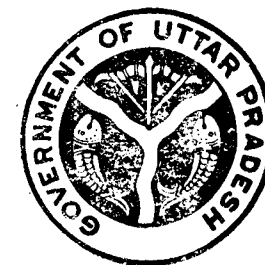


GAZETTEER OF INDIA
UTTAR PRADESH

DISTRICT UTTARKASHI

T.N.A. em. 3268/48/89

UTTAR PRADESH DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



UTTARKASHI

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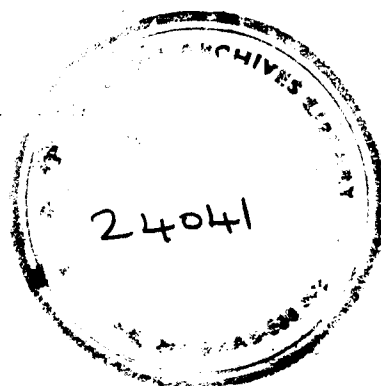


Shivlinga Peak

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FOREWORD

The draft of the first District Gazetteer of Uttarkashi was sent to the press in early 1970 by my learned predecessor Shri S. A. A. Rizvi but its publication was, however, delayed for certain unavoidable reasons. The State and the Central Governments finally cleared it for publication only at the end of 1976.

The material for drafting the gazetteer was collected and compiled upto the end of 1967, when its drafting was undertaken. The Gazetteer, therefore, contains information only upto 1966. An effort has since been made to incorporate all the relevant information from the publications of the census of 1971. This has been added as supplementary information at the end of the chapter concerned. Other data and information will be made up to date in the supplementary volume which will be taken out in due course of time.

The observations of the State and the Central Governments received during this period from time to time required re-editing of the complete draft which was done during the period of my predecessor, Sri D. P. Varun.

LUCKNOW :
June 16, 1979

DR PARMANAND MISHRA

PREFACE

This is the sixteenth in the series of the revised gazetteers of the districts of Uttar Pradesh. District Uttarkashi was created on February 24, 1960, comprising a part of district Tehri Garhwal which itself had come into being upon the merger of the princely state of Tehri into the State of Uttar Pradesh on November 30, 1949. This is, therefore, the first, and not a revised, gazetteer of district Uttarkashi. The information contained about this district in E. T. Atkinson's *The Himalayan Districts of the North-Western Provinces of India*, (Allahabad, 1882—1886), and H. G. Walton's *British Garhwal: A Gazetteer*, (Allahabad, 1910) was, however, meagre, and such other material, published and unpublished, obtained from official and non-official sources was utilised in preparing this gazetteer.

Indian words occurring in the text have been italicised and explained in the glossary at the end of this volume, except such of them as appear in standard English dictionaries. The census data of 1961 have been made the basis of statistics of population.

The scheme of the contents of this gazetteer conforms as closely as possible to the pattern laid down by the Government of India (Ministry of Education).

Thanks of the department are due to chairman and members of Advisory Board, to Dr P. N. Chopra, Editor, Indian Gazetteers, for his assistance and co-operation, and to others, officials and non-officials, who helped in the collection of material and in the preparation of this gazetteer.

LUCKNOW

S. A. A. RIZVI

Dated: April 29, 1970

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Origin of Name of District

The district is named after its headquarters town, Uttarkashi. As the name denotes, this place is the 'Kashi' of *uttara* (north) as against the 'Kashi' (Varanasi) of the plains, and is located near the Varanawat hills between the rivers Syalam Gad and Kaldi Gad, also known respectively as the Varuna and the Asi which are also the names of the rivers between which the Kashi of the plains is situated. Similarly, one of the bathing ghats on the Bhagirathi here is also known as Manikarnika and there is also a temple of Vishvanatha here. According to the Puranas, Siva prophesied that in the Kaliyuga his seat in Kashi (Varanasi) would lose its religious sanctity and that he would move to the Himalayas. This place being the northern (*uttara*) seat of Siva came to be known as Uttarkashi.

Location, Boundaries, Area and Population

Location and Boundaries—The district lies between Lat. 30° 28' and 31° 28' N. and Long. 77° 49' and 79° 25' E., its maximum length from east to west being about 154 km. and maximum breadth from north to south about 109 km. The northern boundary of the district is formed by district Kinnaur and the territory of Tibet. On the east lie Tibet and the district of Chamoli. On the south it is bounded by the districts of Chamoli and Tehri Garhwal and on the west lie the districts of Mahasu and Dehra Dun.

Area—According to the Central Statistical Organisation the district has an area of 8,016 sq. km. and stands 4th in the State in area.

Population—According to the census of 1961, the population of the district is 1,22,836, the number of females being 60,302. The rural population of the district is 1,20,159 (females 59,390) and the urban 2,677 (females 312). The district stands 54th in the State in respect of population which is 77.5 per cent higher than what it was in 1901.

History of District as Administrative Unit

The district of Uttarkashi was created in 1960 out of the *parganas* of Rawain and Uttarkashi of the Rawain tahsil of the district of Tehri Garhwal, the princely state till its merger in the State of Uttar Pradesh in 1949.

Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas *

The district has been divided into three subdivisions—Bhatwari, Dunda and Purola—each of the first two constituting a single tahsil of the

* Data of 1971 appears at the end of the chapter

same name and the third comprising the tahsils of Rajgarhi and Purola. A tabular presentation of the composition of the district is given below:

Tahsils	Sub-divisions	Old parganas	No. of <i>pattis</i>	No. of villages		Total
				Populated	Unpopulated	
Purola ..	} Purola	Rawain	4	168	2	170
Rajgarhi ..			4	176	..	176
Dunda ..	Dunda	} Uttarkashi	8	222	5	227
Bhatwari	Bhatwari		4	96	2	98
District total			.. 20	662	9	671

Tahsil Bhatwari is bounded by Himachal Pradesh and Tibet on the north, the district of Chamoli on the east, the districts of Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal and tahsil Dunda on the south-west and tahsils Dunda, Rajgarhi and Purola on the west. It has a population of 21,436 (females 10,063), the rural population being 18,759 and the urban 2,677. The district headquarters, Uttarkashi, lies in this tahsil.

Tahsil Dunda, is bounded by tahsils Rajgarhi and Bhatwari on the north, the district of Tehri Garhwal on the east, and south-west and tahsil Rajgarhi on the north-west. It has a population of 43,471, females numbering 23,109. The river Bhagirathi flows through this tahsil dividing it into two parts with four *pattis* on either side.

The tahsil of Rajgarhi is bounded by tahsil Purola on the north, tahsils Bhatwari and Dunda on the east, the district of Tehri Garhwal on the south and the district of Dehra Dun and tahsil Purola on the west. It has a population of 29,703, females being 14,058. The sub-divisional headquarters is located at Barkot.

The tahsil of Purola comprising the north-western portion of the district is bounded by Himachal Pradesh on the north, tahsils Bhatwari and Rajgarhi on the east, tahsil Rajgarhi and the district of Dehra Dun on the south and the district of Dehra Dun on the west. It has population of 28,226, females being 13,072. The famous valley of flowers, known as Harkidun, lies in this tahsil.



Bandar Punch from Barkot

Thanas—There are two thanas (police-station) in the district. Tahsils Dunda and Bhatwari fall under the jurisdiction of the police-station of Uttarkashi and tahsils Rajgarhi and Purola under that of Barkot.

GEOLOGY

Geologically the district may be divided into two major belts, the northern and the southern, demarcated by the river Sainj. The former is occupied mainly by higher ranges and snow covered peaks and consists entirely of high grade metamorphic rocks such as slates, quartzite, marble and various types of micaceous schists and gneisses permeated by later volcanic rocks. The southern belt comprises essentially sedimentary and low grade metamorphic rocks such as limestone, quartzite slates and sericite biotite schists.

As the district is very little known geologically, our knowledge regarding the occurrence of minerals is limited to that derived from stray surveys. The more important of the minerals found in the district are given below:

Soapstone—Small scattered occurrences of soapstone are found near Dharasu.

Iron—Poor mineralisation of iron is known for the schists and the quartzite from near Bhatwari.

Copper—Copper occurs at various places in the district. Boulders of malachite stained quartzite are reported to have been noticed in the valley of the Jadh Ganga near Dasumdu. Chalcopyrite-bearing quartz veins in granite boulders have been noticed in a south-western branch of the Mana glacier. Malachite has been observed to extend over 85 m. near Uttarkashi.

Graphite—Graphite is met with in the graphitoid schists in the forest area near Harsil.

Limestone—There are wide outcrops of limestone in the district but most of them are dolomitic and hence of little industrial use.

Kyanite—Large blades of blue kyanite have been noticed in the schistose rocks near Suki.

Mica—Abundant mica schists occur between Lohari Nag and Suki, but economic exploitation of the deposits in this area is not practicable as the quality of mica is very poor.

CLIMATE

The climate of the district varies according to aspect and elevation. Monsoon currents can penetrate through the valleys and the rainfall is at the maximum in the monsoon season from June to September.

UTTARKASHI DISTRICT

Rainfall—Short period records of precipitation in the district are available for six stations only which are situated in the valleys of the Bhagirathi and the Yamuna. Rainfall generally increases up the valleys in the southern half of the district and is highly variable spatially, depending upon elevation and aspect. About 75 per cent of the rain occurs during the monsoon season, June to September, August being the rainiest month. In September depressions from the Bay of Bengal occasionally affect the weather and in association with them heavy rain can occur causing floods. In the monsoon season there are a few occasions when there are spurts of heavy rain causing floods in the rivers. The rainfall decreases rapidly after September and is the lowest in November. About 17 per cent of the annual precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, particularly at higher elevations, occurs in association with the passage of western disturbances. The precipitation during the pre-monsoon months, about 7 per cent of the annual total, and the post-monsoon months is frequently associated with thunder-storms. During the short periods for which rainfall data are available, less than 80 per cent of the annual normal precipitation occurred only once at Jamna Chetty and Uttarkashi, twice at Rana and Dharasu and thrice at Kharsali. No two consecutive years recorded such low rainfall. The mean number of rainy days varies from 61 to 114, the lowest recorded number of rainy days being 52 in 1958, and the highest 142 in 1956. The heaviest rainfall recorded in 24 hours was 400.8 mm. at Kharsali on September 15, 1963.

Temperature—Variations of temperature from place to place are considerable and depend upon elevation and exposure to the sun. As the isolation at high altitudes is intense, temperatures in the open are considerably higher than in the shade in summer. In the valleys, pools of cold stagnant air cause the diurnal range of temperature to be considerable. Temperatures generally begin to rise rapidly from about the end of February. May and June are the warmest months when the mean maximum temperature may be about 25°C. at stations located 2 km. above sea-level, 15° to 18° C. at those situated 3 km. above sea-level and lower temperatures at higher stations. With the onset of the monsoon towards the end of June, day temperatures fall by about 3° to 5° C. and with its withdrawal, towards the third or fourth week of September, day and night temperatures begin to decrease initially at a slower rate but more rapidly after October till January, which is the coldest month, with the mean maximum and minimum temperatures being about 10° C. and 0° C. (freezing point), respectively at elevations 2 km. above sea-level. During the winter season, cold waves in the wake of western disturbances may cause temperature to fall appreciably. Snow accumulation in the valleys is considerable.

Humidity—Humidity is the highest, nearly 90 per cent, in the monsoon and the lowest during the pre-monsoon months when it may drop to even less than 40 per cent.

CH. I—GENERAL

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Cloudiness—Skies are heavily clouded during the rainy season and for short spells in winter when the region is affected by passing western disturbances. During the transitional months thunder clouds occasionally develop, particularly in the afternoons.

Winds—Winds are mostly light, in the wake of western disturbances and also in association with thunder-storms, they may be quite strong. Anabatic and strong katabatic winds are also experienced as local effects produced by the nature of the terrain.

FLORA

The area under the forest department in the district is about 6,88,907 hectares, about 88 per cent of the total area of the district of which a major portion is rocky and barren and covered with perpetual snow.

The following statement gives the tahsilwise distribution of the forest area in hectares under the forest department:

Tahsil	Area under forests
Bhatwari	1,45,539
Puroila	86,218
Rajgarhi	66,628
Dunda	36,744
Total	3,35,129

Taking into consideration the differences in altitude and the climatic conditions, the flora of the district may be divided into main botanical divisions—the pine forests, deodar forests, fire and spruce forests, *kharsu*, birch and juniperus forests and alpine pastures.

Pine Forests—These forests occupy almost the entire area between the altitudes of 900 m. and 2,000 m. Pine trees are tapped for resin and turpentine. Their seeds also yield oil and when baked become edible. The dry leaves are utilised in manuring. The pine flowers from February to April, the seeds being shed in October next and scattered over a large area by the fast wind.

The other trees growing in the pine forests are *ayar*, *burans*, *kunis*, *himari*, *padam narka*, *kirmola*, *semal*, *rohini kakra* and *kail*. The chief varieties of shrubs which grow here are the *kandai*, *tatar* and *dhaula*. Where the growth of pine is poor the *suina*, *mirch-gandh*, *golda* and *tachla* grasses are found.

Deodar Forests—These forests are found between the altitudes of 2,000 m. and 3,000 m. The other trees growing in this region are *kail*, *leuri*, *burans* and *moru*, the main associated shrubs being the *kala hinsar*, *kasmor*, *matoi*, *satpura* and *ghugtai*. The chief ground flora of the

region are the *banafsha*, *somaiya* and *janu*, and the *kauni* and *banoi* are the chief climbers.

Fir and Spruce Forests—These forests are confined to protected sites of the northern aspects over 3,000 m. in altitude their magnificent growth being found in tahsil Purola. The trees growing in these forests are the *panger*, *kanjar*, *jamnoi*, *bhotia badam*, *akhrot*, *khari*, *khagsi*, *bhambeli* and *kathbhui* and the shrubs, the *kola kimsar*, *bhunra kiyoi*, *bhuton* and *jamu*.

Kharshu, Birch and Juniperus Forests—These forests occur up to a height of 4,000 m. above the fir and spruce forest zone, the main associates being the *bhu*, *thuner*, *semru* and *guia* trees and the *khanderu*, *chatrod* and *banchulu* shrubs. The *banafsha*, a ground plant generally found in deodar forests, is also met with in these forests.

Alpine Pastures—These are found throughout the district between elevations of 3,500 m. and 4,877 m. above sea-level. The land remains covered with snow from October to May but from June to September it produces rich varieties of grasses, shrubs and herbs.

Medicinal Plants—A large number of plants used in the indigenous systems of medicine grow wild in the forests of the district and can be classified into three main categories—plants found in the higher altitudes, those found in the submontane tracts and those found in the valleys. The medicinal plants of the higher altitudes are the *atis* or *ativisha*, *vatsnabh* or *bis*, *pati*, *purcha*, *papri*, *chyun*, *kakriya*, *bhojpatra*, *bhukkeshi*, *kesar*, *guggal*, *salammisri*, *hathjari* or *salam panja*, *angu*, *gandrayan*, *faran* or *jamboo*, *soma*, *nirbishi*, *khurasani ajwain*, *bakola*, *jhora* or *chichia*, *etgha* or *bhumimadhin*, *kutki* or *kaurai*, *jatamansi*, *archa* or *dolu*, *bankakri*, *chiraita*, *nairpati*, *ugal* or *phaphra*, *ratanjot*, *gaonjaon*, *kooth*, *talis paira* or *barmi* and *ghantiyali* or *morvel*. The medicinal plants which grow in the submontane tract are the *kaner* or *karvira*, *peepal*, *betain* or *bakayan*, *akhrot* or *akshotaka*, *chir* or *salla*, *gulab*, *aru*, *tejpat*, *kachnar*, *inda* or *andi*, *kilmora*, *deodar*, *bhangra*, *bruns*, *galla*, *dhatu*, *vasak*, *pari*, *banafsha*, *sameo*, *jai*, *shalparni*, *timru*, *jhunjhunia*, *puddum*, *aila* or *ilaichi*, *makol*, *pissumar*, *mamini* or *pingli*, *jari*, *pasanheda* or *silphora*, *bhorar* or *kaladana*, *hisaloo*, *gwalkakri*, *dhauanak* or *dhania*, *souf*, *haldi*, *ban haldi* or *ama haldi*, *bacha*, or *buj*, *brahmdandi*, *chota gokhroo*, *dudhia*, *sahdevi bari*, *isabgol*, *amerbel*, *ekalbir*, *jhinti*, *ghania* or *tukhmalanga*, *bastuk* or *bethua*, *anjuwar*, *chalmar* or *almer*, *barua*, *bana*, *khinna*, *bichhu*, *rishwak* or *lahsunia*, *kenra*, *gristika*, *kukurdara*, *kairua* or *satawari* or *jhiran*, *nagarmotha*, *kapoor kachri*, *giloy* or *gurcha*, *toon* or *toon*, *bannibu*, *pu dina*, *ban ajwain*, *khari*, *hansraj*, *kaddu*, *nashpati* or *bihi*, *durba*, *lijari*, *kahu* or *kulbha*, *banjwan*, *changeri*, *ainua*, *banbiaj* or *ghesuas*, *kathkonkon*, *jyotishmati*, *malkagni*, *bajradanti*, *mahameda*, *sajji* or *apamarg*, *dhataki* or *dhaula*, *priniparni*, *amtaki* or *amla*, *gindaru* or *gajiyar*, *manjistha*, *kakrasinghi* or *karkalsringhi*, *piobi* or *basant*, *mul* or *mulaka*, *gokhru*, *kurkurimakuri*, *sahtara* or *ban tulsi*,

tamkakoo, *chupra* and *gaunchi*. The medicinal plants of the hot valleys are the *bel* or *bilwa*, *kampilak* or *kamila*, *karitaki* or *harar*, *bahera* or *bair*, *arjuna*, *khubaji*, *palas*, *kanthkari*, *nirgundi*, *amra* or *am* (mango), *ank*, *seesham*, *pipal*, *kadali* or *kela*, *chaksoo* and *chitrak*.

FAUNA

The chief carnivora found in the district are leopard, snow leopard, Himalayan black bear and brown bear. The snow leopard is a rare species which is found in the alpine forests and preys on the *thar*, *bharal*, sheep and goat. The wild pig is found up to a height of 3,000 m. The leopard, which is quite common in rocky forests, preys upon sheep, goats, mules and sometimes bullocks and cows. Cases of leopard turning man-eater are rare. The black bear infests deep jungles and is fairly common in the deodar zone. It attacks without provocation and lives on roots, acorns of the oak, fruits and the bark of trees. It rarely kills for flesh, but instances of its mauling human beings are not unknown. It hibernates in winter. Among the antelopes which are met with here are the Himalayan blue sheep, *thar*, goral, serow, muskdeer, barking deer and sambar. The Himalayan blue sheep (*bharal*) lives at an altitude of about 3,500 m. above sea-level and prefers undulating open ground. It is shy, quick and nimble. The Himalayan *thar* prefers moist rugged mountain terrain with little cover and lies under bushes or trees. In summer it is seldom found below heights of 3,000 m., but in winter it comes down to elevations of about 1,800 m. It is dark brown to almost black in colour, the older male being darker. The goral, a goat-like animal of a pale brown colour, which turns to almost grey in the summer, haunts the rocky hills in the middle of the forests up to an altitude of about 2,500 m. It usually lives in groups of two to six. The serow is a rare animal found between heights of 1,800 m. and 2,700 m. It is similar to the goral in its eating and dwelling habits but has less inclination for the rocky precipitous hills. It is greyish brown in colour. The muskdeer, which is famous for the musk-pod, frequents steep hills with cover and is usually found above heights of 2,700 m. It is becoming extinct as it has been ruthlessly killed in the past for the valuable musk which is of high therapeutic value and used in the preparation of perfumes. The *kakar* or barking deer likes deep moist forests and avoids dry rocky areas. It is found in the oak belt up to an altitude of 2,700 m. The sambar or *jarao* also is found up to a height of 2,700 m. and prefers moist deep forests. The young ones are greyish brown but the older males are much darker in colour. The monkey is not seen above an altitude of 2,150 m. but the langur is found at higher levels also. The *koug*, a kind of wild dog, is found in herds of five to ten. On the approach of herds of the *koug*, other animals leave the forests in dread. However, it does not attack human beings and does not intrude into inhabited sites.

Birds—The variety of birds found in the district is amazing, in particular pheasants, partridges, pigeons and doves of various kinds abound.

here and are the chief game birds. Bird life has a zonal distribution here according to altitude. Among the pheasants found here are the *kalij*, *kokla*, *chir* and *monal*. The *kalij*, a common bird, is found at elevations below 2,600 m. in heavy undergrowth of forests. The male is blackish with a gloss like that of steel and has a white rump, a long white crest, scarlet patches round the eyes and a long tail. The female is of a reddish brown colour. The *kokla* is of the same size as the *kalij* but lacks the scarlet patches round the eyes and is grey, streaked with black above and chestnut below. A white patch on either side of the head is prominent. The female is mottled black and has a conspicuously white throat. It is found in the deodar and fir zones and prefers moist woody tracts. The *monal* frequents the *kharshu*, birch and fir forests and comes down to the upper deodar forests in winter. Among partridges the most common are the *kala titar*, *peord* and *chakor*. The *kala titar* or black partridge is found upto heights of 1,800 m. and frequents the grass and shrub patches near cultivated land. It is found singly or in pairs, the female being drab-looking. The *peora* or hill partridge, a dweller of evergreen forests, is found between the altitudes of 1,300 m. and 2,700 m. and prefers broad-leaved forests. Its colour is olive brown, mottled black. The chin and the throat are black and there is a crimson patch round the eye. The *chakor* loves barren and open hill slopes dotted with bush and grass and is found between the altitudes of 1,300 m. and 3,600 m. It regularly visits cultivated fields in search of grain or tender shoots and lives in parties of six to 20 but is found in pairs in summer. The pigeons found in the district are *harial* or wedge-tailed green pigeon, *malyo* or blue rock pigeon and *safed malyo* or the snow pigeon, and among doves are the *ghugti* or rufous turtle dove and the *fakhla* or ringed dove. The *harial* is seen mostly in banj forests. Its colour is yellowish green with maroon markings on the middle of the back. It is found in flocks and is essentially a fruitarian bird. The *malyo* has a slaty grey colour with a metallic glisten, a purple round neck and a head washed steel blue. It lives gregariously on cliffs and precipices, large flocks regularly visiting cultivated fields in search of food. The *safed malyo* is a beautiful pigeon with a white under-body black head, a white cross bar on the tail and three white bars on grey wings and completely replaces the blue rock pigeon in the higher altitudes. In habit it closely resembles the blue rock pigeon. The *ghugti* is a large pinkish brown dove with a rust coloured scaly pattern on its upper parts and spotted patches on either side on the hind neck. It is found upto heights of 3,000 m. and likes well-wooded forests and is generally seen in pairs or bigger groups. The *fakhla* is a large dove which is found upto an elevation of 2,700 m. and is usually seen in the outhouses of bungalows in the forests. The bird is migratory and both sexes are alike in appearance. The *shyam harka* or woodcock is also a game bird which dwells in moist fir forests and is nocturnal in habits. It looks like an outsized snipe and has dirty grey and brown markings.

Black Drongo





A Pashami Goat

CH. I—GENERAL

Its eyes are placed further back in the head than in other birds. It migrates to south India in winter.

The non-game birds generally found in the district are the magpie, jay nut, thrushes, babblers, laughing thrushes and woodpeckers. The birds found along the water courses are the brown dipper, spotted fork-tail, little forktail, white-capped redstart, plumbeous redstart and various wagtails.

The other birds found in the district are the paradise fly catcher, great Himalayan barbet, grosbeak, parakeet, golden oriole, hedge sparrow, tit, sunbird, flower pecker, *niltava*, robin and minivet. Besides, a number of fly catchers, warblers, bulbuls and myna, various swifts, skylarks, bush chats, swallows and buntings are the other smaller birds which add to the rich bird life of the district.

Fish—Fish are found in almost all the rivers of the district. The rainbow trout has been introduced recently in the Deodital lake in plenty. The *mahaseer* and *kalhana* are the other fish which are found in the lower reaches of the rivers.

Game Laws

The game laws obtaining in the district are governed by the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912 (Act VIII of 1912), as amended by the Wild Birds and Animals Protection (U. P. Amendment) Act, 1934 (Act XIII of 1934), and sub-section 1, (a)(i) of section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (Act XVI of 1927), as amended by the Indian Forest (Uttar Pradesh Amendment) Act, 1965.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CENSUS 1971

Population (p. 1)

Total population	1,47,805
Females	69,973
Rural population	1,41,785
Females	67,765
Urban population	6,020
Females	2,208

Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas (p. 2)

Composition of the district (p. 2)

Tahsil	No. of villages		Total
	Populated	Un-populated	
Purola	177	3	180
Rajgarhi	179	4	183
Dunda	222	1	223
Bhatwari	94	3	97
District Total	672	11	683

Tahsil Bhatwari (p. 2)

Total population	29,465
Females	12,719
Rural population	23,445
Urban population	6,020

Tahsil Dunda (p. 2)

Total population	52,300
Females	26,560
Rural population	52,300
Urban population	Nil

Tahsil Rajgarhi (p. 2)

Total population	33,123
Females	15,300
Rural population	33,123
Urban population	Nil

Tahsil Purola (pp. 2-3)

Total population	32,917
Females	15,394
Rural population	32,917
Urban population	Nil

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

ANCIENT PERIOD

The area covered by the district of Uttarkashi lies in the north-western part of the region which is celebrated in ancient Indian literature as *Kedar Kshetra* (sacred region) and the Hindu kingdoms of Brahmapura, Kumaon and Garhwal flourished here. The Jadh Ganga river which has its origin in the northern corner of tahsil Bhatwari, derived its name according to the *Purana* from Jahun who 'was a descendant of Soma and fifth in descent from the Pururvas, the son of Buddha and Ila. While performing sacrifice he was the whole place overflowing with waters of the Ganges and getting angry drank up the river which by the intercession of the gods was restored as his daughter, hence the river is called Jahnavi.'

In the Rigvedic period the land of the Tritsus, one of the five principal tribes of the Aryans, lay between the Yamuna and the Parushni¹ and extended towards the north as far as the range of the Himalayas at the foot of which lies Gangotri. Divodasa, the first king of the Tritsus, was engaged in continuous warfare with Shambara, the chief of the aborigines of the same name, in Garhwal.²

It has been suggested that it was in this region that the land of the ancient Uttara Kurus lay. In the *Aitareya Brahmana* (VIII. 141), this land is described as located beyond the Himalayas. It is believed to have been the land where the devas performed their sacrifices. The way of life of the Uttara Kurus and some of their customs are reflected in the life of the rural people of parts of the district. The *Kaushitaki Brahmana* mentions this place as being a land where the Vedic language was better known and better spoken than elsewhere and that people went to this region to learn speech.

In the Upayana Parva of the *Mahabharata*, hill tribes like the Kiratas, Uttara Kurus, Khasas, Tanganas, Kunindas and Paratanganas find mention. These tribes had brought wonderful presents for Yudhishthira's Rajasuya sacrifice. Scholars have tried to identify the territory inhabited by these tribes with portions of this district and neighbouring regions. The Tanganas, along with the Kiratas and the Kunindas are mentioned as inhabiting the Tarai region in the kingdom of Subahu in the mid-Himalayas. Like other hill tribes they were skilled in slinging stones. Ptolemy speaks of the domain of the Tangnoi as lying along the Ganga on its eastern side and further to the north and adds that through their land flowed the river Sarabos (Saryu). Ptolemy further places the

¹ Macdonell, A. A. and Keith, A. B.: *Vedic Index of Names and Subjects*, (re-print 1958), p. 821

² Bahadur, Rai, P. R.: *Garhwal, Ancient and Modern*, (Simla, 1916), pp. 171-172

Kunindas (Kulindrine) above the sources of the Beas, the Sutlej, the Yamuna and the Ganga. The Kiratas are mentioned as living on the northern slopes of the Himalayas from where the sun rises.¹

During the epic period Nakuri, at a distance of about 9.6 km. from Uttarkashi town, was a place of great renown.² Parashurama, the great rishi, is said to have killed his mother, Renuka, here. There is, at Nakuri, a temple dedicated to her as she is worshipped in these parts.³ The *Mahabharata* gives an account of the penances performed at Uttarkashi by Jada Bharata, a sage of great spiritual attainments.⁴ During that period, seven tribes of the Dasyus were residing in this region.⁵ A mention of Uttarkashi and of the rivers Bhagirathi, Jahnavi and Bhilaga-ganga is to be found in the Kedara Khanda section of the *Skanda Purana*.⁶ Uttarkashi has also been referred to as the Varnavata where an attempt was made by Duryodhana to destroy the Pandava brothers by burning down their house of lac, in which he had requested them to stay.⁷ According to the *Mahabharata*, North Panchala, in which this Himalayan region lay, was conquered and annexed to the Kaurava kingdom.⁸ It comprised the greater portion of the area covered by Garhwal of which the district forms a part. The Kurus continued to rule over these parts until the kingdom was divided between the Kauravas and the Pandavas, Garhwal coming under the sway of the latter, as is evident from the *Mahabharata* which mentions that at the time of Yudhishtira's Rajasuya sacrifice the Tanganas and the Paratanganas who occupied these parts brought presents of gold, sheep wool, blankets, etc., for him.⁹ After the Pandavas were exiled for 13 years, this region may have come under the Kauravas for some time when Uttarkashi might have been the scene of a fierce fight between Arjuna and Siva, who appeared in the form of a Kirata warrior,¹⁰ and Arjuna's receiving the Pashupata bow from Siva. The *Mahabharata* recounts that the Pandavas performed certain *yajnas* (sacrifices) in this district on the banks of the Bhagirathi. Bhagdatta, a raja described in the *Mahabharata*, led a huge army mostly composed of the Kiratas to aid the Kauravas in the Mahabharata War, from which it may be inferred that during this period Bhagdatta exercised sway over this territory under the aegis of king Dhritrashtra of Hastinapur.¹¹ The

¹ Chandra, Moti: 'Studies in the Mahabharata'—*Journal of the U. P. Historical Society*, Vol. XVII, Part I, pp. 32-40

² Nautiyal, G. P.: *Call of Badrinath*, p. 20; Painuli, P. N.: *The Valley of Gods*, p. 41

³ Painuli, *op. cit.*, pp. 35-36; Vaishnava, Saligram: *Shri Kedar Khanda Rahasya*, p. 221

⁴ Datar, B. N.: *Himalayan Pilgrimage*, (1961), p. 34

⁵ Atkinson, E. T.: *The Himalayan Districts of the North-Western Provinces of India*, Vol. II, p. 279

⁶ Dabral, S. P.: *Uttarakhand ka Itihasa*, pp. 96-99

⁷ Nautiyal, G. P., *op. cit.*, p. 20

⁸ Bahadur, Rai, P. R., *op. cit.*, pp. 173-174

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 174

¹⁰ Painuli, P. N., *op. cit.*, p. 41

¹¹ Bahadur, Rai, P. R., *op. cit.*, pp. 174-175

Kauravas were exterminated in this war and the five Pandavas established their rule in this region also till their retirement when Parikshit, their grandson, was placed on the throne.¹ When the five Pandavas retired to these mountains to end their days, they are said to have halted for a while at Patangini (1.6 km. north of Gangotri) and then to have gone to the mountain Swargarohini, the place where they are said to have died.²

After the Mahabharata War the Nagas, Kulindas, Kiratas, Tanganas, probably of the Taknaur region of the district, and the Khasas came into prominence and their petty chiefs seem to have ruled over different parts of the district down to the time of the Mauryas in whose empire this region may have been included. During the early centuries of the Christian era the Kushana empire of northern India is said to have covered the western and central Himalayas as far as Tibet and it is presumable that the region covered by the district was included in it.³

It was also about the beginning of the Christian era that Rajapala, a descendant of Janamejaya, the Kuru king of Hastinapur, founded a kingdom in the Badrinath region of the adjoining Chamoli district. It is probable that Rajapala and his successors extended their sway as far as the Uttarkashi region.⁴

Some time after the disintegration of the Kushana empire, about the middle of the 3rd century A.D., the Katyuri kingdom was founded in the Katyuri valley in the Almora district of the Kumaon Division.⁵

An inscription of about the 5th century A.D., found on the famous copper trident (about 7 m. high) of Shakti, standing in the courtyard of the Vishvanatha temple in the heart of the town of Barahat (Uttarkashi), consists of three stanzas in Sanskrit and is in praise of a valiant and benevolent prince named Ganeshwara who after erecting the temple retired to the forests of Mount Sumeru and whose son Guha, a handsome, brave, able, learned and pious person became the king. Guha fought several battles and erected this trident, the last stanza of the inscription on it containing a prayer for his long life and immortality of his name and fame.⁶

The first historical notice of the Hindu kingdom prevailing in this region, covering the district of Uttarkashi was to be found in the account of the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang. In 634 A.D. he journeyed from Malawar to Mayurapura close to Hardwar and thence to Po-lo-ki-mo-pou-lo

¹ Bahadur, Rai, P. R., *op. cit.*, p. 175

² Raturi, H. K.: *Garhwal ka Itihasa*, p. 81; Vaishnava, Saligram, *op. cit.*, p. 226

³ Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.): *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. II, p. 161; Bahadur, Rai, P. R., *op. cit.*, p. 177

⁴ Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 338-339

⁵ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 467-468

⁶ Dabral, S. P., *op. cit.*, pp. 520-521

or Brahmapura. The memoirs described the kingdom of Brahmapura as being 4000 li 'in a circuit surrounded on all sides by mountains. . . . For many centuries the ruler has been a woman and hence it is called the 'Kingdom of the Queens'. Brahmapura is present Barahat (Uttarkashi) and was the site of the capital of that ancient kingdom. An ancient inscribed rock trident symbol of its being the capital, still stands there.

It was some time in the 7th century that a branch of the Katyuris established a new kingdom with its capital at Joshimath in Chamoli district and which according to local tradition extended from the Satadru (Sutlej) to the Sarda (Kali) and from the watershed to the plains. This principality developed into a powerful empire which dominated the entire region of Kumaon and Garhwal, evidently including this district, for several centuries.¹ The descendants of Rajapala, of the Kshatriya principality of the Badrinath region, were pushed southward where they continued to rule from Chandpurgarhi as feudatories of the Katyuris, the last raja of Rajapala's line being Bhanupratapa who occupied a pre-eminent position among the 52 chiefs or Garhpals (fort-owners) after whom this region came to be known as Garhwal.² He had only two daughters, one of whom was married to Kanakpal, a Paramara prince of Malwa, who had come to these parts on pilgrimage. Bhanupratapa abdicated the throne making his son-in-law, Kanakpal, his heir, the date of the latter's accession being generally accepted as Samvat 945 (888 A. D.).³ This king was the virtual founder of the dynasty of the Garhwal rajas who had been ruling over this region till its merger in the Indian Union in 1949.

Kanakpal is said to have built his strong and beautiful fort on a lofty and steep mountain in pargana Chandpur of district Chamoli, which was covered with thick forests abounding in fine scenery.⁴ Most of the high caste families of these parts of Garhwal also claim that their ancestors had come and settled down here with Kanakpal.⁵ The country was still divided among more than fifty petty chiefs and he was only one of them, though perhaps the most important. Some of these chieftainships, particularly those of Munragarh, Sankrigarh, Idiyagarh and Oadtanggarh seem to have been located in what is now the district of Uttarkashi.⁶

Kanakpal and his successors for several generations sought to increase their power at the expense of these Garhwal chiefs on the one hand and the declining power of their overlords, the Katyuri kings of Joshimath in the north, on the other. But it is not known as to what portion of the present district of Uttarkashi was under their sway.

