

Punjab

State (pop., 2008 est.: 26,591,000), northwestern India.

Enterprise and endeavour, these two words symbolize the essential spirit of the people of Punjab. Since Independence, over 5 decades, the state has earned its epithet: "*of Granary India*" through the enterprising spirit, and untiring toil of its people.

Area:

50,362 square kilometers (Punjab occupies 1.54 % of the country's total geographical area.)

Location:

Punjab is situated in the northwest of India, it is bordered by Pakistan on the west, the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir on the north, Himachal Pradesh on its northeast and Haryana and Rajasthan to its south.

Capital:

Chandigarh
population: 9.5 lacs

Population:

243.59 Lakh for the year 2001
Rural: 160.96 Lakh
Urban: 82.63 Lakh

Languages:

Punjabi and Hindi.
Many people are fluent in English and Urdu

Currency:

Rupee (100 paise equals one rupee)

State Animal:

Black Buck - Locally called *kala hiran*, the Black Buck is a graceful antelope is blessed with a striking colour and spiraled horns. The fawn's coat is yellowish but it becomes turns black at maturity. It is found in the plains and avoid forests and hilly tracks. Mostly found in herds of 20-30, large herds may number several hundreds. With a keen eyesight and speed, it responds to alarm call by leaps and bounds.

State Bird:

Baz (Eastern Goshawk)

State Tree:

Shisham

Geography:

Find Punjab on the globe at 29'30'' N to 32'32'' N latitude and 73'55 E to 76'50 E longitude,

Climate:

Climatically the state has three major seasons.

- Hot weather (April to June) when temperature rises as high as 110F.
- Rainy season (July to September). Average rainfall annual ranges between 96 cms sub-mountain region and 46 cms in the plains.
- Cold weather (October to March). Temperature goes down as low as 40F.

Major Land Features:

Most of Punjab is a fertile plain; toward the southeast one finds semi-arid and desert landscape; a belt of undulating hills extends along the northeast at the foot of the Himalayas. Four rivers, the Ravi, Beas, Satluj and Ghaggar flow across the state in a southwesterly direction. They have numerous small and seasonal tributaries. In addition, Punjab is watered by an extensive canal system.

Where Punjab Leads:

- Punjab State, with only 1.5 per cent of Geographical Area of the Country, Produced 20 percent of wheat, 9 percent of Rice and 14 percent of Cotton of the total produce under these crops in the country. Punjab is 1st in average per hectare yield of rice, wheat and cotton.
- During the year 1997-98, the total production of foodgrains touched 211.61 lac tonnes, a matter of great pride for any state and its people.
- Punjab State which has Earned the rare distinction of being called the "FOOD BASKET OF the whole COUNTRY" & the "GRANARY OF INDIA", has been contributing 40-50 percent of Rice & 60-70 percent of Wheat to the Central Pool for the last two decades.
- Wheat yield of 40 quintals per hectare is a record production.
- Punjab State produces 1% of Rice, 2% of Wheat and 2% of Cotton of the World
- As compared to 73 Kg. per hectare utilisation of fertilisers at the National level, Punjab is using 167 Kg. of fertilisers per hectare.
- Punjab State consumes 10 percent of the total Fertilizer Consumption in India.
- The Punjab State topped all other States in India in the Kinnow fruit production.
- Punjab State topped all other states in per hectare yield of grapes.
- Per hectare potato seed production is highest in Punjab.
- Punjab topped all other State in Mushroom production. It is contribution about 20 to 25 percent in the national food pool.

- ▣ Punjab State Cooperative Bank has won two major national level awards for operational efficiency and overall performance for the year 1993-94. This award has been given after selecting Cooperative Banks of 28 States in the country by the NABARD.
- ▣ The National Productivity Council, Govt. of India, has awarded the National Productivity Award for the seventh successive year in Oct. 1995 to Punjab for excellent performance in agriculture extension and agro-based industries.
- ▣ One Third Tractors of India are working in the fields of Punjab (5 lakh).
- ▣ The Product of MILKFED "VERKA VIGOUR", the only honey based Brown Malted Health drink in the country has been accepted in Bangladesh against severe competition from various multinational brands.
- ▣ Verka milk products known for quality are largely exported to the Middle East, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Phillipines and Bangladesh.
- ▣ Punjab exports vegetables of worth Rs 50 Crores to Pakistan
- ▣ In addition to the supply of Quality milk, Whole milk, Skimmed milk, Powdered milk, Cheese & butter to the army, Punjab is also supplying 11,000 tonnes of milk worth Rs 100 Crores a year
- ▣ Per capita availability of Eggs is the highest in India :
 - (a) Average in India - 35
 - (b) Average in Punjab - 125
- ▣ Punjab is the first State in India to export HONEY to the United States of America.
- ▣ Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) has been awarded the best Performance Award for propagating the objectives of non conventional and renewable energy sources.
- ▣ Under the Family Welfare Programme, Punjab has already attained couple protection rate of 63.73% against the national target of 60% envisaged to be achieved by 2000 A.D.
- ▣ The per capita availability of milk in the State is 845 gms. per day, which is the highest in the country.
- ▣ Punjab Produces 7.16 lakh M.T. of milk annually which is 10 % of the total production in the Country.
- ▣ MARKFED is one of the largest cooperative institutions in Asia with a business turnover of about Rs. 91816.46 crores per annum.
- ▣ Punjab is the only State in the country where every village and urban slum areas have Mahila

