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REPORT BRIEF
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Haryana Recasts Kurukshetra as the Land of the Gita

Original reporting by **Swati Goel Sharma**

Haryana set out to build Kurukshetra's tourism around the Gita and Dharma. An expanded Gita festival, a planned museum and new temples gave that ambition shape, while concessional land deals drew scrutiny and the city's capacity to host overnight visitors came into question.



The Haryana government is working to transform Kurukshetra into a major tourism hub. (GettyImages)

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- The state expanded Gita Jayanti from 2016 and raised spending to more than Rs 100 crore. Officials put attendance at the 2017 festival at about 20 lakh.
- The planned Gita Gyan Sansthanam would put Gita research, a library, meditation and academic facilities, and exhibitions on a 19-acre Mahabharata-themed museum site.
- The Kurukshetra Development Board faced criticism over concessional land deals with trusts, and one deal had come under High Court scrutiny by the time of reporting.
- The development board pointed to investment in roads and sewage treatment, alongside central funding under the Krishna circuit, as part of preparing the city for visitors.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in July 2018. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.