¹ Sankratvayan, Rahul: *Kumaon*, pp. 37, 39

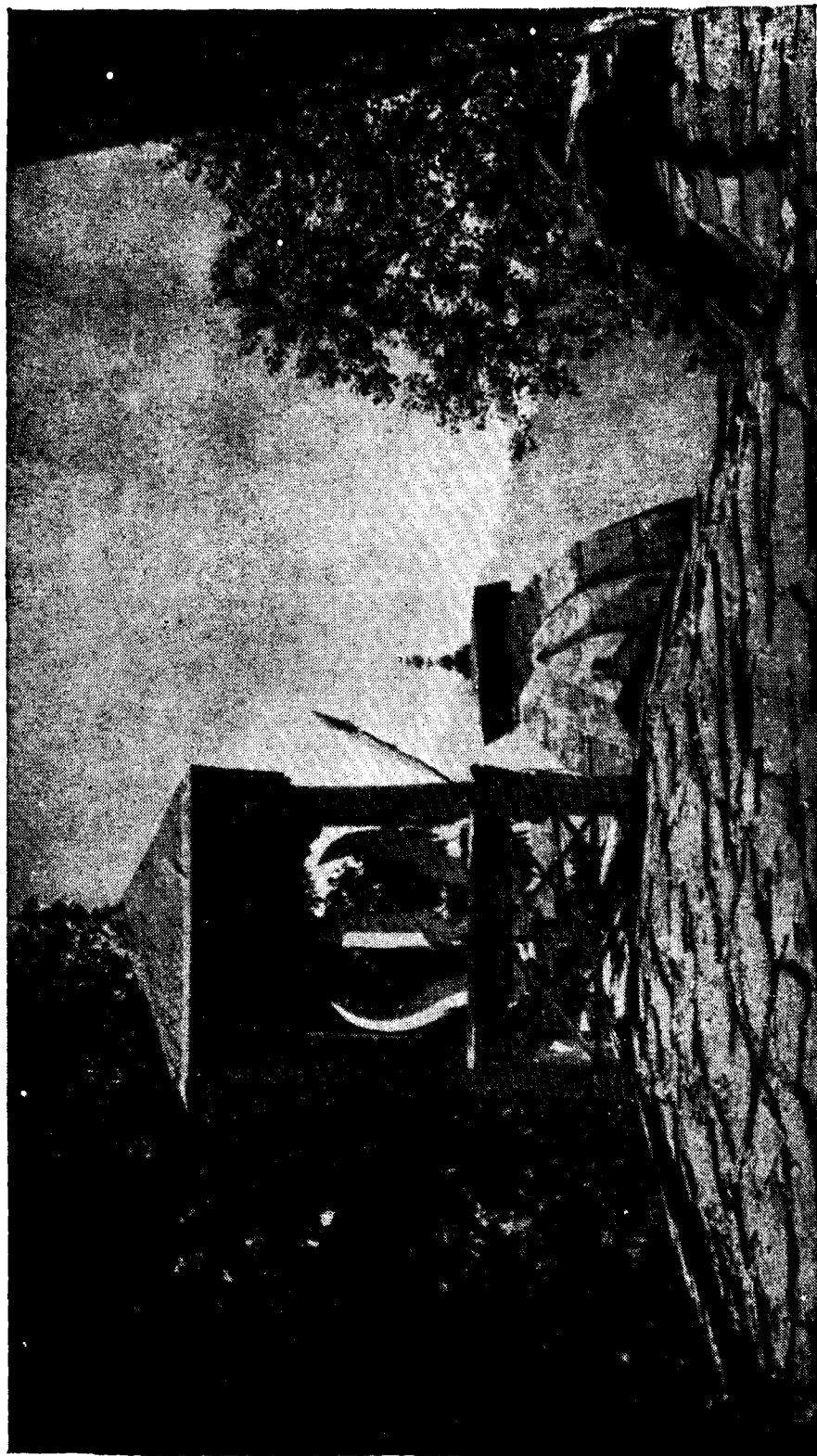
² Raturi, H. K., *op. cit.*, pp. 337-389

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 351-354

⁴ Bahadur, Rai. P. R., *op. cit.*, p. 185

⁵ Walton, H. G.: *British Garhwal: A Gazetteer* (Allahabad 1910), p. 61

⁶ Raturi, H. K., *op. cit.*, pp. 323-330



Trident, Vishwanath Temple

Four versions of the genealogical list of the Garhwal rajas beginning with Kanakpal are available and barring minor discrepancies agree among themselves.¹ Nothing, except their names, is known about the first ten rulers of the line down to Bhagatipal who lived about the latter half of the 11th century. They appear to have been mere feudatories of the Katyuri kings of Joshimath, but probably their domains included parts of the district of Uttarkashi.² The Katyuri dynasty was succeeded by the Chand dynasty of Kumaon and the Pala dynasty of Garhwal, each with a long line of kings. Subsequently, as the power of the Katyuris declined, the rajas of Kanakpal's line seem to have gained in strength. Anantpal I, the 17th raja in the line, is said to have changed his headquarters to Maluwakot, probably about the beginning of the second quarter of the 12th century.³ Fourth in descent from him was Vikrampal who is placed in the last quarter of that century and is also said to have shifted his seat to Amluna-kot.⁴ He was probably a contemporary of Viradeva, the last Katyuri king of Joshimath, who was a fool and a tyrant and in whose time the Joshimath line of the Katyuris came to an end, Viradeva himself with his family probably migrating to the ancestral seat in the Katyuri valley in Almora district. By this time the Garhwal rajas appear to have secured for themselves an honoured and even an enviable place among the 52 traditional fort-owners of this region.⁵

Vikrampal's successor was Vichitrapal in whose time towards the close of the 12th century, Aneka of the Halla dynasty of Nepal conquered this area (Kadambhumi). This is recorded on a trident at Gopeshwar in Chamoli. The ancient brass and copper trident standing in front of the Vishvanatha temple at Barahat (Uttarkashi) also bears on it some Sanskrit verses in the same script and metre as those inscribed on the iron trident at Gopeshwar (Chamoli district) testifying to the conquests of Aneka Malla in these parts.⁶ The statement contained in the Gopeshwar inscription that 'it is a pious act to raise up a worthy foe when he has been humbled'⁷ seems to allude to the subjugation of Vichitrapal, the then ruler of these parts, who was probably allowed to retain his kingdom and kingship as a feudatory of the victor.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

This conquest of the district appears to have been short-lived⁸ and as soon as the conqueror's back was turned, Sonpal, who succeeded

¹ Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 445—447

² *Ibid.*, p. 446

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Bahadur, Rai, P. R., *op. cit.*, pp. 220-221

⁶ Dabral, *op. cit.*, pp. 397-398; Sankratyayana, *op. cit.*, pp. 61-63; Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 511-514, 523

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 514

⁸ *Ibid.*

Vichitrapal's successor, Hanspal, and is assigned to circa 1209—1216 A.D., retrieved his position. It is said that he also shifted his headquarters to some place in the valley of the Bhilangana, that a number of Khasa chiefs owed allegiance to him and that he held sway over all western Garhwal and commanded the pilgrim route to Gangotri,¹ indicating that the greater portion of this district formed part of his kingdom. History seems to have repeated itself in the case of this raja who, like Bhanupratapa of old, is said to have had no son but only a daughter, married to Kadilpal, a Paramara prince from Dharanagar in Malwa, who had come here on pilgrimage² just as Kanakpal, the traditional founder of the Garhwal dynasty, had done more than 300 years before.³ It is not known if the two traditions refer to two independent, although remarkably alike, events or are the two versions of one and the same tradition with only a change in the names of the principal persons involved. Sonpal, mentioned in one genealogical list as Sohanpal and in another as Suvarnpal, is said to have given to Kadilpal, mentioned in the lists variously as Kantipal, Kantikripal and Kanhapal, a part of pargana Chandpur as dowry and made him his heir. Kadilpal was the 25th raja in the line and is assigned to 1216—1221 A.D. He was succeeded by Kamdeopal and the latter by Salakhanpal (1236—1254).⁴

Nothing, except names, is known about the successors of Salakhanpal till Ajaipal who was the 10th in descent from him and the 37th in the line and whose reign is variously assigned to 1358—70, 1446 and 1500—1519 A.D., the first of these dates, however, appearing to be the most acceptable one.⁵ With the accession of Ajaipal as the king, the history of the Garhwal kingdom, in which this district was included, begins to assume a firm footing. In his time the raja of Champawat, in district Almora, invaded Badhan in district Chamoli, which formed part of Ajaipal's dominion. In the first round of the battle Ajaipal suffered a heavy defeat but ultimately he succeeded in routing the enemy's forces and in driving him out of his territory.⁶ It was probably on account of this invasion from the east that Ajaipal transferred his capital from Chandpurgarhi to Dewalgarh.⁷ He is also said to have chosen the site which later developed into the capital city of Srinagar, laid its foundations and started building a big palace there which was completed by his successors.⁸ One tradition has it that Ajaipal, who was also a Paramara Rajput, entered the service of the raja of Chandpur whom he ousted and usurped the throne, which shows that he was probably not the lawful successor of

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 446

² *Ibid.*

³ *Zila Uttarkashi ki Settlement Report*, 1963-64, (Allahabad, 1965), p. 1

⁴ Bahadur, *op. cit.*, p. 208

⁵ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 526

⁶ Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 364-365

⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 365-366; Dabral, *op. cit.*, p. 283

⁸ Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 366-367; Bahadur, *op. cit.*, p. 186

the previous ruler. Originally he seems to have been a petty chief with his headquarters in the village of Chaund in pargana Chandpur, district Chamoli. He appears to have gradually subjugated his neighbouring chiefs and extended his power considerably.¹ It is said that before him almost every glen in Garhwal had a chieftain of its own and he seems to have brought together many of these chiefs into a sort of confederacy with himself at its head.² Thus the credit of first attempting a consolidation of the entire region from the Himalayas in the north to Chandi, near Hardwar, in the south and from the Yamuna in the west to Badhan in the east is given to him.³ It is also believed that the region, formerly known as Kedarbhumi, now began to be called by the name of Garhwal or Garhwal which has since stuck to it. He defined the boundaries of his territories, reorganised parganas and *pattis*, treated the subordinate chiefs generously and loved his subjects, 'Ajaipal's *sthapana* (settlement or administration)' having become proverbial in Garhwal.⁴

Ajaipal was succeeded by his son, Kalyanpal, and the latter by Sundarpal.⁵ It was probably in the time of the last named raja that Timur, after having sacked Delhi and Meerut and crossed the Ganga (in 1398 A.D.), fought several battles near Hardwar and the Chandi hill, opposite Hardwar, across the Ganga, and then invaded the country of a raja named Bahruz, which lay in a valley between the Ganga and the Yamuna. The raja put up a stiff resistance but was defeated and rich booty fell into the hands of the invader who, however, gave up the idea of penetrating further into the hills and returned to his country.⁶ As the name Bahruz, mentioned in Muslim chronicles, or Brahmdatta of which Bahruz can be a possible corruption, is not found in the list of the Garhwal rajas and cannot be identified with the name of any of Ajaipal's successors for several generations, the latter's direct sway does not seem to have then extended as far south as Hardwar. Bahruz may, therefore, have been some local chief of these parts who may or may not have owed allegiance to the raja of Garhwal.⁷

Sundarpal was succeeded by Hansdevapal and the latter by Vijai pal who is said to have led an unsuccessful expedition against the king of Tibet in the north,⁸ the route taken probably passing through the district of Uttarkashi. The next raja was Sahajpal who lived about 1425 A.D. and whose successor was Balbhadrapal.⁹

¹ *Journal of the U. P. Historical Society*, Vol. XVI, Part I (July, 1943), pp. 74—76

² Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 527

³ Bahadur, *op. cit.*, p. 187

⁴ Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 367-368

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 369

⁶ Elliot, H. M. and Dowson, J.: *The History of India as told by its own Historians*, Vol. III (London), pp. 461, 513; Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 524—

526; Bahadur, *op. cit.*, p. 190

⁷ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 526, 527

⁸ Raturi, *op. cit.*, p. 370

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 370-71

It was this raja, also known as Balbhadra Sah and Bahadur Shah, who is said to have changed the dynastic cognomen from Pal to Sah.¹ It is said that the sultan of Delhi, probably Bahlul Lodi (1451—88 A.D.), was somehow so much pleased with this raja that he sent to him a rich *khila't* (robe of honour), gave him the name, Bahadur Shah, and conferred upon him the title Shah (or Sah) to be used by him and his successors.² This, however, does not mean that the raja in any way lost his independence and became subordinate to the sultan of Delhi. The sultan's gesture and the response made by the raja appear to have been only tokens of mutual friendship.³

Balbhadra Sah's successor was Man Sah who issued a grant in 1547 A.D. which is for the first time an authentic landmark in the chronology of the Garhwal rajas.⁴ He is said to have led raids into the plains in the south, to have invaded Tibet in the north defeating its king in a battle and to have extended the boundaries of his kingdom.⁵ De Laet, a foreign traveller of the time, described the snow-capped Garhwal, with Srinagar as capital, as a 'very fertile' kingdom and wrote that its ruler 'Mansa' (Man Sah) dined in 'dishes of gold'.⁶ His successor, Sham Sah, is said to have been a ruthless and wilful despot who defeated the king of Tibet.⁷ The next raja was Dularam Sah who issued a grant in 1580 A.D.⁸ and was perhaps the first of his line to come into direct conflict with the rising power of the Chand rajas of Kumaon. Rudra Chand (1565—97), who had become supreme in Kumaon, sought to add Badhan to his dominions, which formed part of the territory of the raja of Garhwal. Consequently, he sent an expedition against Garhwal under Parkhu, his general, but the latter was killed in an action near Gwaldom. Rudra Chand then led in person an expedition but retreated without effecting any conquest of the territory of Garhwal.⁹ His son and successor, Lakshmi Chand (1597—1621), continued to pursue the aggressive policy of his father and is said to have invaded Garhwal seven times but to have been repulsed each time with considerable loss by Mahipati Sah, the then reigning raja of Garhwal,¹⁰ who had ascended the throne after Dularam Sah's death in 1580 A.D.¹¹

¹ Walton, *op. cit.*, pp. 114-115

² Saletore, G. N.: 'The Mughals and Garhwal Rulers (1624—1664)'—*Proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission*, Mysore Session, 1955; Vol. XXXI, p. 17, foot note 2; Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 371—373

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 374-375

⁴ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 526

⁵ Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 375-376

⁶ De Laet: *Empire of the Great Moghal*, (ed. Hoyland and Banerji), p. 60; Saletore, *op. cit.*, Vol. XXXI, p. 17, foot note-2

⁷ Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 376-377

⁸ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 447, 527

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 553-554; Sankratyayana, *op. cit.*, pp. 84-85

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 85; Atkinson, *op. cit.*, pp. 556-557

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 527

Mahipati Sah, entitled Garbhabhanjana,¹ was a brave man and a great ruler. It was he who finally removed the capital from Dewalgarh to Srinagar of which city he is said to have been the virtual founder. He was also the first raja of his line to consolidate effectively his rule over the whole of Garhwal,² the entire district of Uttarkashi evidently being under his sway. At this time Akbar, the great Mughal emperor, was ruling over the greater part of the plains of India. He reorganised the administration of his vast empire on a very sound basis. Within his subah of Delhi there figures a subdivision named the sirkar of Kumaon which comprised 21 *mahals* or parganas, the revenue assessment of as many as nine of the *mahals* has, however, not been mentioned and shown as undetermined.³ The account given of the mineral wealth and of the birds and beasts of Kumaon, which is described as part of the northern mountains of this subah (Delhi), may as well apply to Garhwal as to Kumaon. None of the *mahals* mentioned under the sirkar of Kumaon, however, seems to have been situated in the hills and, therefore, within the territories of the raja of Garhwal.⁴ There is also a story that on one occasion Akbar, being pleased with the ingenuity of the raja of Srinagar, exempted him from payment of any tribute and his territories from assessment of revenue payable into the imperial treasury.⁵ It appears, therefore, that the rajas of Garhwal continued to enjoy almost full independence with the exception, perhaps, of acknowledging nominally the emperor of Delhi as their overlord but paying no tribute and supplying no contingents to him.⁶ Mahipati Sah continued to reign till at least 1625 A. D., which date figures in an inscription of his discovered in the Kesho Rai monastery of Srinagar,⁷ and he seems to have remained on friendly terms both with Akbar and Jahangir, his contemporary Mughal emperors.

The historian Firishta, who is believed to have completed his work about 1623 A.D.,⁸ writes, "The Raja of Kumaon also possesses an extensive dominion, and a considerable quantity of gold is procured by washing the earth mounds in his country, which also contains copper mines. His territory stretches to the north as far as Tibet and on the south reaches to Sambhal which is included in India. He retained in pay an army of 80,000 men both in cavalry and infantry and commands great respect from the emperors of Delhi. His treasures too are vast. It is a rule among the kings of Kumaon not to encroach on the hoards of their ancestors, for it is a saying amongst them that whoever applies his father's

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 543

² Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 527, 543; Walton, *op. cit.*, p. 116

³ *Ain-i-Akbari* of Abul Fazal-i-Allami, tr. by H. S. Jarret and annotated by J. N. Sarkar, Vol. II, (2nd ed., Calcutta, 1949), p. 294

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 285

⁵ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 549; Walton, *op. cit.*, pp. 116-117

⁶ Bahadur, *op. cit.*, p. 192

⁷ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 447

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 543; Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. VI (London, 1866—77), p. 209

treasures to his own use will become mean and beggarly in spirit; so that at the present day fifty-six distinct treasures exist which have been left by the Rajas of Kumaon, each of which has the owner's seal upon it. The sources of the Jamna and the Ganges are both to be found within the Kumaon territory".¹ It appears that Firishta was also confused about the distinction between Kumaon and Garhwal, his description being truer of the latter region than of the former. Garhwal has been celebrated from the earliest times for its mines of copper and lead and the gold-washings in the valleys of the Alaknanda and the Bhagirathi. The sources of both the Yamuna and the Ganga (Bhagirathi) lie in the district of Uttarkashi which has always been a part of Garhwal and never of Kumaon. Moreover, the number of rajas who had reigned till then is nearer the truth in the case of the Garhwal dynasty in which Mahipati Sah (the then ruler) was the 54th,² whereas his contemporary Lakshmi Chand (1597—1621) of Kumaon was only the 45th raja in his own line.³ The statement that the raja 'commands great respect from the emperors of Delhi' is also in keeping with what is otherwise known of Mahipati Sah's relations with his contemporary Mughal emperors. In 1625, Antonio Andrade, a Jesuit missionary, arrived in Srinagar and reported that although the raja paid tribute to the Mughals, yet 'no regard was paid to the rescripts from Jahangir and Asaf Khan with which they had armed themselves'. And about August, 1631, Francis de Azevedo, coming from Agra, mentions how on the death of the raja of Srinagar sixty ladies of the zenana committed sati.⁴ The raja was obviously Mahipati Sah who with his minister, Jhaliya Dham Singh Bhandari, was killed in the battle of Kakubmora, fighting against the Chand raja of Kumaon. The leaderless Garhwal army is said to have retreated to Srinagar with their raja's dead body.⁵

Mahipati Sah was succeeded by his son Prithvi Sah some time between 1625, the last known date of the former, and 1640 in which year the latter issued a grant.⁶ He was a powerful ruler and is said to have extended and fixed the western boundaries of his kingdom by waging war upon the chief ruling in that direction.⁷ In 1635, a dreadful famine is said to have raged in Garhwal.⁸ Soon after, in 1635-36, the imperial forces, consisting of 30,000 horse and a lakh of infantry, under Mirza Shuja Najabat Khan Badakhshi invaded Garhwal. Prithvi Sah allowed this army to enter the interior of his hilly region and then beleaguered

¹ Briggs, Col. J.: *Tarikh-i-Firishta* (Eng. trans), Vol. IV, (London, 1829), pp. 547, 549; Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 542-543

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 501, 555

⁴ Mac Lagan: *Jesuits and the Great Mogal*, pp. 343, 350; Saletore, *op. cit.*, p. 17

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 563

⁷ Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 382-383

⁸ Saletore, *op. cit.*, pp. 17-18

it, blocking all exits. The imperial soldiers began to starve and could save their lives and return home only after having their noses cut, to serve as trophies for the raja's men, while the imperial general, in order to escape disgrace, poisoned himself.¹ In 1647, Dara Shukoh, on behalf of the emperor Shahjahan, is said to have sent a robe of honour to Prithvi Sah who seems to have been reconciled to the Mughal court by this time.² Late in the reign of Shahjahan, in 1654-55 A.D., Khalil Ullah Khan, an imperial general, was again dispatched with 8,000 men in order to coerce the 'zamindar of Srinagar',³ which inadequate title was obviously meant for Prithvi Sah, the raja of Garhwal. This hostile force overran the Dehra Dun region, then under the sway of the raja of Garhwal, with little resistance from the side of the raja but could not penetrate further into the hills and Khalil Ullah Khan gave up the attempt and returned to the imperial court.⁴ Baz Bahadur Chand, the then raja of Kumaon, is also said to have joined the imperial forces in this unsuccessful attempt against Garhwal.⁵

A few years later, after the discomfiture of Dara Shukoh at the battle of Samugarh, in 1658 A.D., and his subsequent flight, his son, Sulaiman Shukoh, took refuge in Garhwal where Prithvi Sah accorded him hospitality.⁶ For more than a year the raja remained firm in his promise of protecting the unfortunate prince and did not yield to Aurangzeb's threats, the invasion of the Dun by the imperial forces, the aggressions made by the rajas of Kumaon and Sirmor from the east and the west at the instance of the emperor, or to the persuasion of his own ministers and the crown prince, Medini Sah.⁷ At last the force of circumstances prevailed upon the raja and he reluctantly handed over Sulaiman Shukoh to Ram Singh, the agent of Aurangzeb and a son of Raja Jai Singh of Amber.⁸

Baz Bahadur Chand of Kumaon continued his aggressive policy against Garhwal and for a time succeeded in annexing some of its border areas⁹ which Prithvi Sah shortly after recovered. In his last campaign the raja of Kumaon seems to have been more successful but a peace was concluded between the two rajas.¹⁰ The last known date of Prithvi Sah is 1664 A.D. which figures in an inscription of his reign discovered on the gateway of the Raghunath temple at Devaprayag.¹¹ Prithvi Sah is said

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 18

² *Ibid.*

³ Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. VII, (Allahabad, 1964), p. 105 (extract from Inyat Khan's *Shahjahan-Nama*)

⁴ Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. VII, pp. 105—107; Burn, R (Ed.): *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. IV, p. 207

⁵ Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. VII, p. 107

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 229-230, 263 (extracts from Khafi Khan's *Muntakhabu-i-Lubab*)

⁷ Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 382—390

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 387-388; Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. VII, p. 263; Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 563—565; Saletore, *op. cit.*, p. 19

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 567-568; Sankratyayana, *op. cit.*, p. 86

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 88

¹¹ Raturi, *op. cit.*, p. 391

to have lived for 76 years. The crown prince, Medini Sah, had already died in his lifetime at Delhi in 1661. And when in 1664 Prithvi Sah died, he was succeeded by his grandson, Fateh Sah, who was a minor of only seven years of age. As soon as Fateh Sah ascended the throne Aurangzeb issued a firman, dated Saturday, January 16, 1664, in his favour. During his minority, Rani Bartwali, his mother, seems to have acted as regent.¹ The Chand rajas of Kumaon, Baz Bahadur Chand and his successor Udyot Chand (1678—98), continued to remain hostile towards Garhwal,² but now Aurangzeb appears to have sided with and given his moral support to the Garhwal rulers against the Chands.³ It was, perhaps, in 1684 that Fateh Sah took the reins of government in his own hands,⁴ and he appears to have remained on friendly terms with Aurangzeb till the latter's death in 1707 A.D.

MODERN PERIOD

There was occasional fighting between Fateh Sah and his contemporary Chand rulers, Gyanchand (1698—1708) and Jagatchand (1708—1720) of Kumaon, the Garhwalis wresting back a portion of the Kumaon territory which had been under the control of their rajas for a considerable period.⁵ Fateh Sah is credited with extending his sway over parts of Tibet, and it was, perhaps, he who made a memorable raid in 1692 from Dehra Dun into Saharanpur from where he could be expelled with difficulty by Sayyid Ali, the Mughal general.⁶ This raja is known to have issued grants in 1685, 1706, 1710 and 1716.

Fateh Sah died in 1716 and was succeeded by his son, Dilip Sah, who ruled only for a few months and made way for Upendra Sah. The latter also did not stay long on the throne and after ruling for about nine months was succeeded by his nephew, Pradip Sah⁷, who ruled over Garhwal for over half a century and was notably successful in one of the encounters which he had with the rajas of Kumaon.

In 1745, the territory of Kalyanchand, the then ruler of Kumaon, was invaded by the Rohillas under the command of Hafiz Rahmat Khan who occupied Almora.⁸ The Kumaonis invoked the assistance of Pradip Sah who after some hesitation agreed to fight against the Rohillas. But the combined forces of Pradip Sah and Kalyanchand suffered defeat and the Rohillas even threatened Srinagar, the capital of Garhwal. The raja of Garhwal was forced to pay three lakhs of rupees on behalf of Kalyanchand, in consideration of which payment the Rohillas agreed to go back.⁹ The peace that followed inaugurated an era of exceptional pros-

¹ Saleore, *op. cit.*, pp. 19-20

² Atkinson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 570

³ Saleore, *op. cit.*, p. 20

⁴ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, p. 573

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Walton, H. G.: *British Garhwal: A Gazetteer*, (1910), p. 118

⁷ Hamilton, Francis: *An Account of the Kingdom of Nepal, and of the Territory annexed to this Dominion by the House of Gorkhas*, pp. 294-295

⁸ Bahadur, P. R.: *Garhwal, Ancient and Modern*, p. 191

⁹ Sankratyayana, Rahul: *Kumaon*, pp. 92-93; Raturi, H. K.: *Garhwal ka Itihas*, p. 401

perity in Garhwal for some time which attracted the notice of the Rohillas who under Najib Khan once again invaded and devastated Garhwal in 1757.

A few years later Pradip Sah again intervened in the affairs of Kumaon and claimed suzerainty over the territory up to the river Ramganga but his demand was refused.

Pradip Sah was succeeded in 1772 by his son, Lalit Sah, who took advantage of the internal strife in Kumaon and led an army against the raja of that kingdom, gaining a complete victory at Bagwali Pokhar in 1779.¹ He installed his younger son, Pradyuman Sah, on the throne of Kumaon under the title of Pradyuman Chand. The elder son, Jayakrit Sah, succeeded his father on the throne of Garhwal after the latter's death.

Soon after, differences arose between the two brothers, Pradyuman Sah and Jayakrit Sah, the latter demanding acknowledgement of his seniority by right of birth which the former refused to concede on the ground that Kumaon had never accepted the supremacy of Garhwal.² Jayakrit Sah began to intrigue with the influential Mohan Chand, a pretender to the throne of Kumaon, who had been exiled and was on inimical terms with Pradyuman Sah. Harsh Dev Joshi, the prime minister of Kumaon, proceeded to Garhwal and sought an interview with the raja in the hope of arriving at a settlement on behalf of his king. Pradyuman Sah, Jayakrit Sah, however, did not react favourably to the overture and attacked Harsh Dev Joshi. He was, however, defeated and obliged to seek safety in flight during which he died,³ the Kumaonis occupying Garhwal up to Srinagar. Parakram Sah, another brother of Jayakrit Sah, proclaimed himself raja of Garhwal, but Pradyuman Sah came over from Almora, assumed the crown of Garhwal⁴ and transferred his own throne of Kumaon to his younger brother, Parakram Sah. As Parakram Sah did not prove a strong ruler, Mohan Chand made good his re-entry into Kumaon in 1786 and ousted Parakram Sah. Thus the Garhwal domination in Kumaon came to an end. Mohan Chand now became supreme in Kumaon, but only for a short period. In 1788, he was killed by Harsh Dev Joshi, who invited its former king, Pradyuman Sah, to the throne of Kumaon but the offer was declined.⁵

Nepali troops over-ran Kumaon in 1790 and Garhwal in 1803 which included the area covered by the present district of Uttarkashi, but while they were busy making arrangements for a more determined attack, the news of a Chinese invasion of Nepal caused the withdrawal of their

¹ Atkinson, *op. cit.*, p. 577

² Sankratyayana, *op. cit.*, pp. 95-96

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 96-97

⁴ Pande, Badridutt: *Kumaon ka Itihas*, pp. 361-362

⁵ Sankratyayana, *op. cit.*, pp. 96-97; Hamilton, *op. cit.*, pp. 295-296

troops for the defence of their own country.¹ This show of the Gurkha power so impressed Pradyuman Sah that he agreed to pay a yearly tribute of Rs 25,000 to the Nepalese government and sent an agent to the court of Kathmandu. This agreement lasted for twelve years and preserved some appearance of amity between the two governments.²

About the beginning of 1803, a severe earthquake occurred in the whole of Garhwal, including Uttarkashi, which destroyed many houses and killed many human beings and heads of cattle.³ Soon after, the Gurkha leaders, Amar Singh Thapa, Hastidal Chautariya and others, once again invaded Garhwal with a large and powerful army. No resistance was offered to them. Scarcely had the Gurkhas approached Srinagar when Pradyuman Sah with his family fled by way of Barahat (Uttarkashi) to Dehra Dun where with most of his followers he was killed in 1804.⁴ The fourth brother, Pritam Sah, was taken prisoner and sent in custody to Nepal, Pradyuman Sah's son, Sudarshan Sah, and Parakram Sah having also escaped, the former into British territory.⁵ The Nepal government appointed Amar Singh Thapa, governor of this region. With the advent of the Gurkha raj many "old families were destroyed, persons of rank and importance were either banished or killed and their villages burnt and desolated and a great number of inhabitants were sold as slaves".⁶ Gurkha officers were severe and their manners as conquerors rough. Rapine was of common occurrence and the Gurkha soldiery forcibly married many Garhwal women.

The Gurkhas now came into contact with the British power as by 1814 their frontier in Garhwal had become conterminous with that of the British.⁷ The border districts of the British territory suffered terribly from the incessant inroads of the Gurkhas. Lord Hastings, the governor general, now resolved to settle once for all these border disputes.⁸

General Gillespie was instructed to enter Garhwal by way of Dehra Dun with 3,500 men and to dislodge Amar Singh Thapa from Srinagar. The general himself brought up the reserves but was killed.⁹

In April, 1815, the Kumaon and Garhwal regions were again invaded by the British who defeated the Gurkhas. The Nepalese government made the treaty of Sigauli whereby the Gurkhas agreed to withdraw all their troops east of the Kali river and gave to the British all Nepalese territories from Kumaon to the Sutlej. Kumaon and Garhwal were

¹ Sanwal, B. D.: *Nepal and the East India Company*, (Bombay), pp. 62-63; Sankratvayana, *op. cit.*, pp. 114-115

² Bahadur, P. R., *op. cit.*, p. 194

³ Raturi, *op. cit.*, pp. 418-419

⁴ Bahadur, *op. cit.*, p. 199

⁵ Hamilton, *op. cit.*, pp. 300-301; Raturi, *op. cit.*, p. 437

⁶ Bahadur, *op. cit.*, p. 204

⁷ Lodwell, H. H. (Ed.): *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, p. 378

⁸ Hamilton: *The Marquess of Hastings*, pp. 63-64; Dodwell, *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 348

⁹ *Ibid.*

annexed as British districts. Garhwal to the west of the Alaknanda excepting the Dun and the pargana of Rawain lying between the Alaknanda and the Bhagirathi was handed over to the Raja of Garhwal and came to be known as Tehri Garhwal state. The Garhwalis now retaliated by killing large numbers of Gurkhas, isolated bands being massacred or driven away to die of exposure and starvation in the mountains.

On its annexation by the British, Garhwal was divided into eastern Garhwal and western Garhwal.¹ The former was kept by the British government under its own authority, and the latter was made over to Sudarshan Sah, the eldest son of Pradyuman Sah, to form the state of Tehri Garhwal. In 1815, the British handed over to the raja the portion of Garhwal situated to the west of the Alaknanda with the express reservation of the Dun and the pargana of Rawain (now district Uttarkashi) lying between the Alaknanda and the Bhagirathi.² Pargana Rawain comprised comparatively barren and rocky country and the inhabitants too were turbulent, accustomed to plunder and disinclined to work.³

In 1816, Traill, the assistant commissioner of Kumaon, brought to the notice of the British government the difficulty that might arise if the boundary between British Garhwal and Tehri Garhwal were not more precisely defined. Although pargana Nagpur, now in the Chamoli district, was clearly intended to be included in the territory retained by the British, the loose mention, in the negotiations, of the Alaknanda and Mandakini as marking the boundary could be construed as depriving the British of some valuable portions of that pargana, including *pattis* Bamsu and Maikhand and the mines near Dhamoli, which lay to the west of those rivers. In 1823, the raja laid claim to the villages lying to the west of the Mandakini but it was held that the term Nagpur as used in the negotiations included all the subdivisions which fell within its established limits.⁴

In 1818, Traill complained of the disorderly state of the pargana of Rawain, the inhabitants of which being relieved from the fear of both the Gurkhas and the British had taken to their old occupation of plundering the pilgrims visiting Gangotri and Kedarnath. The raja of Tehri Garhwal did not prove equal to the task of establishing peace in the area. The boundaries were then laid down as they now exist, and pargana Rawain was formally annexed to the raja's state in 1824.⁵

Raja Sudarshan Sah, however, was a ruler of an amiable disposition. He soon re-established his power over his subjects. During the freedom struggle of 1857, Sudarshan Sah rendered valuable assistance to

¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 378-379

² Bahadur, *op. cit.*, p. 21

³ Atkinson, E. T.: *The Himalayan District of the North-Western Provinces of India*, Vol. II, p. 680

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 681

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 600

the British government.¹ He died in 1859 without any male issue, and the state lapsed to the British government. However, in consideration of the services of Sudarshan Sah, a near male relative, Bhawani Sah, was allowed to succeed. He subsequently received a sanad giving him the right of adoption. Bhawani Sah died in 1872 and was succeeded by his son, Pratap Sah, who died in 1887.² At the time of his death, his son Krit Sah, was a minor and the administration of the state was carried on by his mother, Rani Guleri, till his attaining the age of majority in 1892.³ He married a grand-daughter of Maharaja Jang Bahadur of Nepal. Kirti Sah was an enlightened and educated prince who completed the reforms initiated by his father and introduced some of his own in the state. He died in 1913⁴ leaving behind his minor son, Narendra Sah, the administration being carried on by a British political agent. Raja Narendra Sah was installed on the throne in 1916, his son Manvendra Sah succeeding him during his lifetime in 1948.

During the rule of Narendra Sah a spontaneous public movement, known as Rawain Kand, took place in 1930 against forest settlement. People were dissatisfied with the attitude of the forest authorities, and the maharaja invited their representatives for negotiations to Rajgarhi, but got them put under arrest. This aroused great resentment and people resorted to violent measures to get back their leaders. They succeeded and captured Surendradutt, the subdivisional magistrate, while Padma-dutta Raturi, the forest officer, made his escape to Narendra Nagar. The maharaja sent about 300 soldiers under the state diwan, Chakradhar, to suppress the movement. The soldiers opened fire at the public and arrested about a hundred persons of whom sixty-five were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment for sedition.

India became independent on August 15, 1947, and the state of Tehri Garhwal was merged with the State of Uttar Pradesh in 1949 and the area covered by the present district of Uttarkashi formed part of the district of Tehri Garhwal till February 24, 1960, when this district was constituted as a separate administrative unit.

¹ Raturi, *op. cit.*, p. 465

² *Ibid.*, pp. 476-477

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 478-480

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 484

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

GROWTH OF POPULATION*

At the census of 1951, the total population of the Rawain tahsil which was converted into the district of Uttarkashi in 1960 was found to be 1,06,058, the number of females being 52,844. The first census of the district, as it is now, was taken in 1961, when its population had risen to 1,22,836, the number of females being 60,302.

The figures of the population of the area covered by the present district from 1901 to 1961 are given in the following statement:

Year	Persons	Male	Female
1901*	69,209	34,343	34,866
1911	77,429	38,213	39,216
1921	81,958	40,282	41,676
1931	89,978	44,611	45,367
1941	1,02,280	51,758	50,522
1951	1,06,058	53,214	52,844
1961	1,22,836	62,534	60,302

The decennial growth of the population from 1901 to 1961 is shown in the following statement:

Census year	Population	Percentage of variation in population		
		Total	Rural	Urban
1901	69,209	..	..	..
1911	77,429	+11.9	+11.9	..
1921	81,958	+5.9	+5.9	..
1931	89,978	+9.8	+9.8	..
1941	1,02,280	+13.7	+13.7	..
1951	1,06,058	+3.7	+3.7	..
1961	1,22,836	+15.8	+14.6	+122.2

The district occupies the fourth place among the districts of the State of Uttar Pradesh with respect to area and the last position with regard to population. The foregoing statement, giving variations in population since 1901, shows that there has been a gradual increase in the

* Data of 1971 appears at the end of the chapter

population, the increase being the highest during the decade 1951-61. The population rose to 1,22,836 during this period, giving a percentage increase of 15.8, the State average for the same period being 16.7. Between 1901 and 1961, the population of the district recorded an increase of 77.5 per cent when that of the State showed an increase of 51.7 per cent.