Swasthya Sang.

- The fish production is 4100 kg. per hectare as compared to All India level 2180 kg.
- Punjab has given a lead to the country by commissioning 160 community and Institutional Biogas Plants which supply clean cooking fuels to over 10,000 families in the State.

Punjab vis-à-vis India:

	Punjab's average	All- India average	Rank in the country
Per capita income (Rs)	19,500	6,929	First
Energy consumption per capita (kWh)	790	283	First
Daily factory employment per 1000 population	17.5	10.0	First
Per capita bank deposits (Rs)	4,565	2,362	First
Per Capita Bank Credit (Rs)	2,201	1,570	Second
TV Coverage (%) area	99.00	58.02	First
Rural Electrification (per cent)	100	83.9	First
Registered motor vehicles for every 10,000 people	556	206	First
Employment in the organised sector to total population(%)	4.63	3.84	First
Villages connected with roads (per cent)	98.8	40.7	Second

Administrative Structure

Divisions	4
Districts	20
Sub-Divisions/Tehsils	76
Sub-Tehsils	77
Blocks	141
No. of Inhabited Villages (2001 Census)	12278
No. of Towns (2001 Census)	143
No. of Cities (2001 Census)	14

Population 2001

Total Population	243.59
Rural Population (in Lakh)	160.96
Urban Population (in Lakh)	82.63
Density (Per Sq. Km.)	484

Local Bodies (2005-2006)

Zila Parishads	17
Municipal Committees	133
Improvement Trusts	20

Climate (2005)

Average Rainfall (Millimeter)	435.6
-------------------------------	-------

Area, Average yield & Production of selected Crops.(2005-2006)

	Area (000,hec)	Prod. (000, tons)	Average yield (Kg. per hec.)
Rice	2642	10193	3858
Wheat	3468	14493	4179
Maize	148	403	2726
Bajra	5	5	1045
Gram	4	4	864
Sugarcane	84	486	5783
Rapeseed & Mustard	48	54	1108
Sunflower	19	30	1578
Groundnut	4	3	871
Cotton	557	2395	731

Co-operatives (2005-2006)

No. of Cooperative Societies	20875
Membership (lakh)	47.17
Working Capital (Crore)	26380.51

No. of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies	3978
---	------

Irrigation (2005-2006)

Net Area Irrigated by:	000 Hectare
Gross Area Irrigated	7680
Government Canals	1134
Private Canals	4
Wells/Tubewells	2914
Others	8

Energy(2005-2006)

Consumption of Electricity	24192 Million KWH
Per capita Consumption of Electricity	906 KWH

Forests (2005-2006)

Area under Forests (Sq. K.M)	3054
------------------------------	------

Industries (2005)

Working Factories	15301
Average No. of Workers employed in Regd. working factories	521337

Medical and Health (01.04.2006)

Hospitals	219
Dispensaries	1453
P.H.C.s.	441
Ayurvedic and Unani Institutions	529
Homoepthic Institution	107
Beds installed in Medical Institutions (Allopathy)	25489

Animal Husbandry (2005-2006)

Veterinary Hospitals	1367
Outlying Dispensaries & Insemination	1485
Total Poultry (Thousands)	10779

Area stocked with fish (in hec.)	9890
Total Livestock (Thousands)	8608

Education (30.09.2005)

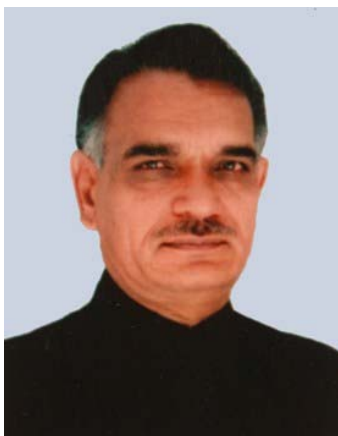
Universities	6
No. of Arts, Home Science, Commerce and Science College	232
No. of High schools/ Senior Secondary Schools	4043
No. of Middle schools	2481
No. of Primary Schools	13291

