

Karnal

The city of Karnal, said to have been founded by Raja Karna, of the Mahabharata fame, spring into prominence in 1739 when Nadir Shah defeated Muhammad Shah at Karnal. Raja Gopal Singh of Jind seized Karnal in 1863, and the Marathas established themselves at Karnal in 1785. Skirmishes however, followed between the Marhattas and the Sikhs. In 1795 the Marathas finally wrested it from Raja Bhag Singh of Jind and made it over to the George Thomas, who took part in the fight. Meanwhile Raja Gurdit Singh of Ladwa obtained possession of Karnal. It was captured by the British in 1805 and made over to Muhamdi Khan (Mandal). Karnal, on being formed into a British cantonment, the fort which had been built by Raja Gajpat singh of Jind, was taken over by the British and converted into a residence for Dost Mohd. Khan Amir of Kabul. The fort was used as a jail, as quarters for native cavalry and as poor house. In 1862, it was made over to the Education Department, when the district school was moved into it from the city.

🏠 Kalander Shah's Tomb

Kalander Shah's tomb is situated just outside the town just adjacent to NoorMahal. The grave is made of marble and decorated with sculpture. The tomb was built by Ghias-ud-din, Emperor of Delhi, to the memory of Bo-Ali-Qualander Shah, a famous Muslim Savant and Sage, who influenced the thinking of his age and was very widely revered by all communities. Within the enclosure are mosque and a reservoir with fountains built by Emperor Alamgir.

🏠 Devi Temple

A temple dedicated to a goddess exists on the bank of a large tank. A Shiva temple believed to have been built by Mubark Khan also exists there. An old Indian gun, some 8 feet long made of bars of iron bound together by iron hoops, and with its name of ganj shikan or fort breaker cast on it stood in the fort but was later on removed and destroyed.



🏠 Cantonment Church Tower:

This is a big old massive tower and can be seen from a distance of several miles as it is 100 feet in height. The tower is surrounded by a large ornamental cross. The church itself named after St. James, was dismantled with the shifting of the Cantonment to Ambala in 1841 A.D.

🏠 Bhara Mal's Sarai:

Constructed by Bhara Mal, it is presently occupied by the office of the Deputy Assistant Director General (Medical Store), Govt. of India.

🏠 Old Fort

Constructed by Raja Gajpat Singh of Jind in about 1764 A.D., it now provides accommodation for the office and residence of the Tehsildar.

Miran Sahib's Tomb:

This tomb stands to the memory of a saint, Sayad Mohd. alias Miran Sahib who died in 899 A.D. He was responsible for rescuing a Brahmin girl from the clutches of a Raja in a pitched battle. The tomb is situated towards the extreme south of the town and alongside it stand a small mosque and a cemetery of many members of the Mandal family.

Gurdwara Manji Sahib:

This Gurdwara commemorates Guru Nanak's meeting with Bo Ali Shah Qalandar. It was also visited by Guru Tegh Bahadur on his way to Delhi where he was beheaded.

Dargah Nuri

There is a Dargah Nuri at village Newal on Karnal- Kunjpura road. This Dargah was built in memory of Hazrat Sufi Shah Alama Nur Mohd. of Delhi, and is managed by Managing Committee, village Newal.

The Karna Tank:

The Karna Tank, named after Raja Karna, son of Surya, ace archer, unrivalled warrior, terror of the Pandwas, an ardent supporter of the king Duryodhana in the Mahabharata war, donor par excellence and the founder of the city of Karnal, is now being renovated and converted into a tourist spot by Karnal municipality. It is said that Raja Karna, who was very philanthropic used to give gold in alms to the needy at the spot.

Other Antiques :

Minars, which mark the course of the old trunk road are still standing at intervals of about 2 miles. And the ruins of the hostelrys (Serai) at Taroari, Gharaunda and Samalkha are still in existence, that at Gharaunda being a very fine and striking specimen of early Mughal architecture. It was built by Khan Firoz in the reign of Shah Jahan about 1632 A.D.