Population by Subdivisions or Tahsils *

According to the census of 1961, the density of population per square mile in the district is about 41, which is much lower than the State average of 648.

The population of the tahsils, according to sex, at the census of 1961 were as given in the following statement:

Tahsil	Inhabited villages/ town	Persons		Males		Females	
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Purula	168	28,226	28,226	—	15,154	15,154	—
Rajgarhi	176	29,703	29,703	—	15,645	15,645	—
Dunda	222	43,471	43,471	—	20,362	20,362	—
Bhatwar	961	21,436	18,759	2,677	11,373	9,608	1,765
Total	662/1	1,22,836	1,20,159	2,677	62,534	60,769	1,765

Immigration

Among the people enumerated in the district in 1961 about 89.9 per cent were born within the district, 8.4 per cent in other districts of the State, 1.1 per cent in other parts of the country and the rest in other countries. Among those from other countries, 465 (males 443 and females 22) are from Nepal, 175 (males 119 and females 56) from Pakistan, a male from the United Kingdom and 62 (males 31 and females 31) from elsewhere. The immigrants from Pakistan are mostly displaced persons. The duration of residence of 52.7 per cent of the immigrants is over 10 years. The rural areas have 95.6 per cent of immigrants and the urban areas the remaining 4.4 per cent.

* Data of 1971 appears at the end of the chapter

Of the rural population, 90.6 per cent were born within the district, 7.7 per cent in other districts of the State, 1.1 per cent in other parts of the country and the rest in other countries.

Distribution between Urban and Rural Areas

According to the census of 1961, as many as 1,20,159 persons—or 98 per cent of the total population of 1,22,836—belong to the rural areas and 2,677—or 2 per cent—to the urban areas.

There are 662 inhabited villages in the district, of which 448 villages, each with a population of less than 200, are occupied by 48,317 persons (24,285 males and 24,032 females); 190 villages each with a population between 200 and 499, by 56,730 persons (28,838 males and 27,892 females); 23 villages, each with a population between 500-999, by 14,071 persons (6,924 males and 7,147 females); and one village by 1,041 persons (722 males and 319 females).

The only town in the district is that of Uttarkashi which is also a municipality and has a population of 2,677 (males 1,765 and females 912).

LANGUAGE

Garhwali has been returned as the mother-tongue of 84.8 per cent and Hindi of 13.1 per cent of the population. The number of persons who returned other languages as their mother-tongues is insignificant. Garhwali is the main language spoken by 85.0 per cent of the rural population, followed by Hindi spoken by 13.0 per cent. In the urban population Garhwali is spoken by 71.9 per cent, Hindi by 18.3 per cent, Punjabi by 3.0 per cent, Bengali by 1.3 per cent and Nepali by 1.0 per cent. A list of the languages and dialects spoken in the district and the number of persons speaking each, according to the census of 1961, are given below:

Language	No. of persons
Garhwali	1,04,100
Hindi	16,069
Bengali	508
Nepali	430
Jad	288
Punjabi	268
Urdu	220
Kumauni	217
Kangri	132
Mandeali	128
Pahari (unspecified)	127
Kanauri	66
Tibetan	65
Bashahari	61
Gurkhali	25
Jaunsari	21
Others (26)	93
Total	1,22,836

Garhwali

Garhwali is a corrupt form of Rajasthani. This is probably due to the country being held by some Rajput chieftains in the mediaeval period. The corruption is, however, not so manifest as it is in the western Pahari languages of the Simla hills, further west. In addition, the forms of many words in usage distinctly betray a Khasa influence.

Garhwali which is closely allied to Kumauni is not a literary language (*granthasth*) and in the mountainous tract, where it is mainly spoken, it has many local variations.

Special features—Garhwali pronunciation is by and large the same as the Hindi pronunciation. Words which in Hindi end in *e* in Garhwali often end in a short unpronounced 'a', e.g., Hindi *ne* becomes *n* in Garhwali. Similarly, the oblique form of the infinitive in phrases like the Hindi *karne lage* becomes *karan lagyo*. It is said that Garhwali is a distinct form of Eastern Rajasthani but in its general characteristics it nearly approaches Hindi more than do Kumauni and Rajasthani, or Khas-Kura.

As in Hindi, there are two genders, masculine and feminine, but a few words which are feminine in Hindi are masculine in Garhwali, e.g., *akho* (an eye) is masculine in the usage *mera akha khar nikali-de*, (extract the straw from my eye). Certain masculine nouns which in Hindi end in 'a', end in 'o' in Garhwali as in Rajasthani. Similarly, Hindi *ghora* (horse) becomes in Garhwali *ghoro*. Feminine nouns ending in consonants form the nominative plural by adding 'a'. Thus *bat* (a word) becomes *bata* while in Hindi it would become *baten*. In the case of other feminine nouns the nominative plural is the same as the nominative singular, as *nauni* (a daughter or daughters). Feminine nouns ending in *i*, however, often change the *i* to *e* in the nominative plural, e.g., *janani* (a woman) is *janane* (women).

As in Hindi and Rajasthani the oblique form singular or plural can be employed alone to indicate any case, but it is usual to define the case by adding to it one of the following post-positions:

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>ghoro</i>	<i>ghora</i>
Agent	<i>ghora-n</i>	<i>ghoran</i>
Accusative	<i>ghoro/ghora-sain</i>	<i>ghoran-sain</i>
Instrumental	<i>ghoran-te</i>	<i>ghoran-te</i>
Dative	<i>ghora-sain</i>	<i>ghoran-sain</i>
Ablative	<i>ghora-te</i>	<i>ghoran-te</i>
Genitive	<i>ghora-ko</i>	<i>ghoran-ko</i>
Locative	<i>ghora-ma</i> <i>ghora-par</i>	<i>ghoran-ko</i> <i>ghoran-par</i>

When a noun ends in a consonant 'a' is inserted before the 'n' to assist in pronunciation, e.g., *bir* (hero), *biran*, *betan bolyo* (the son said), etc.

Verbs generally govern the locative *ma* but sometimes they govern the dative also as in *budalin u-ku bole* (the old woman said to them).

In general all adjectives are immutable, those ending in 'o' change to 'i' when agreeing with a feminine noun as in .

bhalo admi (a good man), but *bhali janani* (a good woman).

Casual verbs are formed as in Hindi by adding *a* to the root. The infinitive ends in *auno*. Thus *charauno* in the form of past participle becomes *charayo* (to cause to graze). Compound verbs are formed much as in Hindi, e.g., *de dewa* (give away).

The main dialects spoken within this linguistic group of the district of Uttarkashi are:

- (i) Bangani in the *pattis* of Fateh-Parbat, Gith, Bajri, Gadugad, Panchgain, Singtur, Athor and Badasu; (ii) Rawanlti in the *pattis* of Ramsarayan, Kamalsarayan, Banal, Thakral, Barkot, Mogar-santi and Godarkhatal; (iii) Taknori in the *pattis* of Taknaur and Naldkatur; and (iv) Gangadi in the *pattis* of Dasgihatar, Bhandar-syun, Bisht Patti, Dichli, Gamri, Dhanari, Barsali, Barahat, Baragaddi and Gajna Kathur. The first two are nearer to the western Pahari prevalent in the border region of Himachal Pradesh.

Jad Dialect

It is another important dialect of the district, spoken by the Bhotiyas of Nilang who have a large admixture of Garhwalis and Bushahris. They have been generally carriers and brokers between India and Tibet, like the Bhotiyas of the adjoining districts. They migrate southwards to tahsil Dunda on the onset of winter.

The Jad dialect is closely related to that spoken in Spiti in Himachal Pradesh. A few characteristic features of the dialect are described below:

Phonology—The phonetic system is almost similar to that of the dialect spoken in Spiti. Initial soft consonants are pronounced with a very strong aspiration, as in *pa* (cow), *shu-ba* (said) and *sin-ba* (to be exhausted). Final 'g' is apparently pronounced as 'k', e.g., *duk* (is) and *mik* (eye). Final 'd' is sometimes dropped and sometimes pronounced as 't', as in *to-pa* (classical Tibetan *grod-pa*, meaning belly) and *docha*, (classical Tibetan *shod-ches*, meaning to sit).

Nouns and Pronouns—The suffix of the case of the agent is *su* as in *yab-su* (by the father). Prefix 'a' is used in words such as *a-ba* (father), *a-ma* (mother) and *a-cho* (elder brother).

Verbs—The most usual form of the past tense is the verbal noun ending in *ba*, as in *shu-ba*, (said). A periphrastic past is formed by adding *song* (went) as in *chung-song* (became) and *nang-ba song* (gave).

RELIGION AND CASTE*

The rural population of the area covered by the district, classified according to religions at the census of 1951, comprised 1,04,782 Hindus, 62 Muslims, 7 Jains, 4 Sikhs and one unspecified. No such statistics for the urban area are, however, available.

According to the census of 1961, the strength of each community in the population of the district was as given below:

Community	Total	Rural	Urban
Hindus	1,22,243	1,19,657	2,586
Buddhists	274	274	..
Muslims	242	188	54
Sikhs	51	14	37
Jains	25	25	..
Christians	1	1	..
Total	1,22,836	1,20,159	2,677

Principal Communities

Hindu—The pattern of Hindu society in this district is based on the traditional fourfold caste system, but due to the presence of the Khasas there appears to be a three-tier structure in this district, the hierarchal orders being the high class Brahmanas and Rajputs from the plains, Khasa Brahmanas and Khasa Rajputs and Doms or Shudras.

Thus the Brahmanas and Rajputs of this region can be regarded as being partly the original inhabitants of this area and partly immigrants from the plains. All high caste Brahmanas and Rajputs claim to have migrated to these parts from the plains and most of them have retained the orthodox ceremonials and usages of Hinduism, but some have given them up and by inter-marriage with the Khasas have become Khasa Brahmanas and Khasa Rajputs.

The Khasas are a very old people, reference to them being found in the *Vayu Purana*, *Markandeya Purana*, *Bhagwata Purana* and *Hari-vansha Purana*. In the Sabha Parva of the *Mahabharata* the Khasas are said to have brought gold, *chawars* (yak's tail) and honey at the

* Data of 1971 appears at the end of the chapter

Rajasuya ceremony of Yudhishtir. In the *Rajatarangini* of Kalhana, the Khasas are described as a tribe of northern India. Some scholars regard the Khasas as the descendants of an early wave of northern immigrants, possibly Aryans, but not those of the Vedic branch.

The Brahmanas of the district generally derive their names from different villages in Garhwal in which their progenitors had originally settled down, whereas some retain the appellations of their forefathers.

They may be broadly divided into two classes, the Brahmanas of pure descent and those born of marriages between the Brahmanas and the Khasas. The first group is again divided into three sections—Sarola, Gangari and Nanagotri. The common saying, *sara ka Sarola gad ka Gangari*, implies that those who lived at *sara* (the top of a hill) were called Sarola and those who lived on the *gad* (river) were called Gangari. In respect of the origin of the Sarolas, part of the saying seems to be based on the fact that most of their primary clans are named after villages situated on tops of hills about Chandpur, the seat of Kanakpal, the founder of the dynasty of the rulers of Garhwal. Among these clans are Nautiyal, Dimri, Thaplayal, Khanduri, Semalti, Maithani, Raturi, Gairola, Chamola, Hatwal and Lakhera, deriving their names from the villages of Nauti, Dimar, Thapli, Khandura, Semalta, Maithani, Rature, Gairola, Chamola, Hatwalgaon and Lakherigaon, respectively. The Brahmanas of these villages, owing to their being close to the capital, exerted more influence both at the court and in the palace than any other community and so by virtue of their continued enjoyment of certain privileges came to be regarded as a distinct community in course of time. Since the time of Kanakpal, the Nautiyals and Khanduris have always been *raj-gurus* (royal preceptors) of the rulers of Garhwal, Khanduris being also hereditary *kanungos* of Garhwal. Ajaipal (14th century A. D.), in order to remove the commensal difficulties of his standing army, which included numerous subcastes directed the soldiers to take food from a common mess, if it was cooked by a Brahmana of the community to which the raja's cook belonged. According to Turner this ordinance gave final shape to the Sarola community as it is found today and this is the only difference between a Sarola and a non-Sarola.¹ The Sarola as a community is an endogamous group though its sub-clans are exogamous. But the whole group is so small and makes so many difficulties over marriage that some of the exogamous groups have split up into smaller groups in order to obtain a wider choice in matchmaking. The Nautiyal subcaste is, for instance, again divided into six sub-groups—Dhangan, Palyal, Manjkhola, Gajaidi, Chandpuri and Bonsoli—all of which call themselves Nautiyal though they intermarry among themselves. The origin of these smaller sub-

¹ Census of U. P., 1931, p. 569, para 2

castes seems to be that their progenitors all belonged to the same parental stock of Nautiyal but settled down in different villages from which they took their names.

The status of a Sarola is not affected by his marriage even with a Khasa Brahmana girl, nor by being adopted by a person of any other Brahmana subcaste so long as he observes the caste rules relating to food. The inevitable result of this custom is that the number of the Sarolas is decreasing.¹

Gangari literally means an inhabitant of Gangari, i.e., regions lying on the banks of the river Ganga, which are generally lowlying valleys and have a comparatively warmer climate. It is in this sense that the word is still used in the Rawain pargana where the people call all those living on the eastern side of Tehri Garhwal as Gangari, whether they may be Brahmanas or Rajputs. But when used for a Brahmana, it usually denotes a non-Sarola. The term Nanagotri also bears, like the term Gangari, more than one interpretation. The word, *nana*, means mother's father, hence Nanagotri may mean one who traces his descent through his mother's family. It also means many and *nanagotri* is one whose *gotra* is traced to any one of the thousand rishis born after the first ten rishis had sprung from Brahma. Whatever the original meaning of the term may have been, it appears that the Khasa Brahmanas are called Nanagotris and are generally considered much inferior to the Sarolas or the Gangaris.

Out of the many subcastes of these three groups of Brahmanas, those found in the district are the Sanwal, Joshi, Nautiyal, Bhatt, Gaur, Raturi and Chamola.

Brahmanas are generally priests while Khasa Brahmanas are mostly cultivators, plough the land themselves and practise *dhanti* marriage (taking as wife a relinquished woman or a maiden bought for money), the sacred thread ceremony being not deemed essential among them.

The Kashatriyas of the district can be divided into three groups—Thakurs, Rajputs and Khasa Rajputs. The Thakurs are the kinsmen of the royal family of Garhwal and are among the descendants of Kanakpal.

The Rajputs include those who claim descent from the petty chiefs who ruled in Garhwal before they were brought under the consolidated rule of Ajaipal and his successors, or from the ruling family of the Katyuris or from those who are said to have come along with Kanakpal as his courtiers.

The Khasa Rajputs, who form the majority, are said to be either the product of an admixture of Rajputs and Khasas, or pure Khasas. 'Khasa' has now become a derogatory term and is resented by all Rajputs.

¹ Census of U. P., 1981, p. 669

The saying *Khas kahe to khas pare larne ho ho jaya, ek bar Negi kahe lot pot ho jaya* means, "call a man Khasa and he will get angry and quarrel with you but if you call him a Negi he will be exceedingly happy." It not only explains how a Khasa gets offended at being called a Khasa, but also hints that the subcaste Negi has become an all embracing subcaste into which Khasa Rajputs usually try to gain admission. However, the rigid distinction between a real Rajput and a Khasa Rajput is fast disappearing. The subcastes generally found in the district are Chawan, Rana, Negi, Bist, Rawat and Payal.

Khasa Rajputs are mostly cultivators, plough their land, accept money for the betrothal of their daughters and derive their caste names from the villages or localities to which they belong. On the other hand, non-Khasa Rajputs are jealous of their distinctive entity and as a rule marry only among themselves.

In the Uttarkashi district, the Shilpkars or Doms are generally classed as Shudras, belong to the Scheduled Castes and are still socially, economically and educationally backward. The number of persons of the Scheduled Castes at the census of 1951 was 8,650 and all of them resided in the rural areas. At the census of 1961, their number had increased to 25,958 (males 13,605 and females 12,353). Their distribution tahsilwise is as follows*:

Tract	Population
Rural	
Purola tahsil	4,694
Rajgarhi tahsil	7,791
Dunda tahsil	10,618
Bhatwari tahsil	2,560
Urban	
Uttarkashi town	295
District total	25,958

The castewise distribution of the Scheduled Castes in the district, according to the census of 1961, is as follows:

Name of caste	Number
Rural area:	
Badi	4
Bajgi	729
Balmiki	16
Chamar	1,272
Dhangar	2
Dom	392
Domar	8
Kori	84
Shilpkar	23,204
Urban area:	
Balmiki	36
Chamar	5
Dhobi	8
Shilpkar	246

* Data of 1971 appears at the end of the chapter

Shilpkars, who constitute the majority of the Scheduled Castes in the district, form the bulk of the agricultural labourers and mostly live in the rural areas. In this region the bulk of the population depends on agriculture for its subsistence and the villages are situated far apart from one another and are connected only by narrow bridle-paths. Each village had to be self-contained in at least its basic requirements and, therefore, the Shilpkars who supplied the labour force were split into numerous occupational groups, such as Lohar (blacksmith), Tamta (copper-smith), Badi (dancer or singer) and so on. But after coming into contact with the Hindu caste system these occupational groups came to be regarded as distinct subcastes of the Shilpkar community. The members of each of these subcastes in a village were virtually considered to be the property of the village community. If any member of the Shilpkar community was sentenced to a fine the people of the village often collected the sum from amongst themselves and paid it up on his behalf.

The Chamars, who are next to Shilpkars in numbers, are also agricultural labourers and mostly live in the rural areas. In some parts of the district they are also known as Mochayata (shoemaker).

The Koris or Kolis (weavers) of this district divide themselves into two classes, the Gai-Kruja Koli and the Dom Koli. The Gai-Kruja (swearing by the cow) Kolis claim to be non-Dom and are in status between the Khasas and the Doms. They do not take food or water touched by a Lohar or any other Dom and do not take the meat of pigs and domestic fowls, whereas all other hill Doms do so. They are an endogamous group and a separate caste which shows signs of breaking up into exogamous subcastes within itself. Nagraja is the chief deity of all the Kolis. The subcastes are Bagyal, Kuslwan and Nath or Jogi. Kolis who have intermarried with Doms and eat the flesh of pigs and fowls are still known as Dom Kolis and are weavers.

Buddhists—At the census of 1961, there were 274 Buddhists in the district.

Muslims—The number of the Muslims at the census of 1951 was 62, which in 1961 rose to 242. Of these 188 persons reside in the rural area and the rest in the urban area.

Sikhs—At the census of 1961, there were 51 Sikhs in the district, 14 residing in the rural area.

Jains—The number of Jains at the census of 1951 was seven which in 1961 rose to 25, all residing in the rural area.

Jad—The Jads are a handsome people. They own two villages, Jadang and Nelang, situated on the banks of the Jadh Gangh in this district and separated from each other by a distance of about 19 km. They claim to be Rajputs and are divided into several subcastes such as

Negi, Bhandari, Guruyata, Risala, Rawat and Rana, but they are never known to have intermarried with the Khasa Rajputs. These subcastes are strictly endogamous. Marriage between cousins is permitted as also that of a girl with her maternal uncle. The high caste people of Garhwal do not take food or water touched by them and regard them as untouchables. Curiously enough, this community has Doms of its own, including Ohrs, Lohars and Kolis, who hold the same status among the Jads as the other hill Doms hold among the local Brahmanas and Rajputs.

By occupation the Jads have been carriers and brokers in the trade of this district with Tibet. They used to take rice, wheat and other grains to Tibet and bring back wool, salt, ponies, goats, borax and woollen goods. Their permanent homes are in Nelang and Jadang but they stay there only for three months, dividing the rest of the year between Harsil and Dunda. They move with their goods, leaving nothing behind. While moving they always carry their spinning wheel with them and spin in their spare time. The women, besides performing household duties, spin, weave and card wool and also make blankets, woollen sheets and *pankhis*.

Religious Beliefs and Practices

Hindu—The Hindus of the district practice Hinduism, which is a collection of diverse beliefs and practices ranging from polytheism to absolute monotheism and the identification of the *atman* (individual soul) with the ultimate reality. The chief gods worshipped by the Hindus of these parts are Siva, Vishnu and Shakti. Other gods and goddesses as well as spirits of natural phenomena such as streams, trees and rocks and the nagas are also worshipped. Thus from the crudest form of animism to the attainment of ultimate reality the Hindu religion touches the whole gamut of religious experience.

The Khasas generally follow the Hindu religion but have preserved certain special forms of worship, ceremonials and customs. According to them each mountain peak, rivulet and waterfall is connected with a local deity and is associated with various superstitions and legends. The villagers offer sacrifices and gifts to these deities. The upper ends of certain steep ascents, specially at the junction of hill roads, are known by the name of Patania Devi, where every passerby is expected to put a stone in thanksgiving. The worship of Shakti is most popular among the Khasas. They have household and village gods also. The other Khasa gods worshipped in the district are Jakh (Yaksha), Arjun, Nagdevata, Narsingh, Haru Devata, Nagri, Pokhu and Mahasu. The Kauravas and Pandavas, heroes of the Mahabharata War, are also worshipped in certain parts of the district.

The Jads particularly worship the Lal Devata of Bushahr, the Pandavas, Bhagwati and some other Hindu deities,

The Doms appear always to have specialised in the personification of spirits, good and bad, fortune-telling and devil-dancing. Most of them worship demons of various kinds but their principal deity is Nirankar whose worship is performed with great solemnity when the entire family keeps a vigil at night, singing songs in honour of the deity. The ceremony lasts for three days and ends with a feast to the *biradari* (community) and the sacrificing of goats and pigs. The priest who officiates at this ceremony is also a Dom. Next in favour is Kali or Kalika whose worship is also performed with much ceremony. Male buffaloes, goats and pigs are freely sacrificed to her. The Doms ascribe all kinds of ailments or calamities to the wrath of one or the other godling.

There are a number of temples and shrines in the district, which are dedicated, among others, to Siva, Vishnu and Hanuman, the most celebrated being the temple of Vishvanatha, situated in the heart of the town of Uttarkashi. The famous ancient copper trident of Shakti stands by the side of this temple. Some other well-known shrines are the Ekadas, Rudra and Parasram temples at Uttarkashi, the Laxmi Narayan temple at Harsil, the Visheshar temple at Dharali, the Bhadra Kali temple near Barkot, and the temples of Yamnotri, Gangotri and Kalinag.

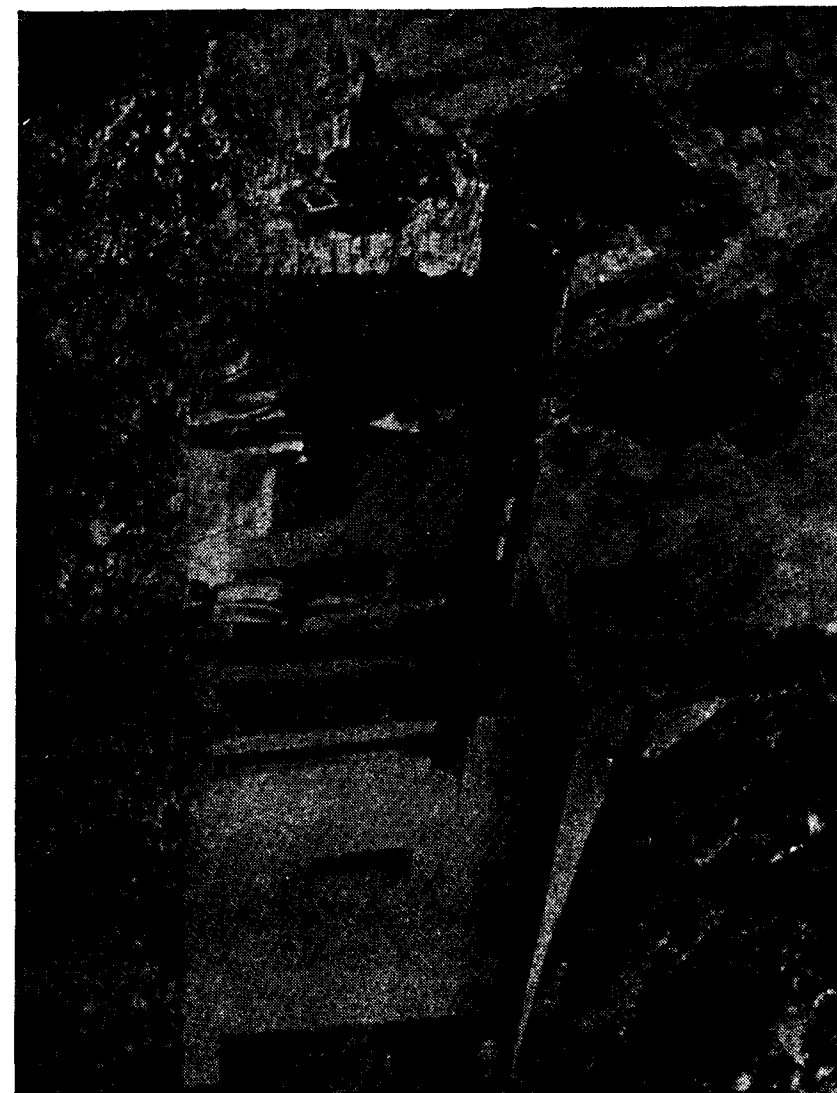
Muslim—The usual five duties enjoined on its followers by Islam, viz., recitation of the *kalma* (an expression of faith in God and the prophet Muhammad), the offering of *namaz* (prayers) five times a day individually or collectively, preferably in a mosque, the keeping of *roza* (fast in the month of Ramadan), going on hajj to Mecca and the payment of *zakat* (contribution in cash or kind for charitable purposes), apply to the Muslims of the district as well, who also put faith in *pirs* (saints).

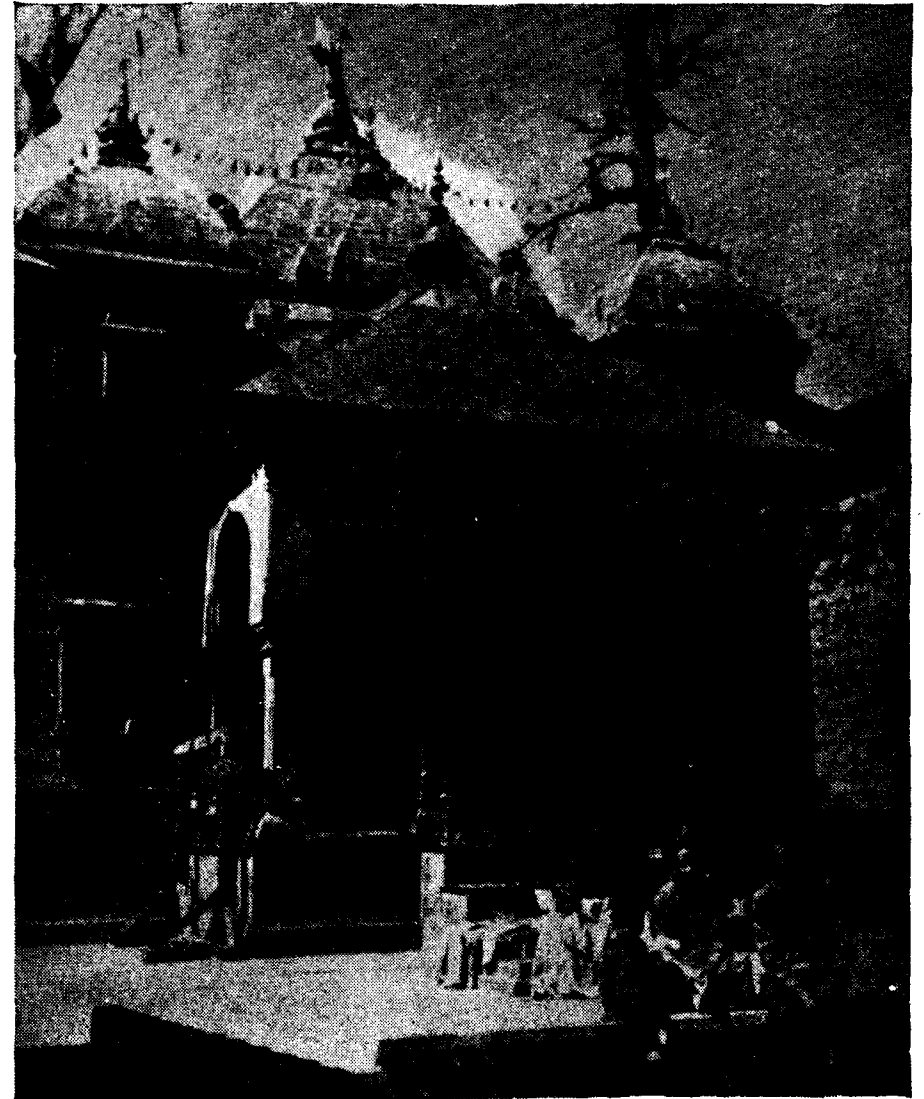
Jain—The Jains (followers of the Jains or conquerors of self) believe in the *triratna* (three gems)—right faith, right knowledge and right conduct—which constitute the path of *moksha* (liberation). According to Jainism the universe had no beginning and will have no end, and no creator is necessary to explain the existence of the cosmos. They believe in ahimsa and worship in their temples before the images of their Tirthankaras or Jinas.

Sikh—Sikhism is a monotheistic religion, disavouring idolatry and making no distinctions among its followers. It prescribes the wearing by each adherent of a comb (*kangha*), an iron bangle (*kara*), a dagger (*kripan*) and a pair of short drawers (*kachha*) and prohibits the cutting of the hair (*kesa*) of the body. They attend congregational prayers in their *gurudwaras* and celebrate the birth anniversaries of their gurus.

Christian—The Christians believe in one God, his only son Jesus Christ (the saviour of mankind), the holy spirit, the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. The *Bible* is their holy book.

Yamnotri Temple





Gangotri Temple

Festivals and Fairs

There are a number of festivals and fairs which are held in the district, a brief account of the important ones being given below.

Hindu—On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, a fair of great importance, lasting a week, is held at Uttarkashi, beginning from January 14 on which date Makar Sankranti usually falls. It is witnessed by thousands of men and women who come from distant places. On this occasion fairs are also held at other places like Tehri, Devprayag and Rishikesh, which lie along the river Bhagirathi. In the Almora and Naini Tal districts this fair is called the Uttarkashi fair. The orthodox Hindus observe fast for three days, known as *trimaghi* in local parlance. On the fixed day bathing in the Bhagirathi starts early in the morning when gods and goddesses are worshiped, while the fair proper begins about 11 a.m. The highlanders stream to this fair in a procession following the deities and each deity is brought by its devotees in a decorated palanquin, accompanied by the blowing of *ransinghas* (trumpets), the beating of drums and the display of banners and flags. Gaily dressed men, women and children from every part of the district throng the roads which lead to Uttarkashi. Attired colourfully and decked in beautiful ornaments, worn only on such festive occasions, women move to the fair either in groups or in long lines sometimes three to four furlongs in length. Men sing and dance to the accompaniment of musical instruments. People gather round the palanquins bearing the idols of the deities and ceremoniously make their offerings. Religious ceremonies at the temple of Shakti constitute the salient feature of the fair, but it is the Lord Vishvanatha who has mainly contributed to the sanctity of Uttarkashi. Besides doing puja and indulging in fun and merriment the people exhibit for sale at the fair articles produced by them, participate in competitions and learn many things that may be useful to them in cultivation of land and improving the cattle breed. Thus the main trait of this fair is its increasingly educative value and it also offers to the people of Rawain and Uttarkashi an opportunity to display pieces of their workmanship. Dasahra is another important festival of the district which lasts for about two weeks in the month of Asvina. On this occasion Durga or Devi is especially worshipped and goats and he-buffaloes are sacrificed to propitiate her, pudding is distributed as *prasad* and ears of wheat and barley are worn in their caps by men and in their blouses by women. Dipavali, the festival of lamps, is also celebrated here in the month of Kartika as in other parts of the country. There are about a dozen other fairs, associated mostly with local deities, that are celebrated in the district on different occasions.

Sikh—The important festivals celebrated by the Sikhs of the district are the birthdays of their Gurus, Nanak and Govind Singh, and Baisakhi and Lohri. The *Granth* is read, processions are taken out and congregational prayers are held in the *gurudwaras* on these occasions.

Jain—The Jains of the district celebrate the birth and nirvana anniversaries of Mahavira, their 24th Tirthankara. The other important festivals are Paryushana, celebrated during the last ten days of Bhadra and Ashtanhika, during the last eight days of Kartika.

Christian—The main festivals of the Christians of the district are the Christmas which falls on December 25, and celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, Good Friday which commemorates his crucifixion, and Easter which celebrates his resurrection.

Muslim—The most important festivals observed by the Muslims of the district are Barawafat (the birthday of the prophet Muhammad), celebrated on the twelfth day of Rabi-al-awwal, when alms are distributed and people assemble to listen discourses on the prophet's life, Shab-e-Barat on the fourteenth night of Shaban, Id-ul-Fitr on the first of the month of Shawwal, when thanksgiving prayers are offered in mosques on the successful completion of the fasts of the month of Ramadan, Id-uz-Zuha (Bakr-Id) on the tenth day of Zilhijja to commemorate the prophet Ibrahim's submission to the will of God, and Muharram to commemorate the tragedy of Kerbala associated with the martyrdom of Imam Husain.

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and Inheritance

The laws governing succession and inheritance are the same in the district as in other parts of the State. The inheritance of property among the Hindus is determined according to the provisions of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, which brought about important changes in the law of succession for the Hindus, Jains and Sikhs and enables women to inherit coparcenary property. The Muslims are governed by their personal law of succession and inheritance and the Christians by the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

The impact of the Hindu Succession Act, however, was not felt in the villages, particularly in the *pattis* of Godarkhatal in tahsil Rajgarhi and Taknaur in tahsil Bhatwari, because so far no succession seems to have actually taken place there in accordance with the provisions of this law. The people here are generally ignorant of the Act and continue to stick to the old traditional customs, even if they are inconsistent with the provisions of the Act. The more important of these customs governing inheritance of property in this area are those relating to *gharjawain*, adoption, *jhaleta*, *sautiya-bant* and *jethon*. If a man, having no son, marries his daughter to a person who agrees to live at his (father-in-law's) house, such a son-in-law is known as *gharjawain*. In such cases the daughter inherits her father's property. A daughter is considered an heir to her father's property only when her husband is accepted as *gharjawain* but, should she go to live at her husband's house, the property is usually inherited by the nearest male heirs of her father. Even

in case there is a *gharjawain*, the relatives of the deceased usually put up a strong fight for the property, especially if the marriage has been arranged by his widow. A *gharjawain* also does not lose his rights in his own parental estate. If a son is born to the father-in-law subsequently that son and the *gharjawain* share the property equally.

A man or his widow can adopt a son and appoint him as the heir to their estate. The person adopted helps the man in his old age, looks after his cultivation, performs his funeral ceremonies, pays off his debts, and inherits his property.

The children of a woman by a previous marriage, whom she takes with her to her second husband's house, lose their parental inheritance, but are entitled to succeed to their stepfather's property, or to share it equally with their stepbrothers born to their mother by her new husband. This type of succession is known as *jhaleta*.

The custom of *sautiya-bant* (division per stirps) was originally connected with the Khasa law of inheritance and provided for a division of the property of a man among his wives even in his lifetime, the share of each wife going to her sons. This practice is now not recognised by the courts of law and all the sons of a deceased person get equal shares.

Under the custom known as *jethon*, the eldest son was given a bigger share in the property left by his father than any of his younger brothers.