Banking (31-12-2005)

Scheduled Bank	2807
Non-Scheduled Bank	2

Miscellaneous (2005-2006)

Post Offices	3952
Police Stations/ Police Post	456
Seats in Punjab Vidhan Sabha	117
Lok Sabha Seats in Punjab	13
Rajya Sabha Seats in Punjab	7



Shivraj Patil Governor, Punjab



Sardar Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister, Punjab



Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal, Dy.Chief Minister, Punjab

List of Cabinet Ministers

S.No.	Name	Designation	Phone Number (s)	Office Address	Residence Address
Co-operation					
1.	Sh. Parkash Singh Badal	CM and Minister Incharge of Deptt. Cooperation	2740325, 2743463 PBX-4264 (O) Fax : 0172-2740769 E-mail : cm@punjabmail.gov.in	Room No. 1, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	
Excise & Taxation					
2.	Sh. Parkash Singh Badal	CM and Minister Incharge of Deptt. Excise & Taxation	2740325, 2743463 PBX-4264 (O) Fax : 0172-2740769 E-mail : cm@punjabmail.gov.in	Room No. 1, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	
General Administration					
3.	Sh. Parkash Singh Badal	CM and Minister Incharge of Dept. of General Administration Minister	2740325, 2743463 PBX-4264 (O) Fax : 0172-2740769 E-mail : cm@punjabmail.gov.in	Room No. 1, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat	
Housing and Urban Development					

4.	Sh. Parkash Singh Badal	CM and Minister Incharge of Deptt. Housing and Urban Development	2740325, 2743463 PBX-4264 (O) Fax : 2740361 E-mail : cm@punjabmail.gov.in	Room No. 1, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat	
Legal & Legislative Affairs					
5.	Sh. Parkash Singh Badal	CM and Minister Incharge of Deptt. of Legal & Legislative Affairs	0172-2740479, 2740912, PBX-4615 (O) Fax : 0172-2740769 E-mail : cm@punjabmail.gov.in	Room No. 1, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat	
Personnel					
6.	Sh. Parkash Singh Badal	CM and Minister Incharge of Department of Personnel	2740325, 2743463 PBX-4264 (O) Fax : 0172-2740769 E-mail : cm@punjabmail.gov.in	Room No. 1, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat	
Power					
7.	Sh. Parkash Singh Badal	CM and Minister Incharge of Deptt. Power	0172-2740325, 2743463 PBX-4264 (O) Fax : 0172-2740769 E-mail : cm@punjabmail.gov.in	Room No. 1, Floor-2, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	
Science & Technology					
8.	Sh. Parkash Singh Badal	CM and Minister Incharge of Deptt. Power	0172-2740325, 2743463 PBX-4264 (O) Fax : 0172-2740769 E-mail : cm@punjabmail.gov.in	Room No. 1, Floor-2, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	
Non-Conventional Energy					
9.	Sh. Sukhbir Singh Badal	Dy.CM and Minister Incharge	2747212 2740611 PBX-4616 (O) Fax : 0172- 2742477	Room No. 3, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Home Affairs (Home Affairs, Civil Defence, Waks)					
10.	Sh. Sukhbir Singh Badal	Dy.CM and Minister Incharge	2747212 2740611 PBX-4616 (O)	Room No. 3, Floor 2,	

			Fax : 0172- 2742477	Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Water Supply & Sanitation					
11.	Sh. Sukhbir Singh Badal	Dy.CM and Minister Incharge	2747212 2740611 PBX-4616 (O) Fax : 0172- 2742477	Room No. 3, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Sports					
12.	Sh. Sukhbir Singh Badal	Dy.CM and Minister Incharge	2747212 2740611 PBX-4616 (O) Fax : 0172- 2742477	Room No. 3, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Youth Services					
13.	Sh. Sukhbir Singh Badal	Dy.CM and Minister Incharge	2747212 2740611 PBX-4616 (O) Fax : 0172- 2742477	Room No. 3, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Agriculture					
14.	Sh. Sucha Singh Langah	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Agriculture	0172-2740325, 2740769 (O) Fax : 0172-2740769	Room No. 32, Floor 2, Chief Minister Office Punjab Civil Secretariat Chandigarh	
Animal Husbandary, Fisheries and Dairy Development					
15.	Sh. Gulzar Singh Ranike	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Animal Husbandary, Fisheries and Dairy Development	0172-2741817, 2747153 PBX-4739 (O) 0183-2571987 (R)	Room No. 31 Floor 3 Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	Gurmukh Niwas, Near Guru Nank Dev Hospital, Majitha Road, Amritsar. Village Ranike, P.O. Ramgarh. Teh. Amritsar
Civil Aviation					
16.	Dr.Upinderjit Kaur	Minister Incharge of Deptt. of Civil Aviation	0172-2740119, 2747224 PBX-4529 (O)	Room No. 25, Floor 5, Civil Secretariat	I-Azim Manzil, chaubatia Chowk,

