, first aid, home nursing, care of baby, mending of clothes and some crafts by a Lady Social Worker. The children play games and are trained in cleanliness, good conduct and good habits. The expenditure incurred on cloth, sewing machines and books is met by the government. The Male Social Worker attached to the centres holds adult literacy classes, teaches technique of cottage industries, organises sports, games and cultural programmes besides propagating against untouchability. In 1977-78, three community centres were functioning at Parbhuwala, Ahrvan and Ladwa.

The government introduced a scheme of Harijan *chaupals* in 1970-71 for providing a common gathering place for Scheduled Caste persons for celebrating social/religious functions. These *chaupals* are open to all other



communities and thus help in promoting social integration of the Scheduled Castes and other communities. Under the scheme, a subsidy up to Rs. 5,000 for the construction of *chaupal* and upto Rs. 2,000 for the repair of old one is given. Since the inception of the scheme, an amount of Rs. 9,19,000 have been spent for the construction/repair of 217 Harijan *chaupals* in the district.

**Promotion of Education.**—The persons belonging to Backward classes are provided special facilities, financial as well as others to spread education among them. These special measures have been described in chapter on 'Education and Culture'.

**Subsidy for Construction of New Houses.**—In order to provide shelter to the homeless members of the Scheduled Castes, subsidies are granted for the construction of a house. A subsidy of Rs. 2,000 for the construction of a house is given to person who has no house of his own. The proprietary rights of the house remains vested in the government for 20 years after which the house becomes the property of the beneficiary. The latter, of course, has free use of the house during this period. During the period from 1956-57 to 1977-78 a sum of Rs. 9,99,100 was disbursed to 1,082 beneficiaries.

Out of 1,082 beneficiaries, 1,077 have constructed their houses.

**Subsidy for House Sites.**—Over-crowding of houses in Harijan *bastis* in the rural areas poses a serious problem. Although the Punjab Village Common Lands(Regulation) Act, 1961, has conferred upon Harijan the proprietary rights over the sites under their houses, yet to relieve congestion in Harijan *bastis*, the government initiated a scheme in 1958-59 to grant a subsidy of Rs. 200 to each deserving and needy persons of the Scheduled Castes for the purchase of a residential site. The scheme was withdrawn in 1967-68. However in 1968-69, an incentive for purchase of house site was provided by way of loan of Rs. 1,000 at 3 per cent interest. A sum of Rs. 1,08,000 was disbursed to 108 beneficiaries in 1968-69 under this scheme whereafter it was dropped.

**Drinking Water Amenities.**—Grants were given to Harijan in rural as well as urban areas for the provision of drinking water facilities. The wells and handpumps constructed as such are open to the general public also. This scheme was introduced in 1955-56.

A sum of Rs. 4,14,170 was disbursed during the period 1955-56 to 1977-78 for the projects as shown below :

Name of the Scheme	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount
		(Rs.)
1. Sinking of new wells	139	27,875.00
2. Repair of old wells	193	98,310.00
3. Installation of Handpumps	108	37,110.00
Total :	404	4,14,170.00

**Facilities for Industrial Training.**—To improve the economic condition of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, their young men are trained as skilled workers by giving them training on an apprenticeship basis in various trades in different industrial training institutions.<sup>1</sup> Twenty per cent of the seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and two per cent for the Backward Classes. During the course of training, which varies from one year to two years, a monthly stipend of Rs. 45 is granted to a trainee belonging to the Scheduled Castes. No stipend under this scheme is admissible to a trainee of Backward Classes. This particular scheme is aimed at improving the status not only of the individual concerned but also of the families to which they belong.

**Grant of Interest Free Loan.**—For lack of finance, professionally trained skilled members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes find it difficult to establish themselves in the professions of law, medicine, engineering and architecture. Others not so trained also need money to set up or expanding an industry, business or trade such as shoe-making, cattle-breeding dairying, sheep-breeding, wood work, weaving, sewing, etc. They are, therefore, helped with loans free of interest, under the Punjab Backward Classes (Grant of Loans) Act, 1957. These loans are recovered in 20 half-yearly instalments and the first recovery starts after the lapse of four years from the date of drawal of the loan. The maximum amount which is granted to a borrower is Rs. 2,000.

The scheme was introduced in 1958-59. A sum of Rs. 3,92,800 was advanced from 1958-59 to 1977-78 to 571 persons of this district.

**Subsidy /Loan for Purchase of Agricultural Lands.**—Members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukhat Jatis in rural areas generally depend on land for their livelihood but most of them have no land of their own. To help the deserving landless members of these communities to acquire land, a scheme provided a subsidy of Rs. 2,000 to a member who, in turn has to contribute the remaining amount from his own resources to acquire not less than 5 acres of land costing not less than Rs. 900 per acre. A person so settled was also given a subsidy of Rs. 500 for constructing a house or a well on the land purchased. A sum of Rs. 360 as subsidy to meet the expenses on stamp duty for registration of such land was also provided in each case. In 1969-70, the subsidy-oriented land purchase scheme was remodelled into a loan scheme. Under it, a loan of Rs. 4,500 was granted for the purchase of 3 acres of land. The loan was on 3 per cent interest and was recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments commencing after four years from the date of disbursement. After the land was bought, a subsidy of Rs. 500 was paid to

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1. For details about these institutions, the Chapter on 'Education and Culture' may referred to.



the loanee for the purchase of agricultural implements. A person so settled was given a subsidy of Rs. 1,000 for the construction of a house or a well. This subsidy was also given to others who had their own land but has no well or house in it.

After 1972-73, loans/subsidy for the purchase of agricultural land was stopped as the members of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes were entitled to the surplus area declared under the Haryana Ceiling of Land Holdings Act, 1972.

**Legal Assistance.**—To protect the members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukhat Jatis, against the tyranny of landlords or other exploiting classes, legal assistance to defend themselves is provided in cases involving ejectment from land, etc. During 1955-56 to 1977-78 legal assistance amounting to Rs. 2,845 was granted in 48 cases.

**Subsidy for the Purchase of Pigs/Poultry Birds.**—The deserving and the needy persons of the Scheduled Castes are given a subsidy of Rs. 800 each for the purchase of four pigs of imported or *desi* breed. The subsidy is given in kind, and the purchase is effected from the Government Piggery Farm, Hisar. Pigs are also purchased from the open market. A sum of Rs. 1,18,400 was paid to 148 beneficiaries during 1966-67 to 1977-78. No subsidy for the poultry farm has been given so far.

**Loans (Miscellaneous).**—It was felt that the students of Scheduled Castes while pursuing studies found it difficult to purchase books according to their requirement. An interest free loan to the tune of Rs. 200 to each post-matric and Rs. 400 to each post-graduate Scheduled Castes student is advanced for the purchase of books and stationery articles. This loan is recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments and the recovery commences after four years of its disbursement. The scheme was introduced in 1967-68 and up to 1977-78, a sum of Rs. 1,15,850 was paid as loan to 608 persons.

The Scheduled Castes were advanced loan out of Harijan Kalyan Fund for setting up different trades and professions. The maximum amount of loan was Rs. 2,000 (Rs. 5,000 in case of certain specified trades) and the rate of interest was 3 per cent. It was recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments and the recovery commenced after four years of its disbursement. The scheme was introduced in 1967-68 and discontinued in 1971-72. During the period 1967-68 to 1971-72 an amount of Rs. 6,00,500 was advanced to 575 persons in the Hisar district.

Under another scheme which was operative only for the year 1968-69, a sum of Rs. 61,000 was advanced as loan to 61 persons belonging to the

Scheduled Castes for the purchase of residential plots. The loan was recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments with 3 per cent interest, recovery commenced after four years of disbursement.

**Assistance to Harijan Widows.**—A scheme to help poor Harijan widows was introduced in Hisar district in 1974-75. Under this scheme a stipend of Rs. 20 per month is given to those Harijan widows who get training in tailoring in the nearest community centre run by the Social Welfare Department. During the training, raw materials required for the purpose is also provided by the government. After completion of one year course, they are given a new sewing machine each free of cost to earn their livelihood. Under the scheme 49 Harijan widows have received training and got the sewing machines upto 1977-78.

**Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam Limited, Chandigarh.**—The Nigam was formed in 1971 with an authorised capital of Rs. 2 crores for providing financial assistance to Harijans for their socio-economic and educational uplift. The Nigam advances loans at moderate rate of interest recoverable in easy instalments for various trades and professions. The loan is also advanced for higher studies in which case the rate of interest is further reduced. A loan up to Rs. 10,000 is given to an individual and up to Rs. 50,000 to registered partnership firms and cooperative societies consisting of all Scheduled Castes members.

The Nigam has a field officer at Hisar to process loan applications, assist prospective Harijans in preparing loan documents and recover loans.

The loan advanced by the Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam to the members of Scheduled Castes in the Hisar district for various trades/professions such as dairying, livestock breeding, poultry farming and other miscellaneous cottage industries, etc. was Rs. 0.44 lakh during 1977-78.

#### PROHIBITION

A programme of partial prohibition of observing two dry days, i.e. Mondays and Tuesdays, in a week besides closed days (i.e. Independence day-15th August, Acharya Vinoba Bhave's Birthday-11th September and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday 2nd October), was introduced on April 1, 1969, in the areas of the Hisar district. The intention was to increase the number of dry days gradually in each successive year and thus achieve complete prohibition within three or four years.

The policy of two days in a week did not bring about the desired



result. The people has either been stocking liquor for consumption during the dry days or purchased their requirements from bootleggers. It also encouraged illicit distillation. The licensees also sometimes indulged in malpractice of selling on prohibited days. The whole situation was, therefore, reviewed, and from April 1, 1970, it was decided to enforce only the policy of observing three closed days in a year. However, since April, 1973, every 7th day of a month is also observed as closed day. This has been done as check for the labour class against purchasing liquor on the pay day. Further, no liquor shop was to be opened within a distance of 100 metres from any educational institution or bus-stand or a place of public worship or public entertainment, and within 150 metres of a school or a college for women. The maximum limit of keeping only one bottle of country liquor in an individual's possession introduced in April, 1969, was allowed to continue.

Total prohibition was never enforced in the Hisar district. In 1977-78, there were 4 wholesale and 54 retail vends of country liquor and 5 wholesale and 50 retail vends of Indian made foreign liquor. The consumption of exciseable articles in the district during 1975-76 to 1977-78 was as follows :—

Year	Country liquor	Indian Made Foreign Liquor	Foreign Liquor	Beer	Bhang	Opium
	(L.P. Litres)	(L.P. Litres)	(L.P. Litres)	Imp. gallons)	(Kilo- grams)	(Kilo- grams)
1975-76	6,10,976	70,489	—	95,396	—	—
1976-77	6,83,950	1,19,731	6	2,56,341	—	—
1977-78	6,60,251	1,92,674	—	2,83,504	—	—

The consumption of country liquor and Indian made foreign liquor has considerably increased. The suppression of illicit distillation, opening of new vends, improved financial position of the people in the rural and urban areas are mainly responsible for the increased consumption of liquor in the district.

The oral consumption of opium for the general public was prohibited on April 1, 1959. The opium is only supplied to the registered

addicts through the Chief Medical Officer, Hisar. There was no sale of *bhong* after April 1, 1965, due to total prohibition of its oral consumption.

Because of the restrictions on the sale of opium there is a black market in the commodity. It has also not been possible to check entirely the illicit distillation of liquor.



## CHAPTER XVIII

### PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

#### REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES

Six Lok Sabha and seven Vidhan Sabha elections were held in the district between 1952 and 1977. A brief description of these elections is given below :

##### Lok Sabha

During the last six general elections, the Hisar district formed part of different Lok Sabha constituencies and as such the results of these elections do not reflect the position of the district in its entirety. During the First General Elections, 1952, the present Hisar district formed part of Rohtak and Hisar Lok Sabha Constituencies. There were 4 contestants in Rohtak Constituency and 8 contestants in Hisar Constituency. From both the constituencies, Congress candidates were elected. During Second General Elections, 1957, the present Hisar district formed part of Hisar and Mahendragarh Lok Sabha Constituencies. There were 5 contestants in Hisar and 4 in Mahendragarh and both these constituencies returned Congress candidates. During the Third General Elections, 1962, there was no change in the limits of the constituencies. In Hisar, there were 6 candidates and a Socialist candidate was returned and in Mahendragarh, there were 9 candidates and a Jana Sangh candidate was returned.

After the formation of Haryana as a separate state in 1966, the present Hisar district formed the part of Sirsa (S.C.) and Hisar Lok Sabha Constituencies during 1967 and 1971 elections. There were 12 contestants in 1967 and 5 in 1971 in Sirsa (S.C.) Constituency and 7 contestants in 1967 and 8 in 1971 in Hisar Constituency and Congress candidates were returned both times from these constituencies.

During the Sixth General Elections, 1977, the district formed part of Sirsa, Bhiwani and Hisar Constituencies and there were 4, 3 and 2 contestants respectively. The Janata candidates captured all the three seats.

##### Vidhan Sabha

During the First General Elections, 1952, the present district constituted five Vidhan Sabha constituencies of Fatehabad (double

member), Hisar City, Hisar Sadar, Hansi and Narnaund. Two bye-elections were held in 1953 and 1956 from Fatehabad (double member) constituency.

The district went to polls in the Second General Elections in 1957. There was delimitation of certain constituencies. Narnaund constituency was added to Hansi which was made a double member constituency and Fatehabad double member constituency was split up into Tohana and Fatehabad constituencies. In the General Elections of 1962, Hansi (double member) constituency was divided again into single member constituencies of Hansi and Narnaund (S.C.) and thus there were six constituencies of Hisar City, Hisar Sadar, Hansi, Narnaund, Tohana and Fatehabad.

With the formation of Haryana in 1966, the Fourth General Elections were held in 1967 to Haryana Vidhan Sabha instead of Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Besides, mid-term elections were held in 1968 and 1972. The number of constituencies was raised from six to eight i.e. Narnaund, Hansi, Hisar, Tohana, Fatehabad, Barwala, Adampur and Badopal. The last Vidhan Sabha elections were held in June, 1977 when there were ten constituencies in the district.

The following details show the trend of elections held from time to time :—

**First General Elections, 1952.**—During the First General Elections, an independent and a Congress candidate were declared elected from Fatehabad (double member) constituency, and the remaining four constituencies of Hisar City, Hisar Sadar, Hansi and Narnaund returned congress candidates. The party-wise performance is given below :

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	Perce- ntage of the Valid Votes
1. Indian National Congress	5	5	78,101	37.02
2. Bhartiya Jana Sangh	2	—	13,443	6.37
3. Samyukta Socialist Party of India	6	—	30,359	14.39
4. Zamindara Party	4	—	45,109	21.38
5. Independents	14	1	43,954	20.84
	31	6	2,10,966	100.00



The elections of Fatehabad double member constituency were declared void by the Election Tribunal and a bye-election was held in 1953. A Praja Socialist Party candidate and an independent candidate were elected from the general and reserve seats respectively. The election of the general seat was declared void by the Election Tribunal and a bye-election was held in 1956 and a congress candidate was declared elected.

**Second General Elections, 1957.**—During the Second General Elections, all the six seats were bagged by the Congress candidates. The performance of each party is given below :

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	Perce- ntage of Valid Votes
1. Indian National Congress	6	6	1,18,037	41.32
2. Bhartiya Jana Sangh	3	—	21,788	7.63
3. Communist Party of India	2	—	24,259	8.49
4. Samyukta Socialist Party of India	5	—	31,379	10.98
5. Independents	17	—	90,219	31.58
Total :	33	6	2,85,682	100.00

**Third General Elections, 1962.**—During the elections, out of six seats, two went to independents and the remaining four were won by Socialists. The party-wise performance is given below :

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	Perce- ntage of the Valid Votes
1. Indian National Congress	6	—	1,17,656	36.23
2. Swatantra Party	1	—	394	0.12
3. Bhartiya Jana Sangh	2	—	9,584	2.95
4. Praja Socialist Party	1	—	1,687	0.51
5. Communist Party of India	2	—	6,140	1.89
6. Republican Party of India	3	—	7,113	2.19
7. Samyukta Socialist Party of India	4	4	87,618	26.98
8. Independents	13	2	94,592	29.13
Total :	32	6	3,24,784	100.00

**Fourth General Elections, 1967.**—During the Fourth General Elections, 1967, all the eight seats were captured by Congress. The performance of each party has been shown below :—

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	Perce- ntage of the Valid Votes
1. Indian National Congress	8	8	1,47,088	47.44
2. Bhartiya Jana Sangh	4	—	17,127	5.52
3. Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1	—	746	0.24
4. Communist Party of India	1	—	1,069	0.34
5. Samyukta Socialist Party of India	7	—	45,189	14.98
6. Republican Party of India	2	—	3,708	1.20
7. Swatantra Party	1	—	2,040	0.66
8. Independents	27	—	93,071	30.02
Total :	51	8	3,10,038	100.00

**Mid-Term Elections, 1968.**—Haryana Vidhan Sabha was dissolved on November 21, 1967 and the Mid-Term Elections were held in May 1968. Out of the 8 seats, the Congress captured 4 seats, the Bhartiya Karanti Dal 1 seat, Swatantra 1 seat and the newly formed Vishal Haryana Party 2 seats. The party-wise position was as under :—

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	Perce- ntage of the Valid Votes
1. Indian National Congress	8	4	1,20,356	45.30
2. Bhartiya Jana Sangh	2	—	3,869	1.46
3. Bhartiya Karanti Dal	2	1	27,202	10.24
4. Samyukta Socialist Party of India	2	—	2,937	1.10
5. Republican Party	2	—	1,747	0.66
6. Swatantra Party	3	1	22,246	8.37
7. Vishal Haryana Party	3	2	42,775	16.09
8. Independents	13	—	45,570	16.78
Total :	35	8	2,65,702	100.00



**Mid-Term Elections, 1972.**—Haryana Vidhan Sabha was again dissolved and Mid-Term Elections were held in March 1972. Out of 8 seats, 6 were won by the Congress (Ruling), 1 by the Congress (organisation) and 1 by an independent. The party-wise position is given below:

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	Perce- tage of the Valid Votes
1. Indian National Congress (Ruling)	8	6	1,84,629	50.28
2. Indian National Congress (organisation)	2	1	41,528	11.43
3. Samyukta Socialist Party of India	4	—	3,509	0.97
4. Communist Party of India	1	—	9,756	2.69
5. Arya Sabha	1	—	17,543	4.83
6. Hindu Maha Sabha	1	—	400	0.11
7. Vishal Haryana Party	1	—	8,069	2.22
8. Republican Party	3	—	6,864	1.89
9. Independents	19	19	90,981	25.04
Total :	40	8	3,63,279	100.00

**General Elections, 1977.**—The last General Elections were held in June, 1977 and the district was divided into 10 assembly constituencies of Barwala, Narnaund, Hansi, Bhattu Kalan, Hisar, Girahe, Tohana, Ratia (S.C.), Fatehabad and Adampur. All the ten seats were won by the Janata party. The performance of each party is given below :

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	Perce- tage of the Valid Votes
1. Janata Party	10	10	2,16,911	50.3
2. Indian National Congress (Indira)	5	—	39,595	8.8
3. Communist Party of India	3	—	16,394	3.9
4. Vishal Haryana Party	3	—	6,225	1.5
5. Independents	58	—	1,53,934	35.5
Total :	79	10	4,30,988	100.0

There were 6,59,906 (3,56,124 males and 3,03,782 females) voters in the district in 1977, which were 11.1 per cent of the total voters of the state and 4,30,988 persons exercised their right of franchise. The voting percentage in the district was 65.01 as against 64.46 in the state.

