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GEOGRAPHY OF PUNJAB

CHAPTER 1

Regions, Administration and Location of Punjab

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CHAPTER 1

Regions, Administration and Location of Punjab

Malwa–Majha–Doaba, Divisions & Districts, Political Representation, Location and Boundaries

IN THIS CHAPTER

- Three traditional regions – Malwa, Majha, Doaba
- 5 divisions and 23 districts
- Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats
- Local governance at a glance
- Neighbouring states and the Pakistan border
- Latitude, longitude, area and shape

PART A Regional Geography

Punjab is traditionally divided into **three** main regions:

1. Malwa

- **Location:** South of the Sutlej (right bank)
- **Size:** Largest region of Punjab
- **Districts:** Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Sangrur, Malerkotla, Barnala, Bathinda, Mansa, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Moga, Muktsar, Faridkot, Rupnagar, SAS Nagar (Mohali/Ajitgarh)

2. Majha

- **Location:** North of the Beas (left bank), between Beas and Ravi
- **Known as:** "Cradle of Sikhism"
- **Districts:** Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Gurdaspur, Pathankot

3. Doaba

- **Location:** Between the Beas and the Sutlej
- **Meaning:** "Land between two rivers"
- **Known for:** Centre of the Green Revolution; largest per-capita wheat producer
- **Districts:** Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr), Kapurthala

PART B Administrative Structure

Punjab has **5 administrative divisions** and **23 districts**.

Division	Districts	No.
Faridkot	Faridkot, Bathinda, Mansa	3
Ferozepur	Ferozepur, Fazilka, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Moga	4
Jalandhar (largest)	Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur	7
Patiala	Patiala, Sangrur, Malerkotla, Barnala, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib	6
Rupnagar (Ropar) (smallest)	Rupnagar, SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr), SAS Nagar (Mohali)	3

Newest district	**Malerkotla** – 23rd district (2021), carved out of Sangrur
Newest division	**Rupnagar** (formed in 2010)
Capital	**Chandigarh** (Union Territory; shared with Haryana)

PART C Political Representation

Lok Sabha seats	**13**
Rajya Sabha seats	**7**
Vidhan Sabha seats	**117**
Upper House	Legislative Council abolished on **1 January 1970** under the Punjab Legislative Council (Abolition) Act, 1969 – Punjab is now **unicameral**

Local Governance

Urban bodies	Number	Rural bodies	Number
Municipal Corporations	**13**	Gram Panchayats	**13,241**
Municipal Councils	**98**	Block (Panchayat) Samitis	**153**
Town (Nagar) Panchayats	**55**	Zila Parishads	**22** (polls held Dec 2025)
Cantonment Boards	**3**		

PART D Location and Boundaries

Punjab lies in **north-western India** and is known as the **"Land of Five Rivers"**. It plays a key role in India's agricultural economy.

Direction	Neighbour	Border districts of Punjab
North	Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	Pathankot
North & North-east	Himachal Pradesh	Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Rupnagar, SBS Nagar, SAS Nagar (Mohali)
East	Chandigarh (UT)	SAS Nagar (Mohali)
South & South-east	Haryana	Muktsar, Bathinda, Mansa, Sangrur, Patiala, Mohali
South-west	Rajasthan	Muktsar, Fazilka
West	Pakistan (international border)	Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Fazilka

Pakistan Border

- **Total length:** 553 km
- **6 districts:** Pathankot (shortest), Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Fazilka (longest)

Wagah (Attari) Border – Amritsar

- 32 km from Amritsar, 24 km from Lahore
- Famous for the daily **"Beating Retreat"** ceremony
- Lahore–Wagah branch line: 25 km, 6 stations
- **Samjhauta Express** – started 1976, currently suspended (since 2019)

Coordinates, Area and Shape

Latitude	**29°30′ N to 32°32′ N**
Longitude	**73°55′ E to 76°50′ E**
Total area	**50,362 sq km** (19,445 sq miles) – **1.53%** of India
Rank by area	**19th** largest state
Shape	**Triangular** – top: Pathankot · bottom-left: Fazilka · bottom-right: Patiala
Length	North–South **335 km** · East–West **300 km**
Rural / urban area	About **96%** rural, **4%** urban
Forest	About **4%** of area · most: **Hoshiarpur** · least: **Sangrur**

QUICK REVISION

- Malwa – south of Sutlej (largest) · Majha – Cradle of Sikhism · Doaba – between Beas & Sutlej
- **5** divisions, **23** districts · Largest division Jalandhar, smallest Rupnagar · Newest district **Malerkotla**
- LS **13** · RS **7** · VS **117** · Council abolished **1 Jan 1970**
- Pakistan border **553 km**, 6 districts · Area **50,362 km²** (1.53%) · 19th by area

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