			0172-2548168, 98153-26179 (R)	Chandigarh.	Railway Road, Kapurthala. House No. 3275, Sector 15-D, Chandigarh
Cultural Affairs, Archives, Museum and Archaeology					
17.	Sh. Hira Singh Gabria	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Cultural Affairs, Archives & museums	0172-2740024 PBX-4708 (O)	Room No35, 7th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Defence Services Welfare					
18	Sh. Sewa Singh Sekhwan	Minister Incharge			
Election Commission					
19.	Sh. Ranjit Singh Brahampura	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Election Commission	0172-2742471, 2746289, PBX-4609 (O) 0183-2225943, 2226347 (R)	Room No. 34, Floor 6 , Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	H. No. 2090 Sector 15-C Chandigarh
Finance					
20.	Sh. Manpreet Singh Badal	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Finance	0172-2747768 PBX-4728 (O)	Room No. 12, Floor - 7, Punjab Civil Secretariat Chandigarh	
Food & Supplies					
21.	Sh. Adesh Partap Singh Kairon	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Food & Supplies	0172-2740105, 2741500 PBX-4530 (O)	Room No. 21 , Floor 5, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	H.No. 28, Sector-4, Chandigarh
Forest and Wild Life					
22.	Sh. Tikshan Sud	Forest and Wild Life Minister	0172-2740199, 2743459 PABX-4301 (O) 98140-01105 (R)	Room No. 15, Floor-3, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	Civil Line Extension Hoshiarpur-146001
Health & Family Welfare					
23.	Smt. Lakshmi Kanta	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Health	0172-2740724, 2747210, PBX-4706 (O)	Room No. 31, Floor 7	

	Chawla	& Family Welfare		Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh-160001	
Home Affairs and Justice (Jails & Judicial)					
24.	Sh. Hira Singh Gabria	Minister for Jails	0172-2740024 PBX-4708 (O)	Room No. 35,7th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Industries and Commerce					
25.	Sh. Manoranjan Kalia	Minister Incharge of Deptt of Industries and Commerce Minister	0172-2740788, 2741818, PBX-4617 (O)	Room No. 38, Floor 6, Punjab Civil Secretariat Chandigarh	
Information and Public Relation					
26.	Sh. Sewa Singh Sekhwan	Minister Incharge	2747212 2740611 PBX-4616 (O) Fax : 0172- 2742477	Room No. 3, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Information Technology					
27.	Sh. Adesh Partap Singh Kairon	Minister Incharge of Department of Information Technology	0172-2740105, 2741500 PBX-4530 (O)	Room No. 21 , Floor 5, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	H.No. 28, Sector-4, Chandigarh
Irrigation					
28.	Sh. Janmeja Singh	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Irrigation	0172-2741984, 2746992 PBX - 4303 (O)	Room No. 20-A, Floor-3, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	
Local Government					
29.	Sh. Manoranjan Kalia	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Local Government	0172-2740788, 2741818, PBX-4617 (O)	Room No. 38, 6th Floor, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	
Medical Education and Research					
30.	Sh. Tikshan Sud	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Medical	0172-2740199, 2743459 PABX-4301	Room No. 15, Floor-3,	Civil Line Extension

		Education and Research	(O) 98140-01105 (R)	Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	Hoshiarpur-146001
NRIs Affairs					
31.	Sh. Sewa Singh Sekhwan	Minister Incharge	2747212 2740611 PBX-4616 (O) Fax : 0172- 2742477	Room No. 3, Floor 2, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Parliamentary Affairs					
32.	Sh. Tikshan Sud	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Parliamentary Affairs	0172-2740199, 2743459 PABX-4301 (O) 98140-01105 (R)	Room No. 15, Floor-3, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	Civil Line Extension Hoshiarpur-146001
Planning					
33.	Sh. Manpreet Singh Badal	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Planning	0172-2747768 PBX-4728 (O)	Room No. 12, Floor - 7, Punjab Civil Secretariat Chandigarh	
Printing & Stationary					
34.	Sh. Hira Singh Gabria	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Printing & Stationary	0172-2740024 PBX-4708 (O)	Room No. 35,7th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Programme Implementation					
35.	Sh. Manpreet Singh Badal	Minister Incharge of Deptt. of Programme Implementation	0172-2747768 PBX-4728 (O)	Room No. 12, Floor - 7, Punjab Civil Secretariat Chandigarh	
Public Grievences					
36.	Sh. Sewa Singh Sekhwan	Minister of Incharge			
Public Works (B&R)					
37.	Sh. Parminder Singh Dhindsa	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Public Works (B&R)	0172-2740772, 2741752 PBX- 4758 (O) 01676-2744883 (R)	Room No. 19 Floor 7, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	Village & P.O. Ubhawal, Tehsil Sangrur Distt. Sangrur