Sita Mai Temple

Situated at a distance of 19 kilometers from Nilokheri, is a small village known as Sitamai. There is an old shrine of Sita Mai built in the ordinary form of a Hindu temple. It is made of bricks, but the feature is the elaborate ornamentation which covers the whole shrine, the pattern of which is formed by deep lines in the individual bricks which seems to have been made before the bricks were burnt, so that the forms they were to take must have been separately fixed for each brick. A large part of the shrine was pulled down and thrown into the tank by some Muslim Emperor but the bricks have been put together without any regard to the original pattern. The shrine is said to mark the spot where the earth swallowed Sita in answer to her appeal in proof of her purity.

Kunjpura :

Kunjpura, situated at a distance of six miles north east of Karnal was founded by a Pathan named Nijabat Khan, who had migrated from Kandhar and served as Risaldar under Wazir Khawaja Nasiruddin of Radaur, with headquarters at Taraori. He got the biswedari of Kunjpura from a Zamindar of Bidauli, in reward for his military assistance. After a clash with Rajputs, he settled at Kunjpura and built a fort in 1729 A.D. The fort was first called Nijabatnagar. On the incursion of Nadir Shah, Nijabat Khan supplied him with provisions and tendered his obeissance. The Marhatta Bhao plundered Kunjpura and killed Nijabat Khan in 1758 A.D. Ahmed Shah repulsed the Marhattas and entrusted Kunjpura to Daler Khan, Nijabat Khan's eldest son. The family in due course expanded their territorial jurisdiction to a major portion of Indri pargana. The palace of the Nawab now houses the Sainik School, Kunjpura. Kunjpura village now has a population of 5;811, a grain market and a High School. It has a Notified Area Committee.

Naraina:

The invading army of Mohd. Bin Sam was defeated at village Naraina, seven miles from Karnal and three from Taraori, in 1191 A.D. by united Hindu armies under Prithvi Raj, the Chauhan king of Delhi. Although in the following year, this defeat was reversed and turned into a victory for the Muslim invaders and the ruin of Rajput Supremacy for ever.

Taraori:

The village of historic interest is eleven miles north of Karnal. Prince Azam of Aurangzeb was born here and the place was renamed as Azamabad. Aurangzeb constructed a wall around the town, a mosque and a tank which exist to this day. The village being on the main highway of the Moghul times, also has a serai. The old royal serai appears to have been used by the Sikhs as a fort, now lying in a dilapidated condition. Because of the railway station nearby, the place has developed as an important assembling market chiefly for paddy grown in the surrounding area, and has some rice husking mills. Basmati rice grown here is the finest in the country and is exported to foreign countries.

Basthali:

It was at the village of Basthali 27 kilometers from Karnal that the sage Vyas lived who wrote the Vedas. The village bears his name; and legend has it that the sacred Ganges flowed underground into his well to save him the trouble of going to the river to bathe bringing with it his lota and loin cloth which he had left in the river to convince him that the water was really Ganges water.

Gondar (Gautam Rishi):

At Gondar 26 kilometers from Karnal Gautam Rishi is said to have caused the spots in the moon and give Indra his 1000 eyes.

Bahlolpur:(Prashir tank)

It was in the Parasir tank at Bahlolpur that the warrior Duryodhana hid till Krishna's jeers brought him out to fight, and this is still the most celebrated of tirathas of this part.

Anjanthali:

There is a temple dedicated to Anjana, mother of Hanuman.

Shamgarh:

One Kirpal Singh got shamgarh from Raja Gurdit Singh of Ladwa in reward for the services rendered to the confederacy of Sikhs. The Sikh chief of Shamgarh exercised sovereign powers and had exclusive jurisdiction over their own subjects even for offences committed in British territory until the British assumed criminal and police jurisdiction in 1833 A.D.

Assandh:

The village lying 27 miles to the south-west of Karnal on the Karnal-Jind road, is said to be the capital of the kingdom of Jarsingha, one of the warriors mentioned in the Mahabharata.

A Shahidi Smarak (martyrdom-memorial) commemorates the part played by the villagers of this place and of the surrounding area during the 1857 uprising when they revolted and were heavily punished by the Britishers.

Indri Shish Mahal:

Indri Pargana was first included in Kaithal district but was transferred to Karnal district in 1862. Some of its villages had, however, formed part of the Ladwa state ruled by a Sikh Raja Gurdit Singh. It consisted of 36 jagirs out of which 12 major ones included those of Shamgarh, Saga, Sikri, Barthal etc. In ancient times Indri (then known as Indergarh) was an independent fortress, " Shish Mahal" the ruins of which still stand today. The place is mythologically connected with the episode of Nihalde and Sultan, the two immortal lovers, their love having consummated in marriage but ended in tragedy. The palace contains ruins of a Naulakha Bagh which is reported to have once had nine lakh varieties of plants.

