

Saharanpur

Saharanpur is a city and a **Municipal Corporation** in the state of **Uttar Pradesh** in **northern India**. It is the **administrative** headquarters of **Saharanpur District** and the **Saharanpur Division**

Saharanpur city grew in a region named after a Sufi Saint Shah Haroon Chishti. It was founded by Sah Ranbirsingh, a Jain nobleman,^[1] who laid the foundations of the present-day city on the site of an army cantonment. Situated close to the borders of **Haryana**, **Uttarakhand** and **Himachal Pradesh** states, the city is surrounded by a fertile agricultural region that produces plentiful grains and fruits. Saharanpur is known for its **wood carving** cottage industry as well as a thriving market for local agricultural produce, including **basmati rice** and **mangoes**. A variety of industrial enterprises are located here including textiles, sugar, paper and cigarette factories. It is about 550 km from the capital city **Lucknow**, 165 km from national capital, **Delhi** and 65 km away from **Dehradun**.

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History

Medieval period

During the reign of Shamsu'd-Din **Ilututmish** (1211–36), the region became a part of the Delhi Sultanate. At that time, most of the area remained covered with forests and marshlands, through which the Paondhoi, Dhamola, and Ganda Nala rivers flowed. The climate was humid and malaria outbreaks were common. **Muhammad bin Tughluq**, the Sultan of Delhi (1325–1351), undertook a campaign in the northern *doab* to crush the rebellion of the **Shivalik** kings in 1340, when according to local tradition he learned of the presence of a **sufi saint** on the banks of the Paondhoi River. After visiting the sage, he ordered that henceforth this

Saharanpur

City



Above : Shakumbhri Devi Mandir, Saharanpur,
Below: Saharanpur Junction railway station

Shakumbhri Devi Mandir Saharanpur



Location in Uttar Pradesh, India

Coordinates: 29.964°N 77.546°E﻿ / ﻿29.964°N 77.546°E﻿ / 29.964; 77.546

Country



India

region would be known as 'Shah-Haroonpur', after the Sufi Saint *Shah Haroon Chishti*.^[2] The simple but well-preserved tomb of this saint is situated in the oldest quarter of Saharanpur city, between the Mali Gate/Bazar Dinanath and Halwai Hatta. By the end of 14th century, the power of the Sultanate had declined and it was attacked by Emperor *Timur* (1336–1405) of Central Asia. Timur had marched through Saharanpur region in 1399 to sack Delhi and people of the region fought his army unsuccessfully. A weakened Sultanate was later conquered by the Central Asian Mogul king *Babur* (1483–1531).

Mughal period

During the *Mughal period*, *Akbar* (1542–1605), Saharanpur became an administrative unit under the Province of Delhi. Akbar bestowed the feudal *jagir* of Saharanpur to the Mughal treasurer, Sah Ranveer Singh, an *Agrawal Jain*.^[1] who laid the foundations of the present day city on the site of an army cantonment. The nearest settlements at that time were *Shekhpura* and *Malhipur*. Saharanpur was a walled city, with five gates: The Hathi Gate the Sarai Gate, the Mali Gate, the Buria Gate and the Lakhi Gate. The city was divided into the neighbourhoods os Nakhasa Bazar, Shah Behlol, Rani Bazar and Lakhi Gate. The ruins of Shah Ran Veer Singh's old fort can still be seen in the Chaudharian locality of Saharanpur, not far from the better known 'Bada-Imam-bada'. He also built a large *Jain* temple in Muhallah/Toli Chaundhariyan,^[3] it is now known as the 'Digamber-Jain Panchayati Mandir'.

The Sayyids and Rohillas

Mughal emperors Akbar and later *Shah Jehan* (1592–1666) bestowed the administrative *pargana* of Sarwat on Muslim *Sayyid* families. In 1633 one of them founded a city and named it and the surrounding region *Muzaffarnagar*, in honour of his father, Sayyid Muzaffar Ali Khan. The Sayyids ruled the area until the 1739 invasion by *Nadir Shah*. After his departure, anarchy prevailed across the entire *doab* with the region ruled or ravaged in succession by Rajputs, Tyagis, Brahmins, and Jats. Taking advantage of this anarchy, the *Rohillas* took control of the entire *Fans-Gangetic* region.