### Political Parties and Organisation

There is no recognised local political party in the district. The result of various elections indicate that only regional and national parties have mass following. The Indian National Congress has remained dominant on the political arena of the district, till 1972. However, the Janata Party appeared in a dominating role in the last General Elections of 1977.

The independents having no political entity whatsoever do contest elections and get a sizeable popular votes. They do not contest elections with any programme and most of them are non-serious right from the beginning. Such candidates generally withdraw their candidatures before the polling or forfeit their securities. Their existence and success reflect two features. Some defect from their previous political parties on account of personal differences or differences relating to their political field, who after their success either continue to remain as independents or extend their support to some political party.

### VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

There are several social service organisations which are functioning in the district. Many of these get state assistance. They undertake public welfare activities and their involvement in the service of humanity is commendable. The most important of them have been described below :

**Zila Sainik Board, Hisar.**—The board was constituted in 1930. The main aim of the board is to look after the interests and welfare of the soldiers, ex-servicemen and their families. Assistance is provided for resettlement of ex-servicemen under various schemes of self-employment. In 1977-78, the board spent about Rs. 2.08 lakh on various welfare activities.

**The Red Cross Society, Hisar .**—The District Red Cross Society at Hisar was established in 1948. It is affiliated to the state branch of the Indian Red Cross Society. Three affiliated sister societies i.e. St. John Ambulance Association, District Council for Child Welfare and Hospital Welfare Section were formed at Hisar simultaneously. The Red Cross responds to suffering and calamities like flood, fire and epidemics. With the time, the activities of the society have increased. The



expenditure of the society was Rs. 5.56 lakh in 1977 as against Rs. 1.24 lakh in 1966.

In 1978, the society was running two maternity and child welfare centres, one each at Hisar and Uklana Mandi, two family welfare planning clinics one each at Tohana and Fatehabad, five trained *dai* centres one each at Nangthala, Umra, Petwar, Satrod and Dabra, five welfare extension projects (4 rural and one urban) one each at Alipur, Talwandi Rukka, Bhagana, Mangali and Hisar and a Blind Relief school at Hisar.

The St. John Ambulance has provided ambulance service at Hisar, Hansi and Fatehabad. The association arranges training in first-aid and home nursing. It has provided four ambulance cars, one at each of the Civil Hospitals, Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad and Tohana.

The Hospital Welfare Section undertakes free supply of medicines, ambulance service, food, clothes, magazines, books etc. to the needy patients in hospitals, health centres and T.B. clinics. The fruits and sweets are distributed on some occasions to the indoor patients.

The District Council for Child Welfare was running 11 *balwadis* in the district to provide recreational, educational, health and nutrition services to the children. These services are provided to the children of the age group 3 to 6 at Nehla, Agroha, Hisar, Satrod Khurd, Ladwa, Thurana, Umra and Bas. The council runs nine creches at different places in the district for the children of working and ailing mothers having monthly income of less than Rs. 300 per month. The council also provides supervised home work classes for pre-school education at seven different places in the district.

Besides, it runs two library-cum-play centres at Hisar.

**The District Relief Fund Committee.**—The committee was constituted in 1954 and is engaged in raising donations and provides grants to the institutions engaged in service of the humanity.

#### NEWS PAPERS AND PERIODICALS

There was no newspaper/periodical published from the Hisar district during pre-Independence days. First Hindi weekly published in 1948 from Hisar, was 'Gyanodaya' mainly dealing with news and current affairs. In 1950, another Hindi weekly 'Hariyana Sandesh' was started from Hisar. Two other such weeklies viz. 'Waqt-ki-Awaz' and 'Yuwak Wani' also appeared from Hisar in 1953 and 1960 respectively.

Two monthly publications, a Hindi magazine 'Amar Jyoti' and

'Adarsh Balpatrika' in English and Hindi appeared from Hisar in 1950 and 1955 respectively. In 1952, a quarterly magazine 'Morning Star' in Hindi, English, Punjabi and Urdu was also started from Hisar.

Different weeklies and monthlies were published from Hisar at different times. During 1978, the publications in the district were 22. Out of them 'Hariyana Sandesh' 'Gyanodaya' and 'Amar Jyoti' are worth-mentioning. All these publications have limited circulations and the newspapers from Delhi, Chandigarh and Jalandhar carry large circulation in the district.



## CHAPTER XIX

### PLACES OF INTEREST

#### Introduction

The Hisar district made significant contribution to the Haryana heritage and Banawali, Seeswal and Rakhigarhi were pre-Harappan and Harappan settlements and centres of activity during pre-historic times. The Asokan pillars at Hisar and Fatehabad (originally of Agroha or Hansi), discovery of the Kushana sculptural art and Yaudheya seal from Agroha and coins of Yaudheyas and sculptures of Pratiharas and Tomaras from Hansi and Agroha, establish that Hansi and Agroha dominated the scene during the historical period.

During the medieval period, the district rose into prominence continually. Important monuments like forts, gates, palaces, mosques and mausoleums at Hansi, Hisar and Fatehabad show the importance of the district during Sultanate and Mughal rule.

The following pages describe the places of interest which are known for their antiquity or have acquired importance on account of their economic and industrial development.

#### Banawali (Tahsil Fatehabad)

The ancient mound of Banawali, previously called Vanawali, lies 14 kms. north-west of Fatehabad on the right bank of the Rangoi Nala on 29° 37' 5" north latitude and 75° 23' 6" east longitude. This proto-historic mound spread over an area of  $\frac{1}{2}$  sq. kms., rose to a height of about 10 metres due to successive settlements on the earlier rubble.

The archaeological excavations done here by the Department of Archaeology, Haryana have revealed a well constructed fort town of the Harappan period overlying an extensive proto-urban settlement of the pre-Harappan culture. If the discovered ancient relics are pieced together, a fairly coherent picture emerges and it can be conjured up that if Kalibangan was a metropolitan town over the lower middle valley of the Saraswati, Banawali was possibly one over the upper middle course of that river.

The culture of the pre-Harappan period (2700 B.C.—2300 c. B.C.) is characterised by the typical pottery, settlement pattern and architecture. A wide range of fabrics, identical to those found at Kalibangan

in Rajasthan, illustrates the developed ceramic art of the settlers here. A rich variety of shapes and designs speaks highly of the level of their socio-economic existence and their aesthetic taste. The houses were built roughly along cardinal directions and points to definite town planning. Constructed usually of mould-made bricks, we find, occasionally, structures made of kiln-baked bricks. The civilization seems to have been conversant with the technology of copper smelting. Among personal ornaments, beads of gold, semi-precious stones, terracotta and steatite and bangles of clay, shell, faience and copper have been recovered during the course of excavation. The overall picture presents a fair degree of advancement achieved by the pre-Harappans by the middle of the 3rd millennia B.C.

While the pre-Harappan culture was still young, a new set of people occupied Banawali. They soon built a well planned and fortified township in the 'classical chessboard pattern'. The broad arterial streets, running from north to south, have been found straight and uninterrupted, whereas those, running from east to west, were usually narrow and staggered. This planning perhaps protected the town from the blistering winds of the west and severe monsoon rains of the south-east. The town seems to be divided into two sub-joined fortified areas, one separated from the other by a six-to-seven-metre thick wall running centrally across the mound from north to south. A narrow opening, provided through the defence wall in the centre of the mound, was, perhaps meant for communication between the two parts of the city blocks, of which the better fortified western side was dominated by the elite, while the commoners and business communities lived in the eastern wing. This postern gate was guarded by a massive square bastion. Planned mud-brick houses, with several rooms, a kitchen, a toilet, etc. are found built on either side of the roads and lanes. Their sanitary arrangements depended on the use of sanitary pottery jars which served as wash-basins, as also for soakage purposes. Except in a few places, which demanded constant use of water, structures were usually made of sun-baked bricks meticulously moulded into various sizes. Numerous household items like ovens, hearths, *tandoors* and blades made of chert and other stones, and sophisticated ceramics known for their fanciful shapes have been excavated. The principal kinds of pottery recovered included vases, fruit stands, chalice cups, handled cups, S-shaped jars, perforated jars, cooking *handis*, beakers, basins, goblets, etc. Among painted motifs, peacocks, *pipal* and banana leaves, trees, deer, stars, fish, flowers, intersecting circles, checker-board patterns and honey-comb patterns are of special interest. It is noteworthy that the pre-Indus ceramic tradition continues here throughout, whereas at Kalibangan, it dies out half-way



through. The Harappan seals recovered here depict a rhinoceros, ibex, wild goat, unicorn, a composite animal with a tiger's body and a bull's horns and the cubical weights and gamesman type of weights made of stones and ivory or bone reveal a great degree of precision and superb craftsmanship of the Harappan artists. Gold, copper and bronze pieces found here indicate that they had a profound knowledge of metallurgy. Among ornaments have been found beads of gold, copper, agate, carnelian, lapis lazula, faience, shell, bone and clay, bangles of copper, faience shell and terracotta, and *pipal* leaf shaped ear rings of faience. Certain figurines of mother Goddess and the like suggest that the Harappans were very fond of decorating their persons with elaborate headgear, ear rings, necklaces, garlands, etc. Copper and bronze were used for weapons and tools as also for ornaments and items included arrows, spearheads, razor blades, chisels, fish hooks, beads, rings, bangles, antimony rods, wires and hair pins. Iron, however, was not known to them. Terracotta figurines of bulls, buffaloes, deers, dogs, rhinoceros and birds are not only the evidence of their folk art tradition, but also throw welcome light on the fauna of those bygone days.

The site has attracted the attention of Indian archaeologists and in importance, it rivals Kotdiji and Chanhudaro (Sind-Pakistan), Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Surkotda and Lothal (Gujarat), Rakhigarhi (Hisar district) and Mitathal (Bhiwani district).

### Seeswal (Tahsil Hisar)

The ancient site lies about 300 metres to the north of Seeswal village. The village is 26 kms. to the west of Hisar and lies on 29° 10' north latitude and 75°30' east longitude.

The site has been excavated to a very limited scale, however, the ceramics and other finds from here attest a contact between the pre-Harappan and Harappan cultures and concomitance of the late Seeswal culture with mature Harappan<sup>1</sup> culture.

The ceramics discovered from the site is divisible into 3 groups. The first is Kalibangan ware, with all the typical fabrics and painting with white pigment in addition to black. The overall pattern of painted designs shows individualistic features but the design elements are common with Kalibangan. The second is marked by evolved Kalibangan and is characterised by austerity in shapes and designs, the absence of the use of white pigment in painting and the sturdy nature and better potting.

1. Suraj Bhan, 'Siswal, A Pre-Harappan site in Drishdavati Valley', *Puratattva*, 1972, pp. 44-46.

The pottery is painted in black or chocolate over red or pinkish surface with linear designs. The third is Harappan type made of medium fabric thrown on fast wheel and treated with bright red slip in case of storage jars and with light red slip in case of other vessels.

The other finds include terracotta bangles painted with black oblique strokes on the exterior, biconical truncated terracotta beads, terracotta sling balls-oblong in shape bearing finger pressed marks on sides in the typical Harappan style, terracotta disc with tapering ends and terracotta triangular cakes.

### **Rakhigarhi (Tahsil Hansi)**

The ancient site lies in the revenue jurisdiction of Rakhi Shahpur and Rakhi Khas, 32 Kms. north-east of Hansi on 29° 16' north latitude and 76° 10' east longitude.

Due to its strategic location dominating the fertile Indo-Ganga divide, the site seems to command a paramount position in the expansion of the Harappan culture in North India. Its location some 350 kms. south east of Harappan, 190 kms. east of Kalibangan and 80 kms. east of Banawali might suggest Rakhigarhi to be the easternmost provincial capital of the Harappans.<sup>1</sup> It was quite likely their metropolitan town and a trading centre.

The site comprises extensive ruins cut up into five parts broadly falling into a twin-mound complex nearly 2 kms. in circumference. As revealed from explorations, the site seems to be a settlement of pre-Harappan and Harappan people.

The pre-Harappan culture at this site is characterised by the ceramic industry and other typical finds. The discovery of a few pre-Harappan sherds below the Harappan platform suggests the existence of pre-Harappan horizon at the site. The ceramic industry comprised vessels painted with black designs over mottled surface. Some of the sherds also bear white designs in addition to black giving a bichrome effect. The main shapes in these wares include vases with short rims, jars, bowls, basins, vases with loop handles and ring footed bowls. The painted designs comprised the broad bands, arcading designs, alternately cross-hatched triangles, concentric arcs, loops with fronds, reserved slip designs, flowing, oblique or horizontal lines, etc. The incised designs occur on the interior as well as the exterior of the vessels and seems to be executed with a sharp-edged multi-toothed tool. The other typical finds include terracotta disc with tapering ends, bangles with single

1. Suraj Bhan, *Excavation at Mitathal (1968) and other Explorations in the Sutlej-Yamuna Divide*, Kurukshetra, 1975 Appendix B. P.



or multiple rings painted in black over matt red surface and biconical truncated terracotta beads.

The Harappan culture is marked by the extensive settlement laid on dichotomous plan typical of a Harappan town plan, the citadel mound on the west and the lower town on the east. The citadel mound is separated by an open space into two parts. The western half of the citadel mound revealed an extensive use of mud bricks suggesting perhaps the existence of platforms. The pottery comprised the typical sturdy and utilitarian red wares painted with designs in characteristic Harappan style. The paintings are executed in black pigment over slipped or plain surface with a variety of motifs like peacock, *pipal* leaf, deer, tree, sun motif, flowers and other geometrical designs. The other finds of the period include triangular cakes, oblong, round or oval sling balls, plumb bob, spindle whorls, bangles and beads of terracotta and chess board design drawn on a brick piece. One of the most important finds is a steatite seal bearing the figure of an animal (rhinoceros) with classical Harappan script.

The place is also connected with legendary *Rishi* Jamadagni (father of Parasurama) who had his *ashram* in its vicinity. He is said to have been killed here. His death was avenged by his son Parasurama who washed his *pharsa* in a nearby tank which later came to be known as Ramahrada. The tank is located at Ramrai (Jind District).<sup>1</sup>

### Agroha (Tahsil Hisar)

Agroha is situated about 24 Kms. north-west of Hisar on the Delhi-Sirsa road. The old mounds indicating the past glory of the place lie to the north-west of the village at 29° 20' north latitude and 75° 38' east longitude. These mounds occupy an area of about 650 acres and the largest of the mounds is 87 feet high.

Agroha, traditionally believed to represent the site of Agreya republic was referred to in the *Mahabharata*. It also finds mention in the *Ashtadhyayi* of Panini. It seems to have been one of the capital city at the time of Alexander's invasion of India. It is doubtful whether Alexander ever conquered Agroha as believed by some historians though legends among Aggarwals prevail that Alexander besieged Agroha and fierce fighting ensued.<sup>2</sup> Various known as Agrodaka, Agodaka, Aggalapura, Agara and Agallassoi, it was inhabited by a powerful people mustering an army of 48,000 foot

1. Dr. Vrindaban Sharma, 'Jai Haryana', *Haryana, Sanskrit Digdarshan* (Hindi).

2. Silk Ram, *Archaeology of Rohtak and Hisar District* (Haryana) Ph. D Dissertation, 1972, MSS, p. 109.

and 3,000 horses.<sup>1</sup> After the fall of the Mauryas and Sungas, the Agras or Agacha (San. Agreya) along with the Yaudheyas, asserted their independence. The former were settled in the region with Agroha as their capital and issued coins in 2nd century B.C.<sup>2</sup> The town is said to have been founded by Maharaja Agrasena and the Aggarwals claim to be the descendants of the original inhabitants of Agroha. Nothing can be said about the authenticity of the claim but it is beyond doubt that Agroha remained throughout an important centre of commerce and political developments till down to the period of Firuz Shah Tughlaq. It was probably attacked and burnt by Mohamad Ghuri in 1194<sup>3</sup> but the town flourished again and formed an important division of Hisar-i-Firuz.<sup>4</sup> It was deserted because of severe famine during Mohamad. Tughlaq's reign and demolition of ancient shrines and other structures by Firuz Tughlaq who used the material in constructing Hisar-i-Firuz.<sup>5</sup> The last settlement on the mound is that of fort which was built by Dewan Nanu Mall, commander of Patiala forces between 1774 and 1777 A.D. The Aggarwals hold the town in great reverence and two huge temples in honour of Maharaja Agrasena and Hindu deities are under construction.