In the area where levirate is practised, a widow is inherited by her husband's eldest surviving brother or equivalent relative. If she wishes to remarry a man not belonging to the family, she is generally allowed to do so and her children by that man (the *kathala*) become lawful heirs to her late husband's property.

An important feature of the life of the people residing in this district is their strong family attachment. For important economic reasons, they are, as a rule, averse to the splitting up of the joint family. The vogue of polyandry under which several brothers in a family may have a common wife has also contributed to family cohesion. In this system the elder brother gets married and all others, irrespective of their age, *ipso facto* become the husbands of the woman. Their relations are governed by certain conventions which are generally honoured so that no disharmony results in the family. This system has led to an intensive form of joint family. Due to the absence of male jealousies and the high status given to the elder brother, the common causes of dispute among the brothers, that ordinarily split a family, are eliminated.

Marriage and Morals

According to the census of 1961, there were 1,22,836 persons in the district, of whom 62,534 were males and 60,302 females, the distribution among the married, unmarried, widowed and divorced or separated persons of different age-groups being as under:

Genl. (R)—1979—6

Age-group	Unmarried		Married		Widowed		Divorced or separated		Unspecified	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-9	13,992	13,918	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10-14	5,927	4,480	166	515	1	..	2	2	..	1
15-19	3,632	964	1,499	4,705	6	16	11	15	2	1
20-24	1,870	125	3,706	5,442	32	32	25	24	1	1
25-29	787	45	4,653	5,068	62	54	34	24	1	2
30-34	489	22	4,524	4,696	83	163	42	20	..	1
35-39	240	18	4,040	3,535	125	242	24	17	..	2
40-44	139	8	3,234	5,026	135	340	15	14	..	..
45-49	109	8	3,192	2,308	154	650	27	11	..	..
50-54	110	7	2,968	2,045	275	1,033	40	8	..	..
55-59	53	3	2,061	1,123	232	1,001	18	4	..	..
60-64	39	3	1,499	753	347	1,350	8	8	..	..
65-69	27	1	652	202	217	751	4	3	..	2
70 and above	31	2	577	169	367	1,230	5	4	..	1
Age not stated	20	10	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
District total	27,465	19,604	32,774	33,591	2,036	6,942	255	154	4	11

The percentage of persons who were unmarried was 38.4 of the total population while, the percentages of the married and widowed or divorced persons were 54.0 and 7.6 respectively. Among males 43.9 per cent were unmarried, 52.4 per cent were married and 3.7 per cent were widowed or divorced. Among females 32.5 per cent were unmarried, 55.7 per cent were married and 11.8 per cent were widowed or divorced. Of the married males 40.9 per cent were in the age-groups from 35 to 54 and 14.6 per cent in the age-groups of 55 and above. Among males and females aged 35 and over, 2.8 per cent of the males and only 0.25 per cent of the females were not married. The percentages of males and females of age up to 14 years, returned as married, are 0.5 and 1.5 respectively. It shows that early marriage is still prevalent in the district of Uttarkashi.

Hindu— For the Hindus, marriage is a sacrament, its rites being prescribed in the *Dharmashastras* (*Smritis* or law books) and to a considerable extent, particularly in this region, by custom and tradition. Thus variations in ceremonies and rites connected with marriage are found from caste to caste and sometimes from family to family within a caste.

According to the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the minimum age prescribed for the marriage of a man is 18 years and that of a girl 15 years, although if the latter has not completed the age of 15 the consent of her guardian has to be obtained. The Act has made polygamy illegal and abolished the customary restrictions such as those on inter-caste and inter-subcaste marriages and even on marriages between persons belonging to the same *gotra* (eponymous group descended from a common ancestor in the male line of descent), but has upheld those on marriages between *sapindas* (literally, having the same *pinda* or funeral cake; agnates within seven generations). For purposes of this Act the Jains and Sikhs are included in the term Hindu.

In spite of this legislation, both polygamy and polyandry are still found prevailing in the district, although the latter is confined to *pattis* Fateh-Parbat, Athor and Badasu of tahsil Purola, contiguous to Jaunsar-Bawar. Polyandry is particularly practised by the members of the Scheduled Castes among whom several brothers often have a common wife. The reason for the prevalence of polygamy is, perhaps, economic as the wives work hard in the fields and participate in other activities connected with agriculture. The people here, therefore, did not welcome the law prohibiting polygamy and considered it an encroachment on their personal liberty.

People usually prefer to marry within the caste and even the sub-caste, but instances of inter-caste and inter-subcaste marriages are not infrequent and they are accepted by society. Even when a man marries a woman of a lower caste than his own, no stigma is generally attached to such a union.

After the usual betrothal, on some auspicious day the bridegroom is taken in procession to the bride's house where at an appointed hour the priest, usually a Brahmana, particularly in marriages among the higher castes, performs the ceremony before the sacred fire, the *phera* (*bhanwar* or *saptapadi*, that is, going round the sacred fire seven times) and *anchal* (*gathbandhan* or tying the knot) being considered necessary ingredients of the ceremony. The guests are then feasted and the bridegroom takes the bride to his house.

Among the Scheduled Castes (Doms or Shilpkars) and to some extent among the Khasas also, marriage by purchasing the bride and giving to her guardian the 'bride's money' agreed upon, also takes place. A kept woman (*dhanti*) is also considered, for all practical purposes, a wife. Among the Jads, who claim to be Rajputs and are divided into several endogamous groups, marriage of cousins and even of a girl with her maternal uncle is permissible. In the Scheduled Castes marriages no elaborate rites are performed—people eat and drink on the occasion and the marriage is considered final.

Muslim and Christian—Marriage among Muslims is performed in accordance with Muslim personal law and custom and among the Christians according to the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, as amended in 1952.

Dowry—Giving and taking of dowry has not been unknown in the district, but perhaps it never assumed the undesirable form it did in the plains. Moreover, in these parts often the bridegroom has to pay a sort of dowry under the name of bride's price to her guardian. However, since the enactment of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, the giving and accepting of dowry have been declared illegal.

Civil Marriage—The Special Marriage Act, 1954, provides for marriage to be performed and registered by a marriage officer appointed in the district by government, differences in religion of the parties being no bar to such marriages. However, so far no civil marriage is known to have taken place in the district.

Widow Marriage—The Hindu Widow Marriage Act, 1956, has made widow marriage among the Hindus legal, but as it has not yet found favour with the high caste people of the district, they rarely contract such marriages of which the offspring are usually called *bhanjeta*. The widow of a Khasa generally prefers to live as a kept woman (*dhanti*) of somebody of her choice. Sometimes a well-to-do widow keeps with her a male supporter (*tekwa*) who lives for all practical purposes as her husband. There is no customary bar to widow marriage among the Doms or Shilpkars, and among the Jads also the widow is at liberty to live with a man of her choice provided he belongs to the same subcaste as she does.

Divorce—Divorce or dissolution of marriage is prevalent, particularly among the Shilpkars of the district under a customary law which,

in the days of the former Tehri state, was known as 'Chhoot Vidhan', and not in accordance with the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

Prostitution and Traffic in Women—Before 1960, the year of the enforcement of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, in the district, a number of women and girls belonging to the Scheduled Castes and hailing from this region practised prostitution in certain cities of the plains, but there have never been any regular brothels in the district itself.

Gambling—People of the district, it is said, do not indulge in gambling except during the Diwali festival. The Public Gambling Act, 1867, as amended in 1952 and 1962 for the State of Uttar Pradesh, prohibits gambling in this district as well, but only one case of prosecution and conviction under the Act, has been reported from the district during the five years ending in the year 1966.

Home-life

According to the census of 1961, there are 24,387 occupied houses in the district, of which only 720 are in the urban area, giving an overall average of about five persons per house. The number of households* given is 25,525 of which 721 are in the urban area, the respective averages of persons per household being 4.8 in the rural and 3.7 in the urban areas.

Houses—In the district, habitations and houses are generally found to stand on open hill tops. The dwellings differ in shape and construction from locality to locality according to climatic conditions and may be broadly classed into two types. Those in the colder regions, such as in the *pattis* of Fateh-Parbat, Athor and Badasu in tahsil Purola, Gith and Bajri in tahsil Rajgarhi and Taknor in tahsil Bhatwari, are generally built on a plinth area of $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ square yards or $7\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ square yards, rise to a height of 9 yards to 13 yards and have from three to five storeys. In shape they appear like a closed tower, without any windows but with a verandah in front of the entrance (usually $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards high and $\frac{3}{4}$ yard wide) at the ground floor. The walls are made of stone or wood and the roofs are covered with the planks of deodar, sometimes also with slate. Small holes made into the walls and the roof and known as *samlais* serve as ventilators. The ground-floor (*ovara*) is used for housing cattle and storing grass and fuel for which purpose the first floor is also used. The upper storeys are called *majyula* or *bond* and are used for living purposes. The uppermost storey is known as *barud*. A staircase connects the different storeys so that the inmates do not have to go out into the open, particularly during the prolonged spells of inclement weather. A store-house (*kothar*), usually 5×5 sq. yards and made of deodar wood, is built in the courtyard in front of the house, for storing

* As defined in the Census of India, 1961 (Vol. XV, U. P., Part IV-A), a household is constituted by a group of related or unrelated persons living together and having a common kitchen.

grain, utensils, etc. Sometimes a stout iron chain with brass-bells attached to it, with one end fastened inside the *kothar* and the other inside the house, is used as a device against thieves attempting to steal goods from the *kothar*, the ringing of the bells alerting the inmates of the house. In the warmer parts of the district, such as in tahsil Dunda and *pattis* Barkot, Godarkhatal, Banal, Thakral and Mogarsanti of tahsil Rajgarhi and Kamalsarayan and Ramsarayan of tahsil Purola, houses are usually built two to three storeys high. Each house has a verandah in front, roofed with slate. Sometimes thatched roofs are also to be seen in these houses. These dwellings are usually equipped with small windows and balconies running around the upper storeys and the courtyard in front is usually paved with stone slabs. Here and there cement is also now being used in building houses. Cowhouses or cattle-sheds, usually in the form of thatched huts, are made near the fields where water, fodder and cover from heat and cold are easily available. In areas where community development programmes have been implemented platforms for washing utensils, bathing rooms, improved cattle-sheds, etc., are to be seen.

Furniture and Decoration—Only very few people in the district, who are educated and comparatively well off, particularly those in government service, have some items of furniture, furnishings and other accessories like chairs, tables, almirahs, beds and curtains in their dwellings. The masses are poor and cannot afford expenditure on such items, the space in their small houses being also too limited to accommodate these things. To them even a cot is a luxury, *murethas* (mattresses) being commonly used. Rough wooden stools and *takhats* (wooden divans) may also be seen in some houses. Crude clay or wooden toys and cheap pictures like those of religious shrines and deities are by and large the only pieces of decoration.

Food—In the valleys the staple food of the people generally consists of rice, wheat, *mandua* and *jhangora*. People are not vegetable minded and mostly eat chupatis with pulses, the poorer ones only with salt or chutney, in their morning and evening meals. Some use potatoes and only a few other vegetables. Milk is not commonly used but is converted into curd and then churned to produce *chhachh* and ghee which are taken to supplement food. In the Rawain area rice is taken in both the meals but in place of dal the starchy liquid extracted from boiled rice is used with salt. During winters poor people use nettle (locally called *kandali*) as vegetable.

On higher altitudes, potato, *lotu*, *phaphra* and *chaulai* are used as staple food and bracken (*lingra*), mushrooms, etc., as vegetables. The food of the Jads includes barley, wheat and rice and tea which they prepare after the fashion of the Bhotiyas, churning it in a long bamboo vessel.



Deviana Temple, Rawain

In the district, locally prepared liquor is frequently used. In the *pattis* of Godarkhatal, Mogarsanti and Kamalsarayan several kinds of liquor, such as *sur*, *ghani*, *sabli* and *pakhli* are prepared. On festive occasions liquor is lavishly consumed and guests are plied with it unreservedly. The use of tea is also on the increase.

During famines the people are known to have used the seeds of the *banj* tree to prepare bread and for vegetables, the roots of *genth* and *tarul* which are found in abundance in the forests. In the *pattis* of Fateh-Parbat and Panchgain, both in tahsil Purola, people are said to have used a wild root called *nakdoon* which, after having been boiled in water, is dipped in honey and gulped. It is said that after eating it one does not feel hunger for four to five days.

Dress—In colder regions people usually wear woollen clothes which are locally handspun, handwoven and hand-tailored. The usual dress for men consists of a *kurta* (long loose shirt), a *chhak-kaliya* coat or a *kalidar-angarkha* (another type of coat), a pair of pyjamas, (tight from the knee down), a round cap and a waistband. The women wear a long dress covering the whole body from neck to toes and called *cholti* or *ghundinyan*. Both sexes wear woollen shoes called *paintarvan*. As one approaches warmer regions a change in dress is noticed. In the *pattis* of Bhandarsyun, Mogarsanti, Banal and Ramsarayan women are also seen wearing *ghaghra*s (skirts) made of *dares* or some other white cloth. They also tie a scarf, called *talak*, round their head. Men wear jackets (*mirjais*) made of cotton cloth, pyjamas and caps (*do-kali topi*). Mill-made cloth is becoming popular and in places, particularly in urban areas, the use of shirts, coats and trousers among men and of cotton and siken saris among women is on the increase.

Among the Jads, men dress like other Garhwalis but their women wear long coats, generally made of black blanket cloth, reaching down to the heels and girdled up with a long narrow strip of red woollen cloth. Their head-dress is a shallow dish-like woollen cap which is turned up and folded all round the rim. Often they keep their heads uncovered. For lower garments they use trousers made of the same material as the coat.

In tahsil Bhatwari the clothes commonly used are *sular* (pyjamas), *kurta*, *sadri* (waistcoat), *topli* (cap), *choli* (long woollen coat), *dhoti*, *bankhi* (woollen dhoti), *ghaghra* or *lehnga* (petticoat), *fateru* (woollen muffler for girdling the loins) and *sampa* (head dress for women). *Julka* is a long robe worn at the time of the Pandava dance.

Jewellery—Gold or silver ornaments are mostly used by women in the district, the common ones being *nath*, *bulak* and *fulli* for the nose, *lolak*, *murki* and *jhumka* for the ears, *kanthi*, *har* and *hansuli* for the neck, *kara*, *chura* and *pahunchi* for the hands, *pota*, *jhiuri* and *patri* for the feet, and *sheesh-phool* for the head.

Communal Life

Recreations—The people of this district, lying as it does in the heart of the Himalayas, are hard-working simple folk who have been little affected by outward influences and have, therefore, been able to preserve their local culture, folklore, folk-songs and folk-dances, festivals and fairs which relieve the monotony of their life and provide them with opportunities of relaxation, recreation and amusement.

The more important of their folk-dances are the Pandava, Bir, Raso, Ghorī, Ghandiyāl, Dālī and Gaīndī, some of which are religious or traditional and others seasonal or simply recreational. Men and women join freely in some of these dances, often to the accompaniment of the beating of drums and the blowing of *ransinghas* (trumpets). In some dances masques are worn and in others swordplay is added. The gay-coloured skirts and jackets of the female dancers lend special charm to the intricate movements performed without apparent effort and to the smooth performance of the steps. Folk-dancing and light music in chorus constitute the usual evening routine for the rural folk of the district, for which they assemble after the evening meals in the central yard of the village. The dancers generally divide themselves into two groups, one male and the other female, both facing each other. While holding hands, bending and swaying their bodies and taking short high steps, singing all the time. After the first group finishes dancing, the second group starts, the former standing still.

Among folk-songs certain types like the Raso-geet, Chhari-geet, Jagar, Panvda or Chhounḍa, Tandī-geet and Chaupatī-geet are more popular and generally sung by men and women in groups.

Besides the festivals and local fairs some pilgrimages are also undertaken. At a few places Ramlīlā is also celebrated but Pandavālīlā is far more popular in the district. Under development programmes also *kisan-melas* (peasant fairs), lasting two to three days, are now and then organised in the development blocks. On such occasions, besides folk-dances, folk-songs and short dramatic performances, documentary films are also shown, which prove to be a great attraction for the rural folk. A football tournament is held annually at Uttarkashi and in some places badminton and table-tennis matches are also arranged. In the countryside volleyball is getting popular.

There are 194 Yuvak Mangal Dals (youth clubs) and 25 Bal Marigal Dals (children's clubs) which arrange programmes for the recreation of the local people. The members of the Prantiya Rakshak Dal organise demonstrations of physical exercises and military training for the benefit of the youth of the district. There are about 500 radio-sets in the district, most of which are community radios supplied by the State information department.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CENSUS 1971

Growth of Population (p. 27)

Year	Persons	Males	Females
1961	1,22,836	62,534	60,302
1971	1,47,805	77,832	69,973

Percentage Variation (p. 27)

Year	Population	Percentage variation		
		Total	Rural	Urban
1961	1,22,836	+15.8	+14.6	122.2
1971	1,47,805	+20.3	28.0	124.9

Population by Tahsils (p. 28)

Tahsil	Inhabited villages	Persons			Male			Female		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Purōla	177	32,917	32,917	—	17,523	17,523	—	15,394	15,394	—
Rajgarhi	179	33,123	33,123	—	17,823	17,823	—	15,300	15,300	—
Dunda	222	52,300	52,300	—	25,740	25,740	—	26,560	26,560	—
Bhatwari	94	29,465	23,445	6,020	16,746	12,934	3,812	12,719	10,511	2,208
Total	672	1,47,805	1,41,785	6,020	77,832	74,020	3,812	69,973	67,765	2,208

Population according to Community (p. 32)

Community	Total	Rural	Urban
Hindus	1,46,053	1,40,268	5,785
Buddhists	880	875	5
Muslims	575	395	180
Sikhs	133	92	41
Jains	148	146	2
Christians	15	9	6
Religion not stated	1	—	1
Total	1,47,805	1,41,785	6,020

No. of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (p. 35) °

Tahsil/town	No. of Scheduled castes	No. of Scheduled Tribes
Tahsil (Rural)		
Purola	10,001	6
Rajgarhi	8,428	125
Dunda	12,109	113
Bhatwari	3,130	30
Urban		
Uttarkashi Town	521	8
district total	34,189	282

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

LAND UTILISATION AND RECLAMATION

In the tract now covered by the district of Uttarkashi, the area under the plough was 10,94,827 *nalis* and 7 *mutthis* (about 22,193.3 hectares) in 1924, which increased to 17,27,307 *nalis* and 5 *mutthis* (about 34,950.7 hectares) in 1963-64, showing an increase of 58 per cent in the cultivated area during a period of forty years. This increase in cultivated area is partly due to inaccurate measurement at the Settlement of 1924 and partly to the reclamation of considerable area in the interval.

The district has a hilly terrain and cultivation is ordinarily limited up to altitudes of about 2,000 m. above sea-level, although certain crops are grown up to a height of about 2,750 m.

For centuries, the gently sloping hillsides have been brought under the plough by making terraces. This is done by erecting low stone walls at the lower part of a slope and excavating the upper part until the whole becomes approximately level. As, however, the soil crust is very thin on most hillsides, the soil would get buried under the stones if terrace-making is carried out at once. Usually a low wall is built up and a small excavation made during the first year, the operation being completed in the course of time by weather, tilth and diluvion from higher fields. The villages are generally situated about half way up the ridges and the cultivation is done below and above them, the fields situated at lower levels being usually the better cultivated ones. At places, where the slope is steep and cultivation cannot be done with the help of bullocks and the plough, the practice of cultivation is known as *katil* and consists in burning the scrub and bushes after which the land is turned over with the help of a hoe and sown. After the harvest, the land is allowed to lie fallow for three or four years.

Cultivated Area

In 1963-64, out of the total cultivated area of the district, an area of 5,60,035 *nalis* (about 11,331.2 hectares) was in tahsil Dunda, 4,58,168 *nalis* and 15 *mutthis* (about 9,270.5 hectares) in tahsil Rajgarhi, 4,48,656 *nalis* and 2 *mutthis* (about 9,080.25 hectares) in tahsil Purola and 2,60,447 *nalis* and 1 *mutthi* (about 5,269.8 hectares) in tahsil Bhatwari. The assessed cultivated area in the district, however, was 16,74,269 *nalis* and 14 *mutthis* (about 33,880.7 hectares) of which an area of 5,48,570 *nalis* and 9 *mutthis* (about 11,100.3 hectares) was in tahsil Dunda, 4,51,245 *nalis* and 7 *mutthis* (about 9,130.4 hectares) in tahsil Rajgarhi, 4,19,842

nalis and 8 *mutthis* (about 8,490.6 hectares) in tahsil Purola and 2,54,611 *nalis* and 6 *mutthis* (about 5,150.5 hectares) in tahsil Bhatwari. The unassessed cultivated area in the district was, therefore, 53,037 *nalis* and 7 *mutthis* (about 1,070.5 hectares) of which an area of 28,813 *nalis* and 10 *mutthis* (about 580.4 hectares) was in tahsil Purola, 11,464 *nalis* and 10 *mutthis* (about 232.7 hectares) in tahsil Dunda, 6,923 *nalis* and 8 *mutthis* (about 140.4 hectares) in tahsil Rajgarhi and 5,835 *nalis* and 11 *mutthis* (about 118.3 hectares) in tahsil Bhatwari.

Cultivable Waste

At the Settlement of 1924 only the cultivated area of the district was measured. During the Settlement of 1963-64, the boundaries of the villages were fixed and the total area was measured but the forest area under the control of the forest department was left unmeasured. The measured area of the villages was classified as cultivated and uncultivated. The total uncultivated land in the district within the limits of the villages was 28,15,946 *nalis* and 6 *mutthis* (about 56,980.3 hectares) of which an area of 8,74,788 *nalis* and 13 *mutthis* (about 17,700.6 hectares) was in tahsil of Purola, 7,87,288 *nalis* and 10 *mutthis* (about 15,930.5 hectares) in tahsil Rajgarhi, 6,53,392 *nalis* and 8 *mutthis* (about 13,220.7 hectares) in tahsil Dunda and 5,00,536 *nalis* and 7 *mutthis* (about 10,130.8 hectares) in tahsil Bhatwari, and included lands which were barren, or those covered with water, or occupied by habitations, roads, buildings, burial grounds, etc. Figures of the area of culturable waste lands are, however, not separately available.

IRRIGATION

At the time of the Settlement of 1924, the irrigated area of the district was 1,36,467 *nalis* and 2 *mutthis* (about 2,760.3 hectares) or 12.46 per cent of the total cultivated area, the unirrigated area being 9,58,360 *nalis* and 5 *mutthis* (about 19,390.7 hectares) or 87.54 per cent of the total cultivated area. At the Settlement of 1963-64, the irrigated area was returned as 2,27,557 *nalis* and 11 *mutthis* (about 4,600.2 hectares) or 13.19 per cent of the total cultivated area, the unirrigated area being 14,99,749 *nalis* and 10 *mutthis* (about 30,350.3 hectares) or 86.91 per cent of the total cultivated area. Thus an additional area of 91,090 *nalis* and 9 *mutthis* (about 1,840.7 hectares) was brought under irrigation during the period of 40 years, registering an increase of about 67 per cent.

AGRICULTURE INCLUDING HORTICULTURE

Soils

The soils in the valleys are alluvia of red and brown colour, being thin on the hillsides. The soil on the shady side of a hill, especially if it is bordered by forests, retains moisture better than if it has a southern aspect and is usually thicker and richer. At places, the quality of the soil, if it is not alluvial, is determined by the kind of rocks in the subsoil.

No scientific study of the soils in the district has been made so far. At the Settlement of 1963-64, the assessed cultivated land of the district was classified into five groups, *talaon*, *upraon I*, *upraon II*, *ijran* and *khil* or *katil*.

The *talaon* (irrigated) lands are found nearly in all the villages of the district. The soils are fertile and are suitable for the cultivation of wheat and paddy, canals and streams forming the chief sources of irrigation. The area under *talaon* lands in the district was 2,23,296 *nalis* and 1 *mutthi* (about 4,523.8 hectares) of which an area of 89,055 *nalis* and 12 *mutthis* (about 1,800.6 hectares) was in tahsil Dunda, 73,100 *nalis* and 11 *mutthis* (about 1,480.4 hectares) in tahsil Purola, 31,287 *nalis* (about 630.3 hectares) in tahsil Rajgarhi and 29,852 *nalis* and 10 *mutthis* (about 602.5 hectares) in tahsil Bhatwari. At places these lands yield two crops a year.

The *upraon I* lands are as good as *talaon* but they are not irrigated and depend totally for their cultivation on rainfall. These lands are found in the valleys near the habitations and are suited for the cultivation of paddy, *jhangora*, wheat, barley and *mandua*. The area under such lands in the district was 5,83,913 *nalis* and 12 *mutthis* (about 11,782.4 hectares) of which an area 1,99,871 *nalis* and 15 *mutthis* (about 4,040.4 hectares) was in tahsil Dunda, 1,77,565 *nalis* and 3 *mutthis* (about 3,560.7 hectares) in tahsil Rajgarhi, 1,08,402 *nalis* and 14 *mutthis* (about 2,200.4 hectares) in tahsil Purola and 98,073 *nalis* and 12 *mutthis* (about 1,980.4 hectares) in tahsil Bhatwari.

The *upraon II* or second class unirrigated terraced lands are slightly inferior to *upraon I* and lie above the villages near the top of the hills. They are suited for the cultivation of *jhangora* and *mandua*. At places wheat is also grown. The area under these lands in the district was 8,59,705 *nalis* and 2 *mutthis* (about 17,394.6 hectares) of which an area of 2,59,642 *nalis* and 14 *mutthis* (about 5,253.9 hectares) lay in tahsil Dunda, 2,40,645 *nalis* and 9 *mutthis* (about 4,868.5 hectares) in tahsil Rajgarhi, 2,33,104 *nalis* and 12 *mutthis* (about 4,716.6 hectares) in tahsil Purola and 1,26,311 *nalis* and 15 *mutthis* (about 2,555.6 hectares) in tahsil Bhatwari.

The *ijran* is the worst type of terraced land on the steep slopes of high hills and depends for its cultivation on rainfall. Cultivation is carried on in such land once in two years.

Like *ijran*, *khil* or *katil* lands are also found on steep slopes of high hills and the soil is full of stones. Terracing and ploughing is impossible. For cultivating these lands shrubs and bushes growing in them are burnt and the soil is turned over with a hoe and sown. After the harvest, the land is allowed to lie fallow for about three or four years. The area under *ijran* and *katil* lands was 92,777 *nalis* and 12

mutthis (about 1,876.3 hectares) at the Settlement of 1924, but at that of 1963-64 it got reduced to 7,354 *nalis* and 15 *mutthis* (about 148.5 hectares) of which 5,234 *nalis* (about 105.4 hectares) lay in tahsil Purola, 1,747 *nalis* and 11 *mutthis* (about 35.3 hectares) in tahsil Rajgarhi and 373 *nalis* (about 7.6 hectares) in tahsil Bhatwari, there being no *ijran* or *katil* land in tahsil Dunda.

Soil Erosion—Owing to the existence of high gradients and a large number of rivers and streams, the problem of soil erosion in the district is acute. The government have started several schemes to check it, such as planting trees and constructing irrigation channels. Scientific methods are being employed in ploughing the fields and line-sowing is being stressed.

Harvests

The main harvests in the district are *rabi* (spring) and *kharif* (autumn). The *rabi* crops include wheat, barley, gram, *masur*, *lai*, *rada*, pea, tobacco, garlic, *methi*, *dhaniya* and *zeera*, and are sown from October to November and harvested from April to May, except in the north-east where owing to excessive cold they are sown in September-October and harvested in July-August, the crops remaining under the snow for about six months. The *kharif* crops include paddy, *bajra*, *jhangora*, jowar, *kauri*, *mandua*, *marisa*, *gahath*, *bhatta*, *urd*, *mung*, *rayans*, *sonte*, *tor*, maize, *til*, cotton, *kotu* and *phaphra*. Paddy, *jhangora*, *kauri*, *tor*, *til* and cotton are sown in April-May and harvested in September-October. *Mandua*, *marisa*, *gahath*, *bhatta*, *urd*, *mung*, *sonte* and maize are sown in May-June and harvested in October-November. *Kotu* and *phaphra*, which are grown in the higher altitudes, are sown in May and harvested in October-November. Pea and gram are not grown in the higher altitudes. In the south-western part of the district all crops mentioned above and vegetables are grown.

Method of Cultivation

To prepare the land for sowing coarse *kharif* crops, such as *jhangora* and *mandua*, it is ploughed once and for other crops, twice. For sowing rice, and sometimes wheat, the clods are broken up after each ploughing by an instrument (*dilera*) which resembles a mallet with a long handle. The ground is also made smooth with an instrument (*jol*) which is like a harrow without teeth. The seed is then sown by a man skilled in the process, and the land is ploughed a second or third time as necessary. The *jol* is then finally drawn over the field again, this time very carefully, to make it quite even. To fields of *mandua*, *jhangora* and other coarse food-grains the harrow is applied a second time also. Then, until the crop begins to come into ear, they are regularly weeded with a hoe. The *rabi* crop is neither harrowed nor weeded, except after a heavy rainfall over a clay soil when the seed has already germinated. In such cases the land is harrowed sometimes to

let the shoots come out. The crop is reaped with a sickle, paddy plants being cut close to the root. Only the ears of the *jhangora* and *mandua* crops are initially cut, and the stalks are left to dry, being cut and stored as fodder subsequently. Wheat and barley plants are cut about the middle. On arrival of the sheaves at the threshing-floor the ears are chopped off for threshing, while the stalk is fed to the cattle. Ordinarily the stumps remaining in the field are grazed by cattle or burnt. However, when grass is scarce, the stumps are carefully cut and stored to serve as fodder. Straw is stacked in trees near the homestead, and, in the absence of such trees, on poles known as *taila*. The reaped paddy plants are not taken to the threshing-floor. They are usually left on the field for three days after being cut, and then spread in sheaves on a matting of *ringal* or of wheat straw. The grain is then pressed out by the feet.

Threshing-floors are usually constructed on a ridge, where a good current of air may be anticipated. They are commonly paved with flag-stones. The grain is trodden out by oxen in the usual way and winnowed by pouring it out of a basket held high on a mat. The grain is then stored in big baskets in the upper storey of the house. Rice is husked when required for use by pounding it in a sort of stone mortar, hollowed out of the floor of the courtyard, with a wooden pounder about 6 cm. in diameter and 1.5 m. long, narrow in the middle where it is grasped, and bound at the ends with iron rings, known as *ginjyala*.

In irrigated land paddy, is usually sown in a seed bed. At the beginning of the rains after the young plants have attained a height of about 5 cm. they are transplanted. All the finer kinds of rice are produced by this method, which has also the advantage of rendering land, for which no water is available during the hot weather, as valuable as the perennially irrigated land. In case of *mandua* and *jhangora* all that is done by way of transplantation is to fill up the sparsely sown parts of the fields by putting in seedlings from the more thickly sown parts so that the crop may be even all over.

Principal Crops

The chief *kharif* crops are paddy, *jhangora*, *mandua*, pulses and potatoes and the chief *rabi* crops are wheat, barley and *masur*.

Horticulture and Fruit Utilisation

The district has an ideal climate for the plantation and growth of orchards. Besides land already under cultivation there are tracts, rich in humus and organic matter, between heights of 1,800 m. and 3,000 m., suitable for gardening. They are, however, under the forest department. As the areas of land possessed by farmers are limited, they generally prefer growing food crops, being unable to make much larger investments

required for gardening which, in addition, begins to yield returns only after six or seven years.

Schemes for the promotion of orchards were started in the area long before the formation of the district. The progress was slow as the orchardists lacked the necessary materials and the technical know-how. After the formation of the district the following schemes were started by the government for the development of horticulture and fruit utilisation.

Long-term Loans and Grants-in-aid—This scheme envisaged assistance to orchardists to enable them to improve existing orchards and lay out new ones. Under this scheme loans are given to orchardists for a term of 15 years at the rate of Rs 600 per acre, subject to a maximum of Rs 3,000, and the repayment of the loans starts five years after their disbursement. One-sixth of the amount of loan is liable to be converted into a subsidy on its proper utilisation. During the years 1962-63, 1963-64 and 1964-65, amounts of Rs 1,00,000, Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000, respectively, were sanctioned for disbursement to orchardists under the scheme.

This scheme has greatly assisted in the plantation of new orchards and in improving the economic well-being of the people. Before the formation of the district the area under orchards was 962 acres only which increased to 3,100 acres (1,255 hectares). in 1962-63.

Multipurpose Horticultural Farms—Three orchards at Raithal, Harsil and Jarmola in the district were set up by the government to raise fruit seedlings and saplings to meet local demand, serve as demonstration units for the protection of fruits, fruit plants and vegetables from pests by the use of insecticides, etc., raise vegetables to augment the limited local supply and raise orchards in which the best methods of grafting and pruning are demonstrated. The stress is on disseminating information about the horticulture in order to meet the increasing demand for fruits and vegetables in the hills and the plains and provide people, who take up horticultural projects, with an additional and stable source of income. These farms also save the orchardists considerable expenditure which they would have had to incur in transporting saplings from outside, and improve the rate of survival of saplings, since the distance covered in transport has been greatly reduced. Government planted a model orchard, 5 hectares in area in the Purola block in 1963, another, 4 hectares in area, in the Nawagaon block in 1964, and one each in the Dunda and Bhatwari blocks in 1966, with areas of 3 hectares and one hectare respectively. Horticultural demonstrations are held at these farms which also extend technical guidance to growers. The district could not meet its total demand of saplings till 1961-62 but from 1962-63 it has started the export of saplings to other districts. The

production in these farms and the model orchard from 1962-63 to 1964-65 has been as follows:

Year	No. of fruit plants produced and distributed	Vegetable seed produced (in kg.)	Vegetable seed distributed /sold (in kg.)	Vegetables produced/sold (in kg.)	Potatoes produced (in kg.)	Fruits produced (in kg.)
1962-63	1,10,515	162	829	N.A.	2,405	N.A.
1963-64	76,772	1,045.80	352.95	2,100.00	1,720.25	62.00
1964-65	51,106	293.62	186	4,776.49	1,216.00	2,700.54

Plant Protection Mobile Teams—Under this scheme six teams have been functioning in the district since 1961-62. One of the main functions of these teams is to disseminate technical knowledge about the use of insecticides and practical care of orchards. These teams move throughout the district in their respective areas assisting the orchardists by distributing improved variety of fruit plants, suggesting the sites and ideal lay-outs for orchards, demonstrating proper budding, grafting, pruning and culturing of fruit trees and treating trees, plants, crops, vegetables and seeds against pests and diseases. The principal achievements of these teams from 1962-63 to 1964-65 were as follows:

Year	Fruit plants supplied (nos.)	Vegetable seed distributed (kg.)	Building demonstrations (nos.)	Manurial demonstrations (acres)	Treatment of fruit plants against pests and diseases (acres)	Vegetable, agricultural crops treated against pests and diseases (acres)	Systematic lay-out of land (acres)
1962-63	N.A.	N.A.	1,073	N.A.	N.A.	130.25	N.A.
1963-64	30,758	1,014.10	5,727	912	N.A.	192.17	76.8
1964-65	84,942	996.21	1,761	2,470	33,637	494.06	325.61

Besides the above achievements the teams established 1,156 kitchen gardens, pruned 77,161 plants and cleared an area of about 248 hectares of rat infestation in 1964-65.

Transport Subsidy—In order to insure that the orchardists in the various parts of the district get fruit plants at reasonable rates, the cost of their transport from the farms and nurseries to the block headquarters is subsidised by the government. Vegetable seeds are also being distributed under this scheme. A sum of Rs 4,000 was sanctioned as grant-in-aid towards transport subsidy in 1962-63 of which an amount of about Rs 2,950 was utilised. In the following two years the grants sanctioned amounted to Rs 5,000 and Rs 4,000 respectively.

Purchase and Sale of Fruit Plants on no-Profit no-Loss Basis—

This scheme, which was started in 1962-63, has greatly helped the distribution of fruit plants to actual beneficiaries. The year-wise grants for the years 1962-63, 1963-64 and 1964-65 sanctioned for the purchase and supply of fruit plants and vegetable seeds for ultimate sale to prospective buyers against cash payment on a 'no-profit-no-loss' basis amounted to Rs 35,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively.