Revenue & Rehabilitation					
38.	Sh. Ajit Singh Kohar	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Revenue & Rehabilitation	0172-2741506, 2740095 PABX-4354 (O) 0172-2688253, 98147-88253 (R)	Room No. 34, 3rd Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	Vill Kohar Khurd, Teh. Shahkot, Distt. Jalandhar
Rural Development & Panchayats					
39.	Sh. Ranjit Singh Brahampura	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Rural Development & Panchayats	0172-2742471, 2746289, PBX-4609 (O) 0183-2225943, 2226347 (R)	Room No. 34, 6th Floor, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	H. No. 2090 Sector 15-C Chandigarh
School Education					
40.	Dr.Upinderjit Kaur	Minister Incharge of Deptt. School Education	0172-2742477, PBX-4304 (O) 0172-2548168, 98153-26179 (R)	Room No. 20, 3rd Floor, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	I-Azim Manzil, chaubatia Chowk, Railway Road, Kapurthala. House No. 3275, Sector 15-D, Chandigarh
Social Security, Women and Child Development					
41.	Sh. Swarna Ram	Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister	0172-2740736, 2741755, PABX-4753 (O)	Room No. 27-B, 7th Floor, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	
Technical Education & Industrial Training					
42.	Sh. Swarna Ram	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Technical Education and Industrial Training	0172-2740736, 2741755, PABX-4753 (O)	Room No. 27-B, 7th Floor, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	
Tourism					
43.	Sh. Hira Singh Gabria	Minister Incharge Department of Tourism	0172-2740024 PBX-4708 (O)	Room No. 35, 7th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	
Transport					

44.	Master Mohan Lal	Minister Incharge of Deptt. Transport	0172-2741348, 2743857 PBX-4740 (O)	Room No. 20A, Floor-7, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	
Vigilance					
45.	Dr.Upinderjit Kaur	Minister Incharge of Deptt. of Vigilance	0172-2740119, 2747224 PBX-4529(O) 0172-2548168, 98153-26179 (R)	Room No. 25, Floor 5, Civil Secretariat Chandigarh	I-Azim Manzil, chaubatia Chowk, Railway Road, Kapurthala. House No. 3275, Sector 15-D, Chandigarh
Welfare of SCs & BCs					
46.	Sh. Gulzar Singh Ranike	Minister of Department of Welfare of SCs & BCs	0172-2741817, 2747153 PBX-4739 (O) 0183-2571987 (R)	Room No. 31, Floor 3, Punjab Civil Sectt. Chandigarh	Gurmukh Niwas, Near Guru Nank Dev Hospital, Majitha Road, Amritsar. Village Ranike, P.O. Ramgarh. Teh. Amritsar

Bordered by Pakistan and the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan, it occupies an area of 19,445 sq mi (50,362 sq km). The city of Chandigarh is the joint administrative capital of Punjab and Haryana. In the 18th century the Sikhs built a powerful kingdom in the Punjab region, which came under British rule in 1849. In 1947 the area was split between the new countries of India and Pakistan, the smaller eastern portion going to India. It is the only Indian state with a majority of Sikhs. Hindus make up about one-third of the population, and there are smaller minorities of Christians, Jains, and Muslims. The economy is based on agriculture and small- and medium-scale industry.

It is located in the northwestern part of the subcontinent. It is bounded by the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir to the north, Himachal Pradesh to the northeast, Haryana to the south and southeast, and Rajasthan to the southwest and by the country of Pakistan to the west. Punjab in its present form came into existence on Nov. 1, 1966, when most of its predominantly Hindi-speaking areas were separated to form the new state of Haryana. The city of Chandigarh, within the Chandigarh union territory, is the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.