The archaeological excavations undertaken initially by Rodgers and Srivastva and later by the Department of Archaeology, Haryana have broadly confirmed the continuous flourishing periods ranging from the 4th-3rd century B.C. to 13-14th century A.D. The period extending from Saka-Kushana times to the early Guptas was distinguished by structural remains of baked and unbaked bricks (size  $31 \times 21 \times 4.5$  cms.) and red wares of medium fabric of such shapes as Kushana bowls, sprinklers, cinerated *handi* and vases. Painting is almost absent from the pottery of this period. The late Kushana to early Gupta period was represented principally by the remains of brick structures showing fine phases of activity. A noteworthy feature was change in the pattern of construction of houses which were constructed of reused bricks of earlier period. The fine rectangular rooms, oriented north-south with entrance on the east as well as on the west, were exposed. A few niches were also found added in the earlier phase. Each constructional phase was distinguished by its associated underfloors with hearths and pit ovens. The associated pottery is represented by red ware of medium fabric but with distinct change in painting. The painted design in black include loops, verticle, horizontal and criss-cross lines. The antiquities unearthed from the period

1. H.C. Raychaudhuri, *Political History of Ancient India*, Calcutta, 1953, p. 44.

2. H.L. Srivastava, *Excavations at Agroha, Memories of the Archaeological Survey of India*, Delhi, 1952.

Silk Ram Phogat, *Archaeology of Hisar and Rohtak Districts*, K.U. Ph.D. Dissertation, 1972, MSS.

3. Wolseley Haig, *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. III (Delhi-1958), p. 41.

4. Elliot, *The History of India*, Vol. III, p. 245 and 300.

5. Wolseley Haig, *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. III p. 153 and 175.



include, terracotta animal figurine, a moulded human head, copper, coins, ring, antimony rod, bell, bangle pieces; beads and bangle pieces of shells, beads of carnelian shell, copper, lapis-lazuli and iron objects like arrow heads, clamps, chisels and nails. A terracotta sealing with a legend "Sri Narayan Deva Prakrita" in Brahmi characters and Sanskrit language, palaeographically belonging to third-fourth century A.D. was collected from surface.<sup>1</sup> The terracotta seal recovered from here bearing inscriptions mentioning *Maharaja Mahakshatrpa Mahasenapati* and other details throws significant light on the history and administration of the Yaudheyas and, we gather that the leader of the republic used to bear monarchical titles. The excavations have also revealed two ancient shrines with evidence of alterations, renovations and reconstructions in different times. One of the temple is square in plan and made of baked bricks and most probably on the basis of its present structural position it belonged to the Buddhist religion. It was possibly the centre of Buddhism whose early importance may be due to its location on the trade route between Taxila and Mathura.<sup>2</sup> The second temple is a Hindu temple. It has yielded a number of stone sculptures of Hindu deities and carved bricks. According to literary traditions, the Jainism was also propagated at Agroha by Lohacharya sometime between A.D. 14-28.<sup>3</sup> The important sculptures and other finds representing the later period have also been found in plenty. The burnt birch-barked manuscript and a terracotta tablet bearing the seven musical notes viz., *ni, dha, pa, ma, ga, ri, sa* in the 9th century characters, the most interesting of the finds, reveal interest of the people in learning and fine arts.<sup>4</sup>

### Hansi (Tahsil Hansi)

Hansi, the headquarters of the tahsil and sub-division of the same name, lies in 29°6' north latitude and 76°58' east longitude, at a distance of 26 kms. east of Hisar on Hisar-Delhi road.

The old town located on a mound, is a walled settlement, with five gates opening in different directions; Delhi gate to the east, Barsi gate to the south, Umra gate to the south-west, Hisar or Char Quth gate to the west and the Sisai or Gosian gate to the north. These gates with the exception of Barsi gate are no longer in existence. As recorded in a rectangular sand stone inscription in the north inner wall of the Barsi gate it was built in A.D. 1302. The walled city had two wide streets running through the

1. *Indian Archaeology*, 1978-79, p. 68.

2. *Divyavadana*—Ed. P.L. Vaidya, Darbhanga, 1959, p. 67;

*Chullavagga*—XII. 1.9; J.Przyluski, *Ancient People of the Punjab*, (Eng. Tr.),

Chitrabhanu Sen, p. 11.

3. J.C. Jain, *Life in Ancient India as Depicted in Jain Canons*, Bombay, 1947, p. 121.

4. S.R. Phogat, *Inscriptions of Haryana*, *Journal of Haryana Studies*, Vol. IX 1977, *JHS Monograph* No. 4, p. 3.

town and crossing one another at right angles. The other streets are narrow and winding. The town expanded beyond the walled limits after the Independence.

It is one of the ancient towns and is identified with Asi or Asika referred in *Ashtadhyayi* of Panini. A Hansi stone inscription dated (Vikrama) Samvat 1224 and belonging to the Chahmana King Prithvi Raja II (now in the Royal Scottish museum at Edinburg also mentions the name of the town as Asika. A beautiful black stone sculpture of Sun-God was recovered from the ancient fort, on a huge mound, to the north of the town. The sculpture is remarkable for its conceptual maturity and subtle delineation. The sculpture is now installed in a local temple and is worshipped as Vishnu. Besides, four more statues were recovered and one of them was that of Varaha, 30" high and 20" broad of grey sandstone. The discovery of these sculptures, all belonging to the early medieval period throw welcome light on the religious history of the place.<sup>1</sup> The fort of Hansi is very old but its history is indeed obscure for want of literary or epigraphical evidence. The present ruined fort was built by Afgan Kings on the site of the old Hindu fort. The bricks and the stone pillars used in the construction of Muhammedan buildings appear to belong to the 7th century A.D. It is, therefore, not unlikely that the fort may have been founded by Harsha or his father Prabhakarvardhana.<sup>2</sup> The discovery of Yaudheya coins in considerable number indicate the existence of the town in the centuries preceding and following Christian era and it is thought that the Asokan Pillar at Hisar stood here originally and was removed there by Firuz Shah.<sup>3</sup>

Local traditions attribute the foundation of the town to Anangpal, the Tomar king of Delhi. Possibly, the town was destroyed earlier and re-founded by Anangpal. Arnoraja and following him, Vigraharaja IV completely subjugated the Tomars of Delhi and captured Hansi. Later Kilhana was appointed the governor of Hansi by Prithviraja II. Prithviraja Chauhan made considerable additions to the fort at Hansi making it an important

1. In 1982, hoard of bronze/copper images of Jain Tirthankaras and other minor gods and goddesses of the same sect along with a few Buddhist and Brahminical gods were found by a chance discovery from the precincts of the old fort. These sculptures were buried in a big copper jar. This is for the first time that such a discovery was made in Haryana. These sculptures belong to early 8th to 10th century A.D. This latest evidence throws further valuable light on the personal religion of Chauhan Kings and their patronage to other religions.

2. Sadhu Ram, 'A varaha sculpture from the Hansi Fort', *Journal of Haryana Studies*, Vol. X, No. 1, 1978.

3. Devindra Handa, Some important Towns of Haryana, A study of their Ancient Past, *Journal of Haryana Studies*, Vol. III, No. 1971, p. 4; B.C. Chhabra, Asokan Pillar at Hissar, Panjab, *Vishveshvarananda Indological Journal*, Vol. II, Part II Sept. 1964) pp. 319-27.



military strong-hold. The Ghaznavid and Ghorid sultans attached special importance to the conquest of Hansi due to its strategic location. Shihab-ud-din Ghorid was defeated by the Rajputs in the first battle of Tarain, but he defeated Rajputs in the second battle of Tarain and conquered Hansi and adjoining territories. During the Sultanate rule, Hansi remained an important administrative unit till the mid of 14th century when Hisar was founded and headquarters were shifted to Hisar.

Hansi was depopulated in the famine of 1783 and lay deserted and in partial ruin for several years. Early in 1798, George Thomas, an Irish adventurer carved out an independent kingdom in the Rohtak and Hisar districts and established himself in the ancient and dilapidated town of Hansi. He remodelled it and strengthened its ruined fort and repaired the defensive wall of the city. The deserted town was soon re-peopled. He established here a mint and coined his own rupees.<sup>1</sup> The fort of Hansi was surrendered to the British in 1801. In 1803, the British established a military cantonment at Hansi. The British employed James Skinner with his troops of Indian cavalry, the nucleus of famous Skinner's Horse, who remained stationed in the cantonment from 1809 to 1814 and received considerable grants of land on which he founded villages and settled cultivators. In 1857, the Indian soldiers revolted and after the British recapture, the Hansi cantonment was not maintained and the fort was almost entirely dismantled.

The fort of Hansi is reputed to be one of the most impregnable fort of ancient India. The fort has seen different regimes and was dismantled in 1857. The curtain walls of the fort to the north can still be seen and at places are 52 feet high and 37 feet thick. George Thomas gate towards the south end of the fort and the guard house are still intact. A close scrutiny of the construction, large size bricks and the material having Hindu carvings assign it to be of Hindu origin. There are two fine sculptured freizes, depicting a row of swans in different poses, now fixed, one each in the gateway complex and the other in the *baradari*. In the centre of the fort mound are ruins of a *baradari*, a long hall supported by pillars and a large closed tank. It is difficult to say precisely when the tank was dug. Originally, the *baradari* might have been a pillared hall of early Muslim architecture in which the building material of old Hindu monuments was freely used. Sometimes during later period, perhaps during Skinner's rule, the *baradari* was converted into horse stable which necessitated the partition walls in the pillared bays. To the north, there is an enclosure, popularly known as Khangah, having a tomb of Sayyad Nimat Ullah and two mosques. The tomb was erected after Sayyad Niamat Ullah who died fighting during the campaign of Muhammad Ghuri and old Hindu material appears to have been

1. J.N. Sarkar, Rule of George Thomas, An Irish Raja over Haryana, 1797-1802, *Journal of Haryana Studies*, Vol. IV, 1-2, 1972, p. 18.

freely used in its construction. A rectangular sand stone inscription of one line, serves as a lintel to the doorway of an enclosure of the tomb. Formerly it belonged to a mosque built in A.D. 1197. The bigger mosque in the enclosure may be medieval while the other seems to be of a later date.

An important medieval monument is the shrine of Char Qutbs colloquially called Chahar Qutbs which is located in an enclosure to the west of the town. The shrine is more than 800 years old and is a resting place of four divines of the Chistia order of Sufism ; Sheikh Jamal-ud-din Ahmad Hanswi, Sheikh Burhan-ud-din Sufi, Sheikh Qutb-ud-din Munawar and Sheikh Noor-ud-din. These divines hold an important place in the annals of Muslim mystics and saints and are considered among the saints of high rank. Jamal-ud-din was the son of Hamid-ud-din and nephew of Niamat Ullah. On his fathers death, he was given the administration of Hansi, but he preferred religious devotion. He became the disciple of Baba Sheikh Farid. Baba Farid came here from Pak Pattan (Pakistan) and lived here for 12 years. The shrine of Char Qutb was expanded from time to time and a number of buildings were added. The domed edifice and pavillions on either side of the tombs were also added later. The most imposing edifice is a mosque in the northern enclosure. It was originally construct.d by Firuz although according to a legend it was built out of money offered by Mohd. Tughlaq to the last Qutb. A square canopied tomb locally called *chhatri* has two graves and four carved sandstone pillars support the enamelled canopy. A little away, ten ornamented red stone pillars carry four canopies giving shade over graves of descendants of Qutb Jamal.

Other tombs and temples which need be mentioned, are Lakhi Banjara tomb near Char Qutb, tomb of Begum Skinner, Smadh of Baba Jagan Nath Puri, Smadh of Hansa Nath, temples of Kayamsar tank, Chowpatta temple, Kali Devi temple, and a Shiv Mandir.

The town is a centre of cotton trade and a HAFED spinning mill has been located here. The new colonies established are Gandhi Nagar, Multan nagar, Roopnagar and Kisan Ghar. There are facilities for stay at P.W.D. and Market Committee rest houses and the town is well provided with schools, college, hospital and other basic amenities.

### Hisar (Tahsil Hisar)

Hisar, the headquarters of the district and the division of the same name, lies in 29° 5' north latitude and 75° 45' east longitude, at a distance of 164 kilometres west of Delhi. It is an important railway junction on Rewari-Bhatinda metre-gauge railway, Ludhiana-Hisar broad-gauge railway and Sadulpur-Hisar metre-gauge railway terminate here. The Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki road, a national highway passes through the town. Its population was 89,437 in 1971 against the population of 60,222 in 1961.



Hisar can possibly be identified with ancient Esukari or Isukara, a beautiful and prosperous city of Kuru Janapada, referred to by Panini.<sup>1</sup> The Jain literature also mentions a town, Isukara in the Kuru country.<sup>2</sup> The city state of Esukara (Hisar) was possibly founded by the Kurus in later vedic times. With the fall of the Kuru kingdom, Hisar city seems to have come under the Nandas and Mauryas.<sup>3</sup> However, there is no archaeological evidence to prove it. No further reference of the town is available till A.D. 1352 when Sultan Firuz Tughlaq ordered the construction of the fort which was completed in A.D. 1354. He named it 'Hisar-e-Firuz', the fort of Firuz. With the passage of time, the place came to be known only as Hisar. The Hisar town sprang up later around this fort. The original town was a walled settlement inside the fort with four gates, Delhi gate, Mori gate, Nagauri gate and Talaqi gate. These gates are no longer in evidence but the vicinity in which they stood continue to bear their names.

The town developed fast after the formation of Haryana and is now one of most well provided town of the state. The veterinary college was raised to the status of Haryana Agricultural University which is a prestigious university of the country with first rate buildings, well-equipped laboratories and library, lawns and playgrounds and modern residential houses. A mini secretariat -four storeyed imposing office complex, a housing complex toward the south, Vidyoot Nagar, a Haryana State Electricity Board colony, in the east on the Hisar-Delhi road, many urban colonies, modern shopping complexes and a large grain market have altogether changed the complex of the old town. The government live-stock farm, sheep breeding farm, a central tractor training institute and many large and medium industrial units for the manufacture of textile, steel pipes, tubes and strips, ingots and billets, guar gum and oxygen gas have earned it an enviable reputation.

An air strip has been constructed towards the north east of the town and is used for imparting flying training.

The important places of antiquity are the palace and mosque complex and Gujri Mahal. The only remains of the Firuz Shah's palace, located in the fort, are underground apartments which still exist in good state of preservation. These apartments were so arranged that a stranger would not be able to extricate himself from the dark passages and would invariably be drawn to a small dark room in the centre. Nearby there is a mosque of Firuz Shah's time popularly known as Lat Ki Masjid. The pillars supporting the

1. V.S. Agrawala, *Panini Kalina Bharatavarsha*; (Hindi) Banaras, Samvat 2012, p. 86.

2. *Uttaradhyayana Sutra* (14/1); *Sacred Books of the East*, XLV, p. 62.

3. Silk Ram Phogat, Rohtak and Hisar Districts through the Ages, *Journal of Haryana Studies*, Vol. V Nos. 1-2, 1973, p. 2.

mosque are of an old temple and were probably brought from Agroha or Hansi. There is a standstone pillar or *lat*, about 20 feet high. The *lat* is made of two stones, one is an ancient and is 10 feet high and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet in circumference and the other is of red sandstone. There is an inscription in Sanskrit at the top of the lower stone of the pillar. The letters are cut at the junction of the stones which shows that the ancient stone pillar is from ancient Hindu structure which was re-cut and erected by Firuz Shah.

Gujri Mahal is situated outside the fort and appears to have been built as an outlying portion of the palace as a residence for a Gujri mistress of Firuz Shah. The remains of the Gujri Mahal is only a *baradari*. The walls of *baradari* are thick and sloping, with 12 doorways each with a window over it. There are 4 pillars, appear to have been brought from some old Hindu or Jain structure which support the roof of domes. Below the building, are three underground apartments, one of which is a tank which seems to have served as a bath.

The town is an educational centre and is well-provided with various institutions of higher learning and has a prestigious Haryana Agricultural University. There are facilities for the stay at P.W.D. rest house, Canal rest house, Sainik rest house, Haryana State Electricity Board rest house, Market Committee rest house, Bhakra Management Board rest house and Flamingo motel and restaurant. The Flamingo is run by the Haryana Tourism Corporation. The important places of worship are Arya Samaj Mandir, Bishnoi Mandir, Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Jain Mandir, Devi Bhavan, Gurdwara and a Church. The town is well provided with schools, colleges, hospitals and other basic amenities.