Ahmad Shah Durrani, the *Afghan* ruler who invaded Northwestern and Northern India in the 1750s, conferred the territory of Saharanpur as Jagir on Rohilla chief Najaf Khan, who assumed the title of Nawab Najeeb-ud-Daula and took up residence in Saharanpur in 1754. He made Gaunsgarh his capital and tried to strengthen his position against *Maratha Empire* attacks by entering an alliance with the *Hindu Gurjar* chieftain Manohar Singh. In 1759, Najeeb-ud-Daula issued a Deed of Agreement handing over 550 villages to Manohar Singh, who became the Raja of Landaura. Thus the Rohillas and the Gurjars now controlled Saharanpur

Maratha rule (1757–1803 AD)

In 1757, the Maratha army invaded the Saharanpur region, which resulted in Najeeb-ud-Daula losing control of Saharanpur to the Maratha rulers *Raghunath Rao* and *Malharao Holkar*. The conflict between Rohillas and Marathas came to an end on 18 December 1788 with the arrest of Ghulam Qadir, the grandson of Najeeb-ud-Daula, who was defeated by the Maratha general *Mahadaji Scindia*. The most significant contribution of Nawab Ghulam Qadir to Saharanpur city is the Nawab Ganj area and the Ahmedabadi fortress therein, which still stands. The death of Ghulam Qadir put an end to the Rohilla administration in Saharanpur and it became the northernmost district of the Maratha Empire. Ghani Bahadur Banda was appointed its first Maratha governor. The Maratha Regime saw the construction of the Bhuteshwar Temple and Bagheshwar Temple in Saharanpur city. In 1803, following the *Second Anglo-Maratha War*, when the *British East India Company* defeated the Maratha Empire, Saharanpur came under British suzerainty.^[4]

Geography

State	Uttar Pradesh
District	Saharanpur
Population (2011)	
 • Total	705,478
Languages	
 • Official	English, Hindi
Time zone	UTC+5:30 (IST)
PIN	247001/02
Telephone code	0132
Vehicle registration	UP-11
Sex ratio	1000/898 ♂/♀
Website	saharanpur.nic.in

Saharanpur is located at 29.97°N 77.55°E﻿ / ﻿Falling Rain Genomics, Inc – Saharanpur﻿ / ﻿about 140 kilometres (87 mi) south-southeast of Chandigarh, 170 kilometres (110 mi) north-northeast of Delhi, and about 68 kilometres (42 mi) south-west of Dehradun. It has an average elevation of 269 metres (883 ft). Saharanpur is a part of a geographical doab region.

Demographics

Provisional 2011 census data indicates that Saharanpur has a population of 705,478, out of which males were 371,740 and females were 333,738. The literacy rate was 76.32 per cent.^[5]

Places of interest

The Saharanpur Botanical Gardens, known as the Company Garden and once the preserve of the British East India Company, is one of the oldest existing gardens in India, dating to before 1750. Then named Farahat-Bakhsh, it was originally a pleasure ground set out by a local chief, Intazam ud-ullah. In 1817, it was acquired by the British East India Company^[7] and placed under the authority of the District Surgeon. Joseph Dalton Hooker says of this Botanical Garden that "Amongst its greatest triumphs may be considered the introduction of the tea-plant from China, a fact I allude to, as many of my English readers may not be aware that the establishment of the tea-trade in the Himalaya and Assam is almost entirely the work of the superintendents of the gardens of Calcutta and Seharunpore.^[8] In 1887, when the Botanical Survey of India was set up to reform the country's botanical sciences, Saharanpur became the centre for the survey of the northern Indian flora. The Garden is seen historically as being second only to the Calcutta Gardens for its contribution to science and economy in India. Under private auspices today, it is full of greenery and has many different kinds of plants and flowers.^[9]

Saharanpur falls on the route of the proposed 1,839-kilometre (1,143 mi) Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor project, funded by the World Bank.^[10]

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Religions in Saharanpur City ^[6]		
Religion		Percent
Hindus	<div><div></div></div>	50.92%
Muslims	<div><div></div></div>	45.89%
Sikhs	<div><div></div></div>	1.23%
Jains	<div><div></div></div>	1.03%
Others	<div><div></div></div>	0.45%

10. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor(<http://dfccil.org/wps/portal/DFCCPortal/>)Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110808014851/http://dfccil.org/wps/portal/DFCCPortal/>) 8 August 2011 at the [Wayback Machine](#)

External links

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