

GAZETTEER OF INDIA
HARYANA

HISAR

HARYANA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



HISAR

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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

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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. Cuninghham 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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