#### **Fatehabad (Tahsil Fatehabad)**

Fatehabad, the headquarters of the tahsil and the sub-division of the same name, lies in  $29^{\circ} 3'$  north latitude and  $75^{\circ} 30'$  east longitude, at a distance of about 48 kilometres north-west of Hisar on Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki road. Its population was 22,630 in 1971 against the population of 12,461 in 1961.

The town was founded by the emperor Firuz Shah Tughlaq and named after his son Fateh Khan in A.D. 1352. The site on which the town was founded was a hunting ground. He dug a channel from the Ghaggar in order to supply the town with water. He also built a fort which is now in ruins, the fortification walls can be seen on the east of the town. He also built three forts in the neighbouring villages in the name of his three sons. The old town was surrounded by a wall which has been dismantled to a great extent except near the fort.



Formerly, Fatehabad was an important trade centre for the export of surplus grain but with the construction of Rewari-Bhatinda railway line which runs about 20 kilometres to the west of the town, the trade shifted to Bhattu. But the town assumed greater importance after the Independence when metalled roads provided important link and the earlier importance of the town was revived.

An important monument is a Lat or a stone pillar measuring slightly less than 5 metres in height and 1.90 metres in circumference at the base. It was erected in the centre of an Idgah. The lower portion of the pillar is a mono-block of light buff sandstone and is possibly the remaining part of the pillar that lies in the mosque at Hisar. It is more than likely that both these pillars once made a single monolithic pillar which was possibly erected by Asoka at Agroha or Hansi. Firuz Shah Tughlaq had a craze for taking away such columns and transplanting them among his favourite complexes. The Asokan epigraph that was once engraved on the pillar was systematically chiselled off for writing the Tughlaq inscription recording the genealogy of Firuz Shah in beautiful Tughra Arabic characters carved in high relief.

There are two inscriptions, one on a light coloured rectangular sandstone studded into the left of the screen-wall of Idgah, immediately behind or to the west of *lat*, praising the emperor Humayun and the other one is on a rectangular sandstone placed on the outer wall of the mosque enclosure and contains a well-known invocation to Ali in Arabic. The mosque can still be seen in good conditions but lies in disuse.

The other monument is a small and a beautiful mosque known as Humayun Mosque. The legend assigns the association of the mosque to the Mughal Emperor Humayun who on his flight after his defeat at the hands of Sher Shah Suri happened to pass through Fatehabad on Friday and is said to have prayed at this mosque. The inscription praising Emperor Humayun was originally found here and later studded into the screen-wall of the Idgah. The mosque is said to have been repaired by one Nur Rehmat in the early eighties of the last century.

There are facilities for stay at P.W.D. rest house, H.S.E.B. rest house, market committee rest house and dharamsalas. The town is well provided with schools, college, hospital and other basic necessities.

### **Tohana(Tahsil Tohana)**

Tohana, the headquarters of the tahsil of the same name lies in 29°43' north latitude and 75°54' east longitude at a distance of about 70 kms. from Hisar on Bhiwani-Hansi-Barwala-Tohana-Munak road. The population of the town was 16,789 in 1971 against 12394 in 1961.

Tohana can be identified with ancient Taushyana mentioned by Panini.<sup>1</sup> After the fall of Kurus, the town alongwith towns like Indraprastha, Hisar, Sonapat, Rohtak and Rodi seems to have come under the Nandas and Mauryas.<sup>2</sup> Local traditions attributes the foundation of the town to one Anangpal, and Anangsar tank named after him still exists in the town. There is an old Baoli near tahsil building. It is said that it was connected with Anangsar tank through a tunnel. An old Shiva temple and Gugga Mari exist in the town.

The town was deserted during the famine of 1783 and was re-peopled in 1801 when Lt. Bourquin, the deputy of General Peron of Scindhia rebuilt it.

After Independence, particularly after the formation of Haryana, the town assumed importance. It was upgraded from a sub-tahsil to tahsil and became an important road junction and a grain market. The town is provided with a Market Committee rest house, a Canal rest house (Baliyala), schools, college, hospital, bus stand and other basic amenities.

#### **Ratia (Tahsil Fatehabad)<sup>3</sup>**

The town is located on the bank of the Ghaggar about 23 kms. north of Fatehabad in 29°41' north latitude and 75°34' east longitude. The population of the town was 7,740 in 1971 as against 5,348 in 1961.

Local traditions attribute the foundation of the town to Rattan Nath, a *sadhu* with extra-ordinary powers who meditated at the site and the town was named after him. The town was deserted during the famine of 1783 but was re-peopled in 1816 by one Rattan Singh Jat and the Patiala chief erected a fort and an out-post.

It is an up-coming mandi town and is well provided with basic amenities.

#### **Barwala (Tahsil Hisar)**

The town is located on Bhiwani-Hansi-Barwala-Tohana-Munak road about 30 kms. north-east of Hisar in 29°22' north latitude and 75°54' east longitude. The population of the town was 16,917 in 1971 as against 10,723 in 1961.

1. V.S. Agrawala, *Panini Kalina Bharatavarsha*, (Hindi) Banaras, Samvat, 2012, p. 86.

2. Silk Ram Phogat, Rohtak and Hissar Districts through the ages, *Journal of Haryana Studies*, Vol. V, No. 1-2, 1973, P. 2.

3. A sub-tahsil was located here in 1979.



Coins of Agra or Agrratya have been discovered from Barwala indicating that the place had been under the occupation of the people of Agroha.<sup>1</sup> However, local traditions attribute the foundation of the town to one Raja Bal and name corrupted from Balwala to Barwala. During the attack of Mohd. Ghorī on Hansi, Sayyad Niamat Ullah and his brother Mir Hassan fought here ; Niamat Ullah was killed and entombed in Hansi fort and Mir Hassan's successors settled at Barwala. A *Shivala* possibly dating back to the early medieval period, is located to the north of the town and it escaped repeated Muslim desecrations.

A tahsil was constituted at Barwala in 1852 but was abolished in 1891 and its areas were merged in adjacent tahsils. The town again began to assume importance after the formation of Haryana in 1966 and it is now an up-coming mandi town well provided with basic amenities.

#### Adampur (Tahsil Hisar)<sup>2</sup>

The town is located on Gohana-Jind-Barwala-Agroha-Adampur-Bhadra road about 38 kms. from Hisar in 29°17' north latitude and 75°29' east longitude . The population of the town was 5,658 in 1971 as against 3,860 in 1961.

It is a flourishing mandi town which has developed very fast after the formation of Haryana. It is a very-well provided town having Market Committee rest house, hospital, schools, college and other basic amenities.

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1. Silk Ram, *Archaeology of Rohtak and Hisar Districts, Haryana*, Ph. D. Dissertation, 1972, MSS.

1. A sub-tahsil was located here in 1979.





## APPENDIX

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TABLE

Normals and Extremes

Station	No. of years of data	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
Fatehabad	50 a	13.2	11.9	10.2	5.8	9.7	31.2	91.4
	b	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.0	2.4	5.5
Hisar	50 a	17.8	14.2	14.2	8.6	13.5	34.8	105.2
	b	1.6	1.3	1.4	0.8	1.2	2.7	5.9
Hisar Observatory	37 a	17.0	13.7	14.5	7.6	12.9	31.5	107.7
	b	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.3	3.0	5.8
Hansi	50 a	15.0	15.0	8.4	8.9	8.1	40.9	115.6
	b	1.3	1.4	1.0	0.8	1.0	2.9	6.4
Tohana	50 a	14.0	14.5	12.7	9.1	8.4	35.6	106.4
	b	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.7	2.3	5.1
Hisar (District)	a	15.4	13.9	12.0	8.0	10.5	34.8	105.3
	b	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.0	2.7	5.7

(a) Normal Rainfall in mm.

(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm or more).

\*Based on all available data up to 1970.

\*\*Years given in brackets.



## I

## of Rainfall

Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Highest annual Rainfall as % of normal and year**	Lowest annual Rainfall as % of normal and year**	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours Amount	Date
87.9	60.5	7.9	1.5	7.9	339.1	224 (1917)	21 (1938)	157.5	1947 Sep. 26
4.8	2.9	0.5	0.2	0.6	22.1				
111.3	72.4	9.4	1.8	6.1	409.3	232 (1917)	36 (1938)	346.7	1926 Aug. 16
5.6	3.3	0.5	0.2	0.6	25.1				
121.2	81.0	13.2	1.0	7.1	428.4	245 (1917)	37 (1938)	346.7	1926 Aug. 16
5.8	3.5	0.6	0.1	0.8	25.9				
101.6	73.9	11.2	2.0	6.6	407.2	275 (1917)	27 (1938)	228.6	1960 Aug. 21
5.7	3.3	0.6	0.2	0.6	25.2				
108.7	67.1	8.9	1.3	7.1	393.8	204 (1909)	0 (1949)	158.7	1953 Jul. 11
5.0	2.8	0.4	0.2	0.5	21.3				
106.1	71.0	10.1	1.5	7.0	395.6	235 (1917)	33 (1938)		
5.4	3.2	0.5	0.2	0.6	23.8				

TABLE II  
Frequency of Annual Rainfall  
(Date 1901—1950)

Range in mm	No. of years	Range in mm	No. of years
101—200	2	601—700	4
201—300	11	701—800	0
301—400	16	801—900	0
401—500	12	901—1000	1
501—600	4		





TABLE  
Normals of Temperature and

Month	Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	Mean Daily minimum Temperature
	°C	°C
January	21.7	5.5
February	25.0	8.1
March	30.7	13.3
April	37.0	19.0
May	41.6	24.6
June	41.3	27.7
July	37.3	27.3
August	35.5	26.1
September	35.7	23.9
October	34.6	17.4
November	29.6	9.8
December	24.1	6.0
Annual	32.8	17.4

\* Hours I.S.T.



## III

## Relative Humidity

Highest Maximum** ever recorded		Lowest Minimum** ever recorded		Relative Humidity	
				0830	1730*
°C	Date	°C	Date	%	%
30.6	1952 Jan. 24	-3.9	1929 Jan. 31	75	44
34.4	1956 Feb. 27	-2.2	1929 Feb. 1	70	37
45.6	1945 Mar 31	2.8	1945 Mar. 5	59	32
47.9	1958 Apr. 27	8.3	1918 Apr. 7	46	27
48.3	1944 May 30	14.4	1948 May 16	41	24
47.8	1954 June 1	17.8	1922 Jun 3	52	33
47.2	1947 July 13	20.4	1974 July 26	71	56
43.3	1918 Aug. 2	21.0	1962 Aug. 19	76	63
42.2	1938 Sep 16.	15.6	1923 Sep. 28	72	53
41.7	1951 Oct. 2	8.3	1949 Oct. 31	61	39
36.7	1943 Nov. 4	2.5	1962 Nov. 29	61	37
33.6	1960 Dec. 17	-1.5	1973 Dec. 29	72	43
				63	41

\*\*Updated up to 1975





TABLE V  
Special Weather Phenomena

Mean No. of days with	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Thunder	0.9	1.3	2	1.8	4	5	5	4	3	0.4	0.3	0.8	28
Hail	0.2	0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0	0	0.1	0	0	1.0
Dust- storm	0.2	0	0.3	0.3	1.9	1.8	0.3	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	5
Squall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fog	0.6	0.4	0	0.3	0.2	0.3	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	3

\*No. of days, 2 and above are given in whole numbers.

TABLE  
Veterinary

Veterinary Hospitals	Hospital-cum-Breeding Centres	Veterinary Dispensaries	Regional Artificial Centres
1. Hisar	1. Adampur	1. Sarsana	1. Hisar
2. Barwala	2. Kapro	2. Kurri	2. Hansi
3. Kalirawan	3. Agroha	3. Babarpur	3. Uklana Mandi
4. Ladwa		4. Mater Shem	4. Narnaund
5. Landhari Sukhlam Bran		5. Ghirai	
6. Balsmand		6. Khanda Kheri	
7. Hansi		7. Nehla	
8. Sisai Bola		8. Bhatol Jatan	
9. Bas		9. Haiderwala	
10. Narnaund		10. Pabra	
11. Mirchpur		11. Mohammadpur Rohi	
12. Fatehabad			
13. Ratia		12. Diwana	
14. Bhuna		13. Sadalpur	
15. Tohana			



Stockman Centres	Poultry Extension Centre	Sheep and Wool Development Centres	Piggery Development Centre	Other Institutions
1. Satrod Khas	1. Fatehabad	1. Khedar	1. Hisar	1. Govt. Livestock Farm, Hisar
2. Dabra		2. Kaimri		2. Indo-Australian Cattle Breeding Farm, Hisar
3. Mangali		3. Bhoodia Khera		3. Sheep Breeding Farm, Hisar
4. Patel Nagar (Near Hansi)		4. Kukarawali		4. Piggery Farm, Hisar
5. Magwa		5. Sandol		5. Mobile Dispensary
6. Shahpur				6. Horse Breeding Station, Tohana
7. Sarsod				7. Haryana Veterinary Vaccine Institute, Hisar
8. Ghaibipur				8. Progeny Testing Farm, Hisar
9. Daulatpur				
10. Kharar				
11. Bugana				
12. Dhana Kalan				
13. Garhi (Hisar)				
14. Putthi Mangal Khan				
15. Rajthal				
16. Petwar				
17. Thurana				
18. Ugalan				
19. Moth Rangran				
20. Luhari Raghu				
21. Rakhi Shahpur				
22. Barwala				
23. Sanyana				

**TABLE VII**  
**Banking Offices (as on 31-12-1977)**

Town/Village	No. of Offices				Total
	State Bank of India	State Bank of Patiala	Punjab National Bank	Other Banks	
Agroha	1	—	—	1	2
Badopal	—	—	—	1	1
Balsmand	—	—	—	2	2
Barwala	1	—	—	2	3
Bas	—	—	1	1	2
Bhattu	—	—	—	1	1
Bhattu Mandi	—	—	1	—	1
Bhirana	1	—	—	—	1
Bhuna	1	—	1	1	3
Chaudarwas	—	—	—	1	1
Fatehabad	1	—	1	4	6
Gangwa	—	—	—	1	1
Hansi	1	1	1	6	9
Hisar	3	1	2	13	19
Jakhal	1	—	1	1	3
Kapro	—	—	—	1	1
Kharar-Alipur	—	—	1	—	1
Kulan	—	—	—	1	1
Mandi Adampur	—	—	—	2	2
Mangali Aklan	1	—	—	—	1
Narnaund	—	1	—	1	2
Pabra	—	—	1	—	1
Ratia	—	—	1	2	3
Satrod	—	—	1	—	1
Sisai	—	—	—	1	1
Suchan Kotli	—	—	—	1	1
Tohana	1	1	1	1	4
Uklana Mandi	1	—	—	2	3
Umra	1	—	—	—	1
Total :	14	4	13	47	78





TABLE

Arrivals of Commodities in

S. No.	Name of Committees	Year	Gram	Gowar	Bajra
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bhattu	1975-76	17,947	17,153	9,923
		1976-77	69,518	14,103	18,356
		1977-78	39,615	—	9,923
2.	Jakhal	1975-76	7,706	—	26,630
		1976-77	25,248	—	28,172
		1977-78	9,950	—	20,320
3.	Uklana	1975-76	9,277	3,344	11,469
		1976-77	78,411	6,981	39,135
		1977-78	72,766	—	15,947
4.	Bhuna	1975-76	2,489	1,887	3,464
		1976-77	13,494	2,639	4,819
		1977-78	9,100	—	3,683
5.	Adampur	1975-76	19,694	30,612	22,239
		1976-77	1,35,622	26,283	52,481
		1977-78	99,274	—	27,901
6.	Hansi	1975-76	9,946	2,573	6,478
		1976-77	72,745	6,974	22,340
		1977-78	64,462	—	6,955
7.	Barwala	1975-76	4,543	4,868	7,777
		1976-77	70,533	12,680	24,048
		1977-78	42,114	—	8,932
8.	Fatehabad	1975-76	24,434	6,908	24,968
		1976-77	1,03,621	19,115	44,195
		1977-78	72,447	—	24,814
9.	Hisar	1975-76	78,943	27,074	34,674
		1976-77	2,74,662	95,502	73,348
		1977-78	3,78,201	—	36,693



## VIII

## Regulated Markets

(In quintals)

Cotton	Wheat	Paddy	Sarson	Mirch
7	8	9	10	11
19,944	55	—	1,356	76
27,029	9,785	—	—	—
9,354	15,338	—	2,552	141
15,696	33,052	22,642	15,131	9,266
10,777	63,495	26,812	8,640	2,438
19,371	1,17,132	79,077	7,066	5,196
53,134	12,208	—	15,396	113
59,395	60,839	—	4,910	—
25,511	72,376	8,342	14,957	45
29,623	8,143	—	3,395	—
9,094	3,10,228	—	2,132	—
3,277	40,390	—	3,244	—
18,706	1,607	—	6,587	—
1,24,831	23,412	—	17,185	—
1,11,882	26,395	—	17,287	—
1,03,088	9,756	1,034	7,405	3,870
1,05,909	1,15,531	—	6,497	4,941
64,978	61,767	10,834	6,801	6,429
27,782	215	—	6,186	—
37,285	22,923	—	9,959	—
17,564	7,910	—	6,655	40
50,352	64,415	49,604	42,465	939
71,775	2,49,145	1,28,110	53,281	974
2,39,669	2,13,467	1,25,696	16,114	—
1,36,212	50,673	112	55,282	442
25,860	1,01,221	—	23,315	—
34,907	1,34,915	—	62,995	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Tohana	1975-76	22,017	1,940	21,283
		1976-77	55,377	3,550	24,119
		1977-78	68,508	—	16,880
11.	Ratia	1975-76	—	—	—
		1976-77	56	—	404
		1977-78	5,587	—	4,343