Mali (Gardener) Training Scheme—This scheme, which was started in 1961-62, envisages the training, by departmental staff at the multi-purpose horticultural farms, of local people in pruning, grafting, plant protection measures, use of insecticides, etc., for a period of three months. A trainee is awarded a stipend of Rs 40 per month.

Community Canning Centres—The season of the maturity of hill fruits such as apples, pears, plums and peaches, is comparatively short whereas the demand for them extends over a much longer period. In order to meet the demand, two community canning centres were opened in the district, the first at Uttarkashi in 1961-62 and the second at Nawagaon in 1965-66. The main function of these centres is to promote knowledge about the preservation of fresh fruits so as to enable the local orchardists to derive full benefit from their produce. The achievements under the scheme in the district were as follows:

Year			Fruits canned (in kg.)	Candidates trained
1962-63	..	..	918	76
1963-64	..	..	1,061	N. A.
1964-65	..	..	3,219	153

Rewards to Orchardists—The local people are extremely poor and have frequently found it difficult to switch over to orchard plantation because this results in a reduction in their agricultural income during the period taken by the orchard to start bearing fruit. With a view to attract local people to utilise increasingly their land for plantation of orchards and thereby achieve long-term economic advantage, it was decided by the government to give incentives to orchardists in the shape of cash awards, i.e., first and second prizes of Rs 200 and Rs 100 respectively at the district level and Rs 100 and Rs 50 at the block level from 1964-65.

Improvement of Agriculture

Agricultural Implements—A large number of improved and modern agricultural implements has been distributed to cultivators after the formation of the district. To impart knowledge about the use of

these implements and the improved methods of cultivation, 450 demonstrations were held in 1960-61 and the numbers of those held in the following two years were 504 and 466 respectively. The fact that improved and modern implements are superior to the old and indigenous ones is increasingly being realised by the cultivators. Two improved ploughs, 62 seed drills and some other implements were distributed to cultivators by the government in 1964-65.

Seeds—Formerly the cultivators used ordinary seeds as improved seeds were not available to them. Under the foundation seed scheme started by the government after the formation of the district, some good cultivators in each village are provided with improved seeds to sow, multiply and distribute to other cultivators. The quantities of seeds distributed were 54,755 kg., 42,027 kg. and 15,302 kg. in 1960-61 and 1961-62 and 1962-63 respectively. The following statement gives some details of the foundation seed scheme for the year 1963-64:

Item	Kharif	Rabi
Quantity of foundation seeds distributed to Gram Beej Sahayaks (in quintals)	25.90	77.34
Quantity of seeds multiplied by Gram Beej Sahayaks (in quintals)	249.47	301.53
Quantity of seeds exchanged by Gram Beej Sahayaks (in quintals)	150.59	150.36

Japanese Method of Paddy Cultivation—In 1960-61, the area under the Japanese method of paddy cultivation was 1,108 acres (about 445 hectares), which in the years 1961-62 and 1962-63 increased to 1,560 acres (about 630 hectares) and 1,812 acres (about 732 hectares), respectively. The maximum yield per hectare was about 90 quintals in 1962.

U. P. Method of Wheat Cultivation—The area to which the U. P. method of wheat cultivation was applied was 415 acres (about 168 hectares) in 1960-61 and in the following two years it rose to 2,071 acres (about 838 hectares) and 2,285 acres (about 923 hectares) respectively.

Soil Nutrient—The traditional manures for maintaining fertility of the soil are cattle dung, farm-yard refuse and stable litter. A large quantity of cow dung is utilised as manure by the cultivators as it is generally not used as fuel.

Compost Manure—Conversion of farm refuse into compost is being popularised in the district. During 1963-64, as many as 518 pukka and 8,149 kutcha pits were maintained in the district for preparing compost manure.

Chemical Fertilisers—Before the formation of the district the average quantity of chemical fertilisers used in the area per year was

between 90 and 112 quintals only, but after the formation of the district about 3,360 quintals of chemical fertilisers were distributed to cultivators during a period of three years. In 1963-64, a quantity of about 189 tonnes of chemical fertilisers were distributed in the district and in the following year, quantities of 209 tonnes of nitrogenous and 90 tonnes of phosphatic fertilisers were distributed in the district.

Manurial Demonstrations—To increase the use of manure, 362 general manurial demonstrations and 254 fertiliser demonstrations were held in the development blocks in 1963-64 and in the following year the numbers of such demonstrations were 182 and 127 respectively.

Rotation of Crops and Fallowing—The practice of growing different crops in rotation on the same piece of land has been followed since time immemorial by the cultivators of the district, the knowledge being empirical rather than scientific. Now better methods of rotation of crops have been evolved and farmers are adopting them gradually. Irrigated or *talaon* land yields two crops a year. According to the prevailing system of rotation, paddy is sown in May-June and harvested in September-October, to be followed by wheat sown in October and reaped in April. Then *mandua* is sown in June and harvested in October and the field is left fallow for the next *rabi* season. Thus the course of rotation generally followed is paddy-wheat-mandua-fallow-paddy. For the purpose of rotation the *upraon* land of each village is divided into two parts. Rice is grown in one division, known as the *satyara*, and *mandua* is sown in the other, known as the *kodara* (from *kodon*). During *rabi*, the *kodara* is left fallow and wheat is sown in the *satyara* which thus changes into the *gyunwara* (*gyun* meaning wheat). Subsequently, when *mandua* follows wheat, it becomes the *kodara*, while the *kodara* of the previous year becomes the *satyara*. Thus nearly half of the cultivable land in the village remains fallow during the winter.

Agricultural Diseases and Pests

The pests common in the district are the animal, bird and insect ones. Plant diseases, fungi and weeds also cause a great deal of damage to cereals, vegetables and orchards. Monkeys, rats, squirrels, wild animals, bats, parrots and other birds damage crops badly. The usual measures of protection employed are fencing, keeping watch and adopting means to destroy the pests. Leaf stripe, rust diseases, leaf roller, covered smut of barley and termites attack the wheat, barley and pea crops. The paddy crop is generally damaged by leaf spot, *gundhi* and *wifa*, the last two being insect pests. Potatoes are damaged by early and late blight, pink boll-worm and leaf spot. Citrus canker and wither tip damage citrus fruits. About 200 hectares of vegetable and agricultural crops and 30,667 fruit plants were saved from diseases and pests in 1964-65. Vegetable growths harmful to healthy crops are usually *bathua* (white goose-foot) and *chaulai* (a kind of spinach). Systematic roguing, destruction

of affected plants, interculture and sufficient ploughing of fields are the traditional methods generally practised by the farmers of the district in order to destroy these weeds. People are advised on matters relating to cultivation of healthy crops of fruits, vegetables and cereals by the staff of the development blocks, and are provided with spraying apparatuses, dusting machines and chemicals at moderate rates.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The hill cattle are usually small in size, active and surefooted. The cow is a poor milker producing usually not more than a kilogram of milk a day. When the size is a yak and the dam a hill cow the offspring is called *jubu*, when the percentage is reversed, *gajro*. Two kinds of goats are known in the district. The indigenous goat differs in no essential from the ordinary plains animal. It is bred for its meat.

Dairy-farming—The demand for milk and milk products is generally met by private cattle owners who have their own dairies in the district. During the summer, herds of buffaloes and cattle are housed in rough huts made of branches, thinly roofed with grass, in places called *kharka*, in pasture lands, removed from habitation, and a small staff looks after each herd, collects the milk and turns it into ghee for sale.

Poultry

Due to local prejudices and social customs, poultry was unpopular in the district in the past. Eggs and chickens were rarely used as food. After the formation of the district the government popularised poultry-farming. According to the live-stock census of 1961 there were 2,392 hens, chickens, cocks and other fowls in the district. The following statement gives the number of birds distributed from 1961-62 to 1964-65:

Year	Number of birds distributed			
1961-62	..	..	..	100
1962-63	..	..	..	160
1963-64	..	..	..	350
1964-65	..	..	..	1,150

Now people in almost every village are interested in poultry. There is a poultry-farm in the district at Gangori with 200 birds. A poultry demonstration unit is also functioning at Dunda with 20 birds.

Fisheries

Fisheries of the district comprise nearly all the rivers and perennial lakes. Potentialities for the development of fisheries, specially of the indigenous trout and mirror carp, are being explored in the Deondi Tal. The fish are caught by means of nets, baskets, traps and weirs and in the case of smaller rivers by diverting the stream. The fisheries section

of the animal husbandry department has established a hatchery at Kaldani in tahsil Bhatwari, where some hundreds of trouts are kept and about 2,500 fingerlings are produced every year for purposes of multiplication in the rivers of the district.

Cattle Diseases and Veterinary Facilities

The cattle in the district generally suffer from black-quarter, rinderpest, fowl pox, Ranikhet disease, contagious caprine, pleuropneumonia, enterotoxaemia, sheep and goat pox, anthrax, horse-sickness and rabies. Throughout the district the animals owned by the Bhotiyas are the usual carriers of *khuria* (foot-and-mouth) disease. The prevalence of the footrot disease is attributed largely to the practice of tethering cattle in the open fields for purposes of manuring. The cattle have often to stand for hours in the wet mud and consequently develop this disease. *Manrog* (rinderpest), which generally proves fatal to cattle, is not endemic in the district.

There are seven veterinary hospitals in the district at Bhatwari, Dunda, Naugaon, Purola, Uttarkashi, Arakot and Naitwar, the number of stockman centres being 21. The number of animals treated in the district during the third Five-Year Plan period was 1,03,814 and the number of those vaccinated against various contagious diseases during the same period was 48,202.

Housing and Feeding

Generally the cattle are housed in the *goth*, which is a small room on the ground floor of a dwelling house, or in separate cowsheds. Well-ventilated and well-lit cattle sheds are to be seen only in government shelters or in a few private establishments. Oak leaves are spread on the floor of the sheds at least once a year. Fodder consists chiefly of grass brought from the more precipitous hillsides by women. The cattle graze on the stubble of harvested fields, in forests or in village or hill-side pastures. Grazing facilities are available in the government and *gaon* panchayat forests with certain restrictions. In summer the cattle are driven up to the alpine pastures where there are more or less permanent cattle stations. The cattle stay there until the rains set in and the grass grows near the habitation sites.

FORESTRY

About 85 per cent of the total area of the district is covered with forests. The main forest products are timber and resin which yields rosin and turpentine. Besides, various medicinal plants and herbs grow in these forests which also provide grazing facilities to thousands of sheep and cattle.

The forests of the district yield annually about 61,393 cubic metres of coniferous timber, mainly *chir*, deodar, fir and spruce, and 18,000 quintals of resin. Herbs worth about Rs 27,000 are annually exported

to the plains. The working of the forests affords a great scope for the employment of local people.

For scientific development and exploitation of the forests, working plans are prepared for a period of 10 to 15 years by the forest department. The felling of trees and exploitation of forest wealth are regulated in accordance with the working plan of which the details are, however, liable to be suitably modified or altered as and when required. The working conditions in the forests have considerably improved partly because of the opening of roads and partly due to the construction of many buildings in the remote forest areas of the district.

Under the afforestation scheme, the decaying forests have been rehabilitated and trees of economic importance planted. Plantation of deodar, *chir* and *kail* trees has also been undertaken for checking soil erosion.

NATURAL CALAMITIES

Famine

Records of famines which occurred in the district prior to its formation are not available. Some part or the other of the district has suffered from failure of crops almost every year since 1959-60 in which year the *rabi* crops were affected by hail-storm in 22 villages of tahsil Dunda, three villages of tahsil Purola, eight villages in tahsil Rajgarhi and in the lower regions of tahsil Bhatwari. In 1960-61, hail-storms damaged the standing crops of paddy, *mandua* and *marsa* in three villages of tahsil Purola and, in the following year, in four villages of tahsil Rajgarhi. Hail-storms again damaged the crops of five villages in tahsil Rajgarhi in 1962-63, of 35 villages in tahsil Rajgarhi and six villages in tahsil Purola in 1963-64 and of five villages in tahsil Dunda in 1964-65. These failures of crops were mostly nominal and local. *Taqavi* loans were advanced where such assistance was called for. A statement of the areas affected by hail-storms and the amounts distributed as *taqavi* is given below:

Year	Areas affected	Taqavi distributed (in Rs)
1959-60	.. 22 villages in tahsil Dunda 3 villages in tahsil Purola 8 villages in tahsil Rajgarhi Part of tahsil Bhatwari	.. 20,000
1960-61	.. 3 villages of tahsil Purola	
1961-62	.. 4 villages of tahsil Rajgarhi	.. 2,500
1962-63	.. 5 villages of tahsil Rajgarhi	.. 3,000
1963-64	.. 35 villages of tahsil Rajgarhi	.. 23,000 <i>taqavis</i> and gratuitous relief
1964-65	.. 6 villages of tahsil Purola 5 villages of tahsil Dunda	

Floods

The rivers of the district are perennial and are subject to floods every year. Agricultural lands in the valleys, specially those of the smaller rivers, are affected by the floods. The State Government has started several flood control schemes.

Locusts

Sometimes the district is visited by locusts which greatly damage the crops. During the year 1961-62, some parts of tahsils Dunda and Rajgathi were visited by locusts.

CHAPTER V INDUSTRIES

Old-time Industries

The production of woollen goods, timber and baskets, are the main industries which have thrived in this district for centuries. People used to produce their own wool and augment their supplies of it by imports from Tibet. The Jads produced woollen cloth in their spare time and carried their small weaving and spinning frames from place to place. The manufacture of hand-spun and hand-woven woollens continues to flourish in the district but it is still mainly confined to the Jads. Making of baskets and mats of *ringal* (*arundinaria*) is also an old industry and pilgrims who visit the district purchase these articles in large numbers. Another old industry is the collection of resin from the fir and pine trees. It is secreted by these trees and exudes either naturally or an incision has to be made in the tree trunks. Woollen goods, baskets, mats and resin were generally sold in fairs held in this or the neighbouring districts.

The production of woollen goods began to decline after 1946, because of the competition offered by woollen goods manufactured in the factories in the plains. The import of wool from Tibet has nearly ceased since 1962. However, the government has launched a number of schemes to promote the indigenous industries of the district.

Small-scale Industries

Paddy is husked and oil, timber, wooden goods and saws are produced on a small-scale in the district. There are 20 units producing these goods, with a total investment of about Rs 2,37,000 and goods worth about Rs 1,16,300 were produced in 1965.

Timber and Wooden Goods—Timber and wooden goods are produced at Uttarkashi, Chinyali Saur, Barkot, Naugaon, Sarigad and Pora. Furniture, building accessories, frames, sleepers etc., worth about Rs 18,400 were manufactured in 1965 and a sum of Rs 1,29,000 was invested in the industry. Wood and metallic goods worth Rs 9,400 were consumed as raw materials in the same period.

The industry has steadily grown since 1960. The first unit was established at Pora in May 1960, and there were eight such units in 1966.

Rice and Oil—Paddy is husked and rice produced in 10 units at Barkot, Barnigad, Kunwa, Kumarkot, Purola, Brahamkhal, Patara, Sarigad, Uttarkashi and Naugaon. Oil is also produced from oil-seeds like mustard and til in these units. The industry has grown since 1961, when

the first unit was established at Barkot in May that year, and with an investment amounting to Rs 87,000, rice and oil worth about Rs 93,700 were produced in 1965.

Saws—One unit, which manufactures saws, was established in 1962 at Uttarkashi. It also charges batteries and undertakes welding operations. The total investment in it was a sum of Rs 13,000 and it did job-work and manufactured saws worth Rs 2,400, consuming raw materials like wood and metal worth Rs 1,000 in 1965.

Radio Repair—Radios are repaired in a unit established at Uttarkashi in December, 1964. The total investment in it was a sum of Rs 8,000 and its earnings amounted to Rs 1,800 in 1965.

Village and Cottage Industries

Sheep are reared in large numbers and wool and woollen goods are mainly manufactured as a cottage industry in the district. In addition, there are units which manufacture baskets, mats and wooden goods. These units are scattered all over the district, generally situated near the dwellings of the workers and manned by the members of the owners' families. There are about 100 rural units and they employ about 500 persons.

Wool and Woollen Goods—The industry is mainly located at Dunda, Harsil and Nakuri. A sum of about Rs 52,000 is invested in the industry and wool, blankets, carpets and garments worth about Rs 32,000 were produced consuming raw materials worth about Rs 20,500 in 1965.

The industry flourishes at places situated between the altitudes of 1,525 m. and 2,440 m. The supply of wool has decreased since 1962 when trade with Tibet came to a standstill. Efforts are being made to rear sheep of good strain from stock imported from Australia during the years 1961 to 1965.

Members of the Jad community produce *thulmas*, *chuktas* and *dumkars* (types of blankets) *namdas* (carpets) and tweeds in about 50 units which are located mainly at Harsil and Dunda. The women spin and weave in their spare time on small spinning and weaving frames. They are greatly skilled in the craft and some of them produce very artistic patterns in carpets. Improved weaving frames have been distributed by the U. P. government and training is being imparted in new techniques of spinning, weaving and dyeing at the production-cum-training centres.

Training-cum-production Centres—The Indo-Tibetan Border Area Wool Scheme was launched in 1956-57. Three centres at Bhatwari, Dunda and Harsil were established and till December 1966 government had spent a sum of Rs 9,58,740 on them. These centres manufactured

woollen yarn worth Rs 87,332 and imparted training in spinning to 17 persons in 1965-66.

A weaving and tailoring centre was opened at Naugaon in 1956-57, government incurring an expenditure of Rs 1,46,986 on it till December, 1966. Woollen cloth and garments worth about Rs 5,990 were produced and 17 persons were trained in weaving and tailoring in 1965-66.

A carding plant was established at Uttarkashi in 1960-61, which supplies carded wool to be used by nine *jal charkhas*, established during that year at Bhatwari, Bhetiyara, Barethi, Gangani, Maneri, Naitala, Nakuri and Raturi Sera, the last-mentioned place having two *jal charkhas*. A *jal charkha* has about 24 spindles and is driven by the current of a stream or a number of streams running down precipitous beds with great velocity and force. Woollen yarn of even thickness is produced from carded wool. Each *jal charkha* is run by about eight to twelve persons. The government had spent a sum of Rs 2,84,245 till the end of 1966 on the *jal charkhas* and the carding plant.

Government also opened embroidery centres at Jashiyara, Nakuri and Dunda in 1960-61. These centres imparted training to 17 persons and performed job-work worth Rs 19,725 in 1965-66. The government had spent a sum of Rs 1,75,644 on this scheme till the end of 1966.

In 1961-62, wool utilisation centres and mobile dye house centres were opened at Dunda and Naitwar. Job-work in finishing and dyeing worth Rs 12,782 was undertaken and woollen goods worth Rs 7,078 were produced in 1965-66. Training in dyeing and finishing was imparted to 278 persons and in wool utilisation to 103 persons in the same period. Training in dyeing and finishing is imparted to the trainees at their homes. The government had incurred an expenditure of Rs 76,614 till December, 1966, on these schemes.

A centre, which manufactures *namdas* (carpets), was established at Uttarkashi in 1963-64, imparting training to five persons and producing *namdas* worth Rs 2,092 in 1965-66. The government spent a sum of Rs 18,514 on this scheme during the four years, 1963 to 1966.

Logging

Pine trees grow at between altitudes of about 915 m. and 2,135 m. above sea-level and deodars at even higher elevations. The felling season extends from November to April. It takes great skill to fell tall trees. Expert wood-cutters assist in the operation. The branches and barks of the felled trees are removed and they are sawn by hand into 2.13 m. long sleepers. These are carried to the depots at Hardwtr and Yamuna Nagar by floating them down the rivers Ganga (Bhagirathi) and Yamuna.

The forest department of the U.P. government introduced modern logging equipment in Uttarkashi, establishing a logging division there in 1961. Trees may now be felled in any direction using cross-cut-saws, without damaging them or those in their vicinity. Logs are converted into the desired lengths and then either slid down to a saw-mill or to a road, from where they are transported by trucks. Since 1961, two skyline cranes are also being used to move the logs. These cranes, imported from Switzerland, may move a maximum load of 3 tons to a maximum distance of 2,000 m. A tractor and two trucks are also employed in transporting the logs. The cranes and other machinery are repaired in the workshop of the division. The use of modern methods has increased the production of timber by about 40 per cent. During the years 1961 to 1966, the division felled 16,276 trees, transported 59,731 logs and sawed timber measuring about 12,263 cubic metres.

Carpentry

The district has a large area-under forests, but the development of carpentry units has been rather slow. Timber finding its way to the districts in the plains. However, several small-scale carpentry units have been established since 1960.

There is a cottage unit for the manufacture of walking sticks, established at Barethi in July, 1965, with an investment of an amount of Rs 2,000. Sticks worth Rs 600 were produced consuming cane worth Rs 150 in the period July to December, 1965.

Production and Training Centres—Two carpentry centres have been opened by the State industries department at Uttarkashi and Naugaon in 1960. These centres manufactured furniture worth Rs 23,330 and trained five persons in the craft in 1965-66. An expenditure of Rs 2,90,976 had been incurred on this scheme and on the stick manufacturing unit till the end of 1965. *Papri* wood (*Buxus sembervirens*), polished and painted in lacquer and oil, makes beautiful pieces of furniture, drawing and survey instruments and carved articles. The wood is yellowish white, hard, very close and even-grained. Government established a *papri* wood and stick-making centre at Uttarkashi in 1963-64. Training in carpentry and *papri* woodwork was imparted to five persons and articles worth Rs 1,184 were produced in 1965-66.

Pipes and Metallic Goods

A unit with an investment of Rs 4,000 was established in August, 1965, at Dunda, to manufacture pipes, bath-room accessories and implements. It produced articles worth Rs 3,000 and consumed iron and metallic goods worth Rs 1,000 in the last four months of 1965.



Wood-carving from village Kandari

Agricultural Implements

A service centre for agricultural implements was opened at Uttarakashi by the government in 1962-63. The centre performed job-work worth Rs 10,320 and five persons were trained in smithery in 1965-66. The government had incurred an expenditure of about Rs 64,565 till December, 1966, on this scheme.

Tailoring-cum-Hosiery Centres

Two centres at Dunda and Naugaon were opened for tailoring-cum-hosiery training in 1956-57. These centres completed job-work worth Rs 8,990 and trained 23 persons in tailoring in 1965-66. The government had incurred an expenditure of Rs 85,235 up to December, 1966, on these centres.

Basket and Allied Industries

Baskets of different types and mats are made from *ringal* (*arundinaria*), which is generally about 3 m. in height and has a diameter of about 8 cm. It is more flexible than bamboo but less so than cane. It grows at altitudes over 1,829 m. above sea-level and is cut and prepared for use in winter. The industry was spread in 35 villages of the Bhagirathi and Yamuna valleys, employing about 35 families consisting of about 110 members in 1965. The total investment in the industry was Rs 750 and it produced goods worth Rs 7,500 in 1966, using raw material (*ringal*) worth Rs 1,100.

The skill is hereditary and the artisan uses it to advantage in the arrangement of patterns and colours, producing beautiful and harmonious combinations. The *kandi* baskets, in particular, are popular with the tourists and pilgrims. The artisans of the Yamuna valley appear to be very industrious and more than half of the baskets, mats, etc. produced in 1966, came from this tract.

Government Aid

In addition to the expenditure incurred on training-cum-production centres, the State Government advances loans to private parties for establishing new industrial units or for expanding the existing ones.

The U. P. Financial Corporation, Kanpur, acts as an agent of the State Government for the disposal of loan applications of bigger amounts, received by the directorate of industries, Uttar Pradesh, Kanpur, under the Liberalised Loans Scheme. The applications are submitted to the district industries officer, who forwards them to the director of industries after proper scrutiny. The applications are further examined in the directorate of industries at Kanpur and then forwarded to the U. P. Financial

Corporation for disposal. A year-wise statement of loans advanced under the scheme from 1961-62 to 1965-66 is given below:

Year							Loans advanced (in rupees)
1961-62	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,000
1962-63	..	..	..	..	..	..	50,000
1963-64	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,000
1964-65	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,000
1965-66	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,000
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,60,000

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

A number of minerals such as coal, asbestos, copper ore, iron ore, limestone, pyrites, mica and sulphur are available in the district and some of them can be exploited profitably.

The district is rich in different kinds of timber and can provide opportunities for the introduction and expansion of industrial units in this sphere. Walnut and maple woods can be utilised in the manufacture of gun butts. Sports goods and household furniture can also be manufactured and exported to the plains either in the finished or semi-finished condition. Resin, which is collected from pine trees, can serve as a raw material for the manufacture of turpentine oil.

Pharmaceutical experts of the State Government have examined various herbs collected in the district. Most of them are known to possess medicinal properties. A technical staff is engaged in the identification, collection, grading and marketing of such herbs. Preliminary work for the procurement of land to start mulberry plantations and also for the setting up of mulberry farms and nurseries had been started by 1966.

The State Government trained 206 persons in various crafts during the five years 1961-62 to 1965-66, incurring an expenditure of Rs 51.941 on stipends. More and more persons are being trained and they can help in the establishment of suitable industrial units.

A climate for the industrial development of the district has been created on account of the availability of cheap labour, larger supplies of power and the construction of better roads. In such an environment, it is expected that capital will flow into the district from the government and the industrialists alike for public and private undertakings.

CHAPTER VI BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

BANKING AND FINANCE

Uttarkashi has long been an important centre of trade serving as a clearing centre for goods exported to Tibet and those imported from there. The Jads, who were nomadic traders, used primitive methods of financing trade, commodities generally being exchanged for food-grains and gold. Difficulties of the weather and of communications imposed limitations on trade and commerce in these parts. At times the traders had a good supply of gold or food-grains which they hoarded. They continued to dominate the economic life of the people during British times and even after the country became independent in 1947. The first bank was opened in Uttarkashi in 1963 and was a branch of the Tehri Garhwal District Co-operative Bank, Ltd.

Rural Indebtedness

The economic condition of the agriculturists of the district has never been good due, among other things, to uneconomic agricultural holdings and the difficulties of the mountainous terrain. Indebtedness was looked upon as a natural state of affairs and traders and money-lenders benefited from the situation. Loans were taken mainly for marriages, purchase of cattle or for buying the necessities of life. The money-lender usually realised his dues at the time of harvest, the rate of interest varying from 20 to 40 per cent. The economic depression of the thirties of this century worsened the monetary condition of the agriculturists, many being forced to sell their lands to make the two ends meet, nor could the money-lenders wholly escape the common lot.

The high prices of agricultural produce prevailing during the period of the war of 1939-45 gave the agriculturists good returns in terms of money but they had to pay high prices for such commodities as cloth, kerosene oil, agricultural implements and live-stock. The prices of food-grains have continued to rise ever since, assuring increasing returns to the agriculturists but in spite of this their traditional financial difficulties have not been eliminated. In certain parts of the district, marriages are solemnised after the bridegroom pays for the bride a considerable amount of money which he has to borrow from the money-lenders at rates of interest varying from 12½ per cent to 25 per cent per annum. In actual practice the borrower receives only a sum of Rs 93.75 for every sum of Rs 100 borrowed, the deduction being known as *ganth khulai* (opening of the knot) and considered a legitimate charge for the clerical work done by the money-lender. The money-lender also advances food-grains, seeds,

etc., which the borrower has to return at the next harvest at one and a half times the quantity borrowed, the transaction being known as *udharu*.

Debt-relief Legislation

As elsewhere in the State, attempts have been made in the district through legislation to regulate the terms and conditions of money-lending. The United Provinces Agriculturists Relief Act, 1934, provides *inter alia* for payment of debts in instalments at a low rate of interest. By the Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Act, 1937, proceedings of execution of decrees against tenants and those proprietors whose land revenue did not exceed Rs 1,000 a year were unconditionally stayed. Under the United Provinces Debt Redemption Act, 1940, interest could be charged only at low rates and the property of debtors was protected from large-scale liquidation.

Role of Private Money-lenders

Apart from the Tehri Garhwal District Co-operative Bank, Ltd, loans are also provided by *sahukars* (village money-lenders), shopkeepers and *vyaparis* (businessmen). Though not always an educated person, the *sahukar* commands the respect of the local people. He does not offer assurances, hardly ever grants bills or *hundies* (bills of exchange) and does not accept cheques or demand notes, nor does he maintain ledgers or account books and people never entrust their savings to him. He operates in his own village and a few neighbouring ones. The shopkeeper and the *vyapari* advance loans against promissory notes, jewellery and ornaments, the *vyapari* also selling live-stock on credit. The money-lenders generally finance marriages, litigation, agricultural operations and various other requirements of agriculturists.

National Savings Organisation

The post-office savings bank scheme and other schemes, designed to tap the savings of those who generally do not subscribe to government loans and also to inculcate the habit of thrift in the people, have been in operation in the district since its formation. The following statement gives the net investments made in the district in the various securities in 1965-66 :

Scheme	Amount invested (in rupees)
Post-office Savings Bank Scheme	9,18,894
12-year National Defence Certificates	78,993
Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme	62,179

Government Loans

The government advances *taqavi* loans to agriculturists under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883 (Act XII of 1883), and the Agriculturists Loans Act, 1884 (Act XIX of 1884), for such purposes as improvement in land and purchase of seeds and fertilisers. In 1965-66, the following *taqavi* loans were given :

Tahsil	Amount of loans adv need (in rupees)		Rate of interest (per cent per annum)	
	Act XII	Act XIX	Act XII	Act XIX
Purula	13,000	..	5½	..
Dunda	4,000	20,000	5½	5½
Rajgarhi	4,000	10,000	5½	5½
Bhatwari	..	..	..	..
Total	21,000	30,000	..	..

Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement in the district has gathered momentum since 1960. In 1960-61, there were 192 co-operatives in the district, the majority being agricultural. They advanced an amount of Rs 1,71,718 at a rate of 7½ per cent per annum of interest. The number of the members of these co-operatives was 6,322. These co-operatives were multi-purpose concerns and, in 1961, a scheme to convert small co-operatives into large ones by amalgamation was introduced. In 1964-65, there remained 148 agricultural co-operative societies which advanced loans amounting to Rs 6,67,155 at 8.75 per cent per annum interest and had a membership of 8,929.

Other Societies—There were 13 co-operative societies for providing consumer goods, agricultural implements and fertilisers and recruitment of labour, in 1965, as indicated below :

Type of societies	Number of societies	Location	Investment (in rupees)
Consumer co-operative stores	3	Nawagaon, Uttarkashi, Dunda	6,455
Labour co-operatives	5	Bilog, Panoth, Barethi, Naitala, Raithal	7,086
Development unions	4	Thati, Nakuri, Kamalsarayan, Bhatwari	18,008
Marketing society	1	Barethi (Dharasu)	28,120

Co-operative Bank—A branch of the Tehri Garhwal District Co-operative Bank, Ltd., was opened in Uttarkashi in 1963. It finances the co-operative societies in the district. Its membership comprises 161 co-operatives and individuals. The share capital of the bank amounted to Rs 2,00,006 in 1965-66, the outstanding amount of loan against co-operatives and individuals being Rs 9,67,600 in 1966. Loans are advanced at a rate of 6.75 per cent per annum interest.

Life Insurance

The Life Insurance Corporation of India appointed a development officer in the district in 1962, the extent of the business procured by him till 1965 being indicated in the statement below:

Period	Number of persons assured	Business completed (in rupees)
1962	133	6,10,500
1963	159	6,82,000
1964	206	8,24,500
1965	147	6,72,000

Course of Trade

The decimal coinage system was adopted in the area covered by the district from October 1, 1958.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Course of Trade

On the west the district touches Himachal Pradesh and its northern boundary marches with Tibet with which this region had a brisk trade till 1958. The Jads, a hardy and cheerful people, lived chiefly by trade carried on from May to October each year across mountain passes in the region, covering as many as 12 miles a day at these heights with their families and goods and chattels. They move in groups and form a walking caravan, with their flock of pack animals. In the past they used to trade with the Khampas (Tibetan traders) and bartered such commodities as barley, rice, wheat, pulses, onion, potato, cloth, sugar, jaggery, dried fruits and silver for salt, borax, musk, ponies, goats, sheep, wool, woollen goods, cloth shoes, ornamental saddles, tea, butter, gold and tails and horns of the yak.

Since 1962 most of the trade of the district is being carried on with the adjoining areas in U. P. and Himachal Pradesh. The cutting of logs of timber which are floated down the rivers is an old trade, which has increased substantially with the construction of new roads and buildings. About 410 persons were employed in trade and commerce in 1961.

Exports—The chief articles of export from the district are timber, other forest products and potatoes. Only timber is exported in large quantities. The exports for 1965 are as mentioned below:

Commodities	Value (in rupees)
Timber	33,94,500
Resin	10,00,000
Potatoes	5,00,000

Imports—The district imports food grains, cloth and other necessities of life which come mainly from other parts of the State through Dehra Dun. The imports for 1965 are as indicated below:

Commodities	Value (in rupees)
Cloth	20,00,000
Food-grains	7,94,000
Sugar	1,98,500
Kerosene oil	1,17,720
Cement	71,918
Salt	20,640
Coal	1,781

Fair-price Shops

There were 68 fair-price shops in the district in 1965. The State Government appoints certain traders to run these shops in conformity with the rules laid down by it from time to time to sell imported and locally procured food-grains to the public. Wheat, *atta*, rice, sugar and kerosene oil are sold at these shops.

Trade Associations

There are a number of trade associations in the district but their headquarters are mostly located in the district of Tehri Garhwal. They give technical and legal advice to their members on matters pertaining to sales-tax, income-tax, octroi, imports and exports. The most important is the Sahukars' Association of which the members are dealers in wool, timber, food-grains, potatoes and pulses.

Weights and Measures

Before the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures, the *patha* or *nali* (equivalent to about 2 kilograms) was in use in the rural areas. In Uttarkashi the maund, seer, yard, foot and inch were used as units of weights and measures. The metric system of weights and measures was introduced in the district from October 1, 1960.

CHAPTER VII COMMUNICATIONS

TRADE ROUTES AND HIGHWAYS—OLD AND NEW

The area covered by the present district of Uttarkashi, which occupies the north-west portion of the Garhwal region and formerly formed part of the state of Tehri, has several ancient and important places of Hindu pilgrimage, such as Yamnotri, Gangotri, Gaumukh and Uttarkashi, which have attracted large numbers of pilgrims from different parts of India since very early times. There have, therefore, been pilgrim routes leading to these places in the district, besides roads and pathways used by local inhabitants for trade and communication. The region did not, however, possess good roads, bridges and resting places even along pilgrim routes. Consequently, a journey to these places was considered very perilous and generally old persons used to visit them. The popular conception with regard to this pilgrimage has been that the greater the difficulties it involved, the higher the spiritual merit earned by the pilgrim. This feeling is, however, fast disappearing with the development of the means of communication and other facilities on the pilgrim routes.

The age-old footpaths began to be replaced by bridle-roads about a century back when resting places, called *chattis*, also began to appear on the routes and pilgrims of all age-groups began to flock to these shrines.

Wheeled traffic was introduced in this region about 1934, since when quite a few motor roads have been constructed and the hardships of the once perilous journey to the holy places of the district mostly mitigated.

Generally, the pilgrimage to the Himalayan shrines commences about the middle of April, soon after the Baisakhi fair takes place at Hardwar, which is the starting point of the pilgrimage. The Uttarakhand pilgrimages are performed in the order—Yamnotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath, the first two places lying in the district of Uttarkashi. Pilgrims coming to these places also visit other important holy places on the way.

The routes to Yamnotri and Gangotri are well-known since olden times. On the way the pilgrims also stop to visit other holy places lying on or near the main pilgrim route. After having visited Yamnotri and Gangotri, the pilgrims usually visit Kedarnath and Badrinath, both in Chamoli district. There are also direct routes to Kedarnath and Badrinath from Rishikesh. From Rishikesh, they go to Rudra Prayag from

where separate routes lead to Kedarnath and Badrinath, although a few pilgrims first visit Kedarnath and then proceed to Badrinath.

As a result of the gradual replacement of footpaths by bridle-roads by about the beginning of the twentieth century many villages got connected with one another by means of bridle roads, but the process was very slow till 1961.