Moghul Bridge Saiyads

The Sayad's shrine built at Moghul Bridge about 7 kilometers from Karnal city is the scene of a big mela every Thursday. Lamps are lit. Superstitious people from far and near come to make offering at the shrine and ask for boons varying from diseases cure to elimination of ghosts from their bodies and prayers for material prosperity.

GogriPur: Bawa Farid:

It has a shrine at Ghogripur. Crowd of people offer prayers to him after the spring harvest. Bu-Ali -Kalandar; a contemporary of Bawa Farid, Bu-Ali-Kalandar was a celebrated local saint. He had settled at Panipat, during prayers he stood in the Jamuna to avoid the labour of washing his hands and feet every time. After standing there for seven years, the fishes had gnawed his legs, and he was so stiff that he could hardly move. So he asked the Jamuna river to step back seven paces. She, in her hurry to oblige the saint, went back seven miles and there she is now. He gave the Panipat people a charm which dispelled all the flies from the city, but they grumbled so he brought them back a thousand fold. After death he was buried at Karnal but the Panipat people claimed his body. They took some bricks from

the grave for the foundation of a shrine at Panipat, but when they opened the box, they found his body in it, so he now lies buried at both Panipat and at Karnal.

Guga Pir:

Guga is supposed to be the greatest of the snake-kings. He is worshipped throughout the district on the 9th of Bhadon. His shrine known as Mari is usually a cubical building with a minaret on each corner and a grave inside. It is marked by a long bamboo with peacock plumes, a coconut, some coloured threads and some hand pankhas (bijna) and a blue flag on the top. This is called his chhari or fly flap. On the 9th of Bhadon the jogis take it round the village with the sound of drums, and people salute it and offer 'churmas'. He is not malevolent as the saying goes "**Guga Beta na dega, tan Kuchh na chhin lega**"- If Guga does not give me a son, at least he will take nothing away from me." By race a Chauhan Rajput, Guga was born at Garhdera near Sirsa. His mother Bachal who was barren, had served saint Gorakhnath, the founder of the community of Kanphata jogis for twelve years to beget him. Guga is said to have possessed supernatural powers and could cure snake bitten person within no time.

On the other hand, if a man was bitten by a snake people thought he had been neglecting Guga. The singers of devotional songs about Guga are found in villages Assan Kalan, Richhpur, Matlauda and Samalkha . Maris (his temples) are, of course, to be found in a large number of villages.

 Holy Places		
Teerath Name	Village Name	Block
Yedyati teerth	Sitamai	Nilokheri
Mishrak teert	Nissing	Nissing
Aahan teerth	Nigdhou	Nilokheri
Triguananand teerth	Guniana	Nissing
Paavan teerth	Uplana	Assandh
Jambunar teerth	Jabala	Assandh
Dashashavmegh teerth	Salwan	Assandh
Jarasandh ka tila	Assandh	Assandh
Dhankshetra teerth	Assandh	Assandh
Bigalsar teerth	Sagga	Assandh
Dashrath teerth	Agoandh	Assandh
Prithvi teerth	Ballu	Nissing
Parasher teerth	Bahalolpur	Nissing
Daksheshvar teerth	Dacher	Nissing
Byara Sthali	Basthali	Nissing
Gautam Rishi teerth/Gavender	Gounder	Nissing
Braham Teerth	Sawant	Nissing
Falgu teerth,	Fafdana	Assandh
Jyeshthashram teerth	Boadsham	Nilokheri
Koti teerth	Boadsham	Nilokheri
Surya teerth	Boadsham	Nilokheri
Vishnuhav teerth	Boadsham	Nilokheri
Braham teerth	Rasalwa	Nilokheri
Anjani teerth	Anjansthali	Nilokheri
Jamdagani Kund	Jalmana	Assandh
Som teerth	Samana Baho	Nilokheri
Chuchkarandav teerth	chourkarsa	Assandh
Koti teerth	Kurnal	Assandh

Panchdev teerth	Padha	Assandh
Prokshni/Parnita teerth	Patanpuri	Nilokheri
Kaushiki teerth	Koyar	Nilokheri

Karnal is said to have been founded by the Kauravas in the Mahabharata era for the king Karna, a mythological hero and a key figure in the epic tale. It is midway between Delhi and Chandigarh, being 76 miles north of Delhi and 78 miles south of Chandigarh, on the National Highway NH-1, which is famous as the Grand Trunk Road. Delhi and Chandigarh can be reached from Karnal within 2 hours using the very high frequency bus service provided by the Haryana Roadways.