TABLE IX

## Rest Houses

1. P.W.D. Rest House, Hisar
2. P.W.D. Rest House, Hansi
3. P.W.D. Rest House, Fatehabad
4. Canal Rest House, Hansi
5. Canal Rest House, Satrod Kalan
6. Canal Rest House, Rajpura
7. Canal Rest House, Hisar
8. Canal Rest House, Rakhigarhi
9. Canal Rest House, Data
10. Canal Rest House, Rajthal
11. Canal Rest House, Thurana
12. Canal Rest House, Bas
13. Canal Rest House, Sarsana
14. Canal Rest House, Rajli
15. Canal Rest House, Kishangarh
16. Canal Rest House, Barwala
17. Canal Rest House, Talwandi-Rana
18. Canal Rest House, Daulatpur
19. Canal Rest House, Landhari
20. Canal Rest House, Kirmara
21. Canal Rest House, Jeora
22. Canal Rest House, Seeswal
23. Canal Rest House, Sanyana
24. Canal Rest House, Gorakhpur
25. Canal Rest House, Bawan
26. Canal Rest House, Chankothi
27. Canal Rest House, Bhootan Kalan
28. Canal Rest House, Chunmoon
29. Canal Rest House, Khundan
30. Canal Rest House, Balyala
31. Canal Rest House, Alawalwas
32. Canal Rest House, Chandpura
33. Canal Rest House, Tohana
34. Canal Rest House, Badopal
35. Canal Rest House, Daryapur
36. Canal Rest House, Dhyar
37. P.W.D. Rest House, Bhuna



38. Sainik Rest House, Hisar
39. Civil Rest House, Bhattu Kalan
40. H.S.E.B. Guest House, Rajgarh Road, Hisar
41. H.S.E.B. Rest House, Fatehabad
42. B.B.M.B. Rest House, Satrod
43. Market Committee Rest House, Hisar
44. Market Committee Rest House, Hansi
45. Market Committee Rest House, Fatehabad
46. Market Committee Rest House, Tohana
47. Market Committee Rest House, Adampur
48. Market Committee Rest House, Jakhal
49. Market Committee Rest House, Bhattu Kalan





TABLE X

## Post Offices having Telegraph Facility

1. Central Telegraph Office, Hisar
2. Fatehabad City
3. Barwala Mandi
4. Barsi
5. Bhuna
6. Bhattu Kalan
7. Dhana
8. Hisar City
9. Hisar Purani Kachari
10. Hisar New Mandi
11. Hisar Textile Mill
12. Hisar Model Town
13. Jakhal Mandi
14. Adampur
15. Narnaund
16. Putthi Mangal Khan
17. Ratia
18. Sisai
19. Satrod Khurd
20. Sanyana
21. Uklana Mandi
22. Hisar Railway Station
23. Mundhal
24. Tohana Mandi
25. Hansi

TABLE

Retail Price of

Year Average	Wheat		Barley	
	<i>Seers</i>	<i>Chhatanks</i>	<i>Seers</i>	<i>Chhatanks</i>
1861—65	19	13	33	10
1876—1880	21	5	29	2
1886—1890	17	3	27	0
1896—1900	13	2	17	11
1906—1910	10	10	16	12
1916—1920	7	6	10	6
1926	6	0	9	0
1930	16	0	22	0
1936	12	8	22	0
1939(Kharif)	9	—	11	0
1946	3	8	5	4
1953	2	12	4	0



## XI

## Foodgrains

(In Seers and Chhatanks per Re.)

Gram		Jowar		Bajra	
Seers	Chhatanks	Seers	Chhatanks	Seers	Chhatanks
30	3	32	1	32	6
27	8	29	13	26	5
27	10	28	13	21	14
10	10	17	10	15	6
15	13	15	12	12	6
10	4	5	5	6	0
9	0	—	—	10	0
13	0	—	—	19	0
21	0	22	0	17	0
8	0	11	0	9	0
4	12	5	4	5	0
2	10	4	10	4	8

**TABLE XII**  
**Allopathic Hospitals and Dispensaries**

Hospital/Dispensary	No. of Beds		No. of Doctors
	Male	Female	
<b>(I) Civil Hospitals</b>			
(i) Hisar	123	77	12
(ii) Fatchabad	30	20	3
(iii) Hansi	25	25	3
(iv) Tohana	30	30	3
(v) Adampur	8	7	1
<b>(II) T.B. Hospital, Hisar</b>	40	35	2
<b>(III) Private Hospitals</b>			
(i) Sewak Sabha Charitable Trust Hospital, Hisar	35	40	8
(ii) Chura Mani Vishnu Devi Maternity Hospital, Hisar	10	80	3
(iii) N.C. Jindal Eye Hospital, Hisar	100	100	3
<b>(IV) Police/Jail Hospital—(2) District Jail and Borstal Jail Hospitals</b>	25	1	2
<b>(V) Primary Health Centres</b>			
(i) Ratia	4	4	3
(ii) Jakhal	4	4	3
(iii) Bhuna	4	4	3
(iv) Barwala	4	4	2
(v) Mirchpur	4	4	3
(vi) Khandakheri	4	4	3
(vii) Sorkhi	4	4	2
(viii) Sisai	4	4	3
(ix) Mangali	4	4	3
(x) Seeswal	4	4	2
(xi) Bhattu Kalan	4	4	3
<b>(VI) Rural Dispensaries (18)</b>	2 each	2 each	1 each
Balsmand, Badopal, Pabra, Bas, Agroha, Bangram, Data, Daulatpur, Samani, Bhootan Kalan, Gurana, Kaimri, Mamupur, Pirthala, Meond, Chuli/Bagarian, Hassangarh and Kullan			
<b>(VII) Urban Dispensaries (3)</b>	2 each	2 each	1 each
Uklana, Borstal Jail, Hisar; and Mini Secretariate, Residential Colony, Hisar			



Hospital/Dispensary	No. of Beds		No. of Doctors
	Male	Female	
(VIII) Canal Dispensaries (5)			
(i) Hisar	—	—	1
(ii) Tohana	—	—	1
(iii) Narnaund	—	—	Nil
(iv) Sanyana	—	—	1
(v) Sorkhi	—	—	Nil
(IX) Distt. T.B. Control Centre, Hisar	Nil	Nil	1
(X) T.B. Clinic, Tohana	4	4	1
(XI) 3 E.S.I. Dispensaries, all at Hisar	6	6	5
(XII) Railway Dispensary, Hisar	1	Nil	1

TABLE XIII  
Ayurvedic/Unani Dispensaries

S.No.	Name of Dispensary
1.	Lahriyan
2.	Rajli
3.	Dharsul Kalan
4.	Gorakhpur
5.	Rawalwas Khurd
6.	Girahe
7.	Kapro
8.	Kalirawan
9.	Ladwa
10.	Ladui
11.	Burak
12.	Nagpur(Unani)
13.	Kheri Rohan (Unani)
14.	Kharar-Alipur
15.	Jakhod Khara
16.	Gilan Khara
17.	Kharak (Puniya)
18.	Sidhani
19.	Kinala
20.	Saharwa
21.	Sultanpur
22.	Kuleri
23.	Nehla
24.	Nadhauri



TABLE XIV  
Important Labour Laws

Subject Matter	Name of the Act	Whether Central or State Act	Main Provisions
1	2	3	4
Working conditions, industrial safety, hygiene and welfare inside the place of work	(1) The Factories Act, 1948	Central Act	Elaborate provisions have been made in the Act regarding the conditions of work inside factories including hours of work, employment of young persons, leave with wages, occupational diseases, safeguard for health, promotion of safety and welfare of workers and special provisions for young persons and women. Welfare measures like first-aid appliances, canteens, creches, cold drinking water, etc. near the places of work have also been provided under the Act
	(2) The Employment of Children Act, 1938	Central Act	The Act prohibits employment of children below the age of 15 years in any occupation connected with the transport of passengers goods or mail by railways or connected with a port authority within the limits of any port. It also prohibits employment of children in the work-shops connected with <i>bidhi</i> -making, carpet weaving, cement manufacture (including bagging of cement), cloth printing, dyeing and weaving, manufacture of matches, explosive and fire-works, mica cutting and splitting, shellac manufacture, soap manufacture, tanning and wool cleaning
	(3) The Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958	State Act	The Act regulates conditions of work and terms of employment of workers engaged in shops and commercial establishments and in those industrial establishments which are not covered under the Factories Act, 1948. It covers hours of work, holidays, leave, wages, employment of children and their working hours, closing and opening hours, health, safety, maternity benefits and welfare
Wages	(1) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936	Central Act	The Act regulates timely payment of wages without any unauthorised deductions. As a result of an amendment in 1975, the coverage of the Act has been extended to persons getting wages up to Rs. 1,000 per mensem
	(2) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948	Central Act	The Act provides for fixation of minimum wages, working hours, weekly rest, etc.

1	2	3	4
	(3) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1975	Central Act	The Act provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers and for the prevention of discrimination on the ground of sex against women
Industrial relations	(1) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947	Central Act	The Act provides for settlement of industrial disputes, lay off payment and payments at the time of retrenchment. As a result of an amendment (in 1965) in Section 2-A of the Act, any individual can raise a dispute relating to his dismissal. By another amendment in 1976, the industrial establishments employing 300 or more workers are required to obtain prior permission of the government in matters of lay-off and retrenchment of workers and closure of their unit(s)
	(2) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946	Central Act	The Act requires employers to make standing orders defining terms of employment of workers on specified matters and to get them certified by the certifying officer
Trade Unions	The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926	Central Act	The Act makes provision for the registration of trade unions and describes the rights, privileges, obligations and liabilities of registered trade unions
Social Security	(1) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923	Central Act	The Act provides for payment of compensation to workmen in the case of injury caused by an accident arising out of and in the course of employment. It also provides for payment of compensation for certain occupational diseases. As a result of an amendment in 1976, the coverage of the Act has been extended with retrospective effect to workers getting wages upto Rs. 1,000 per mensem
	(2) The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948	Central Act	The Act provides for five types of benefits to the employees, viz. sickness benefit, maternity benefit, dependents benefit, disablement benefit and medical benefit
	(3) The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Act, 1952	Central Act	The Act seeks to make a provision for the future of industrial worker after he retires or is retrenched or for his dependents in case of his early death
	(4) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961	Central Act	The Act provides for payment of cash benefit to women workers for specified periods before and after child birth and for other incidental matters



1	2	3	4										
	(5) The Punjab Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1965	State Act	All unpaid accumulations of workers have to be paid to the Labour Welfare Board, constituted for the purpose by the State Government, which shall keep a separate account to be utilised by it for defraying the cost of carrying out measures for promoting the welfare of labour and their dependents										
	(6) The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972	Central Act	To provide for a scheme for the payment of gratuity for employees engaged in factories, mines, oilfields, plantation, ports, railway, companies, shops or other establishments and for matters connected there, with or incidental thereto, etc. Gratuity shall be payable to an employee on the termination of his employment after he has rendered continuous service for not less than five years. Gratuity payable under this Act shall not be liable to attachment in execution of any decree or order of any civil, revenue or criminal court										
Housing	The Punjab Industrial Housing Act, 1956	State Act	The Act provides for the administration, allotment, realisation of rent, etc. in connection with quarters constructed under the subsidised industrial housing scheme										
Bonus	The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965	Central Act	Every establishment whether running a profit or loss is required to pay bonus at the rate of 4 per cent or Rs. 40 whichever is more										
Leave	The Punjab Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays and Casual and Sick leave) Act, 1965	State Act	Every Establishment has to allow to its employees, the following : <table><tr><td>National Holidays</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>(i.e. 26th January, 15th August and 2nd October).</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Festival Holidays</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Casual Leaves</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Sick Leaves</td><td>14</td></tr></table>	National Holidays	3	(i.e. 26th January, 15th August and 2nd October).		Festival Holidays	5	Casual Leaves	7	Sick Leaves	14
National Holidays	3												
(i.e. 26th January, 15th August and 2nd October).													
Festival Holidays	5												
Casual Leaves	7												
Sick Leaves	14												
Welfare of transport workers	The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961	Central Act	The Act provides for the welfare of motor transport workers and regulates the conditions of their work. It applies to every motor transport undertaking employing five or more workers										
Welfare of contract workers	The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970	Central Act	The Act regulates the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith										

TABLE XV

## Trade Unions

S.No.	Name of the Trade Union
1.	Harvana Agro Farm Employees' Union, Hisar
2.	Kendraya Rajya Farm Workers' Union, Hisar
3.	Government Livestock Farm Employees' Union, Hisar
4.	Equine Breeding and Civilian Workers' Union, Hisar
5.	Haryana State Electricity Board Workers' Union, Hisar
6.	Municipal Employees' Lower Grade Staff Union, Hansi.
7.	Municipal Employees' Union, Hisar.
8.	Nagarpelika Karamchari Sangh, Hisar.
9.	Progeny Testing Farm Workers' Union, Hisar
10.	Haryana Textile Mill Mazdoor Union, Hisar
11.	Hisar Textile Mazdoor Sangh Hisar
12.	District Textile Workers' Union, Hisar
13.	Mazdoor Hitkari Mandal, Hisar.
14.	Jindal Tube Factory Worker's Union, Hisar
15.	Jindal Strips Factory Workers' Union, Hisar
16.	Mazdoor Ekta Union, Hisar
17.	New Azad Truck Union, Fatehabad
18.	Sweepers' Union, Hisar
19.	Safai Karamchari Sangh, Hansi
20.	District Cinema Workers' Union, Hisar
21.	Tailor Workers' Union, Hisar
22.	Mazdoor Union, Hisar
23.	Haryana Poly Steel Workers' Union, Hisar
24.	Cooperative Bank Employees' Association, Hisar
25.	Haryana Textile Mill, Mistry Union, Hisar
26.	Rehri Sabba Workers' Union, Tohana
27.	Haryana Textile Mill, Clerk's Association, Hisar
28.	Hisar District Transport Workers Union, Hisar
29.	Lal Jhanda Kapra Mazdoor Ekta Union, Hisar



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## GLOSSARY

- Abadi*—Inhabited place  
*Adna Malik*—Inferior owner  
*Ala Malik*—Superior owner  
*Anand Karaz*—Marriage ceremony according to Sikh rites  
*Arti*—A ceremony performed in worship of God  
*Bach*—Distribution  
*Bagar*—Land not irrigated by rain or canal  
*Balwadi*—A community centre for children  
*Bangar*—Land not fit for cultivation  
*Baradari*—A covered meeting hall  
*Barani*—Land dependent on rain  
*Ber*—A plum  
*Bhaichara*—Brotherhood  
*Bhajan Mandli*—Group for singing devotional songs  
*Bir*—Protected forest  
*Boledar*—Tenants  
*Chahi*—Land irrigated by wells  
*Churma*—Crushed chapati with ghi and sugar  
*Dai*—Midwife  
*Deroo*—A kind of small drum  
*Gaushala*—A cow pen  
*Ghagra*—A skirt from waist to knee  
*Ghurchari*—Ceremony in which the bridegroom at the time of marriage goes to the bride's home on a mare  
*Gindi Khuli*—Indigenous hockey  
*Gulgula*—A sweetmeat  
*Halwai*—Sweetmeat seller  
*Handi*—Earthen pot  
*Hundi*—Bill of exchange  
*Ilaqua*—area  
*Inam*—Cash allowance  
*Jamabandi*—Book of record of rights  
*Janet or barat*—A marriage party  
*Jhurni Danda*—A game played around a tree  
*Jowar*—A kind of millet  
*Juti*—Footwear  
*Kallar*—Alkaline land  
*Kamiz*—Shirt  
*Kanal*—A measure of land, 500 square yards  
*Kankar*—A small piece of stone, pebble  
*Kamungo*—A revenue official  
*Khandsari*—Indigenous white sugar  
*Kheer*—Sweet dish made of milk and rice  
*Khokha*—Small rough wooden shop on the side of a road  
*Kho Kho*—An indigenous game  
*Kohlu*—Presser used for extracting sugar-cane juice  
*Lande*—Traders script  
*Lehnga*—A petticoat, a skirt  
*Mandi*—A market place  
*Muaffi*—A freehold land or land free of rent  
*Munsiff*—A subordinate judge  
*Nahri*—Land being irrigated by canal  
*Nali*—Land irrigated by canal  
*Namaz*—Religious prayer offered by Muslims  
*Neota*—Invitation  
*Orhana*—A wrapper  
*Pachhotra*—A surcharge of 5 per cent of land revenue paid to village headman  
*Pana Thule*—A section of village