The word Punjab is a compound of two Persian words, panj (“five”) and āb (“water”), thus signifying the land of five waters, or rivers (the Beas, Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi, and Sutlej). The word’s origin can perhaps

be traced to panca nada, Sanskrit for “five rivers” and the name of a region mentioned in the ancient epic the Mahabharata. As applied to the present Indian state of Punjab, however, it is a misnomer; since the partition of India in 1947, only two of these rivers, the Sutlej and the Beas, lie within Punjab’s territory, while the Ravi flows only along part of its western border. Area 19,445 square miles (50,362 square km). Pop. (2008 est.) 26,591,000.

Land

Punjab spans three physiographic regions, the smallest being the Siwalik Range in the northeast, where elevations reach about 3,000 feet (900 metres). Farther south, the narrow, undulating foothill region is dissected by closely spaced seasonal torrents, locally known as chos, several of which terminate in the plain below without joining any stream. To the south and west of the foothills lies the broad flat tract, with low-lying floodplains separated by slightly elevated uplands. This region, with its fertile alluvial soils, slopes gently from an elevation of about 900 feet (275 metres) in the northeast to about 550 feet (170 metres) in the southwest. The southwestern part of the plains, formerly strewn with sand dunes, has mostly been levelled off with the expansion of irrigation projects.

Climate

Punjab has an inland subtropical location, and its climate is continental, being semiarid to subhumid. Summers are very hot. In June, the warmest month, daily temperatures in Ludhiana usually reach about 100 °F (upper 30s C) from a low in the upper 70s F (mid-20s C). In January, the coolest month, daily temperatures normally rise from the mid-40s (about 7 °C) into the mid-60s F (upper 10s C). Annual rainfall is highest in the Siwalik Range, which may receive more than 45 inches (1,150 mm), and lowest in the southwest, which may receive less than 12 inches (300 mm); statewide average annual precipitation is roughly 16 inches (400 mm). Most of the annual rainfall occurs from July to September, the months of the southwest monsoon. Winter rains from the western cyclones, occurring from December to March, account for less than one-fourth of the total rainfall.

Plant and animal life

With the growth of human settlement over the centuries, Punjab has been cleared of most of its forest cover. Over large parts of the Siwalik Range, bush vegetation has succeeded trees as a result of extensive deforestation. There have been attempts at reforestation on the hillsides, and eucalyptus trees have been planted along major roads.

Natural habitats for wildlife are severely limited because of intense competition from agriculture. Even so, many types of rodents (such as mice, rats, squirrels, and gerbils), bats, birds, and snakes, as well as some species of monkeys, have adapted to the farming environment. Larger mammals, including jackals, leopards, wild boar, various types of deer, civets, and pangolins (scaly anteaters), among others, are found in the Siwaliks.

Population composition

The people of Punjab are mainly descendants of the so-called Aryan tribes that entered India from the northwest during the 2nd millennium bce, as well as the pre-Aryan population, probably Dravidians (speakers of Dravidian languages), who had a highly developed civilization. Relics of this civilization have

been unearthed at Rupnagar (Ropar). Successive waves of invaders—Greeks, Parthians, Kushans, and Hephthalites (Hunas)—added to the diversity of earlier social, or caste, groups (jatis). Later, invaders under the banner of Islam forced several vanquished groups (such as the Jat peasant caste and the Rajput class of landowners) to convert to the Muslim faith, although many conversions were voluntary under the influence of Ṣūfī saints.

Today, however, the majority religion of Punjab is Sikhism, which originated from the teachings of Nanak, the first Sikh Guru. Hindus make up the largest minority, but there also is a significant population of Muslims. There are small communities of Christians and Jains in some areas. More than one-fourth of Punjab's population consists of Hindus and Sikhs who officially belong to the Scheduled Castes (formerly called "untouchables"), which occupy a relatively low position within the traditional Indian caste system.

Punjabi is the official state language. Along with Hindi, it is the most widely spoken. However, many people also speak English and Urdu.

Settlement patterns

About one-third of Punjab's population lives in cities and towns. Its major cities are Ludhiana in the central region, Amritsar in the northwest, Jalandhar in north-central Punjab, Patiala in the southeast, and Bathinda in the south-central part of the state. Muslims reside mostly in and around the southwest-central city of Maler Kotla, which was once the centre of a princely state ruled by a Muslim nawab (provincial governor).

Agriculture

Some two-fifths of Punjab's population is engaged in the agricultural sector, which accounts for a significant segment of the state's gross product. Punjab produces an important portion of India's food grain and contributes a major share of the wheat and rice stock held by the Central Pool (a national repository system of surplus food grain). Much of the state's agricultural progress and productivity is attributable to the so-called Green Revolution, an international movement launched in the 1960s that introduced not only new agricultural technologies but also high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice.