Karnal is famous for lush green pastures, flora & fauna, very healthy sweet portable water, Liberty Shoes, the production of high-quality basmati rice and and for its many agricultural and dairy research institutions. Liberty shoes was started from Karnal and has its largest manufacturing facility in the city. Karnal is also famous for manufacture of agricultural implements and its spares as more than 40% of country agricultural implements and spares are manufactured here. One of the bigger units involved in the manufacture of spares is Karnal Agricultural Industries Ltd. having largest manufacturing base in the country. Hotel Noor Mahal (A Five Star Luxury Hotel) is the first five star Incredible Indian Palace Hotel in Haryana outside NCR, Which has added a feather in the land of Karnal.

History

The city of Karnal is said to have been founded by Raja Karna, a central character in the Mahabharata war. The original name is Karnalaya (home of Karna). This is the same Karna, who was the eldest son of Kunti and thus Karnal is called *the city of Daanvir Karna*.

It has been a walled town as far as its history can be traced and it had a citadel at one time. This citadel still exists in the form of **Kot Mohalla**, with the word *Kot* meaning a fort as in **Amarkot**, which is a famous fort in Sindh. **Kot Mohalla is almost exclusively inhabited by Ror clans of Hurda and Gheed, the builders of the fort that marked the founding of the modern city of Karnal.**

Karnal sprang into prominence in 1739 when Persian emperor Nadir Shah defeated and captured the Mughal ruler Muhammad Shah in the Battle of Karnal. Raja Gopal Singh of Jind seized Karnal in 1763, and the Marathas established themselves at Karnal in 1785. Skirmishes followed between the Marathas and the Sikhs and in 1795, the Marathas finally wrested the city from Raja Bhag Singh of Jind and made it over to the British-Irish military commander George Thomas, who took part in the fight. The British established a cantonment in 1811 but abandoned it after 30 years due to an outbreak of malaria. The fort which had been built by Raja Gajpat Singh of Jind, was taken over by the British and converted into a residence for Dost Mohammad Khan, Amir of Kabul. The fort was used as a jail, as quarters for native cavalry and as a poorhouse. In

1862, it was made over to the Education Department, when the district school was moved into it from the city.

Interesting facts

First Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, was born on October 1, 1895 in Karnal. His family belonged to the Nausherwan Pathan clan. Liaquat Ali Khan was nabob of Kunjpura, presently a part of the Karnal district, Haryana. The 25th Chief of Army Staff General Deepak Kapoor did his schooling from Sainik School, Kunjpura, Karnal.^[2]

Late Dr. Kalpana Chawla, an Indian-American scientist and NASA astronaut, was born in a Punjabi Hindu family at Model Town, Karnal. She completed her schooling at Tagore Baal Niketan, Karnal.

Agricultural research

Karnal is a major centre of agricultural and dairy research with the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Regional Station, Central Soil and Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Directorate of Wheat Research (DWR), National Bureau of Animal Genetics Research (NBAGR), Regional Research Station of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University and Regional Station of Sugarcane Breeding Institute having major research facilities and centers in and around the town. Karnal Bunt, a major disease of wheat was first discovered in 1931 in IARI,^[4] Regional Station Karnal and that is how it got that name. Now it is one of the premier center for producing and distribution of high quality seeds of various cereal crops (basmati rice and wheat) and vegetables.

Notable people

Dr. Kalpana Chawla

It was at the Karnal Flying Club that Kalpana Chawla, a native of the city, first became interested in flying. She did her schooling from Tagore Baal Niketan Sr. Sec. School, Karnal in 1976 and completed her Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering in 1982 from Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh and Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from University of Texas in 1984. She completed her Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering from University of Colorado in 1988. She was the first Indian origin woman to go on a voyage in space. She died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster on February 1, 2003.