*Panch*—A member of panchayat

*Parta*—A strip of land

*Pattidari*—Tenure when possession is based on hereditary customary shares

*Pudhe*—A kind of sweet cake

*Punar-vivah*—Re-marriage

*Ragi*—Village singer

*Rassa Khichna*—Tug-of-war

*Rehra*—A hand cart

*Roti*—Chapati

*Sailab*—Flooded or kept permanently moist by river

*Sakarpare*—A sweatmeat

*Salwar*—A kind of trousers worn by Women

*Sarkanda*—A kind of reed

*Sarkar*—A revenue division

*Sarpanch*—A head of the panchayat

*Sehra*—Bridal chaplet

*Shivala*—Shiva temple

*Sohali*—A thin sweet cake

*Taccavi*—Agricultural loans granted by government

*Tal*—A pond

*Tandoor*—A cooking oven

*Tehbazari*—Rent charged for the use of municipal land

*Thathera*—A brazier, a tinker

*Thur*—Water-logged land

*Urs*—The ceremony performed on the day of a Mohammedan saint's death

*Zail*—A sub division of a tahsil



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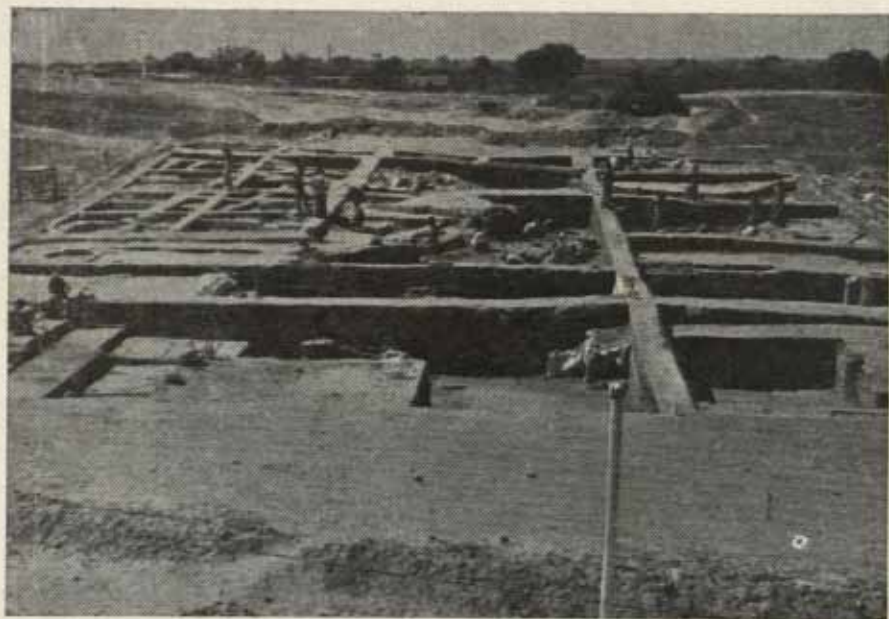
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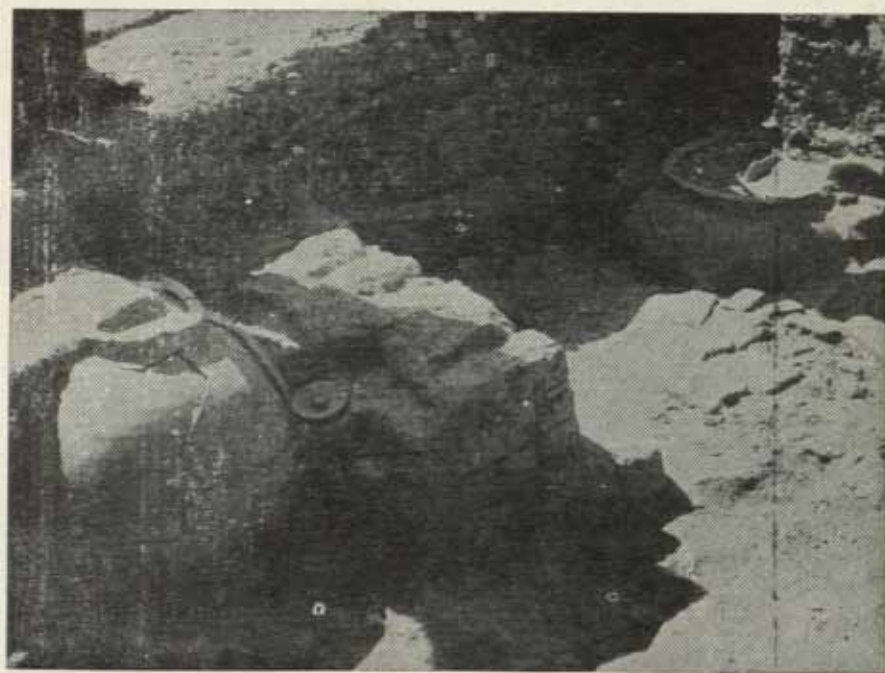


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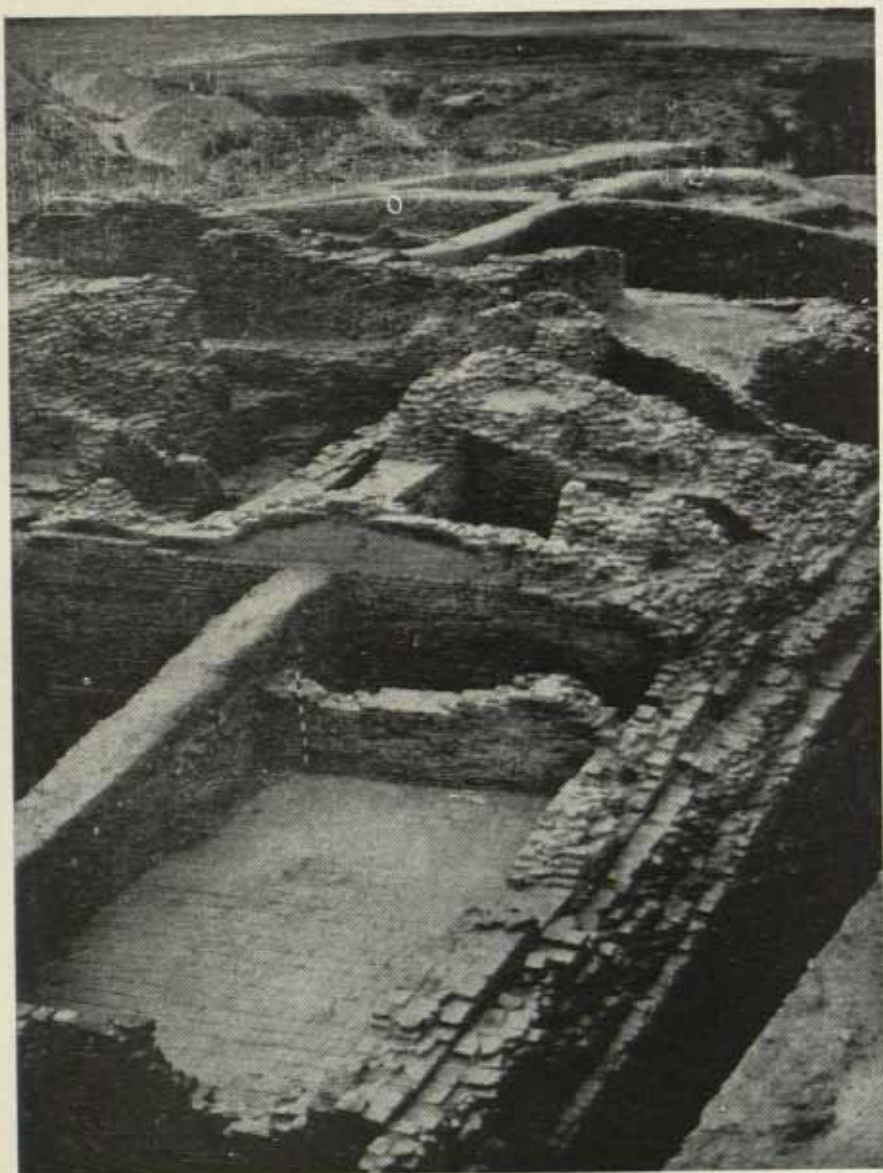




*Excavation in progress at Banawali—a pre-Harappan archaeological site*



*Pre-Harappan relics recovered from Banawali*



*An excavated site at Agroha—a town of ancient India*





*Vishnu, 9th-10th century A.D., Kanwari*

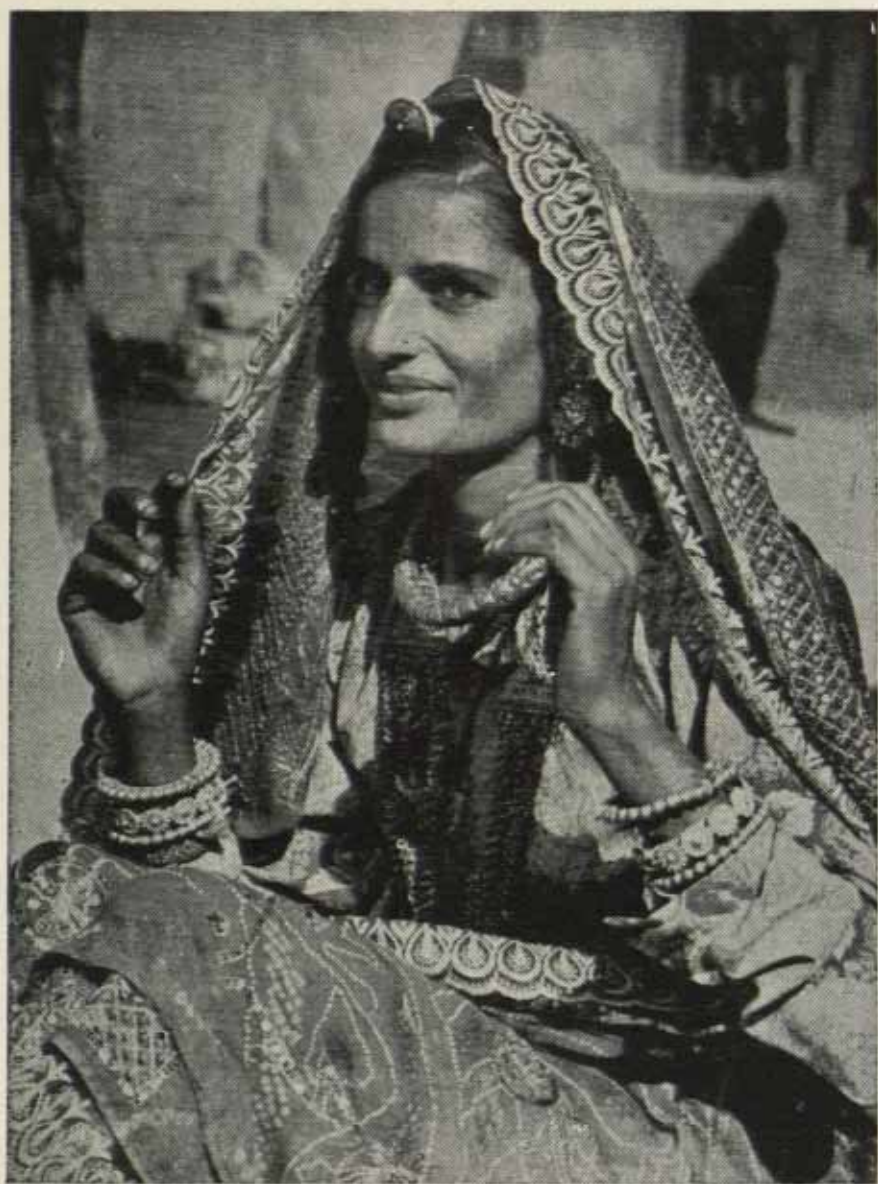


*Surya, 11th-12th century A.D., Hansi*



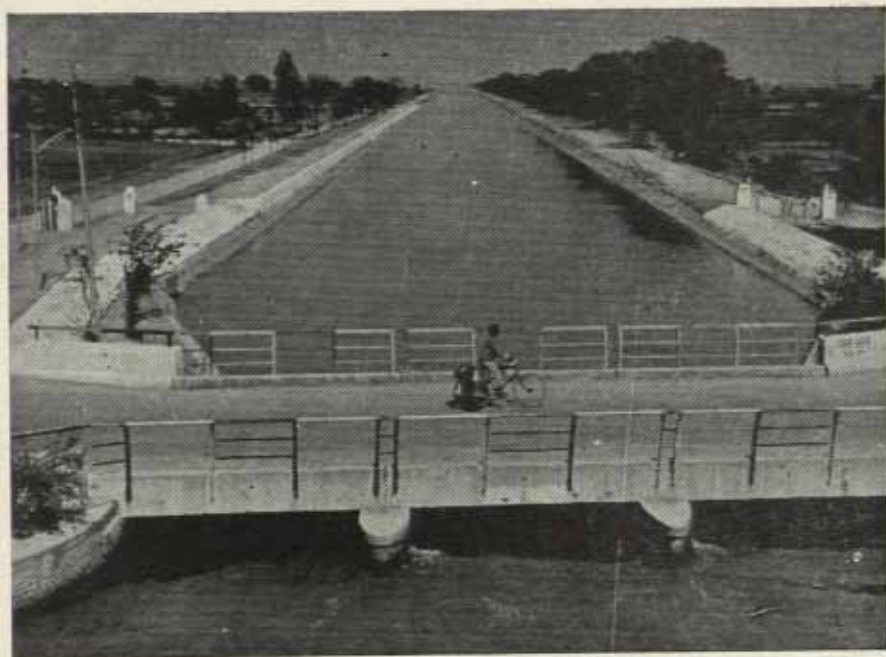


*A panoramic view of Deer Park, Hisar*



*Bagri woman in traditional dress*

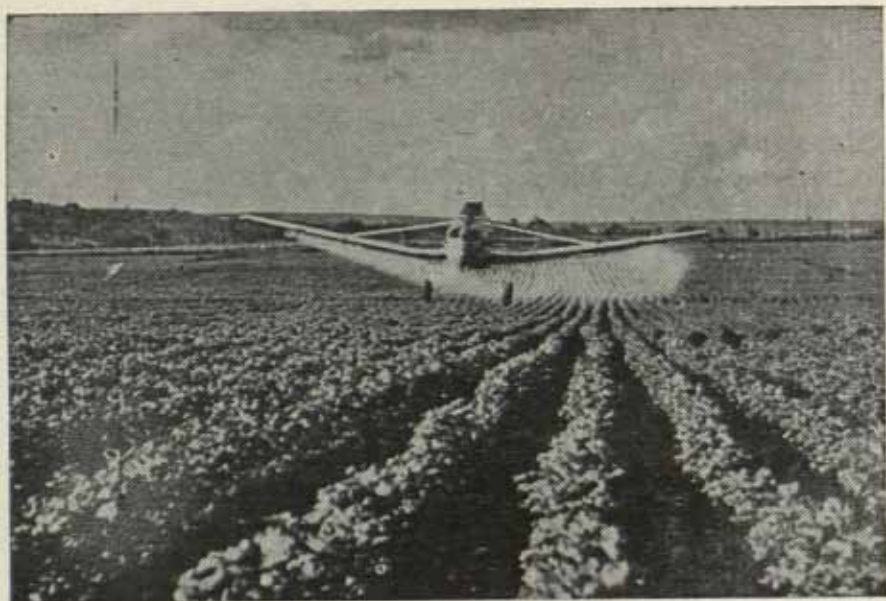




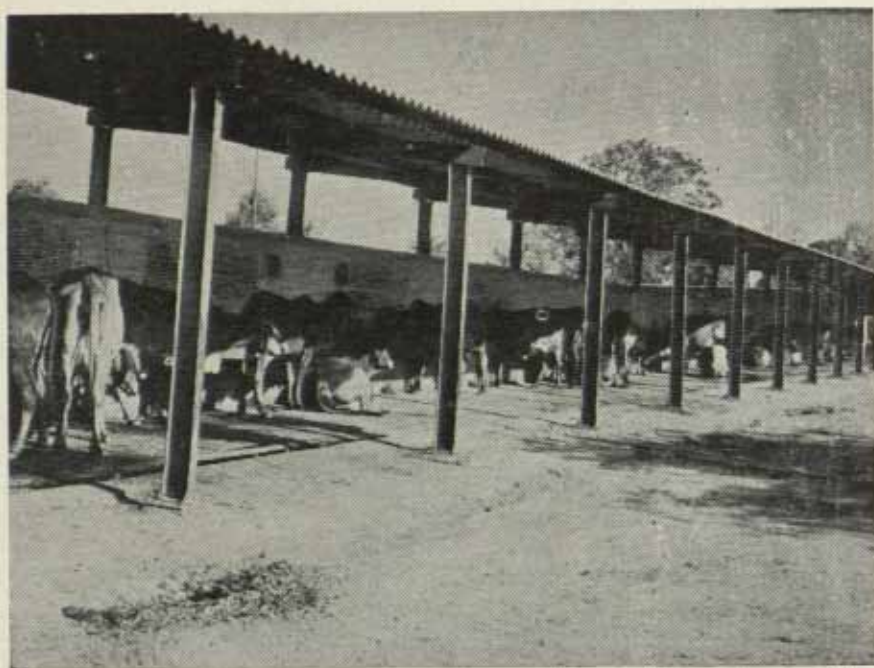
*Bhakra Canal—Life line for the district*



*Irrigation in parched land through sprinkler sets*



*Protecting cotton crop through aerial spray*

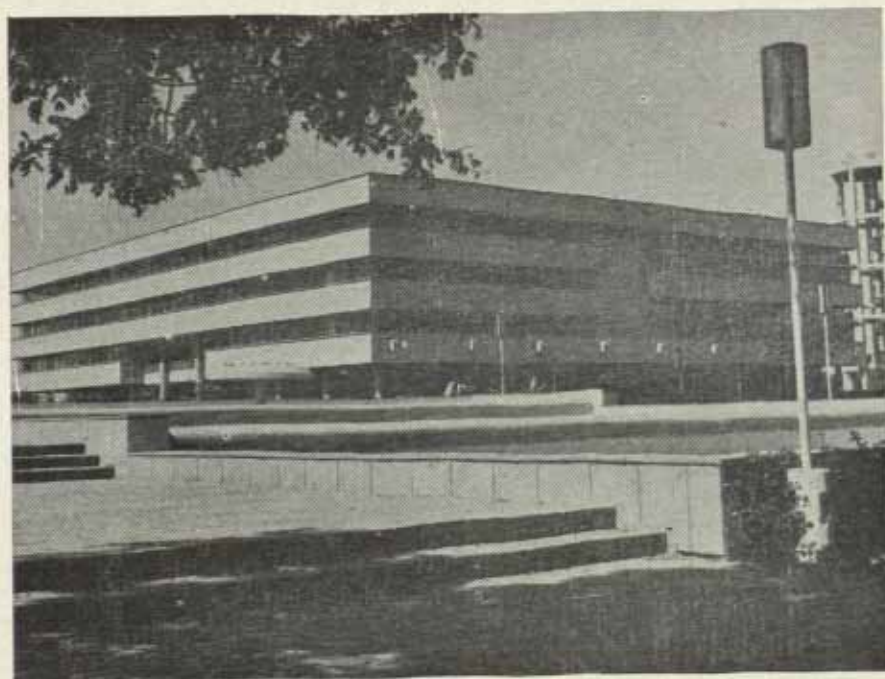


*Asia's biggest Livestock Farm, Hisar*





*Mini Secretariat, Hisar—bringing district administration under one roof*



*Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar—a premier centre of agricultural research and education*