Aside from wheat and rice, corn (maize), barley, and pearl millet are important cereal products of Punjab. Although the yield of pulses (legumes) has declined since the late 20th century, there has been a rapid increase in the commercial production of fruit, especially citrus, mangoes, and guavas. Other major crops include cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds, chickpeas, peanuts (groundnuts), and vegetables.

With almost the entire cultivated area receiving irrigation, Punjab is among India's most widely irrigated states. Government-owned canals and wells are the main sources of irrigation; canals are most common in southern and southwestern Punjab, while wells are more typical of the north and the northeast. The Bhakra Dam project in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh provides much of Punjab's supply of irrigation water.

Resources and power

Lacking fossil fuels, Punjab draws its energy primarily from thermal plants fired with imported coal. However, a significant amount of power is provided by hydroelectric plants and, to a lesser extent, by

solar power stations. In the early 21st century, the demand for electricity in Punjab continued to exceed the supply.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector (including construction) has expanded notably since the late 20th century. Industries with the largest number of workers include those producing silk, wool, and other textiles; processed foods and beverages; metal products and machinery; transport equipment; and furniture. Other important manufactures include leather goods, chemicals, rubber and plastics, and hosiery.

Services

Punjab's services sector includes trade, transportation and storage, financial services, real estate, public administration, and other services. The sector has grown rapidly since the late 20th century. By the early 21st century it had become the largest component of Punjab's economy.

Transportation

Punjab has one of the best-developed road networks in the country. All-weather paved roads extend to most villages, and the state is crossed by a number of national highways. Punjab also is well served by the Northern Railway—part of the national railway system. There is an international airport in Amritsar, and regular domestic service is available in Chandigarh and Ludhiana. Several other airports offer cargo service.

Constitutional framework

The structure of Punjab's government, like that of most other states of India, is determined by the national constitution of 1950. The state is led by a governor, who is appointed by the president of India. The governor is aided and advised by a Council of Ministers, which is led by a chief minister and responsible to the unicameral Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha).

At the head of the judiciary is the High Court, which is located in Chandigarh and is shared with the state of Haryana. Appeals from the High Court are directed to the Supreme Court of India. Below the High Court are district-level courts.

The state is divided into more than a dozen districts, which are grouped into several revenue divisions. Each district is headed by a deputy commissioner. The districts are parceled further into a number of tehsils, or subdivisions. Lower administrative and revenue units include circles, blocks, and villages, as well as police districts and police stations.

Health and welfare

Punjab enjoys better health conditions than most states in India. Hospitals attached to medical colleges, district- and tehsil-level medical facilities, health care centres in rural areas, and numerous dispensaries constitute a widespread health care network.

Numerous social services are provided by government and voluntary organizations. The government provides pensions for the elderly and operates a network of employment exchanges to assist the unemployed. The state also has schemes to aid those from traditionally disadvantaged social groups through scholarships, employment services, and assorted loans and grants for business activities.

Education

In addition to the government, private organizations have played a significant role in the extension of education at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels throughout the state. Education is compulsory and free for pupils aged 6 to 11. Secondary education is also free in state schools. Broadcasting has been especially important in the dissemination of vocational and cultural education throughout the state.

Punjab has several state universities, including Punjabi University (1962) in Patiala, Guru Nanak Dev University (1969) in Amritsar, Panjab University (1956) in Chandigarh, Punjab Agricultural University (1962) in Ludhiana, Punjab Technical University (1997) in Jalandhar, and Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (1998) in Faridkot. In addition, there are more than 200 specialized colleges and technical institutions.

Cultural life

Ballads of love and war, fairs and festivals, dancing, music, and Punjabi literature are among the characteristic expressions of the state's cultural life. The origins of Punjabi literature trace to the mystical and religious verse of the 13th-century Ṣūfī (mystic) Shaikh Farīd and to the 15th–16th-century founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak; these figures were the first to use Punjabi extensively as a medium of poetic expression. The works of Ṣūfī poet Waris Shah greatly enriched Punjabi literature in the second half of the 18th century. In the 20th and early 21st centuries, contemporary Punjabi literature found some of its greatest exponents in poet and author Bhai Vir Singh and the poets Puran Singh, Dhani Ram Chatrik, Mohan Singh "Mahir," and Shiv Kumar Batalvi; renowned novelists have included Jaswant Singh Kanwal, Gurdial Singh, Giani Gurdit Singh, and Sohan Singh Shital, among others. Kulwant Singh Virk is one of the best-known writers of short stories in Punjabi.