Highways

The public works department maintains lengths of about 340 km. of metalled roads and 805 km. of unmetalled roads.

The Antarim Zila Parishad maintains about 354 km. of unmetalled roads, most of which are bridle roads and generally connect the various *pattis*.

The forest department maintains about 383 km. of roads in the broad belt of forests.

Goods Traffic

The transport of goods in bulk has been undertaken by motor vehicles since 1960. In the past goods were carried mainly by pack animals and even today they are found useful for this purpose on bridle-roads and footpaths. The usual freight charged in the Garhwal region varies from 6 paise to 7.5 paise per quintal per kilometre, depending on the type of goods carried and the roads negotiated, but these charges are increased by 20 per cent in this district. On the average a truck carries about 38 quintals of goods.

Water-ways

The Bhagirathi and the Yamuna are the most important rivers in the district for the transport of logs which are floated down by them. Logs worth about three lakhs of rupees are annually floated down by these rivers and collected in the districts of Tehri Garhwal and Dehra Dun.

Travel Facilities

There are a number of dharmshalas in the district which charge nominal amounts for accommodation but do not supply food. Most of the dharmshalas are managed by the Kali Kamliwala Kshetra with its headquarters at Rishikesh. This institution was founded in 1883 by the late Swami Vishuddhanand who used to put on a black blanket (*kali kamli*) and was, therefore, called Baba Kali Kamliwala.

The U. P. Government has opened a tourist bureau at Dehra Dun which gives advice and guidance to pilgrims and tourists proceeding to this district. Halting and resting places, called *chattis*, are maintained by the

local people all along the pilgrim routes to Gangotri and Yamnotri, at intervals of 1 to 8 km., the Jagannath *chatti* and the Hanuman *chatti* between Simli and Yamnotri, being the older and better known ones.

There are a number of inspection houses and rest houses in the district, maintained by the public works and forest departments of the U. P. Government, chiefly for the use of their own officers. Officers of other departments and others may also be accommodated in them.

POST OFFICES

The service of runners was instituted in 1871 in the area now covered by the district. A post office was opened in 1950 and two in 1954. There were 95 post offices in the district in 1965.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In 1961, the population of the district was 1,22,836 with 84,749 workers of whom 41,186 were women. The broad categories of occupations followed by the workers in the district are given below*:

Occupations	Workers		
	Total	Men	Women
Cultivation	73,511	33,820	39,691
Agricultural labour	765	444	321
Mining, quarrying, live-stock, forestry, fishing, hunting, etc.	2,179	2,098	81
Household industry	2,783	1,806	977
Manufacturing other than household industry ..	169	161	8
Construction	2,040	2,040	—
Trade and commerce	411	402	9
Transport, storage and communications ..	209	209	—
Other services	2,082	1,983	99

The number of non-workers in the district was 38,087 of which the number of women was 19,116.

There is, in the district, the usual set-up of departments and offices of the State and Central Governments, local bodies, educational institutions, banks, etc.

The numbers of persons employed under the Central and State Governments and the local bodies in the district in 1965 are given below:

Type of establishment	Number of establishments as in September, 1965	Number of employees as in September, 1965		
		Men	Women	Total
State Government ..	31	3,075	65	3,140
Central Government ..	..	..	..	..
Local bodies ..	1	24	2	26
Quasi-Government ..	1	52	..	52

*Data of Census 1971 appears at the end of the chapter.

The Central and State Governments provide certain amenities for their employees, such as provident fund benefits, dearness allowances, loans, leave with pay and medical treatment. Permanent government employees receive pensions and gratuities. Certain categories of employees get free accommodation or a house rent allowance and certain others get uniforms or liveries. All government employees are allowed to form associations and unions to safeguard their interests. The local bodies usually provide the first four of the facilities mentioned above.

Learned Professions

Education—In, 1961, there were 24 teachers in secondary schools and 235 teachers (13 being women) in senior Basic and junior Basic schools. Teachers not elsewhere classified numbered 120 of whom two were women.

Teachers in educational institutions contribute a small percentage of their pay to a provident fund to which the institution also makes a like contribution. They can avail themselves of various types of leave and are allowed to form associations and unions to safeguard their interests.

Medicine—In 1961, there were in the district eight allopathic physicians and surgeons, one being a woman, 33 Ayurvedic physicians, three homoeopathic and other physicians, 20 nurses (including four women), two midwives and health visitors, 39 nursing attendants and related workers (eight being women), 13 pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians, seven vaccinators, seven sanitation technicians and a medical and health technician.

Law—In 1961 the number of legal practitioners and advisers was seven, of law assistants two, of jurists and legal technicians nine, including petition writers not elsewhere classified.

Engineering—In 1961 there were 52 civil engineers and overseers' three electrical engineers and four architects, engineers and surveyors, not classified elsewhere.

Domestic Servants—Generally domestic servants are employed by the well-to-do. Those who cannot afford full-time servants employ domestic help on a part-time basis. In 1961, there were 298 men and 50 women working as cooks and other domestic servants.

Barbers—Barbers have occupied a distinct place in Indian society specially in the rural areas. They render important services on religious and other occasions such as marriages, births and deaths. In 1961, the number of barbers and related workers was 19 of whom one was a woman. Generally they charge 12 paise for a shave and 25 to 50 paise for a hair-cut.

Washermen—Generally people do their own washing due to the rising cost of living, the pressing of clothes being done either by dhobis or at home. In 1961, there were seven dhobis, dry cleaners and pressers, one

of these being a woman. Washermen charge 12 paise for laundering a garment.

Tailors—In 1961, there were 575 tailors and garment makers, 147 being women, and 340 spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers of whom 169 were women. Tailoring charges vary according to the material, the style of the garment, the standing of the tailor and the demands of the client.

Other Occupations—In 1961, there were 174 furnacemen, rollers, drawers, moulders and related metal workers, 23 being women; 103 precision instrument makers, watchmakers, jewellers and related workers, of whom three were women; seven tool-makers, machinists, plumbers, welders, platers and related workers; two electricians; 177 carpenters, cabinet makers and related workers, of whom five were women; two painters; nine potters, kilnmen and glass, clay and related workers, of whom four were women; 85 millers, bakers, brewers, food and beverage workers, of whom nine were women; 68 craftsmen and production process workers not elsewhere classified of whom 56 were women; 274 directors, managers and working proprietors, of whom four were women; 583 clerical and related workers; six social scientists and related workers; 71 artists, writers and related workers, 49 being women; 18 draughtmen, science and engineering technicians not elsewhere classified, nine being women; and 388 working proprietors, wholesale and retail traders, commercial travellers and manufacturers' agents, salesmen, shop assistants and related workers, hawkers, pedlars, street-vendors and money-lenders, nine being women. The income of these people usually depends on their skill and talent and, on the whole, they belong to the urban areas of the district.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CENSUS 1971

Categories of Occupations (p. 79)

Occupations	Workers		
	Total	Men	Women
Cultivation ..	80,682	38,605	42,077
Agriculture ..	939	720	219
Livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities ..	1,452	1,303	149
Mining and quarrying ..	34	31	3
Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs ..			
(a) Household industry ..	681	550	131
(b) Other than household industry ..	1,027	870	157
Construction ..	1,286	1,254	32
Trade and commerce ..	989	985	4
Transport, storage and communications ..	142	140	2
Other services ..	6,689	6,412	277
Total ..	93,921	50,870	43,051

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

Workers and Livelihood Classes

In the census of 1961, persons who did, oversaw or directed some productive work were categorised as workers. They formed 68.99 per cent of the total population of the district. They were further subdivided into the nine livelihood classes or industrial categories described below:

I Cultivators—Persons who cultivated their own lands and supervised and directed labour employed for the purpose or managed tenanted land

II Agricultural labour—Persons working for wages in cash or kind in agricultural operations on land belonging to others

III Persons engaged in mining, quarrying, forestry, fishing, hunting and activities connected with live-stock, plantations, orchards and allied pursuits

IV Persons engaged in households industry, run on a scale smaller than that of a registered factory, by heads of households themselves or mainly by the members of one household, sometimes with hired labour, mostly at their homes

V Persons engaged in industries other than household industry

VI Persons engaged in construction and maintenance of buildings, roads, bridges, dams, canals, etc.

VII Persons engaged in trade and commerce, buying and selling, import and export, banking, insurance, stocks, shares, etc.

VIII Persons engaged in the transport and warehousing industries and in the postal, telegraphic, telephonic, wireless, information and broadcasting services

IX Persons engaged in services such as the public utility, administrative, educational and scientific, medical and health, religious, welfare, legal, personal and miscellaneous ones or those connected with business organisations as well as recreation.

Non-workers

Persons who could not be classified as workers have been categorised as non-workers. They included dependents of workers and persons engaged in non-productive work whether they have any income or not.

The statements that follow give information which may be of interest regarding workers and non-workers of the district, as collected at the census of 1961.

STATEMENT A

Distribution of Total Population of Uttarkashi District into Workers and Non-workers

Livelihood class		Population					
I	Male	..	..	..	..	..	33,820
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	39,691
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	73,511
II	Male	..	..	..	..	..	444
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	321
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	765
III	Male	..	..	..	..	..	2,098
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	81
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	2,179
IV	Male	..	..	..	..	..	1,806
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	977
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	2,783
V	Male	..	..	..	..	..	161
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	8
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	169
VI	Male	..	..	..	..	..	2,640
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	2,640
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	2,640
VII	Male	..	..	..	..	..	402
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	9
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	411
VIII	Male	..	..	..	..	..	209
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	209
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	209
IX	Male	..	..	..	..	..	1,983
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	99
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	2,082
Total workers	Male	..	..	..	..	..	43,563
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	41,186
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	84,749
Non-workers	Male	..	..	..	..	..	18,971
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	19,116
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	38,087
Total population	Male	..	..	..	..	..	62,534
	Female	..	..	..	..	..	60,302
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	1,22,836

STATEMENT B

Percentage Distribution of Total Population into Workers and Non-workers in Uttarkashi District and the State

Livelihood class		Uttarkashi district		Uttar Pradesh	
I	..	..	..	59.85	24.99
	..	..	..	0.62	4.42
	..	..	..	1.77	0.23
IV	..	..	..	2.27	2.44
	..	..	..	0.14	1.09
	..	..	..	2.15	0.29
VII	..	..	..	0.33	1.44
	..	..	..	0.17	0.54
	..	..	..	1.69	3.68
Total workers	..	Male	..	35.46	30.48
	..	Female	..	33.53	8.64
	..	Total	..	68.99	39.12
Non-workers	..	Male	..	15.45	21.91
	..	Female	..	15.56	38.97
	..	Total	..	31.01	
Total population	..	Male	..	50.91	52.39
	..	Female	..	49.09	47.61
	..	Total	..	100.00	100.00

STATEMENT C

Workers and Non-workers Classified according to Educational Level

Livelihood class	Illiterate		Literate (without educational level)		Primary or junior Basic		Matriculation or higher secondary and above		Total
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	
I	64,040	238	6,926	86	2,152	33	31	5	73,511
II	614	57	83	4	7	—	—	—	765
III	1,309	2	397	4	347	6	198	6	2,179
IV	2,248	39	311	42	116	22	3	2	2,783
V	68	17	34	23	12	7	—	8	169
VI	1,578	40	561	26	265	23	96	51	2,640
VII	70	3	148	33	110	14	20	13	411
VIII	93	22	26	22	25	8	8	5	209
IX	487	103	308	151	472	134	279	148	2,082
Total workers	70,507	521	8,794	391	3,506	247	545	238	84,749
Non-workers	32,037	630	3,218	315	1,503	286	49	49	38,087
Total population	1,02,544	1,151	12,012	706	5,009	533	594	287	1,22,836

UTTARKASHI DISTRICT

CH. IX—ECONOMIC TRENDS

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STATEMENT D

Distribution, per thousand, of Males and Females into Workers and Non-workers in Uttarkashi District and the State

Livelihood class		Total		Rural		Urban	
		Uttar-kashi district	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar-kashi district	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar-kashi district	Uttar Pradesh
I	Male	541	370	555	424	64	26
	Female	658	112	664	133	272	3
II	Male	7	51	7	60	15	6
	Female	5	35	5	40	38	1
III	Male	34	4	34	3	10	5
	Female	2	1	1	1	1	—
IV	Male	29	34	28	33	50	42
	Female	16	14	16	13	18	16
V	Male	3	20	2	8	31	97
	Female	—	1	—	1	1	3
VI	Male	42	5	41	3	79	17
	Female	—	—	1	—	—	—
VII	Male	6	26	5	14	36	102
	Female	—	2	—	2	—	5
VIII	Male	3	10	3	5	32	48
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
IX	Male	32	60	24	42	295	174
	Female	—	11	2	9	16	23
Workers	Male	697	582	699	592	612	514
	Female	683	181	688	199	346	53
	Total	690	391	694	403	522	310
Non-workers	Male	303	418	301	408	388	483
	Female	317	819	312	801	654	947
	Total	310	609	306	597	478	620

The statement shows that of the total population of the district 69.0 per cent, of the total male population 69.7 per cent, and of the total female population 68.3 per cent, were economically active. The district of Uttarkashi has the highest proportion of workers (690 per thousand) in the State, Agra having the lowest (306 per thousand). The district also leads in the number (697) of male workers per thousand in the State, Ballia having the lowest (528). Female participation in economic activity is also considerably high as in other hill districts.

STATEMENT E

Females for every 1,000 Males of Corresponding Class in Uttarkashi District and the State

Livelihood class	Uttarkashi district	Uttar Pradesh
I	1,174	289
II	723	602
III	39	166
IV	541	366
V	49	39
VI	—	19
VII	22	67
VIII	—	7
IX	49	177
Total workers	945	283
Non-workers	1,008	1,799
Females per 1,000 males	964	909

STATEMENT F

Female Workers and Non-workers per 1,000 Males in Rural and Urban Areas of Uttarkashi District and the State

Livelihood class	Rural		Urban	
	Uttarkashi district	Uttar Pradesh	Uttarkashi district	Uttar Pradesh
I	1,170	290	2,175	104
II	684	609	1,346	144
III	38	187	59	82
IV	560	378	180	305
V	65	68	19	23
VI	—	19	—	19
VII	27	102	—	36
VIII	—	9	—	6
IX	57	218	29	115
Workers	962	311	292	84
Non workers	1,013	1,814	871	1,592
Population per 1,000 males	977	924	517	812

STATEMENT G

Percentage Distribution of Workers in each Livelihood Class as related to Total Number of Workers in Uttarkashi District and the State

Livelihood class	Uttarkashi district	Uttar Pradesh
I	86.74	63.89
II	0.90	11.30
III	2.57	0.60
IV	3.28	6.24
V	0.20	2.78
VI	3.12	0.74
VII	0.48	3.68
VIII	0.25	1.38
IX	2.46	9.39
Total workers	100.00	100.00

STATEMENT H

Percentage of Agricultural Workers to Total Workers in Uttarkashi District and the State

Agricultural workers	Percentage	
	Uttarkashi district	Uttar Pradesh
Cultivators	..	..
Total	86.74	63.88
Male	77.63	63.62
Female	96.37	64.78
Agricultural labourers	..	..
Total	0.90	11.30
Male	1.02	9.05
Female	0.78	19.24
All agricultural workers	..	..
Total	87.64	75.18
Male	78.65	72.69
Female	97.15	84.02

Of the total working force in the district 87.64 per cent is made up of agricultural workers, cultivators being 86.74 per cent and agricultural labourers 0.90 per cent. About 97 per cent of the total female working force and about 78 per cent of the total male working force are engaged in agricultural pursuits only. Approximately there is one agricultural labourer for every 111 workers in the district, whereas there is one agricultural labourer for every nine and six workers respectively in the State and the country.

STATEMENT I

Percentage of Agricultural Workers in the Rural Area to Total Workers in Uttarkashi District/U. P.

Agricultural workers	Percentage	
	Uttarkashi district	Uttar Pradesh
Cultivators		
Total	86.31	70.53
Male	77.37	71.85
Female	95.77	66.94
Agricultural labourers		
Total	0.83	12.45
Male	0.96	10.14
Female	0.69	19.28
All agricultural workers		
Total	87.14	82.98
Male	78.33	81.79
Female	96.46	86.82

STATEMENT J

Number of Agricultural Labourers per Hundred Cultivators in Uttarkashi District and the State

Agricultural labourers	Uttarkashi district	Uttar Pradesh
Total	1.03	18
Male	0.80	11
Female	0.43	7

The numbers of cultivators and agricultural labourers for every hundred ploughs were 301 and 3 respectively

STATEMENT K

Percentage of Non-agricultural Workers in Rural Areas to Total Workers in Uttarkashi District/U. P.

Non-agricultural workers (livelihood class)			Percentage	
			Uttarkashi district	Uttar Pradesh
III	...	...	2.5	0.5
IV	...	...	3.1	5.3
V	...	...	0.1	1.0
VI	...	...	2.9	0.4
VII	...	...	0.4	1.8
VIII	...	...	0.2	0.5
IX	...	...	1.8	5.9
All non-agricultural workers	...	...	11.0	15.4

The statement that follows gives the distribution of the number of non-workers of the district according to the eight categories adopted at the census of 1961, as related to the nature of their activities:

STATEMENT L

Categories of non-working population	District		Rural		Urban	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Full-time students	5,754	495	5,400	386	354	109
Persons engaged only in household duties	1	1,707	..	1,520	1	187
Dependents, infants and disabled persons	12,918	16,868	12,768	16,592	230	276
Retired persons and people of independent means	10	10	10	8	..	2
Beggars, vagrants, etc.	164	35	83	13	81	22
Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions	2	1	2	1	..	..
Persons seeking employment for first time	15	..	6	..	9	..
Persons unemployed and seeking work	27	..	18	..	9	..
Total	18,971	19,116	18,287	18,520	684	596

GENERAL LEVEL OF PRICES AND WAGES

Prices

Barring seven *pattis*, the district is self-sufficient in food-grains. The average yearly retail prices of certain food-grains from 1939 to 1966 are mentioned in the following statement:

Period	Prices (in rupees per quintal)		
	Wheat	Rice (common)	Gram
1939-44	26.79	48.28	26.79
1945-50	37.51	50.91	32.15
1951-58	40.19	56.26	34.83
1959-61	58.94	80.38	53.58
1962-64	69.66	93.77	64.30
1965-66	96.45	112.53	83.06

When the district came into being in 1960, the number of fair price shops was seven, but in 1965 the number went up to 74. The statement that follows gives certain details about the numbers of these shops and the rates of food-grains sold at them from 1962 to 1965:

Year	Number of shops	Rate (in rupees per quintal)			
		Wheat (imported)	Rice (grade IV)	Jowar	Bajra
1962	23	50.91	57.66	...	...
1963	31	53.08	61.08	...	...
1964	46	51.10	63.98	...	...
1965	74	59.10	79.81	57.08	59.08

The average yearly wholesale prices of certain commodities from 1961 to 1965 are given in the statement below:

Year	Price in rupees per quintal				Price in rupees per tin of 18.5 litres
	Wheat	Rice	Gram	Sugar	Kerosene oil
1961	53.58	64.30	53.58	107.17	9.00
1962	56.26	64.30	58.94	109.85	10.00
1963	58.94	66.98	58.94	112.53	10.00
1964	66.98	75.02	64.30	120.57	11.00
1965	75.02	85.74	69.66	133.96	12.00

Wages

The following statement details the wages of skilled and unskilled labour for certain years:

Year	Wages (per day in rupees)	
	Unskilled labour	Skilled labour
1949	1.50	2.00
1950	2.00	3.00
1955	2.50	4.00
1960	3.00	5.00
1965	4.00	6.00

The statement that follows indicates the form and period of payment, hours of work and rest intervals and wages of agricultural labour as obtaining in 1966:

Occupation	Form of payment	Period of payment	Hours of work per day	Rest intervals (in hours per day)	Wages (in rupees)
Blacksmithery	Cash	Daily	8	2	8.00
Carpentry	"	"	8	2	8.00
Irrigation	"	"	8	2	3.00
Ploughing	"	"	8	2	4.00
Reaping	"	"	8	2	3.00
Transplantation	"	"	8	2	4.00
Weeding	"	"	8	2	3.00

GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment Exchange

The employment exchange at Uttarkashi was established on March 10, 1965. It has played an active part in bringing together employers and employment seekers and has assisted the latter in finding jobs which match their qualifications and experience. The statement that follows gives an idea of the assistance rendered by the exchange up to December, 1965:

Vacancies notified by employers	Number of persons registered for employment assistance	Number on 'live register'	Number of persons finding employment			
			Domestic service	Teaching	Technical	Government service
418	1,460	416	—	75	22	170

Employment Market Information

The employment market information scheme was introduced only in the public sector of the district, under which the exchange collects and disseminates information which is used for manpower planning.

Employment Trends—The following statements give data regarding various features connected with employment in the district at the end of 1965 in the public sector:

Volume of Employment

Year	Number of establishments	Number of employees
1965	33	3,206

Industrywise Analysis of Number of Employees in 1965

Industry	Number of reporting establishments	Number of employees
Agriculture, live-stock, cereals and sugar-cane ..	3	385
Construction (of roads, etc.) ..	5	1,104
Transport, storage and communications ..	1	14
Service ..	24	1,703
Total ..	33	3,206

Number of Employees in Public Sector (Governmental, Quasi-governmental and Local Bodies) as on 31st December, 1965

Type of establishments	No. of reporting establishments	No. of employees	
		Men	Women
Central Government	—	—	—
State Government	31	3,076	63
Quasi-government	1	41	—
Local bodies	1	24	2

Employers, Employees and Workers—According to the census of 1961, the numbers of employers, employees, single workers and family workers

(those working in their own family without wages) in non-household and household industries are given in the following statements:

Non-household Industry

Type of worker	Urban	Rural	Total
Employer	24	368	392
Male	..	3	3
Female	..	..	..
Employee	735	5,765	6,500
Male	17	38	55
Female	..	..	..
Single worker	88	457	545
Male	..	121	121
Female	..	..	..
Family worker	5	51	56
Male	..	18	18
Female	..	..	..
Total	852	6,641	7,493
Male	17	180	197
Female	..	..	..

Household Industry

Type of worker	Urban	Rural	Total
Employee	10	47	57
Male	..	9	9
Female	..	..	..
Others	79	1,670	1,749
Male	16	952	968
Female	..	..	..
Total	89	1,717	1,806
Male	16	961	977
Female	..	..	..

**Number of Women Employed in the Public Sector as on
December 31, 1965**

No. of reporting establishments	..	..	..	..	33
No. employed in public sector	..	..	..	..	65
Total no. of employees	..	..	..	..	65
Percentage employed in respect of total employees (men and women) in public sector	..	..	..	..	2.06

Unemployment Trends

The following statements give specific data, as at the end of 1965, regarding various features connected with unemployment in the district:

Type of employment	Men	Women	Total
Professional, technical and related work	11	1	12
Administrative, executive and managerial work	1	—	1
General and related work	29	—	29
Work as farmers, fishermen, hunters, loggers, etc.	1	—	1
Transport and communications	12	—	12
Work as craftsmen and labourers not elsewhere classified	9	—	9
Works as craftsmen and labourers not elsewhere recreation	9	—	9
Unclassified work	307	5	312
Total	407	9	416

**Number of Employment Seekers according to Educational Standards as
on December 31, 1965**

Educational standard	Men	Women	Total
Graduate	4	—	4
Intermediate	4	1	5
Matriculate	44	—	44
Below matriculation and illiterate	355	8	363
Total	407	9	416

Demand for Workers

**Number of Vacancies Notified by Employers in Public Sector
during the quarter ending 31st December, 1965**

Sector	Number of vacancies
Public sector	161
Central Government establishments	9
State Government establishments	157
Local bodies	2

**Number of Vacancies Notified by Employers in Public Sector,
Industrywise, in quarter ending December, 1965**

Sphere	Total	Percentage
Different services	79	49.1
Agriculture, live-stock, etc.	14	8.7
Transport and communications	6	3.7
Construction (of roads, buildings, etc.)	34	21.1
Electricity and gas	28	17.4
Total	161	100.0

Occupational Analysis of foregoing Vacancies

Occupational analysis	Total	Percentage
Professional, technical and related work	37	22.9
Administrative, clerical and related work	27	16.8
Farming, fishing, hunting, logging and related work	17	10.5
Transport and communications	2	1.2
Crafts, production and labour, and work not classified elsewhere	41	25.4
General and related work	18	11.1
Services and activities connected with sports and recreation	19	11.8
Total	161	100.0

Placement in Employment—The employment exchange placed 142 applicants in employment during 1965. The occupational break-up is given below:

Occupational analysis	Number of applicants placed in employment	Percentage
Professional and technical work	44	30.9
Farming, fishing, etc.	15	10.5
Administrative, clerical and related work	22	15.5
Transport and communications	—	0.9
Crafts and labour not classified elsewhere	38	26.7
General and related work	9	6.3
Services and activities connected with sport and recreation	13	9.2
Total	142	100.0

Workers in Short and Surplus Supply

Enquiries conducted by the exchange revealed that the following workers were in short supply: midwives, trained men and women compounders, trained men and women teachers, different types of technicians, compressors, drivers, oil engine drivers, electricians and wiremen (certificate holders). In ministerial services there was an acute shortage of stenographers in Hindi and English.

Clerks, unskilled workers and workers with no previous training or experience and educated persons having recently left schools and colleges were in surplus supply.

NATIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The area now covered by the district of Uttarkashi was originally a subdivision of the district of Tehri Garhwal, the district of Uttarkashi being created as a separate unit in 1960. Tehri Garhwal was a princely state which was merged in Uttar Pradesh in 1950 to form a district. In order to facilitate the implementation of various development schemes of the First Five-year Plan, the Naugaon development block was opened in 1954 in the national extension service stage and from January 26, 1957, it was converted into the intensive development stage. In 1955, the Bhatwari development block was opened in the national extension service stage and it was converted into stage II from October 1, 1961.

With the separation of Uttarkashi from the district of Tehri Garhwal two more development blocks at Dunda and Purola were opened for the fuller development and planning of the newly formed district, some particulars in respect of the blocks being given in the following statement:

Tahsil	Name of block	Present stage	Date of inauguration	No of Gaon Sabhas	No. of nyaya panchayats	Population as in 1961
Bhatwari	Bhatwari	II	2-10-'55	51	8	20,871
Dunda	Dunda	II	1-4-'60	91	11	43,471
Rvjgahi	Naugaon	Post stage II	2-10-'54	75	8	29,703
Purola	Purola	I	1-4-'60	62	7	27,432

The evolution of a block originally covered four stages, but since 1958, the number has been reduced to three: stage I, stage II and post-stage II. The period of operation of stages I and II is five years each from the date of inception; that of the last stage has not been fixed.

The U. P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam, 1961, is not applicable to the district but block development committees have

been formed in each block, of which all the *pradhans* of Gaon Sabhas, members of the State legislature and the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha who belong to the district are members, the block development officers being their ex officio secretaries. The *adhyaksh* (president) is elected by the members from amongst non-official members.

A district advisory committee, with the district magistrate as chairman, was formed in 1960. Its members comprise local departmental officers, members of the State legislature, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, four representatives of the block development committees, four nominees of the State Government and two of the district magistrate, the officer-in-charge of planning work being the ex officio secretary. The district magistrate has been designated deputy development commissioner in respect of matters relating to the planning and development of the district. The *pargana adhikaris* have been vested with the powers of planning officers in respect of the blocks functioning in their subdivisions.

There are in each block a block development officer and assistant development officers for agriculture, co-operatives, panchayats and social education, that for the last being a women, 10 *gram sewaks* (village level workers), two *gram sewikas* (women), and a horticulture mobile team comprising a horticulture inspector, a supervisor, six gardeners, a block organiser, an assistant agriculture inspector and two *hamdars* of the agriculture department. For animal husbandry work there is an assistant development officer in the Purola block and a veterinary assistant surgeon in each of the remaining three blocks.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CENSUS 1971

Distribution of total population into workers and non-workers
(p. 82—refer to supplementary information at the end of Chapter VIII)

Population by development blocks

Development block	Population
Bhatwari	22,898
Dunda	51,168
Naugaon	32,505
Nawagaon	845
Purola	50,845

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Uttarkashi is one of the four districts of the Garhwal Division* which is in the charge of the Commissioner, Garhwal Division, with headquarters at Pauri (Garhwal).

Tahsils and Subdivisions

For purposes of general and revenue administration, the district is divided into four tahsils—Bhatwari, Dunda, Purola and Rajgarhi—consisting of 29 *pattis* (revenue circles). There are three subdivisions, Bhatwari, Dunda and Purola, which form administrative units of the district for revenue and criminal work, the headquarters of the first two being at Uttarkashi and that of the third, at Purola.

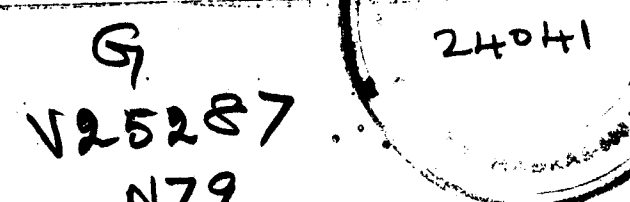
District Staff

The general administration of the district is vested in the district officer who is known as deputy commissioner and is also designated district magistrate. He exercises magisterial and executive powers and is the chief officer of the revenue administration in the district. He is responsible for the collection of revenue and all dues recoverable as arrears of land revenue. He also functions as settlement officer and maintains the land records, keeps them up to date and is in ultimate charge of the government treasury in the district.

In the capacity of district magistrate he exercises the powers specified under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and various special Acts. The district police being subordinate to him, he is the highest authority responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. He is also in charge of the entire planning and development work in the district in which sphere, as chairman of the district advisory committee, he is known as deputy development commissioner, his main function being the co-ordination of the activities of the different development departments.

He runs the district administration with the help of three sub-divisional officers, each holding charge of a subdivision and performing multifarious duties—revenue, executive, magisterial, as well as those connected with the various development plans—and functioning as planning officer and land acquisition officer in his subdivision. The functions of district supply officer, town rationing officer and liaison officer, are also assigned to the sub-divisional officers. One of the deputy collectors functions as district excise officer and stamp officer and is in charge of the

* Since December 1968



collectorate and the municipal board. For the convenience of revenue administration each tahsil is in the charge of a resident tahsildar assisted by three *naib-tahsildars*. There are in the district four *kanungo* circles, one in each tahsil, and 22 *patwari* circles, a *patwari* exercising revenue as well as police powers.

The deputy commissioner is assisted by the following officers:

Designation	Number
Subdivisional Officers and Deputy Collectors	4
Treasury Officer	1
Tahsildars	4
Assistant Accounts Officer	1

The police organization, which is directly responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district, is headed by a deputy superintendent of police. His jurisdiction covers the whole district except the villages and *pattis* under the jurisdiction of the revenue police. There are two police-stations in the district, at Uttarkashi and Barkot, each being under a subinspector, called the station officer, who is assisted in his work by a number of head constables and constables.

In this district the executive magistracy has not been separated from the judicial magistracy. The jurisdiction of the district and sessions judge, with headquarters at Dehra Dun, extends to this district as well. For civil cases the district comes under the jurisdiction of the civil and sessions judge, Tehri Garhwal, with headquarters at Narendra Nagar.

Other District Level Officers

A list of the district level officers working under the administrative control of their own heads of department is given below:

Assistant District Panchayat Raj Officer
 Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies
 Chairman, Project Implementing Committee, Bhatwari
 Civil Surgeon
 District Agriculture Officer
 District Employment Officer
 District Harijan and Social Welfare Officer
 District Horticulture Officer
 District Industries Officer
 District Information Officer

District Inspector of Schools
 District Live-stock Officer
 District Medical Officer of Health
 Deputy Superintendent of Police
 Executive Engineer, Irrigation
 Executive Engineer, Public Works Department
 Soil Conservation Officer
 Subdivisional Officer, Hydro-electricity
 Subdivisional Officer, Local Self-government Engineering Department.

Regional and Divisional Officers of the Government, having their headquarters in the district:

Divisional Forest Officer
 Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, XIII circle

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department—The district comes under the jurisdiction of the senior superintendent of post-offices, Dehra Dun postal division, with headquarters at Dehra Dun. A postmaster is in charge of the head post-office, Uttarkashi.

Field Publicity Department—The directorate of field publicity with headquarters at Uttarkashi, is under the charge of a field publicity officer. He is also assisted by a projector/operator.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal History

The area covered by the present district of Uttarkashi appears to have enjoyed some sort of established government since the early centuries of the Christian era, and a better organised rule from the 10th century A. D. when it formed part of the territories of the rajas of Garhwal. Their sway over this area continued unbroken till the last quarter of the 18th century when the entire Garhwal region was overrun and occupied by the Gurkhas. In 1815, it was conquered from them by the British who divided Garhwal into two portions, the eastern one, with its headquarters at Pauri, was brought under direct British rule, while the western portion, including the Uttarkashi region, was made over to Sudarshan Sah (1815—1859) of the old Garhwal dynasty. He and his successors continued to rule over this region till the merger of Tehri state in the State of Uttar Pradesh in 1949, and the establishment of the district of Tehri Garhwal with headquarters at Narendra Nagar. In 1960, the district of Uttarkashi was constituted as an administrative unit from the Rawain tahsil of the then district of Tehri Garhwal.

Uttarkashi is one of the four districts of the Garhwal Division in the charge of a Commissioner. For purposes of revenue administration the district is divided into four tahsils consisting of 29 *pattis*, a *patti* being a revenue circle consisting of a group of villages in the hills.

Early Settlements

Survey and Settlement operations in the state of Tehri Garhwal were carried out many times during the last century and the accounts which follow relate to the entire princely state. The first of these was made by Sudarshan Sah in 1823, the second by Bhawani Sah (1859—1871) in 1860, the third by Pratap Sah (1871—1886) in 1873, and the fourth by Kirti Sah (1887—1913) in 1903.

No records are available of the first two of these Settlements at which neither the land is said to have been measured nor any village records prepared. The area of the village lands was assessed on the basis of the quantity of seed sown in each village. This mode of measuring land was known as *fyula* which was of two kinds—*chaukhund fyula* and *chakr-fyula*. In the former the unit (*fyulo*) of seed sown equalled 16 *dons* or 12 maunds and 32 seers (4 quintals and 778 kg.), while in the latter it

equalled 4 *dons* or 3 maunds and 8 seers (1 quintal and 19 kg.); in each case the smaller subdivisions were known as *adhali*, *kaini*, *maini* and *lamiri*, in which the quantity was successively halved.

Settlement of 1873

Of the Settlement of 1873, a register, written in the Garhwali dialect, is available in the land records office, Tehri, from which it appears that on this occasion, besides making the assessment of revenue, a census of habitations, houses in each village and cows, calves, sheep, goats, buffaloes, etc., was also taken. Considering its difficult terrain and extensive area, the entire princely territory was divided into 22 *pattis* and each *patti* was given in the charge of a *kardar*. These *kardars* were like *patwaris*, recruited from among influential *thokdars* or state officials for a period of one year. Detailed instructions were issued to every one of them. The previous practice of *amils* realising revenue from the villages was abolished and instead *girdawar kanungos* were directed to do so.

It was in this Settlement that the demarcated village boundaries were mentioned for the first time. The Settlement papers prepared at the time are said to have included the records of proprietary and tenancy holding, the general statement of the *thoks* (blocks) of cultivation with their respective areas and the distribution of revenue. There was an enhancement of 25 per cent in land revenue.

Settlement of 1903

The survey operations were started in 1903, and in the following year the parganas of Milang, Chandrabadni, Pratap Nagar, Uttarkashi and Kirtinagar were first taken in hand. The survey was accompanied by the preparation of a *khasra* (field-index), a *muntakhib* (record showing all fields with names of their cultivators), a *tehrif* (cultivator-wise list of all fields recorded in the *muntakhib*) and a *phant* (showing the holdings of each proprietor). The soils were classified into *talaon* (irrigated land), *upraon* (unirrigated or dry terraced land), the latter being further subdivided into *upraon awwal* (dry first class) and *upraon doyam* (dry second class), *ijran* (inferior terraced land, cultivated intermittently) and *katil* (unterraced inferior land, cultivated intermittently). The 11 parganas were divided into 80 *pattis*. The total revenue demand of the district was fixed at Rs 1,11,791. The rates as finally sanctioned ranged from Rs 3 per acre for *talaon* to one rupee per acre for *upraon*. The incidence of the demand was one rupee and 22 paise per acre of the cultivated area. The unit of measurement was still the *don*, equivalent to 32 seers or 30 kg., or the *patha*, equivalent to 2 seers or 1.87 kg., representing the quantity of seed required for sowing the land.