*Civil Hospital, Fatehabad—a symbol of extension in health facilities*



*Rural water supply scheme, Khera Kheri—providing piped water to far flung areas*



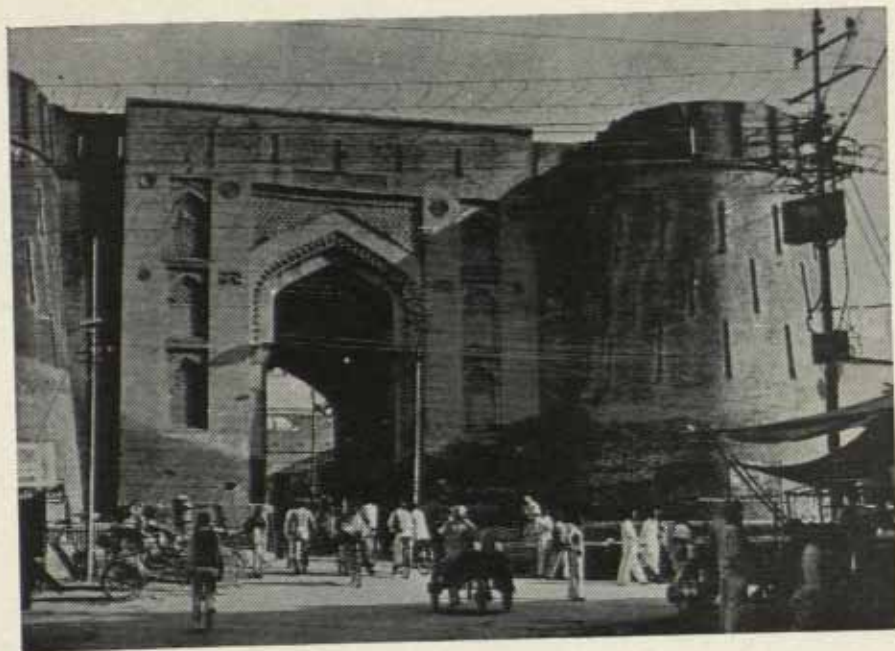


*Prachin Shiv Mandir, Fatehabad*



*A rare statue of Hanuman in a temple at Satrod Kalan*

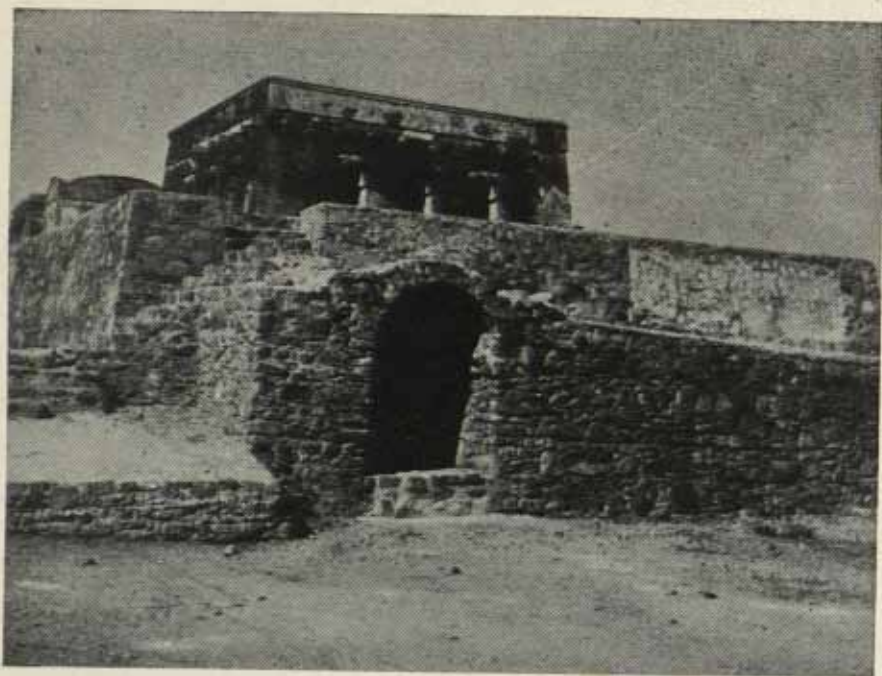




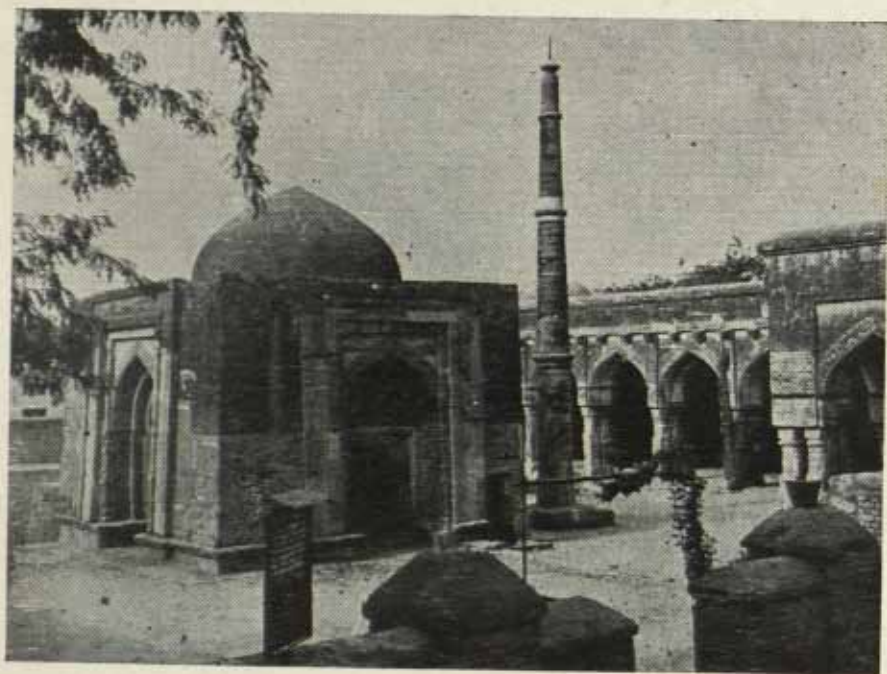
*Asika Gate, Hansi—reflecting glory of the ancient town*



*An inner view of Fort at Hansi*

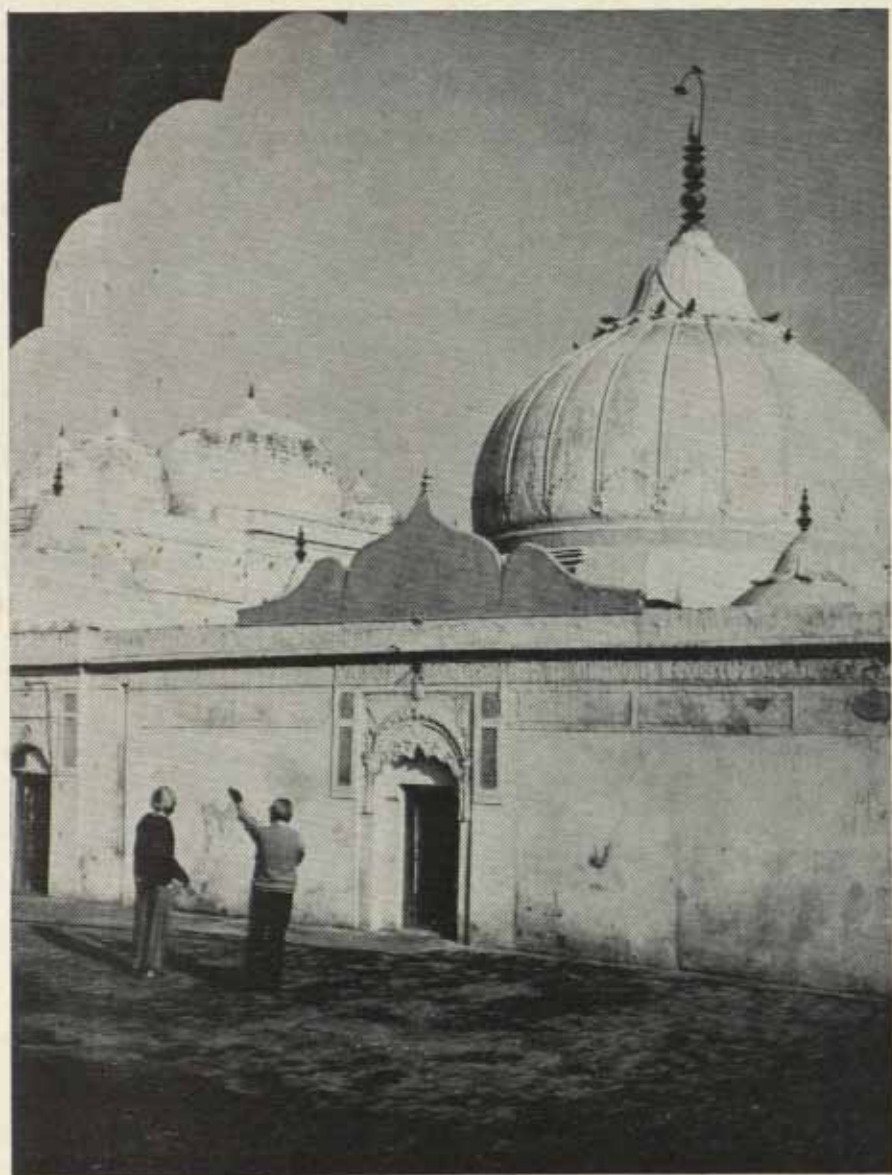


*Gujri Mahal, Hisar—a palace built by Firuz Tughluq as a residence for his Gujri mistress*

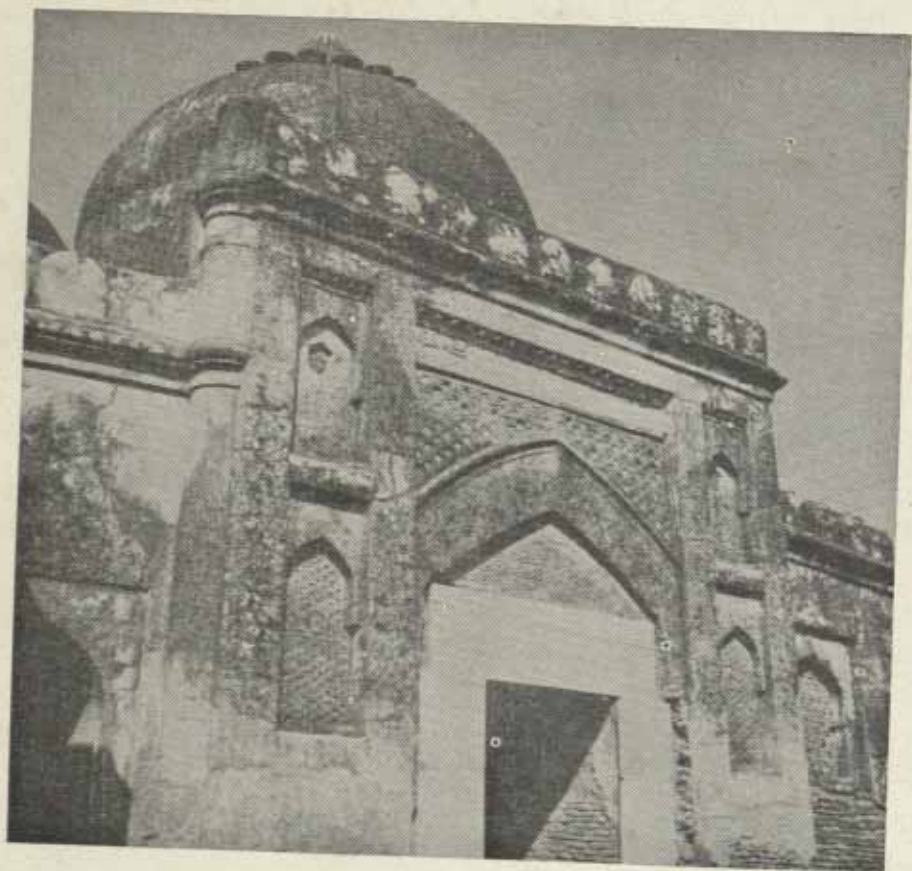


*Asokan Pillar at Lat Ki Masjid, Hansi—probably brought from Agroha in 14th century*