Punjab holds numerous religious and seasonal festivals, such as Dussehra, a Hindu festival celebrating the victory of Prince Rama over the demon king Ravana, as recounted in the epic Ramayana; Diwali, a festival of lights celebrated by both Hindus and Sikhs; and Baisakhi, which for Hindus is a new year's festival and for Sikhs is both an agricultural festival and a celebration of the birth of the community's Khalsa order. There also are numerous anniversary celebrations in honour of the Gurus (the 10 historical leaders of Sikhism) and various saints. Dancing is a typical feature of such festivities, with bhangra, jhumar, and sammi among the most popular genres. Giddhā a native Punjabi tradition, is a humorous song-and-dance genre performed by women. In addition to Sikh religious music, semiclassical Mughal forms, such as the khyal dance and the ṭhumrī, ghazal, and qawwālī vocal performance genres, continue to be popular.

The state's outstanding architectural monument is the Harimandir (Golden Temple) at Amritsar, which blends Indian and Muslim styles. Its chief motifs, such as the dome and the geometric design, are repeated in most of the Sikh places of worship. The Harimandir is rich in gold filigree work, panels with floral designs, and marble facings inlaid with coloured stones. Other important buildings include the Martyr's Memorial at Jallianwalla Bagh (a park in Amritsar), the Hindu Temple of Durgiana (also in

Amritsar), the so-called Moorish Mosque in Kapurthala (patterned after a Moroccan model), and the old forts of Bathinda and Bahadurgarh.

History

The foundations of the present Punjab were laid by Banda Singh Bahadur, a hermit who became a military leader and, with his fighting band of Sikhs, temporarily liberated the eastern part of the province from Mughal rule in 1709–10. Banda Singh's defeat and execution in 1716 were followed by a prolonged struggle between the Sikhs on one side and the Mughals and Afghans on the other. By 1764–65 the Sikhs had established their dominance in the area. Ranjit Singh (1780–1839) subsequently built up the Punjab region into a powerful Sikh kingdom and attached to it the adjacent provinces of Multan, Kashmir, and Peshawar (all of which are now fully or partially administered by Pakistan).

In 1849 the Punjab kingdom fell to the troops of the British East India Company and subsequently became a province under British rule. By the late 19th century, however, the Indian nationalist movement took hold in the province. One of the most significant events associated with the movement was the 1919 Massacre of Amritsar, which resulted from an order given by British general Reginald Edward Harry Dyer to fire on a group of some 10,000 Indians who had convened to protest new antiradicalism regulations enacted by the British administration; nearly 400 died, and about 1,200 were injured in the conflict. When India gained its independence in 1947, the British province of Punjab was split between the new sovereign states of India and Pakistan, and the smaller, eastern portion became part of India.

After independence, the history of the Indian Punjab was dominated by Sikh agitation for a separate Punjabi-speaking state, led by Tara Singh and later by his political successor, Sant Fateh Singh. In November 1956, however, rather than being divided along linguistic lines, the Indian state of Punjab was enlarged through incorporation of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU), an amalgamation of the preindependence princely territories of Patiala, Jind, Nabha, Faridkot, Kapurthala, Kalsia, Malerkotla (Maler Kotla), and Nalagarh. Political and administrative leadership for the enlarged Punjab was provided by Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, chief minister of the state from 1956 to 1964. The call for a separate Indian state containing the predominantly Punjabi-speaking areas intensified in the wake of Punjab's expansion. Eventually, the government of India met the demand. On Nov. 1, 1966, Punjab was divided on the basis of language into the mostly Hindi-speaking state of Haryana and the new, primarily Punjabi-speaking state of Punjab; meanwhile, the northernmost districts were transferred to Himachal Pradesh, and the newly constructed city of Chandigarh and its immediate surroundings became a separate union territory. Though not a part of either state, the city of Chandigarh was retained as the joint administrative headquarters, or capital, of both Haryana and Punjab.

Although Sikhs had won the use of Punjabi within the state, by the 1980s militant factions of the Shiromani Akali Dal ("Leading Akali Party") and the All India Sikh Students' Federation were demanding the establishment of an autonomous Sikh homeland, or Khalistan ("Land of the Pure," a term introduced as early as 1946 by Tara Singh). In order to attain their goal, these groups began to use terrorism, including the indiscriminate killing of Punjabi Hindus and even those Sikhs who opposed the creation of Khalistan. In June 1984, in an effort to dislodge Sikh militants fortified in the Harimandir (the Sikhs' holiest shrine), the Indian army carried out an attack. The Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and most of his armed followers were killed, as were at least 100 Indian soldiers. In retaliation, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated at her Delhi home by two of her Sikh bodyguards, which in turn

led to violence against Sikhs in Delhi and elsewhere. A climate of violence and disorder persisted in Punjab through the 1980s, but by the early 1990s the state had returned to relative stability.