Settlement of 1924

This Settlement was commenced in 1916, during the reign of Narendra Sah, with the demarcation of boundaries, followed by a measure-

ment of the cultivated land with the help of a *dori* (thick thread), the unit of measurement being a *gattha*, equivalent to 2 yards or 1.83 m. The revenue demand fixed for all the *pattis* was Rs 85,740 including Rs 7,792 as cess. The special features of this Settlement were the measurement of each field by means of a plane-table and the levy of *malikana* (proprietary cess) at the rate of 10 per cent. The old classification of soil was, in general, adopted, namely, *talaon* (irrigated), *upraon awwal* and *upraon doyam* (both unirrigated) and *katil* or *ijran* (new forest land under cultivation). The Settlement was completed in 1924.

Revision of 1944

From June 26, 1944, a revision of certain aspects of the previous Settlement was undertaken and survey operations were also started. This Settlement, commenced by the Tehri state could not be completed due to political upheaval in the state in 1947.

According to the Settlement of 1924, the cultivated area in the territory now included in Uttarkashi district was 10,94,827 *nalis* and 7 *mutthis*. But subsequently, taking advantage of the provisions of the Kumaon Nayabad and Waste Land Act, 1948, and rules made thereunder, many cultivators extended the area of their fields. Such extensions, made after September 30, 1955 and covering an area of 53,037 *nalis* and 7 *mutthis* of cultivated land, were declared illegal and no revenue was assessed on them as they were deemed to belong to the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Settlement of 1964

The operations commenced in January, 1959, and were completed in April, 1964. During this Settlement all the cultivated and uncultivated land lying within the village boundaries was measured for the first time by means of plane-table and chains. The total area, cultivated and uncultivated, comes to 45,43,253 *nalis* and 11 *mutthis* (about 91,931 hectares). It registered an increase of 58 per cent over the corresponding area of the last Settlement. The land revenue demand was assessed at Rs 1,51,217 and 68 paise including Rs 23,878 and 65 paise to be realised as cess showing an increase of 74.9 per cent over the expiring *jama* of Rs 66,472. The increase in the land revenue was due to improved methods of survey by plane-table, lawful extensions made in the cultivated area, *navabad* (unmeasured land) grants, and soil improvement due to better irrigation facilities. There are no alluvial *mahals* in the district. Exemptions from land revenue to the tune of Rs 2,130 and 64 paise were also granted. The operations took about five years to complete and the total cost amounted to Rs 10,69,272 and 25 paise.

Collection of Land Revenue—The Kumaon and Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1960, has not been enforced

in the district and the method of collecting land revenue in force prior to the enactment of the said Act still continues. Land revenue is collected through *patwaris* and *malguzars*, also known as *padhars* (headmen) of villages from whom the revenue engagements are taken and who are responsible for collecting and paying the land revenue. The collection work is supervised by three *naib-tahsildars* and four regular *tahsildars*. The ultimate responsibility for the collection of land revenue is that of the collector of the district who is assisted in his work by three subdivisional officers. He also functions as settlement officer and maintains the land records and keeps them up to date.

LAND REFORMS

Relation between Landlord and Tenant

The system of land tenures in the district differs radically from that which obtains in the plains. In ancient times the cultivators paid the ruler a share of their produce as *sirtee* which varied from a third to a half of the produce, in addition to a few ministerial fees and taxes.

Under the rule of the rajas of Tehri all proprietary rights in land vested in the raja and were inalienable. Grants were also made by the rajas from time to time for the maintenance of state officers. In order to provide for the increasing expenditure of the state, numerous taxes were imposed on the landholders. Of these the principal were the capitation tax and a house tax, and the entire revised revenue system was summed up under the designations of *chhattis rakam* (36 items of royal revenue) and *battis kalam* (32 items of ministerial fees). These sixty-eight items included the regular and contingent cesses. But under the Gurkha government (1804—1815), the cess on agriculture was augmented considerably although most of the extra demands were discontinued. Taxes, such as *nankar* (tax on house), *tandkar* (tax on looms), *mijhari* (tax on untouchables), *gheekar* (tax on ghee), *salami* (*nazrana* or premium paid to officials) and *donya phagun* (tax on public festivals), were, however, retained. The revenue of each pargana was temporarily farmed out for a year to the *kamin* or *sayana* (a landholder authorised to collect revenue in a village).

The cultivating community consisted mainly of *thatwans* (grantees), *khaikars* (akin to under-proprietors in the plains), *khurnis* or *kainis* (occupancy tenants) and *sirtans* (tenants-at-will). The *thatwan* was an agent of the government for the collection of state revenue and several other dues. Later on, he was replaced by the *hissedar* (co-sharer) who enjoyed full rights of transfer, by sale or otherwise, of the land he owned. He could not, however, secure cultivatory possession of nor could he in any way interfere with the *khaikars'* lands or their cultivation. He used only to collect the government revenue together with the amount of *malikana*. The *khaikar* paid a fixed rent for his holding, the *hissedar*

having no right to eject him unless he himself surrendered the holding. If the *khaikar* died without an heir his holding reverted to the village community. His interest was heritable but not transferable. The other tenure holders were *khurnis* or *kainis* who were not newly settled on the estate by the grantee and could not be removed. They now became sub-proprietors or occupancy tenants and were given a legal right and a fixity of tenure with the title of *khaikars*, the old name, *khurni* or *kaini*, becoming obsolete. The *sirtans* (literally meaning tenants who pay the *sirtee* or government revenue) were divided into two categories. The first consisted of the descendants of old cultivators whose interest was inferior to that of *khaikars* or *hissedars*, being probably in many cases old *khurnis* or *kainis* who had failed to get their rights properly recorded, but claimed the right of occupancy. The second class of *sirtans* was like that of tenants-at-will, with no claims to permanency of tenure, cultivating land under a lease. The old superior proprietary *thatwans* were recognised as *thokdars* (village officers charged with the duty of collecting revenue) who usually received 10 per cent of the revenue of their *thokdari* villages as *thokdari dastoor* (manorial dues). The *sirtans* had no fixity of tenure till the passing of the Kumaun Agricultural Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1954, which gave them protection from ejectment.

The Kumaon and Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1930 (U. P. Act No. XVII of 1960), has not been extended to this district and hence the old system of land tenure still continues.

ADMINISTRATION OF TAXES OTHER THAN LAND REVENUE

State Taxes—In the district, as elsewhere in the State, apart from land revenue, the other main sources from which the income of the State is derived are excise, sales tax, entertainment tax, stamp duties, registration taxes on motor vehicles and income-tax.

Excise—The U. P. Excise Act, 1910, governs the excise administration in the district. It regulates the import, export transport, manufacture, sale and possession of intoxicating liquors and drugs and the excise revenue derived from duties, fees, taxes and fines. No intoxicant can be imported into the district without a permit and the payment of duty, nor can it be exported or transported unless duty has been paid. Liquor and other spirituous preparations can be manufactured only if a licence is obtained from the excise commissioner. The rates of excise duty are fixed by the State Government. Since the creation of the district in 1960, the administration of the excise department in Uttarkashi has been under the charge of the district magistrate, some of his powers being delegated to one of the subdivisional officers who is designated the district excise officer. The district, which falls in the excise range of Dehra Dun, under an assistant excise commissioner, is divided into two

circles, each under the charge of an excise inspector. The Rajgarhi and Purola tahsils come under the jurisdiction of the excise inspector, Narendra Nagar and tahsils Bhatwari and Dunda under the excise inspector, Tehri.

Liquor—There are two shops for selling country liquor, at Barkot and Purola. The quota system for the supply of liquor under which excise licensees can obtain for sale only a fixed quota of intoxicants is applicable to the district. The number of licensees in 1965 was two. The consumption of country spirit in the district during 1965 was 9,972 litres. The hours of sale of country liquor and quantity sold to an individual at a time are restricted.

Excise Revenue—The revenue realised from licence fee for 1965-66 was Rs 30,000.

Sales Tax—In this district sales tax is levied under the U. P. Sales Tax Act, 1948, which came into operation in the district from February 24, 1960, and under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. The former has undergone several amendments, some of which are the following: reduction of the limit of taxable turnover from Rs 15,000 to Rs 12,000; enhancement of registration fee from Rs 6 to Rs 10; imposition of the tax on food-grains, cement, iron, *kirana*, photo goods, ready-made garments, soft coke and timber. Sugar and tobacco have been exempted from this tax.

The number of dealers assessed and the total revenue from important trades of the district in 1965-66, were as follows:

Commodity					Number of dealers assessed to sales tax	Amount of tax (in rupees)
Food-grains	..	..	..	..	10	3,604
Iron	..	..	..	..	3	506
Utensils	..	..	..	..	8	108
Radios	..	..	..	..	1	1,574
General merchandise	..	..	..	..	31	5,479
Medicines	..	..	..	..	1	170
<i>Kirana</i>	..	..	..	..	98	9,22
Cooked food	..	..	..	..	12	1,606
Ready-made garments	..	..	..	..	10	1,174
Timber	..	..	..	..	1	10,799

The net collections from 1960-61 to 1965-66 were as follows:

Year	Amount under U. P. Sales Tax Act (in rupees)		
1960-61	..	..	6,478
1961-62	..	..	5,863
1962-63	..	..	30,537
1963-64	..	..	62,259
1964-65	..	..	43,564
1965-66	..	..	82,760

For purposes of this tax the district of Uttarkashi falls under the jurisdiction of the assistant sales tax officer, Rishikesh, who deals with cases involving a net turnover of up to Rs 80,000. Cases where the net turnover exceeds this amount are dealt with by the sales tax officer, Dehra Dun.

Entertainment Tax—The entertainment tax in the district is levied under the United Provinces Entertainments and Betting Tax Act, 1937, and is realised from agencies of entertainment like touring talkies and circuses. The district magistrate is in charge of collecting this tax through the revenue staff. The revenue realised under this head during 1966 amounted to Rs 2,985.

Stamps—Under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, Stamps are classified as judicial and non-judicial, the former being affixed when court fees are to be paid and the latter on bills of exchange and other documents as specified in the Act and on receipts involving a sum exceeding 20 rupees. The income under this head includes fines and penalties imposed under the Act.

The receipts for the five years ending with 1964-65 were as under:

Year	Receipts (in rupees)	
	Judicial	Non-judicial
1960-61	7,814	6,235
1961-62	19,799	10,378
1962-63	21,193	15,762
1963-64	26,263	23,124
1964-65	25,341	28,142

There were 16 licensed stamp vendors in the district during 1965. Supplies are made from the district treasury and the two sub-treasuries of Rajgarhi and Bhatwari. Stamps of values up to Rs 25 are sold, through the licensed stamp vendors and of higher denominations direct from the treasury.

Registration—Certain documents, such as instruments of sale, gifts, leases and mortgage of immovable property, instruments relating to shares in a joint-stock company, and bills of exchange are required to be registered under the Indian Registration Act, 1908. The *naib-tahsildar*, Uttarkashi, also acts as subregistrar ex officio. The district magistrate, Tehri Garhwal, is ex officio district registrar.

The income from and the expenditure on registration in the district from 1960-61 to 1965-66 were as follows:

Year	Income (in rupees)	Expenditure (in rupees)
1960-61	1,187	300
1961-62	1,626	300
1962-63	3,220	300
1963-64	4,421	300
1964-65	6,313	320
1965-66	5,118	270

Tax on Motor Vehicles—Motor vehicles in the district are taxed under the U. P. Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1935, and under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. In 1965, a sum of Rs 8,930 was collected under the provisions of the former Act in the entire Dehra Dun region which comprises six districts including Uttarkashi, and which is in the charge of the regional transport officer, Dehra Dun region, with headquarters at Dehra Dun.

Under the provisions of the U. P. Motorgadi (Yatri Kar) Adhiniyam, 1962, which was enforced in the district on October 1, 1962, a tax is imposed on passengers travelling in government or private buses and for the collection of the tax, three passenger tax officers are posted at Dehra Dun. The amount collected in the whole region for 1965 was Rs 23,35,141. The U. P. Motorgadi (Mal Kar) Adhiniyam, 1964, which was enforced in the district on November 16, 1964, provides for the levy of a tax on goods carried by motor vehicles, and a goods tax officer and a goods tax superintendent have been posted at Dehra Dun for the

collection of the tax which amounted to Rs 1,42,223 and Rs 1,07,174 in 1964 and 1965 respectively for the whole region.

Central Tax

Income-tax—For purposes of income-tax this district falls under the jurisdiction of the income-tax officer, Dehra Dun. There is also an appellate assistant commissioner of income-tax, with headquarters at Dehra Dun, who hears appeals against the orders of income-tax officers.

The figures of collection in the district for the years 1960 to 1965 are as follows:

Year	No. of assessments	Amount of tax (in rupees)
1960	12	1,000
1961	12	3,000
1962	7	1,200
1963	7	1,000
1964	10	1,500
1965	10	700

Estate Duty—Estate duty is levied under the provisions of the Estate Duty Act, 1953, on the property of a deceased person, the value of which, in the case of a Hindu joint family exceeds a lakh of rupees and in other cases Rs 50,000. The district falls under the estate duty circle, Dehra Dun. For purposes of the collection of estate duty, an assistant controller is in charge of this circle and has jurisdiction over estate duty cases of this and a few other districts. Since the formation of the district in 1960, no duty has so far been assessed under the provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

LAW AND ORDER

The region covered by the district of Uttarkashi formed part of the state of Tehri till the latter's merger in 1949, and of the district of Tehri Garhwal till February, 1960, when it was constituted into a separate district.

The region being sparsely populated and not easily accessible to outsiders, the people have been, by and large, simple and honest rural folk free from criminal tendencies. Even now, generally, there are no law and order problems such as those arising from strikes, unruly processions, disturbances at public meetings, electioneering campaigns, communal riots and activities of criminal gangs which are of frequent occurrence in the plains. The ordinary crime ratio is also very small. The district police, therefore, with its quite moderate strength, seems to have comparatively an easy time, except perhaps, during the season of pilgrimage or on occasions of public fairs and festivals.

Crime

There are two statements at the end of this chapter, Statement I, giving the number of cognizable crimes reported to the police and of non-cognizable cases tried in the courts, and their results, and Statement II, giving the figures of important crimes and the results of prosecution for the years 1961 to 1965. A brief account of the important crimes committed in the district during those five years is given below:

Murders—Only one murder was committed and that in 1961.

Dacoities—Only one dacoity was committed and that in 1964. No notorious gang of dacoits or of kidnappers has so far come to light in the district.

Robberies—The average number of robberies committed was 1.6 per year, the highest number being 5 in 1965.

Thefts—Thefts mostly occur in urban areas. The average number of thefts committed was 4.5 per year, the highest number being 7 in 1961.

Burglaries—The average number of burglaries committed was 11.5 per year, the highest number being 21 in 1965. The cases were petty and organized gang was found responsible for them.

It would appear that there has been an upward trend in cognizable crimes which is attributed to the extension in the means of communication and transport and economic development in the district.

Organisation of Police

The police organisation, which is responsible for the maintenance of law and order and the investigation of crimes in the district, is headed by a deputy superintendent of police, who is vested with the powers of a superintendent of police and works under the deputy inspector general of police, hill range, Naini Tal. His jurisdiction covers the whole district except the villages and *pattis* under the revenue police.

Offences under the Motor Vehicles Act

The following statement gives the number of persons killed or injured in accidents caused by motor vehicles during the six years ending with 1965:

Year	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Number of persons killed	..	2	3	4	2	3
Number of persons injured	..	5	5	10	5	9

Anti-corruption

In June, 1962, a deputy superintendent of police (anti-corruption) for this as well as a few other districts, was posted, with headquarters at Bareilly, to deal with complaints against the non-gazetted personnel of the police department and those against the employees of other departments, if referred to him by the district magistrate.

JUSTICE

In 1803, when the Gurkhas occupied the territory of Garhwal, which included the area now covered by the district, they introduced their own way of administering justice, civil and criminal cases being disposed of by the commandant of the troops to whom the tract was assigned or by his deputies (*becharis*) when the commandant was away from headquarters. A brief oral examination of the parties was conducted in court and if there was a doubt about the veracity of a statement, the witness was made to swear by the *Harivamsha Purana*, a sacred book of the Hindus. Sometimes ordeals like the *gola dip* (carrying a ball of red hot iron in the hand for a certain distance) and the *karhai dip* (plunging the hands into boiling oil) were resorted to.

When the British annexed this region in 1815 they divided Garhwal into Eastern Garhwal and Western Garhwal. The former was placed

under direct British rule and Western Garhwal formed the state of Tehri Garhwal which was made over to Sudarshan Sah (1815—1859). The raja, who had absolute powers within his state, often delegated them to his officers, but the sentence of death could be passed by him alone. Crime was rare and usually not serious. Appeals lay in all cases to the raja who frequently transferred them to the vizir invested with executive authority or to first class magistrates. Prior to the creation of the district and after the merger of the state in 1949, there were two deputy collectors in the Uttarkashi region, posted at Rajgarhi and Uttarkashi and exercising civil, revenue and criminal powers. Appeals against their judgments lay to the court of the civil and sessions judge, Tehri.

Formerly the head of the civil and criminal judiciary used to be the district and sessions judge, Naini Tal, whose territorial jurisdiction extended to the district of Uttarkashi and to a few other districts as well, but, since December 21, 1966, a separate post of district judge has been created with headquarters at Dehra Dun having jurisdiction in this and certain other districts. He has over-all administrative control over the civil judiciary and has appellate jurisdiction in civil cases decided by the *munsifs* and in cases of the valuation of Rs 10,000 and above decided by the civil judge in so far as this district is concerned. He exercises original jurisdiction in matrimonial suits under the Indian Divorce Act, 1869, the Special Marriage Act, 1954, and the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, as well as in cases under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912, and the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920. He exercises jurisdiction under the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, and the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for grant of probate and letters of administration as well as the grant of succession certificates. If nominated by the election commission to do so, he also hears petitions relating to elections to the Vidhan Sabha and the Vidhan Parishad. He has appellate jurisdiction also in revenue suits in which a question of proprietary title is involved and under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. As sessions judge he deals with criminal cases triable by the court of sessions and hears appeals against the judgments and certain orders of the magistrates working in the district.

The monetary jurisdictions of the district judge and the civil judge are unlimited on the original side. The civil judge is invested with powers to try cases of the court of small causes of valuation up to Rs 500. The monetary jurisdiction of the *munsif* extends to Rs 5 000 and he is empowered to try cases of the court of small causes of valuation up to Rs 250. The territorial jurisdictions of the civil judge, Tehri, and the *munsif* Tehri, extend to the district of Uttarkashi, there being no separate civil judge or *munsif* for this district.

The jurisdiction of the civil courts extends to all civil suits and their normal case work consists of suits involving property, contracts, in-

heritance, mortgage, specific relief, etc., in addition to ordinary money suits and suits for divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

The number of suits pending at the beginning and the end of 1965 and the number of those instituted and disposed of in the civil courts are given in the following statement:

Year	Pending from previous year	Instituted	Disposed of	Pending at close of year
1965	6	15	10	11

In 1965, no suit involving immovable property was instituted. The number of suits in respect of moveable property was 4 and that of matrimonial suits 11.

The number of suits of different valuations that were instituted in 1965 is given in the following statement:

Not exceeding Rs. 100	Exceeding Rs 100 but not exceeding Rs 1,000	Exceeding Rs 1,000 but not exceeding Rs 5,000	Exceeding Rs 5,000
..	12	3	..

The numbers of suits disposed of in 1965 were as under:

Disposed of after trial	Dismissed in default	Decided without trial	Decreed <i>ex parte</i>
1	7	..	2

The number of civil appeals instituted and disposed of in 1965 was as under:

Instituted			Disposed of		
Regular appeals	Miscellaneous appeals	Rent appeals	Regular appeals	Miscellaneous appeals	Rent appeals
21	1	..	20	..	..

The average duration of the hearing of contested regular and miscellaneous appeals was 30 days.

Statistics of Sessions Courts—The number of cases committed to the court of sessions in 1965 was 3 of which 2 were of kidnapping and forcible abduction and one of hurt, the number of persons tried being 5 of whom one was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment.

Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions

The scheme of the separation of the judicial from the executive magistracy has not yet been introduced in the district.

Nyaya Panchayats

Under the U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, *panchayati adalats* which are now called *nyaya* panchayats were established in the district in 1960, with the object of entrusting petty judicial work to the village people. The jurisdiction of a *nyaya* panchayat extends over from 6 to 16 *gaon* panchayats depending on the population. Their numbers in each tahsil at the time of the creation of the district and in 1965 were as follows:

Tahsil	No. of <i>nyaya</i> panchaya's	
	1960	1965
Bhatwari	6	6
Dunda	10	11
Rajgarhi	7	8
Purola	7	7
Total	30	32

The district magistrate nominates with the help of an advisory committee, not more than five *panchs* from each Gaon Sabha, according to the qualification laid down under section 12(A) of the Act. The persons so appointed cease to be members of the *gaon* panchayat. The *panchs* elect from amongst themselves two persons who are able to record proceedings; one of them acts as *sarpanch* (presiding officer) and the other as *sahayak sarpanch* (assistant presiding officer). In 1965, there were 32 *sarpanchs* and an equal number of *sahayak sarpanchs* in the district. The tenure of office of both the *panchs* and the *sarpanchs* is five years, the State Government having the right to extend the term for another year. Cases are heard by benches, each consisting of five *panchs*, constituted by the *sarpanch* for a year.

The *nyaya* panchayats are empowered to try criminal cases under the following Acts.

(a) the Indian Penal Code, sections 140, 160, 172, 174, 179, 269, 277, 283, 285, 289, 290, 294, 323, 324, 341, 352, 357, 358, 374, 426, 428, 430, 431, 447, 448, 504, 506, 509, 510 and 379, 403 and 411 the offences under the last three sections being triable only when property not exceeding Rs 50 is involved.

(b) the Cattle-Trespass Act, 1871, sections 24 and 26

(c) the U. P. District Boards Primary Education Act, 1926, sub-section (1) of section 10

(d) the Public Gambling Act, 1867, sections 3, 4, 7 and 13.

The *nyaya* panchayats can try civil cases not exceeding Rs 500 in valuation and also revenue cases if the parties concerned agree in writing to such a course. The maximum sentence that these courts can award is a fine up to a hundred rupees but they are not empowered to award a sentence of imprisonment. The relevant courts of revision for civil, revenue and criminal cases are those of the *munsif*, the subdivisional officer and the subdivisional magistrate, respectively. The numbers of criminal and civil cases filed before these courts during the five years ending with 1965 were 6,984 and 8,913 respectively, of which 5,260 and 7,145 respectively were disposed of during this period. The numbers of criminal cases and civil suits pending decision at the end of the period were 1,724 and 1,812 respectively.

Bar Association

The district bar association, which was founded in 1960, had nine members in March, 1965, including eight lawyers and a mukhtar. It had not been registered till then.

STATEMENT I

Reference: page 113

Year	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
COGNIZABLE CRIMES					
No. of cases pending investigation at beginning of year	1/0	6/1	6/0	5/1	8/0
No. of cases reported to police during year	34/10	41/3	53/48	49/67	102/80
No. of cases investigated during year	30/10	39/3	53/48	41/67	98/80
No. of cases sent to courts during year	14/0	20/4	24/34	14/75	36/42
No. of cases pending in courts at beginning of year	9/10	17/2	20/1	18/14	25/6
No. of cases disposed of—					
(a) Convicted	2/0	17/4	15/31	12/72	27/41
(b) Discharged or acquitted	2/0	2/0	7/3	1/3	9/1
(c) Compounded	..	..	3/0	..	..
NON-COGNIZABLE CRIMES					
Cases tried in court	10	128	84	56	87
Cases ending in conviction	..	28	19	2	9

N. B.—The numerator represents figures relating to offences under Indian Penal Code and the denominator those under special Acts.

STATEMENT II

Reference: page 113

Year	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Murder—					
Reported	..	..	..	..	..
Convicted	..	4	..	..	..
Acquitted	..	..	..	..	..
Dacoity—					
Reported	..	..	..	1	..
Convicted	..	..	..	..	..
Acquitted	..	..	..	..	..
Robbery—					
Reported	..	1	3	1	5
Convicted	..	..	4	1	..
Acquitted	..	..	..	..	..
Riot—					
Reported	..	1	..	1	..
Convicted	..	..	..	..	..
Acquitted	..	..	..	..	..
Theft—					
Reported	..	7	..	..	..
Convicted	..	7	..	..	..
Acquitted	..	..	..	..	..
House breaking—					
Reported	..	9	8	15	11
Convicted	..	4	2	3	5
Acquitted	..	..	..	..	..

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

An account of the district organisations of the departments of agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operatives, education, forests, industries and public works is given briefly in the following paragraphs.

Agriculture Department

The district comes within the jurisdiction of the assistant director of agriculture, Kumaon and Uttarakhand region, whose headquarters are at Naini Tal. The district agriculture officer works directly under him and looks after the government agricultural programmes and their implementation in the district. Among others, who assist him, are five agriculture inspectors and four assistant agriculture inspectors who hold charge of the seed stores, situated at different places in the district and maintained by the department. They arrange for the distribution of supplies of seeds, fertilizers, implements and pesticides to the cultivators. Each assistant agricultural inspector has two *kamdars* under him.

Animal Husbandry Department

The district falls under the jurisdiction of the deputy director of animal husbandry, Meerut circle. The district live stock officer is in charge of programmes for the development of live-stock and fisheries and is concerned with the treatment of animal diseases, control of epidemics, castration of scrub bulls and better breeding of cattle in the district. He is assisted by seven veterinary assistant surgeons, 21 stockmen and a fisheries inspector. There are seven veterinary hospitals in the district, each looked after by a veterinary assistant surgeon. There are also two sheep breeding farms at Dunda and Talkundi (Rawain), each looked after by a veterinary assistant surgeon. These centres aim at encouraging intensive cattle-breeding and improving the live-stock of the area served.

Co-operative Department

The district of Uttarkashi falls within the jurisdiction of the assistant registrar, co-operative societies, whose headquarters are at Naini Tal. He is in charge of co-operative work and exercises supervision and control over the co-operative societies in the district and is assisted by an additional district co-operative officer, four co-operative inspectors cum-assistant development officers, a co-operative marketing inspector and 24 co-operative supervisors.

Education Department

The district set-up of the education department is part of the regional organisation which is in the charge of a deputy director of

education, who has his headquarters at Naini Tal. In the district, the district inspector of schools is the highest officer responsible for the supervision, control and inspection of educational institutions up to the higher secondary stage. He is assisted by a deputy inspector of schools, five sub-deputy inspectors of schools and an assistant inspectress of girls' schools.

Forest Department

The forest area of the district falls under the Yamuna, the Tons and the Uttarkashi forest divisions. Each division is in the charge of a divisional forest officer, also designated as deputy conservator of forests, who works under the conservator of forests, Tehri-Garhwal circle, with headquarters at Dehra Dun. The divisional officers have their headquarters at Mussoorie, Chakrata and Uttarkashi respectively. A divisional forest officer is assisted by an assistant conservator of forests, also designated subdivisional officer, and range officers. In the Yamuna division there are four ranges, viz., Purola, Rawain, Mogarsanti and Yamnotri; in the Uttarkashi division, five ranges, viz., North Taknaur, South Taknaur, Barahat, Dunda and Dharasu; and in the Tons division, five ranges, viz., Deota, Kotigad, Singtur, Supin and Rupin.

Industries Department

The district falls under the northern zone of the industries department, the zonal office being situated at Bareilly. A district industries officer looks after the industrial development of the district. He provides technical guidance and assistance to the industrial units in the private and co-operative sectors. He is assisted by an industrial inspector who undertakes surveys of industrial activities and conducts enquiries into matters relating to the development of industries.

Public Works Department

The district is at present the temporary headquarters of the border works circle of the public works department of the State Government and is under the charge of a superintending engineer. There are three divisions in the circle each under the charge of an executive engineer, with headquarters at Uttarkashi, Bhatwari and Barkot. There is also an executive engineer, border works, temporary division, public works department, Tehri, with headquarters at Uttarkashi. He is assisted by five assistant engineers and looks after the work of construction and repair of roads and buildings within his jurisdiction. An assistant engineer (electrical-mechanical) is also posted at Bhatwari to look after the electrical and mechanical works of both the Uttarkashi and Bhatwari divisions. The department is concerned with the maintenance and construction of roads, buildings, bridges and culverts belonging to the government.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

The local selfgoverning bodies in the district are a municipal board, an Antarim Zila Parishad and 279 Gaon Panchayats which exercise powers in the areas under their jurisdictions.

MUNICIPAL BOARD

The town of Uttarkashi was constituted a town area on November 9, 1950, when it was still a part of the district of Tehri Garhwal. It had a committee of seven members nominated by the government and a chairman. It was upgraded to the status of a notified area in 1957 with a committee of nine members elected from three wards, the members electing a president from amongst themselves. The notified area committee continued functioning till September 24, 1962, after which the town was declared a municipality under the U. P. Municipalities Act, 1916. The powers of the municipal board were vested in the district magistrate who was appointed its administrator. The affairs of the board are supervised by an officer-in-charge appointed by the district magistrate from amongst his deputy collectors. The town is divided into three wards. It had an area of about 15.54 sq. km and a population of 2,972, in 1961.

Finances—The main sources of income are the house tax, water tax, *tehbazari*, tolls, fines, contributions and income from cattle pounds. The major heads of expenditure are general administration, collection charges, public works, education, conservancy and street lighting.

Waterworks—A water supply scheme was executed by the irrigation department in the town, some time before the creation of the district in 1960. Earlier, unfiltered water was supplied to the people through public stand-posts. With the creation of the district in 1960, the water-supply was found to be inadequate and an assistant engineer of the local self-government engineering department was posted at Uttarkashi to look after the water-supply schemes and sanitation of the town, and a scheme, including the construction of a storage tank, additional public stand-posts, cattle troughs and fire hydrants and the laying of distribution pipe-lines, at a cost of Rs 2,09,000 was executed. With the increase in population the existing water-supply was considered inadequate and another scheme costing Rs 2,28,000 was prepared and executed by the local self-government engineering department.

Street Lighting—Formerly the town was lit by kerosene oil lamps, but since 1964 the town has been electrified, there being 52 electric lampposts and five fluorescent tubes in use. The work of street lighting is looked after by a subdivisional officer of the hydel department, assisted by a line inspector. The expenditure on street electric bulbs, fluorescent tubes, etc., is incurred by the municipal board which also recommends the extension of electric lines, when necessary. The board spent an amount of Rs 445 on street lighting during 1965-66.

Drainage—Prior to 1964 there were no drains in the town. A drainage scheme costing a sum of Rs 2.35 lakhs was prepared by the local self-government engineering department in 1960 after the district had been formed. Under this scheme a length of about 1,158 m. of pakka drains has been constructed and sewer lines measuring 2,042.16 m. have been laid. The sewers are flushed once a week.

Education—The municipal board maintains a senior Basic school for boys, managed by the administrator. It had 37 pupils on its roll and cost the board a sum of Rs 891 in 1965-66.

ANTARIM ZILA PARISHAD

When the district of Uttarkashi came into being in 1960, an Antarim Zila Parishad was constituted for it, with the district magistrate as its ex officio *adhyaksh* (president). This body is administered under the U. P. Antarim Zila Parishads Act, 1958.

Finances—The main sources of income are government grants, educational fees, fines, fairs and exhibitions. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, collection of dues, education, medical and public health activities and public works.

Education—The Antarim Zila Parishad maintains 24 junior Basic schools in the district, one of which is for girls. The number of teachers in these schools is 33 and they are paid out of grants given by the State Government.

Public Works—The total length of kutchra roads, maintained in the district by the Antarim Zila Parishad, is 337.96 km. and it incurred an expenditure of Rs 77,603 on their repairs and of Rs 15,830 on the construction of bridges and culverts during 1965-66. It has also built an inspection house at Dobhalgoan at a cost of Rs 15,000.

GAON SABHAS

Prior to 1960 *gaon sabhas* numbering 274, and as many *gaon* panchayats established under the U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, functioned in the area covered by the present district of Uttarkashi. In 1961, after the constitution of Uttarkashi as a separate district, the number of *gaon sabhas* was raised to 279. A *gaon sabha* is constituted

for a village or a group of villages with a minimum population of 250 persons and its membership consists of all the adults of the village. The *gaon* panchayat, which is the executive body of the *gaon sabha*, has a *pradhan* (president) and an *up-pradhan* (vice-president), the *pradhan* and the members of the *gaon* panchayat being elected by the members of the *gaon sabha* for a term of five years each. The members of the *gaon* panchayat elect the *up-pradhan* for a term of one year from amongst themselves. The number of members of a *gaon* panchayat is fixed between 15 and 30, depending on the size of the *gaon sabha*. The powers and duties of the *gaon* panchayats include the construction; repair and cleanliness of public streets; medical relief, sanitation and prevention of epidemics; upkeep and supervision of public buildings or property belonging to the *gaon sabha*; registration of births, deaths and marriages; removal of encroachments on public streets and places; regulation of places for the disposal of the dead; regulation of markets and fairs; establishment and maintenance of junior Basic schools; establishment and management of common land and grazing grounds; regulation of buildings; assistance in the development of agriculture, commerce and industry; aid in fighting fires; administration of civil and criminal justice maintenance of records relating to human and cattle censuses; maternity and child welfare; and the allotment of places for the storage of manure. The panchayats are also authorised to organise village volunteer corps for watch and ward and other public purposes; develop co-operative societies; establish improved seed and implement stores; provide for famine relief maintain public libraries, reading-rooms, playgrounds, public radios and gramophones; and promote social and communal harmony and good-will. The main sources of the finances of the *gaon* panchayats are government grants, voluntary contributions and taxation, an amount of Rs 28,079 having been collected in taxes during 1965-66.