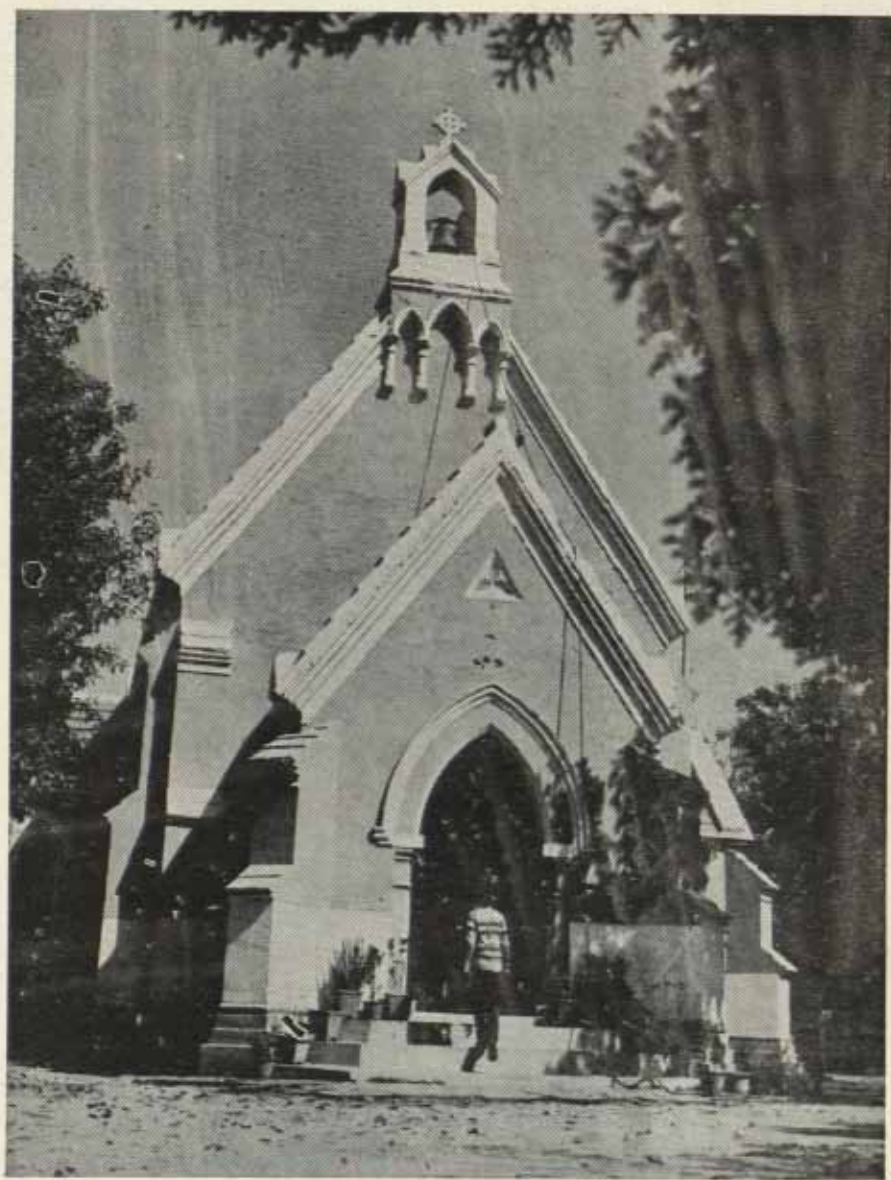


*An outer view of Char Qutb, Hansi*



*Humayun Masjid, Fatehabad*



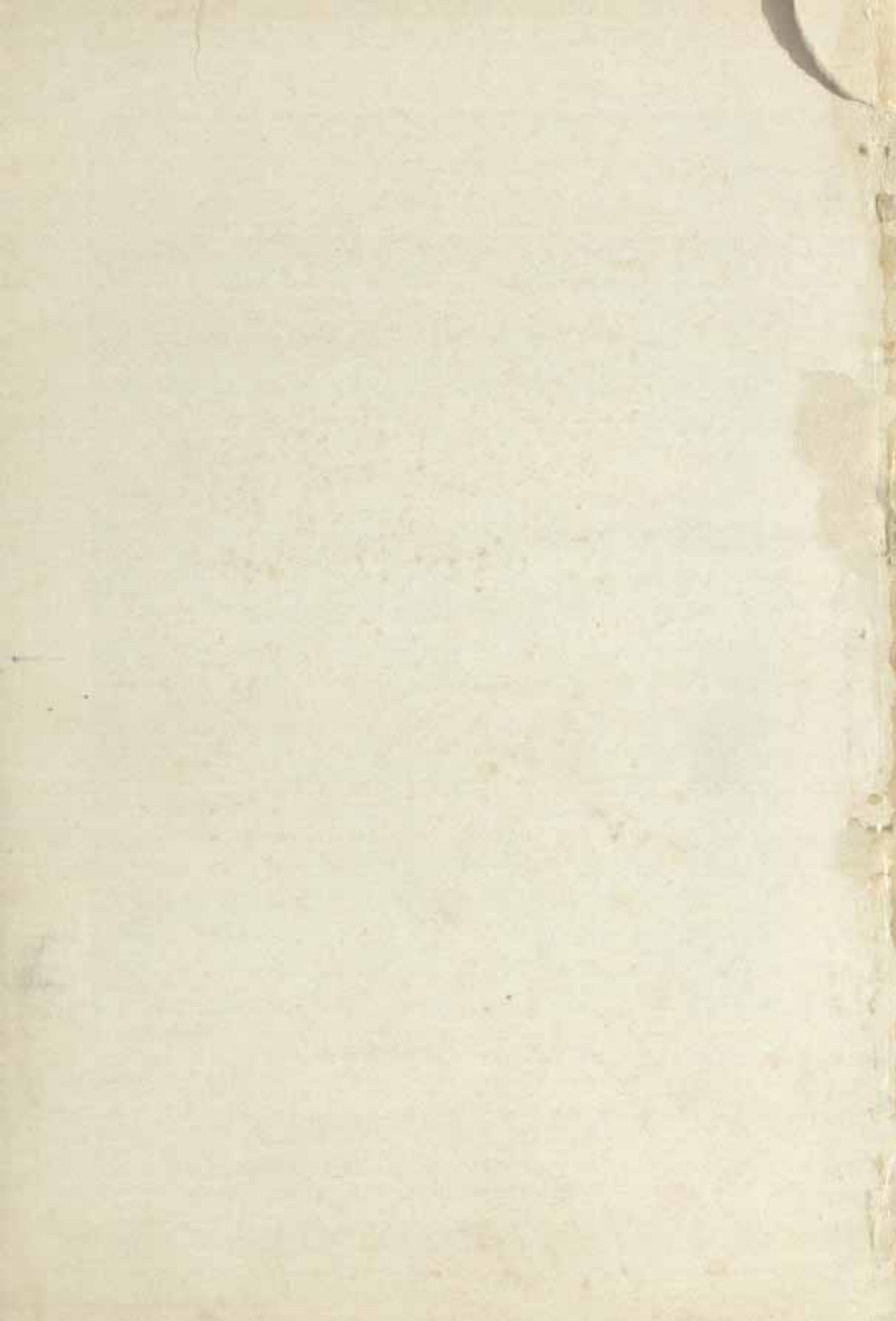


*19th century St. Thomas Church, Hisar*

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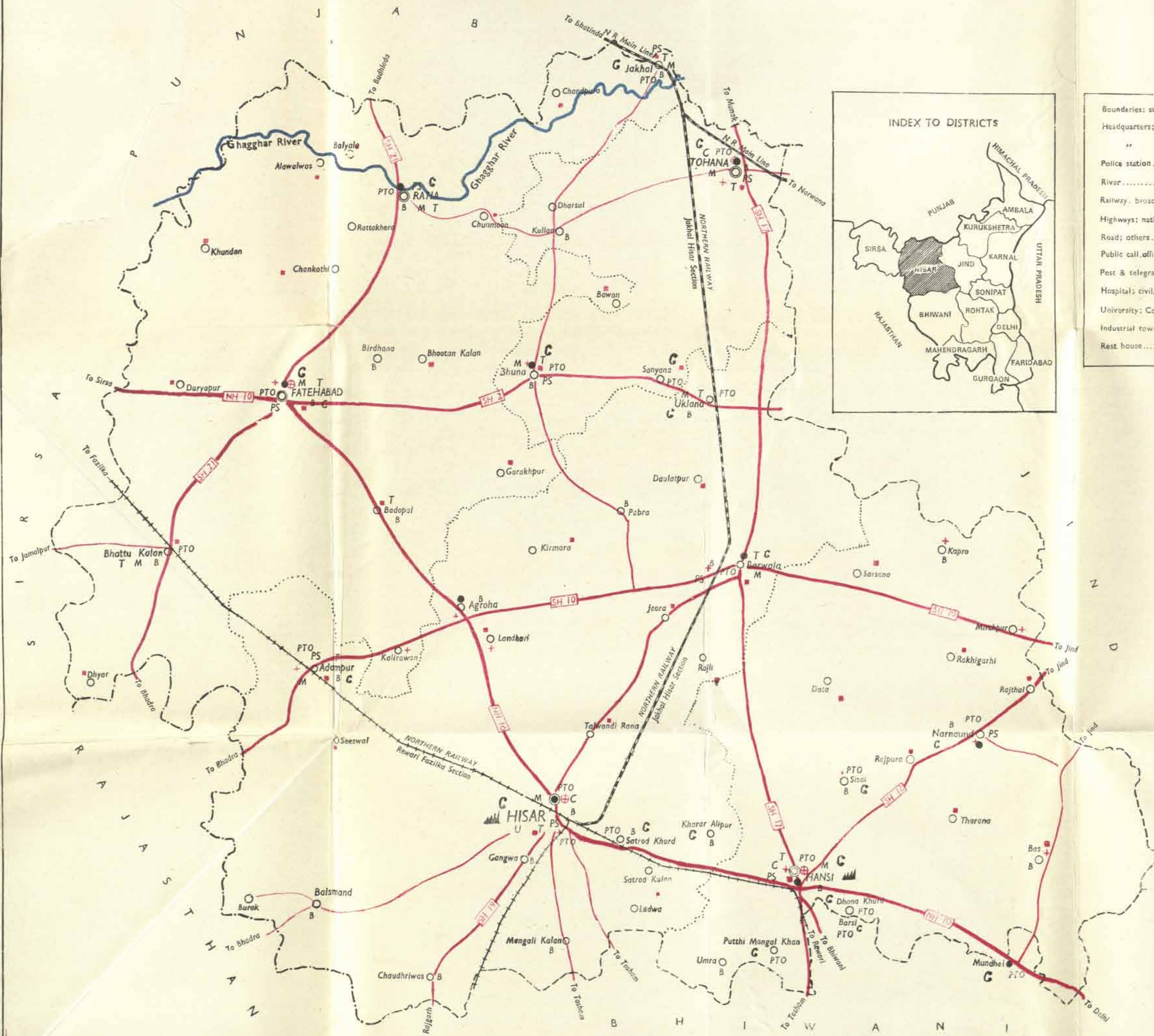




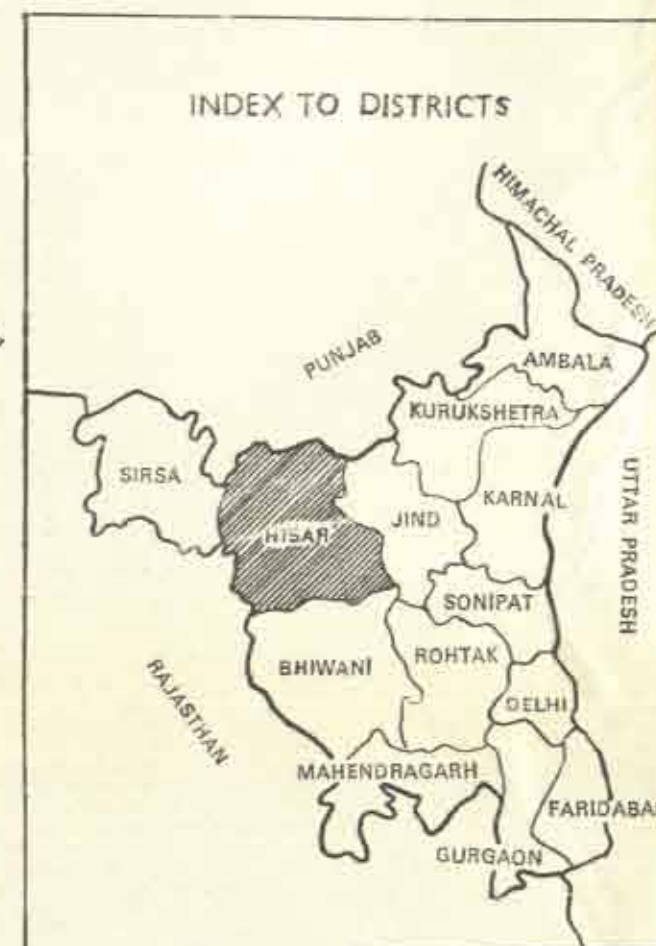


# DISTRICT HISAR GENERAL MAP MARCH 1978

1:250,000  
Kilometres 5 0 5 10 15 Kilometres



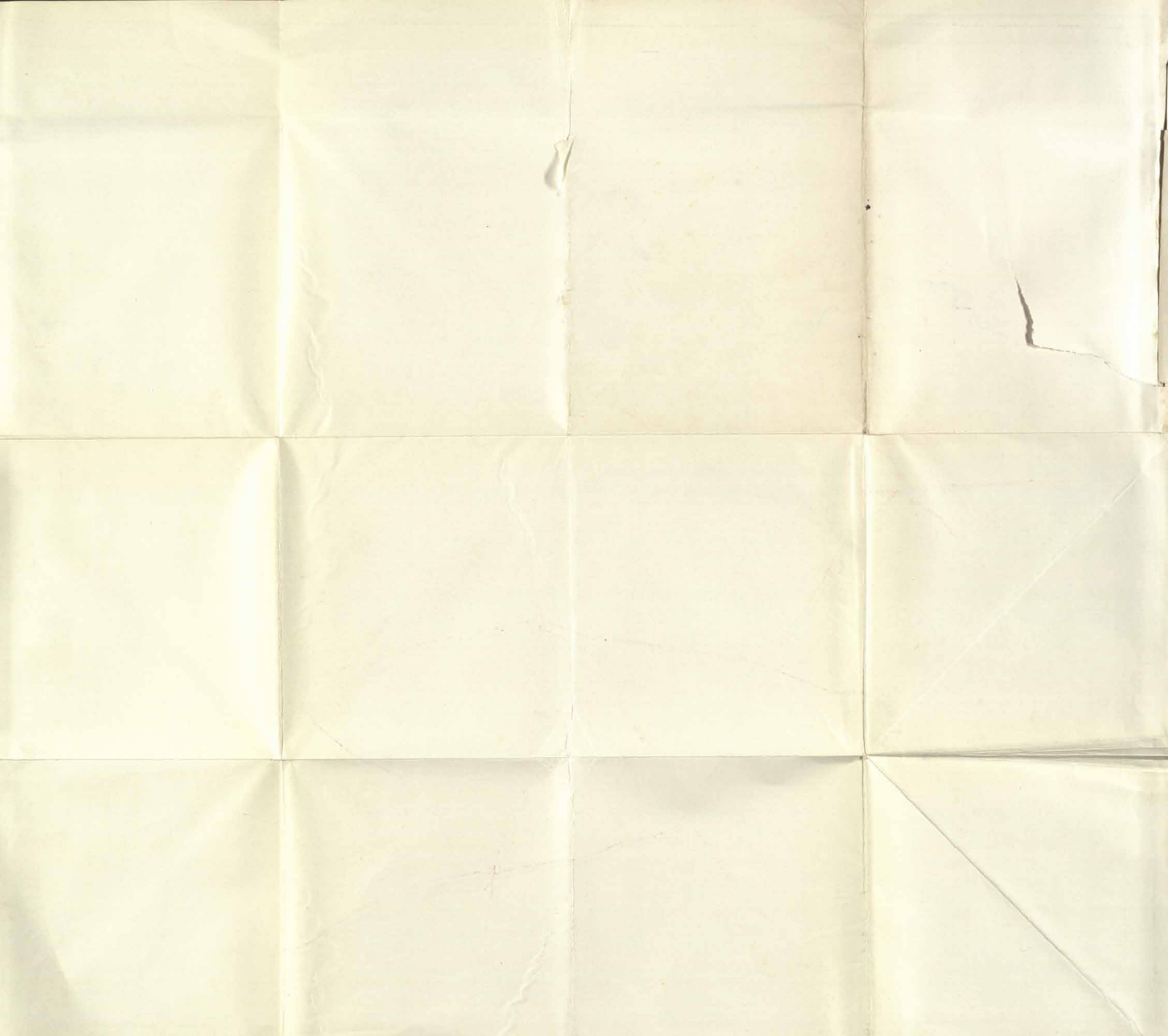
## INDEX TO DISTRICTS



## REFERENCES

Boundaries: state, district, tahsil.....	— — — — —	○
Headquarters; district, tahsil.....	●	○
"    block, town.....	●	○
Police station.....	PS	
River.....	~~~~~	
Railway: broad gauge, metre gauge.....	—+—+—+—	
Highways: national, state with number.....	NH 10 SH 2	
Road; others.....	—	
Public call office, Telephone exchange.....	C	T
Post & telegraph office, Bank, Regulated Market.....	PTO B M	
Hospital; civil, veterinary.....	+	+
University; College.....	U	C
Industrial town.....	■	
Rest house.....	■	





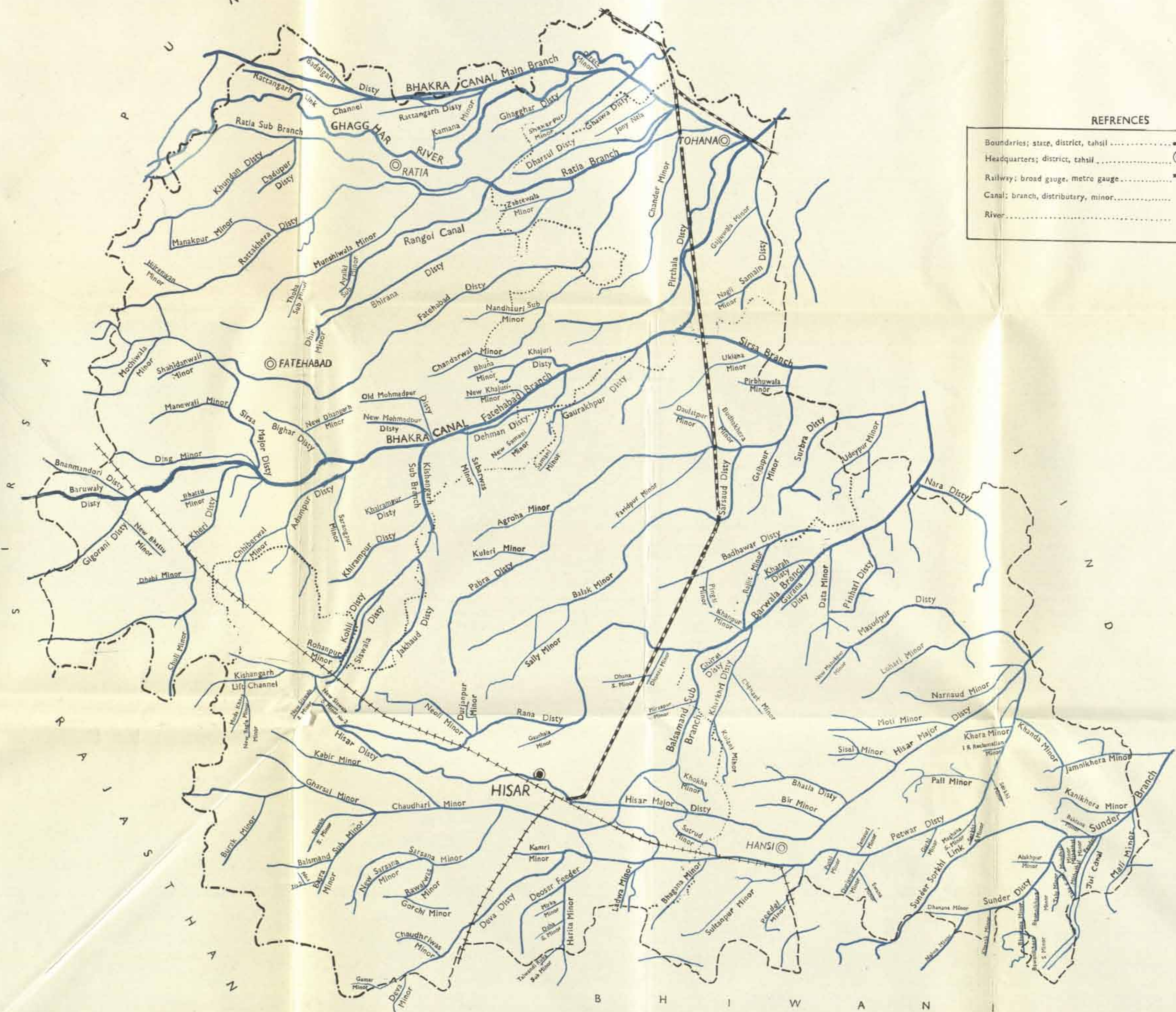


# DISTRICT HISAR IRRIGATION MAP MARCH 1978

1:250,000  
Kilometres 5 0 5 10 15 Kilometres

## REFERENCES

- Boundaries; state, district, tahsil .....
- Headquarters; district, tahsil .....
- Railway; broad gauge, metre gauge .....
- Canal; branch, distributary, minor .....
- River .....







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