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BOOK REVIEW

Geography of Haryana

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(Published by Rajesh Publications, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi (2026), Pages 1-328, Price ₹330)

The book on 'Geography of Haryana' written by Manju Sharma and Sandeep Kumar is a comprehensive and systematically organized script related to geographical personality of Haryana published by Rajesh Publications, New Delhi. The book has been prepared particularly in accordance with the undergraduate and postgraduate syllabi introduced under NEP-2020.

The book covers important themes including physiography, climate, drainage, soils, natural vegetation and wildlife, population, urbanization, land resources, agriculture, mineral resources, industries, transport, communication, trade and cultural regions. The contents show that the volume is organized into 14 chapters, providing a logical progression from the geographical setting of Haryana state to its physical, economic, demographic, and cultural characteristics.

The first chapter provides an essential foundation for understanding Haryana in terms of its location, administrative evolution and geographical features. It is followed by chapters on physiography, relief and geological structure and climate of Haryana, which provides a detailed account of the physical framework of the state through analytical discussion.

The chapters on drainage, soil and

natural vegetation deal with three important aspects of the natural resources of Haryana. The incorporation of maps and figures pertaining to drainage systems, dams, lakes; soil profiles, their types and distribution; forest cover, types, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and conservation reserves make the subject more fascinating to students and will help them comprehending the spatial dimensions of geographical phenomena.

The chapter on population of Haryana, examines its distribution, growth, density, sex ratio, literacy, age-sex structure, rural-urban composition, workforce, occupational structure and religious composition. The extensive set of district-wise tables and figures, provides a useful and authentic statistical foundation for understanding the demographic variations within the state. Subsequent chapter on urbanization of Haryana explains the rapid transformation of Haryana's settlement system. It discusses the phases and levels of urbanization and the size-class distribution of towns.

The chapters on land resources and their utilization deals with different land utilization patterns in the state. Agriculture that plays an important role in Haryana's economy has been explained with the help of statistical tables covering area, production, and yield of different crops. Figures depicting district-wise

cropping patterns, crop rotation, sowing and harvesting periods make these chapters most understandable.

The chapters on mineral resources, major industries and industrial regions have highlighted the economic dimension of the state. The maps and figures showing major industries and industrial regions provides an effective spatial understanding of industrial development in Haryana. A chapter on transport, communication and trade provides an integrated account of the state's infrastructure and economic connectivity. Road networks, national and state highways, railways, airfields, pipelines, communication systems and major export and import products have been incorporated. The figures on road and rail networks provide useful geographical illustrations of Haryana's transport and energy infrastructure.

The last chapter of the book on cultural regions presents the deep association of culture and geographical features of Haryana. The inclusion of geographical and linguistic characteristics of different cultural regions demonstrates that the geography of Haryana extends beyond physical and economic characteristics to encompass cultural diversity

and regional identity.

A notable strength of the book is its extensive use of tables, maps, figures and recent statistical information. This visual and statistical presentation enhances the usefulness of the book. The language of the book is very simple, lucid, attractive, effective, and easy to understand for the students. The authors have attempted to bridge the gap faced by students who often need to consult different sources for comprehensive information related to Haryana.

Undoubtedly, this book is a useful and comprehensive academic contribution to the geographical literature on Haryana. The book succeeds in presenting the geographical personality and developmental dynamics of Haryana in an accessible and academically meaningful manner. Finally, the work is a sincere academic effort by Manju Sharma and Sandeep Kumar and can serve as a valuable reference for understanding the different geographical aspects of Haryana.

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