STATEMENT I (a)

Receipts (in rupees), Antarim Zila Parishad, Uttarkashi

Year	Government grants	Education	Other sources	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5
1960-61	—	10,838	1,092	11,490
1961-62	95,952	—	9,472	85,424
1962-63	47,976	—	—	47,976
1963-64	68,846	84,235	2,340	1,55,421
1964-65	84,346	2,194	—	86,840
1965-66	1,11,955	64,105	—	1,76,060

STATEMENT I (b)

Expenditure (in rupees), Antarim Zila Parishad, Uttarkashi

Year	Administration and collection charges	Education	Public works	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
1962-63	1,672	1,100	12,350	15,822
1963-64	3,523	26,070	58,546	87,538
1964-65	4,622	51,536	92,391	1,48,549
1965-66	2,856	42,119	1,01,855	1,46,830

STATEMENT II

Receipts (in rupees), Notified Area/Municipal Board, Uttarkashi

Year	Rates and taxes	Realisations under special Acts	Property and electricity	Government grants	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1957-58	2,076	346	3,532	548	360	..	6,862
1958-59	1,506	261	4,348	14,373	1,639	..	22,127
1959-60	63	399	7,169	1,484	1,518	..	10,633
1960-61	811	577	4,443	12,052	2,133	..	20,016
1961-62	169	1,067	14,945	4,981	1,779	..	22,941
1962-63*	..	1,054	5,981	4,570	3,329	18,941	33,875
1963-64	62	1,622	6,105	15,193	8,546	23,103	54,591
1964-65	..	1,164	6,576	25,210	4,219	27,827	64,996
1965-66	..	1,081	9,223	26,845	8,585	34,601	80,335

* Upgraded to municipal board in 1962-63

STATEMENT III

Expenditure (in rupees), Notified Area/Municipal Board, Uttarkashi

Year	General adminis- tration and collection charges	Public works	Sanitation	Educa- tion	Miscel- laneous	Other heads	Total expendi- ture
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1957-58	1,896	3,016	3,670	..	1,435	..	10,017
1958-59	1,922	4,327	4,905	..	1,041	..	12,195
1959-60	3,570	5,012	3,571	..	1,347	..	13,500
1960-61	3,231	3,554	2,716	..	1,185	..	10,736
1961-62	4,902	1,927	6,079	540	1,256	..	13,804
1962-63*	6,926	12,630	5,533	750	2,172	1,001	29,017
1963-64	8,896	16,083	7,577	866	2,219	..	35,641
1964-65	12,594	25,347	11,937	853	3,812	..	54,543
1965-66	11,613	55,147	14,007	892	6,947	5,000	93,636

*Upgraded to municipal board in 1962-63

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

In ancient days the entire area now included in the district of Uttarkashi formed part of Kedara Khanda, a celebrated centre of Vedic culture since the beginning of the Hindu civilization. The hymns of the Vedas are said to have been collected and compiled in this region. A study of the ancient works, the *Brahmanas*, shows that they were also composed in the region of the upper valleys of the Ganga and the Yamuna in Uttarakhand. The text of the *Kaushitaki Brahmana* also describes Uttarakhand as the region of Pathya Svasti, the goddess of speech, who, in ancient scriptures, has also been described as the inventress of the script called Brahmi, after one of her names. In this region education was imparted in *ashramas* (hermitages) under the personal guidance of gurus and regular studentship began with the initiation ceremony, called the *upanayana samskar*. In those days the *ashramas* were the centres of learning and culture. While the student could choose his branch of specialisation from among the traditional branches of learning, such as *itihasa-purana* (legends and ancient lore), *vyakarana* (grammar), *ganita* (mathematics), *jyotish* (astronomy and astrology), *anvikshiki* (philosophy), *dharmashastra* (law), *shastravidya* (statecraft and military science) and *Ayurveda* (science of medicine), the study of the *Vedas* including *Mimansa Karmakanda* and of grammar was specially emphasised. Education was free and in return the student helped the teacher in his household and farm work. The intimate relationship between the teacher and the pupil was expected to inculcate in the latter attitudes of obedience and service. The teacher was content with whatever was offered to him by his pupils or their parents at the end of their education as *guru dakshina*. The individual was the main concern and centre of this system and the development of character, acquisition of learning and its application in practice were the chief aims. In this way the poorest were also able to receive the benefits of education.

In course of time the system of imparting education under the direct guidance of and personal contact with the teacher underwent a change and private *pathshalas*, where no fees were charged, began to be established in the vicinity of temples or groves. In addition to the subhood¹ though the teaching of the scriptures continued to be an important feature of the system. Towards the end of the 8th century the

¹ Rice, L.: *Appendix to the Report of Indian Education Commission of 1882*, p. 79
astrology and mathematics, some students were also prepared for priest-
jects that were usually taught, such as elementary Sanskrit and grammar,

decline of interest in Sanskrit learning and religious lore set in, and the study of these subjects was confined mainly to the Brahmanas. Ability to read, write and keep household accounts was possessed by a few Rajpu's also, but the masses remained generally unlettered.

With the coming of the British some schools were opened in this region also. In 1960, there were 128 primary schools, or junior Basic school, a junior high school and a higher secondary school in the district.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

According to the 1961 census, the literate and educated males and females in the district numbered 17,962 and 1,179 respectively, their percentages in relation to their respective total numbers, which were 62,534 and 60,302, being 28.7 and 1.9 respectively. In the rural areas the literate and educated males and females numbered 16,712 and 903 while in the urban area they numbered 1,250 and 276 respectively. The percentage of literate and educated persons in relation to the population, which was 1,22,836, was 15.6. In the district as a whole the majority of literates among both the sexes was of those who had not attained any recognised educational level. Of the total number of literates and the educated of the district, 66.4 per cent were without any recognised educational level.

Given below is a statement indicating the numbers of literate and educated persons of various educational standards, as revealed by the census of 1961:

Educational standard	Total	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Urban—			
Literate (without educational level)	706	516	160
General Education—			
Primary or junior Basic	533	444	89
Matriculation or higher secondary	214	195	19
Technical diploma not equal to degree	2	2	..
Non-technical diploma not equal to degree	1	1	..
University degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree	63	56	7
Technical/professional—			
Engineering	2	2	..
Medicine	4	3	..
Veterinary and dairying	1	1	..
Rural—			
Literate (without educational level)	12,012	11,372	640
Primary or junior Basic	5,009	4,766	243
Matriculation and above	594	574	20

General Education

In 1965-66, the number of junior Basic schools was 286, including 16 for girls, and that of senior Basic schools 22, including two for girls. There were eight higher secondary schools for boys and one for girls of which those at Bhatwari, Chinyalisaur, Purola and Uttarkashi, for boys, were intermediate colleges, and the remaining five at Arakot, Gaenwala, Thati Ghanari, Rajgarhi and Uttarkashi were high schools, the school at Uttarkashi being for girls only. There is no provision for higher education in the district. The statement below gives the numbers of the schools and students in them as on March 31, 1966:

Type of school	Boys		Girls	
	No. of schools	No. of students	No. of schools	No. of students
Junior Basic	270	8,095	16	2,527
Senior Basic (or junior high school)	20	6,833	2	183
Higher secondary (up to class X)	4	6,270	1	60
Higher secondary (up to class XII)	4	568	..	..

Junior and Senior Basic Education

The Wardha scheme of education, adopted by the State Government with certain modifications, including the introduction of an eight years' course of studies, and comprising the junior Basic stage from class I to class V and the senior Basic stage from class VI to class VIII, was already in operation in Uttarkashi when the district was formed.

The four fundamentals of this scheme of education are that free and compulsory education for eight years be provided by the State, the mother-tongue be made the medium of instruction, the process of education should centre round some useful handicrafts enabling the child to produce from the moment his training begins, and every school be self-supporting.

Education at the junior Basic stage in the rural areas of the district is under the control of the Antaram Zila Parishad, the deputy inspector of schools and the assistant inspectress of girls' schools, both belonging to the education department of the State, being in immediate charge of boys' and girls' education respectively. In 1965-66, the Antaram Zila Parishad maintained 23 junior Basic schools for boys with 460 pupils on roll and a school for girls with 37 pupils on roll, there being no senior Basic school under its management. In urban areas there was only one junior Basic school maintained by the municipal board, Uttarkashi, and under the control of the district inspector of schools.

Re-orientation Scheme

The re-orientation scheme, which aims at training students in agriculture, is in operation in 25 institutions in the district, of which six are higher secondary schools, the land attached to these institutions for teaching agriculture measuring 526 hectares in area.

Under the directive principles of the Constitution, as a step towards the provision of free and ultimately compulsory education for all boys and girls up to the age of 14, no tuition fee is levied up to class VI from boys and class X from girls. The non-governmental institutions are compensated for this loss in fees by government grants.

Secondary Education

Formerly a high school started from class III but with the re-organisation of education in 1948, classes III to V were transferred to the junior Basic schools, the higher secondary schools starting with class VI. Secondary education now covers studies beyond the junior Basic stage up to class XII.

Before the formation of the district there was only one higher secondary school, at Bhatwari, in the district. In 1965-66, there were eight higher secondary schools for boys in the district, all maintained by the State Government and having 1,838 students on roll. Four of these schools, with 1,270 students, provided education up to the intermediate standard and the rest with 568 students up to class X. There was only one higher secondary school, up to class X, for girls with 69 students.

The statement below gives some relevant particulars about these institutions as in 1965-66:

Year of establishment	Status and year of up-grading	No. of pupils	No. of teachers	Income in rupees	Expenditure in rupees
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Government Higher Secondary School, Arakot</i>					
1901 ..	Started as a <i>pathshala</i> ; junior high school in 1961; high school in 1964	72	12	33,983	33,983
<i>Government Higher Secondary School, Gaenwala</i>					
1907 ..	Started as junior high school; high school in 1965	153	7	20,914	21,021
<i>Government Intermediate College, Uttarkashi</i>					
1918 ..	Started as Anglo-vernacular school; high school in 1948; intermediate college in 1960	593	22	13,872	1,43,361

(contd.)

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Government Intermediate College, Bhatwari</i>					
Not ..	Started as primary school; junior high school in 1948; high school in 1960; intermediate college in 1965	159	23	3,785	1,30,134
<i>Government Intermediate College, Chinyalisaur</i>					
Not ..	Started as junior high school; high school in 1961; intermediate college in 1965	342	24	33,820	96,731
<i>Government Intermediate College, Purola</i>					
1944 ..	Started as junior high school; high school in 1960; intermediate college in 1965	167	19	8,244	80,796
<i>Government Higher Secondary School, Rajgarhi</i>					
1948 ..	Started as junior high school; high school in 1962	198	14	4,369	48,281
<i>Government Higher Secondary School, Thati Ghanari</i>					
1948 ..	Started as junior high school; high school in 1964	206	12	3,222	34,319
<i>Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, Uttarkashi</i>					
1948 ..	Started as junior high school; high school in 1961	189	11	337	64,455

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

Particular attention is being given to the spread of education among the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes by providing many of them with free tuition, stipends, scholarships and financial assistance for books, stationery, etc. The numbers of students of these communities receiving education in different standards, in 1965-66, were as follows:

Standard	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Junior Basic	526	105	21	1
Senior Basic	91	19	13	1
Higher secondary (up to class X) ..	43	11	7	1
Higher secondary (up to class XII) ..	21	7	1	..

The numbers of pupils belonging to these groups and receiving various facilities at different educational levels, during 1965-66 were as follows:

Level	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Junior Basic	86	4	2	1	93
Senior Basic	72	16	..	..	88
Higher secondary (up to class X) ..	18	..	2	..	20
Higher secondary (up to class XII) ..	..	..	..	..	..

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Teachers' Training

The Government Normal School, Barkot founded in 1965, trains candidates in a two years' course for the Hindustani Teachers' Certificate examination. From 1967, pupil-teachers will be awarded the Basic Teachers' Certificate after undergoing training for a year only, as the pattern of the training has been changed. In 1965-66, the number of pupil teachers was 40 and that of teachers four. An expenditure of Rs 24,086 was incurred in that year.

Mali Training

A *mali* training scheme was launched in the district in 1961-62 to train those interested in horticulture, pruning, grafting, plant protection, use of insecticides, etc., at the government multipurpose farm, Raithal, tahsil Bhatwari. The number of persons trained at a time is 5 to 15, the duration of the training being three months. A stipend of Rs 40 per month is also awarded to each trainee. Those trained up to 1965-66 numbered 37.

Vocational Training

In 1965-66, there were in the district 16 training-cum-production centres run by the industries department. They imparted training in handicrafts, such as carpentry, smithery, spinning and weaving of wool, tailoring, knitting and carpet and shawl making. During the training period each trainee is awarded a stipend ranging from Rs 20 to Rs 25 per month. Certificates are awarded to successful trainees by the industries department.

To encourage technical education, stipends and scholarships are also awarded to suitable local students to enable them to join industrial training institutes, polytechnics and other technical institutions in other districts of the State. The State Government spent an amount of Rs 82,000 in 1964-65 on stipends to students of the Uttarakhand Division pursuing higher and technical studies, the district then forming part of that Division.

ORIENTAL EDUCATION

Sanskrit

A brief account of the Sanskrit *pathshalas*, registered with the inspector of Sanskrit *pathshalas*, Uttar Pradesh, all affiliated to the Varanasi

naseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, and aided by the State Government, is given below:

Name	Year of establishment	Founder	Course of study	No. of students	No. of teachers
Government Sanskrit Pathshala, Kharsali	1909	Maharaja of Tehri	Up to Madhyama	19	3
*Sri Vishwanath Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Uttarkashi	1953	Swami Brahmaswarupa and	Up to Shastri	53	6
Sri Saraswati Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Jogat	1957	Sri Mitranand Joguri	..	34	3

*Education is imparted free of cost here.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education classes are run under the supervision of block development officers, instruction being imparted by adult teachers and the examinations being conducted by the inspecting staff of the government. The duration of the course is six months. Adult centres for women are run by women village level workers (Gram Lakshmis), where training is given in local crafts, housecrafts, nursing and community living. Adult education classes organised in the district during 1964-65 numbered 64 and adults made literate and Gram Sahayaks trained numbered 1,260 and 5,005 respectively, the number of women trained in handicrafts being 734.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education classes are run by the District Bharat Scouts and Guides Association in almost all categories of institutions. Regional meets are also organised where mass physical training exercises and displays are held.

Institute of Mountaineering

The Nehru Institute of mountaineering, Uttarkashi, was started in 1965 by the State Government. It is a registered society with its headquarters at Uttarkashi. It imparts training in climbing, ice and snow craft, rescue work and safe movement on glaciers. It runs six Basic courses of 28 days' duration each to impart intensive training in mountaineering. Training in winter sports in the mountains forms part of one full course. Besides, training in self-discipline, team work and undertaking of hardships and risks is given. The minimum academic qualification prescribed for admission is matriculation or its equivalent.

FINE ARTS AND MUSIC

Folk-Dance and Music

The people of the district have a rich folk culture. Usually after the day's hard labour, men and women sing and dance, the practice being more common in Bhatwari and the *pattis* of Dasgihatar Bhist Patti and Bandarsyun. Some of the popular traditional folk-dances of the area are the Tandi, Pandava, Rasu, Chopatti, Jhamailo, Paiswara, Doli, Panwara, Jagar, Chhora, Jang Baji, Kurala, Chhanchari, Chholia, Jhoda, Thandya, Achari, Radha Khendi, Dhola Sagar and Chaunphula Kedar. The first eleven of these dances are described in the following paragraphs.

The Tandi is a rhythmic folk-dance, performed by men and women who dance in a circle to the blowing of *ransinghas* (trumpets), the beat of drums and the singing of folk-songs narrating romantic stories or accidental deaths. This dance is popular in Purola and Nawagaon, some villages of tahsil Bhatwari and the *pattis* of Dasgihatar, Bhist Patti and Bandarsyun in tahsil Dunda.

The Pandava dance is performed in almost every village in the district. It is so called because usually six persons, five men and a woman representing the Pandava brothers and Draupadi, well-known characters from the *Mahabharata*, take part, though some others may also join when the dance is at its peak. It is a vigorous and rhythmic dance, the participants changing steps with the change in the beat of the drums. The dance sometimes continues for hours. In Nawagaon and Purola, the dancers who represent the Pandavas put on a special dress and are armed with swords.

The Rasu is a vigorous and rhythmic dance popular nearly everywhere in the district. It is led by a dancer whose steps are followed by the other participants, and is accompanied by folk-songs or instrumental music.

In the Chhopatti dance the participants form a circle, each dancer holding the nearer arm of the next. It goes on like the Tandi dance.

The Jhamailo dance is popular in the Baragaddi area of Bhatwari tahsil. The dancers form two rows and dance to songs and the beating of drums.

The Paisara dance is performed by two or more persons beating drums as they dance.

The Doli dance is performed when the image of a deity is taken out from a temple. The *doli* or palanquin bearing the image is carried by two persons who dance to the accompaniment of the beating of drums and the blowing of *ransinghas*, as they go along.

The Panwara dance is accompanied by a recital of the heroic deeds of ancient local heroes, generally by the Harijans and the Bhats. The

Panwaras of Gango Ramola, Lall Singh, Madho Singh Bhandari, Rikhola Lodi and Jeetu Bagdwal are among the popular ones.

In the Jagar or Ghadiyala dance the spirit of a local deity or godling is invoked by reciting songs and mantras in praise of it. When the recital reaches its climax the person, supposed to be possessed, is thrown into convulsions dances in a strange manner and speaks out what the deity is supposed to convey. It is performed at night and continues for hours.

In the Chhora dance two or more persons recite songs composed in memory of some dead persons of note belonging to the locality.

The Jang Baji dance enacts a duel between swordsmen who dance to the beat of drums, move swiftly and display their skill in swordsmanship.

In most of the villages of the district, on various occasions, beating of drums by way of *naubat* is performed, the notes being changed to suit the mood, prayerful, joyous or melancholy, as the case may be.

LIBRARIES AND READING-ROOMS

The government district library at Uttarkashi was founded in 1965. In March, 1966, it had 3,155 volumes, 2,496 in Hindi and the rest in English. The library subscribed 44 magazines, about 60 persons visiting it every day. There were also six rural libraries and reading-rooms run by the education department.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICAL FACILITIES IN EARLY TIMES

The system of medicine obtaining in this district in early times was based on Ayurveda. The physicians practising this system, generally known as *vaids* and *bhishaks*, used herbal and other medicines and possessed surgical knowledge as well. Many of the plants and herbs, greatly valued in Ayurveda and widely used for their therapeutic properties, are found in these parts. Some of them are *kushta*, *atis*, *nrbisi*, *bhangra*, *punarnava*, *kingora-ka-jar* and *ratanjot*. Minerals such as sulphur, borax, gypsum and *silajit* are also considered to have therapeutic qualities. This district has also a number of thermal or medicinal springs which possess healing properties, those at Yamnotri being widely known.

The *vaids* of ancient times moved from place to place with medicines and treated patients. They regarded service to humanity as their duty and did not accept any remuneration. However, they received a share in the crop at the time of harvest.

In the mediaeval period, the medical profession did not attract many students and came to be dominated by village doctors, not always well-versed in the profession. *Silajit*, an impure sulphate of alumina, recommended as a panacea for all ills, was locally available and sold as a minor forest produce by the contractors, who used to do brisk business in it along the pilgrim routes to Yamnotri and Gangotri.

The British made attempts to study the various diseases prevalent in the region in the 19th and 20th centuries and an asylum for the lepers of the Garhwal region was opened at Srinagar, in 1901. The Tehri state contributed towards its maintenance and also opened two allopathic dispensaries at Rajgarhi and Uttarkashi in 1908. There has been a notable increase in the medical and health facilities in the district since 1950. There are a State hospital, 10 allopathic dispensaries, 18 Ayurvedic dispensaries and four primary health centres in the district, manned by doctors, sanitary inspectors and others. In addition, there are a number of private Ayurvedic practitioners.

VITAL STATISTICS*

As the district came into existence in 1960, the vital statistics for the preceding period are not available.

* There were, it is apprehended, large-scale omissions in the registration of births and deaths, and, therefore, the rates given are only roughly indicative of trends.

The efforts made by the government in the 19th and the 20th centuries have considerably improved environmental sanitation and health and medical services in the district. Epidemics which used to increase the death rate occur rarely and in isolated pockets in the district. The birth-rate has shown a steady rise and the death-rate has ranged between 9.46 and 11.26 per thousand in the period, 1961 to 1965. In 1965, in particular, the death-rate increased sharply when 1,289 persons died of fever, dysentery, diarrhoea and respiratory diseases. The birth-rate, death-rate and infant mortality during the six years ending with 1965 are given below:

Year	Rate per thousand of population		Rate per thousand of live births
	Births	Deaths	Infant mortality
1960	15.75	12.05	19.74
1961	15.87	10.83	20.08
1962	12.95	9.46	38.78
1963	15.31	9.72	28.28
1964	10.14	9.90	50.22
1965	18.43	11.26	99.47

DISEASES

Common Diseases

The diseases which accounted for a large number of deaths during the last six years (1960—65) in the district were fevers of different types, diarrhoea and dysentery and respiratory diseases.

Fever—Besides including such diseases as malaria and typhoid, the term also covers a number of unidentified and undiagnosed diseases which are usually accompanied by fever.

As many as 743 persons are reported to have died of fever in 1960; the toll taken by it tended to decrease in 1961 and 1962. Marked increase was noticed in its incidence after 1963 and as many as 822 persons died of it in 1965. The number of deaths caused by fever from 1960 to 1965 is given below:

Year	No. of deaths	Rate per thousand
1960	743	6.37
1961	599	4.89
1962	560	4.58
1963	588	4.80
1964	644	5.26
1965	822	6.71

Dysentery and Diarrhoea—Bowel complaints in the form of dysentery and diarrhoea claim a large number of lives in the district. As many as 280 persons died of these diseases in 1960, but the figure has tended to decrease since then. The following statement gives the number of deaths due to dysentery and diarrhoea from 1960 to 1965:

Year	No. of deaths	Rate per thousand
1960	280	2.58
1961	240	1.95
1962	276	1.78
1963	277	2.26
1964	254	2.05
1965	223	1.32

Respiratory Diseases—Many persons die every year of respiratory diseases in the district. The following statement gives the number of deaths from respiratory diseases and the death-rate from 1960 to 1965:

Year	No. of deaths	Rate of deaths per thousand
1960	229	1.87
1961	243	1.98
1962	151	1.23
1963	201	1.64
1964	189	1.54
1965	244	1.99

Among other diseases which affect the people of the district are goitre, leprosy, malaria, tuberculosis, venereal diseases and cancer. The incidence of goitre and leprosy appears to be considerable. Only 7 cases of cancer were reported in 1965. The following statement gives the incidence of goitre and leprosy in the district in the years 1960 to 1965:

Year	Goitre	Leprosy
1960	1,086	7
1961	1,283	16
1962	988	7
1963	1,097	10
1964	1,268	739
1965	709	241

Epidemics

The district is comparatively free from epidemics, there having been no deaths from plague and cholera since the district came into being. The incidence of death from smallpox has also decreased and there were no deaths from it in 1960, 1964 and 1965. However, 16 persons died of small-pox in 1961, and one each in 1962 and 1963.

The State Government has adopted effective measures to prevent the spread of epidemics, such as intensive vaccination and inoculation, improvement of environmental sanitation and provision of better medical facilities in the urban and rural areas.

MEDICAL ORGANISATION

The medical and public health departments in the State were amalgamated in 1948 and a directorate of medical and health services was created to control the allopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani institutions and services in the State. In July, 1961, a separate directorate was created for the effective supervision and encouragement of the Ayurvedic and Unani systems. The State Ayurvedic dispensaries in the district are controlled by the directorate and their expenditure borne by it, local administrative control being in the hands of the district medical officer of health.

The civil surgeon is the head of the medical organisation of the district and is in over-all charge of the district hospital, all the State dispensaries and the family planning centres. He is also the medico-legal head of the district.

Hospital

The district hospital of Uttarkashi, attained its present status in 1960, starting as a dispensary in 1906.

Dispensaries

Allopathic—There are 10 allopathic dispensaries including a leprosy unit in the district. All the dispensaries with the exception of those in the development blocks are under the administrative control of the civil surgeon, Uttarkashi and those in the development blocks are under the district medical officer of health.

Ayurvedic—There are 18 Ayurvedic dispensaries in the district under the direct administrative control of the district medical officer of health and under the supervision of the divisional officer of the department of Ayurveda. Each dispensary is manned by a *chihitsa adhi kari* and five others and has six to eight beds. The government incurred an expenditure of Rs 2,57,432 on all the Ayurvedic dispensaries in the district in 1965-66.

Primary Health Centres—There are four primary health centres in the district, each having a dispensary and three to four maternity centres.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The district medical officer of health supervises public health activities in the rural and urban areas. He is assisted by medical officers, sanitary inspectors, health visitors and some other staff. He is also the district registrar for vital statistics, the superintendent of vaccination under the Vaccination Act, 1880, and the licensing authority for food establishments under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. He is also responsible for taking anti-epidemic measures in the district.

The planning department also undertakes measures for the improvement of public health in the district. The statement below gives particulars of the achievements of the planning department during the years 1962 to 1965, for the improvement of public health in the district:

Year	No. of <i>diggis</i> (wells) constructed	No. of <i>diggis</i> repaired	No. of washing and bathing platforms built	No. of P. R. A.I. type latrines* constructed
1962-63	75	85	48	Nil
1963-64	90	63	Nil	22
1964-65	60	121	Nil	12

Maternity and Child Welfare

In order to bring down the high rate of infant and maternal mortality a network of maternity and child welfare centres has been established in the district in recent years. The staff posted at these centres renders medical advice and aid to the women visiting the centres and also pays domiciliary visits. Besides the 15 maternity centres which function under the primary health centres, 10 such centres are directly under the district medical officer of health, and are located at Saura, Mustic-saur, Dhauntari, Dharasu, Jibiya, Kandari, Doni, Jakhol, Rana and Pora. During the three years ending 1965, the midwives and *dais* attached to these centres conducted 1,162 and 399 maternity cases respectively.

The midwives, nurses, etc., are trained at the various training centres in the State. A trainee from this district is given an additional non-recurring grant of a sum of Rs 100 for purchasing the initial equipment required, and a stipend of a sum of Rs 25 per month.

The *dais* are trained in the maternity and child welfare centres at Saura, Dharasu, Nawagaon and Purola. A trainee must be literate, the

* Designed by the Planning, Research and Action Institute, Lucknow.

period of training is 6 months and a stipend of Rs 25 per month is given to each trainee. In the 3 years ending 1965, training was imparted to 20 *dais*.

Vaccination—Previously people in the district were averse to having recourse to vaccination with the result that the rate of mortality from smallpox was high. That vaccination is no longer frowned upon is evident from the increasing number of persons going in for it voluntarily. There are seven vaccinators in the district, of whom six operate in the rural areas and one in the municipality of Uttarkashi. A medical assistant and five vaccinators have also been posted in the district since 1965 under the national smallpox eradication programme. During epidemics, sanitary inspectors, epidemic assistants and nursing assistants are also entrusted with the work of vaccination. The following statement gives information about primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations performed in the period 1963—1965:

Year	No. of persons vaccinated	No. of primary vaccinations		No. of re-vaccinations	
		Successful	Unsuccessful	Successful	Unsuccessful
1963	96,674	6,950	296	56,384	17,196
1964	16,574	2,146	29	29,013	7,939
1965	19,434	2,130	46	14,272	1,449

Malaria Eradication Programme—The Dehra Dun unit of the national malaria eradication programme looks after the implementation of the scheme in Uttarkashi district. The programme was launched in 1958-59 in the State and this unit was established the same year.

D. D. T. spraying is carried out twice a year and 12,761 houses were sprayed in the first round and 12,820 in the second round, covering 1,54,765 persons, in 1963-64. Active surveillance over the incidence of malaria is exercised through the unit and passive surveillance through the hospitals and dispensaries. The unit detected 5,930 malarial cases, of which 5,905 received treatment in 1965. The unit collected 5,895 blood smears, of which 5,834 were examined by the unit in 1965. The number of cases of fever detected under the passive surveillance operations was 252 of which 248 received treatment. In addition, tablets of 4-Aminoquinoline numbering 26,409 and 17,676 were distributed in 1964 and 1965 respectively.

The unit is manned by an anti-malaria officer, assisted by a subordinate staff comprising an assistant unit officer, malaria inspectors, surveillance inspectors, house visitors, and ministerial and other staff.

Prevention of Food Adulteration—The district medical officer of health is the licensing authority under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, and sanitary inspectors act as food inspectors. The following statement gives certain data about the administration of the Act in 1964 and 1965:

Year	No. of samples collected	No. of cases detected	No. of cases prosecuted	No. of cases resulting in conviction
1964	70	32	2	2
1965	67	30	21	20

B. C. G. Scheme—The scheme was initiated in 1965, in order to control tuberculosis in the district. Under the scheme 9,424 persons were examined, of whom 5,431 were vaccinated in 1965.

The patients are sent to the T. B. hospital at Pithoragarh for treatment. The government sanctioned an amount of Rs 10,000 to the hospital as grant-in-aid for patients from Uttarkashi district in 1965-66.

The Tuberculosis Association of India launched a T. B. seal sale campaign in the district in 1960, the sales amounting to Rs 941 and Rs 457 in 1964 and 1965 respectively.

Family Planning

The government being aware of the high rate of increase in population has sanctioned five family planning centres in the district. However, one centre is operating at Uttarkashi under a male social worker. Vasectomy operations are being performed at primary health centres and the district hospital, Uttarkashi. The medical and health staff performed 96 such operations in 1965.

Eye Relief Camps

Trachoma is the most prevalent eye disease in the district. The Gandhi Eye Hospital, Aligarh, has been organising relief camps in the district since 1960. No fee is charged from the beneficiaries. The following statement gives some details of the work done in these camps in the years 1960-61 to 1966-67:

Year	Location of the camps	No. of patients treated		No. of operations performed	No. of refractions performed
		Indoor	Outdoor		
1960-61	Nawagaon, Uttarkashi, Gudiatgaon	1,438	2,621	135	77
1961-62	Rejgarhi, Chinyali Saur	1,008	1,647	106	Nil
1962-63	Uttarkashi, Silkiara, Nawagaon	2,014	2,369	207	57

1	2	3	4	5	6
1963-64	Naitwar, Dunda	Bhatwari, 846	1,457	125	134
1964-65	Maneri, Purola, Dhauntari	1,589	1,094	123	Nil
1965-66	Uttarkashi, Naitwar	Barkot, 1,297	1,721	166	Nil
1966-67	Purola, Bhatwari, Chinyali Saur	2,494	940	161	173

An amount of Rs 10,000 was sanctioned by the State Government annually for holding eye relief camps in the district in the years 1961-62 to 1966-67.

District Branch, Indian Red Cross Society

The society was organised in 1966 at Uttarkashi and is affiliated to the U. P. State Branch, Indian Red Cross Society, and functions under the presidentship of the district magistrate, the district medical officer of health being its honorary secretary. The society provides relief to the people mainly during natural calamities occurring in the district. Its income is derived from contributions given by members. The number of members enrolled and the amount of fees collected from them in the years 1962 to 1965 are given below:

Year	No. of members enrolled	Enrolment fees collected (in Rs)
1962	16	36
1963	19	47
1964	199	282.50
1965	20	41.24

NUTRITION

The people of the district are generally vegetarians. They consume wheat and rice, the poor generally consuming coarse grains. Most of the people combine coarse grains with wheat. Pulses like *urd*, *masoor* and *moong* are consumed at the rate of 1.8 oz. per head daily, which is much below the required 3 oz. to provide sufficient proteins and their consumption, therefore, needs to be increased. The consumption of leafy vegetables is 1.3 oz. per head per day, which should be increased to 4 oz. The consumption of non-leafy vegetable fruits, ghee and oil is also below

the required quantities. Radish and potatoes are consumed in greater quantities. Fruits like apples, peaches, and pears are consumed at the rate of 1.5 oz. per head per day. Their consumption should be increased to 3 oz. per head per day. Generally people consume the fruits and vegetables they produce. The consumption of sugar and jaggery is adequate. Some people take honey as well. Milk is consumed practically in every family and the consumption is 4.9 oz. per head per day. Some people take meat and fish as well.

The diet of the people is, generally speaking, deficient in calories, animal protein, fat, vitamins and iron but adequate in total proteins and calcium.

Free Milk Supply

The district medical officer of health distributes milk under the free milk distribution scheme, which commenced in 1961. The milk was supplied by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund for the benefit of school children and expectant and nursing mothers. The following quantities of milk were distributed:

Year	No. of beneficiaries	Quantity (in kilograms)
1961	249	677.57
1962	667	1,814.90
1963	625	1,710.24
1964	304	827.71

CHAPTER XVII OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

LABOUR WELFARE

The district of Uttarkashi falls in the Meerut region, one of the seven regions of the U. P. labour commissioner's organisation into which the State has been divided for the administration of labour laws and the implementation of labour welfare measures. The staff of the regional office at Meerut consists of a regional assistant labour commissioner, assisted by a regional conciliation officer, two additional regional conciliation officers, an assistant welfare officer, three inspectors of factories with headquarters at Meerut, and 19 labour inspectors posted at the regional headquarters and in important industrial towns in the region. The administration of labour laws in the district is the responsibility of the labour inspector, Hardwar (district Saharanpur), who also deals with industrial relations, arbitration of disputes between industrial workers and employers, trade unions and social security and welfare measures for employees. It is his responsibility to ensure that the labour laws are properly implemented and prosecutions launched if they are contravened.

A brief account of the labour laws in operation in the district is as follows:

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923—This Act lays down that an employer is liable to pay compensation if personal injury is caused to a worker in an accident arising from and in the course of his employment and also if the worker contracts any disease mentioned in the Act. The deputy commissioner, Uttarkashi, is ex officio commissioner under the Act for determining the amount of compensation payable to injured or diseased workmen. The number of cases in which compensation was awarded, during the five years ending with 1965, was 36 and the amount of compensation paid was Rs 1,18,040, the yearwise break-up being as under:

Year	Temporary disablement		Permanent disablement		Fatal cases		Total	
	No.	Amount (in rupees)	No.	Amount (in rupees)	No.	Amount (in rupees)	No.	Amount (in rupees)
1961	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1962	—	—	1	945	3	6,300	4	7,245
1963	2	166	5	11,170	3	7,500	10	18,836
1964	1	314	8	39,220	3	21,070	12	59,534
1965	2	561	7	27,664	1	4,200	10	32,425

The Indian Boilers Act, 1923—This Act makes provision for registration and inspection of boilers, prohibits the use of unregistered or uncertified boilers and is applicable to three boilers in the district, all located at Uttarkashi.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS

The old-age pension scheme, which came into force in December, 1957, provides for the grant of a pension of Rs 20 per month to old and destitute persons, aged 60 years or more, who have no means of subsistence or support. It is administered by the labour commissioner, U. P., Kanpur, but the verification of age, income, etc., is done through the district magistrate. The number of persons granted such pensions in the district up to 1967 was 19, the tahsilwise break-up being as follows:

Tahsil	Number of beneficiaries		Total
	Men	Women	
Bhatwari	1	1	2
Dunda	3	4	7
Purola	4	2	6
Rajgarhi	4	—	4

PROHIBITION

The district of Uttarkashi is not a dry area but, for discouraging indulgence in liquor and other intoxicants in the district, a district temperance society consisting of officials and influential non-officials was formed in March, 1963, its executive committee and other sub-committees being formed in June, 1964. A *pracharak* (publicity agent) of the society and an honorary local worker of the Sarvodaya movement carry out propaganda through publicity, moral and religious pressure, persuasion and personal contact to wean the addicts from the use of intoxicants. Prohibition is propagated through meetings, cinema slides, film strips, short plays, posters and free distribution of leaflets.

The quota system under which excise licensees can obtain for sale only a fixed quota of liquor is applicable to the district. There are two shops for selling country liquor, which were opened in 1965-66, at Barkot and Purola. There is no shop which sells bhang, ganja or opium in the district. No sale of liquor is allowed on Tuesdays, the other 'dry' days being Holi, Diwali, Independence Day (August 15), October 2 (the birthday of Gandhiji) and January 30 (the day of Gandhiji's martyrdom).

The hours of sale of country liquor and the quantity sold to an individual at a time are restricted.

ADVANCEMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

The work of the amelioration of the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes in tahsil Rawain of the Tehri Garhwal district was looked after by the Harijan and social welfare officer of that district but after February 24, 1960, when the separate district of Uttarkashi was constituted, two Harijan welfare supervisors, responsible for the execution of development schemes relating to the social, economic and educational betterment of these classes and for getting the people, specially the Harijans, acquainted with the schemes of the department, were posted to the district. A district Harijan and social welfare officer was appointed in the district in May, 1966, and he works under the administrative control of the deputy commissioner. He also educates the public regarding the provisions of the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955.

In 1960-61, a sum of Rs 10,000 was sanctioned by the department for the uplift of the Bhotiyas who are included amongst Other Backward Classes in the district.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

Hindu Trusts

The Punjab Sindh Kshettra, which is a charitable institution registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, has five branches in the district at Uttarkashi, Maneri, Jhala, Gangotri and Chhuna, some particulars regarding which are given below:

Branch	Date of foundation	Amount invested (in rupees)	Annual expenditure (in rupees)	Objectives
Uttarkashi	1920	50,000	1,000	To serve food to sadhus and poor and blind persons and provide free accommodation to pilgrims
Maneri	1920	20,000	500	Ditto
Jhala	1920	10,000	900	Ditto
Gangotri	1925	15,000	1,500	Ditto
Chhuna	1925	5,000	500	Ditto

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF DISTRICT IN LEGISLATURES

Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly)

In the general elections of 1952 for the Vidhan Sabha of the State, the area covered by the present district formed part of the single-member constituency of Rawain-cum-Tehri (North). There were only two contestants for the seat, one belonging to the Congress and the other an independent. The number of electors was 79,965, and that of votes cast 26,426 of which 26,418 were valid. The seat was won by the independent candidate.

For the general elections of 1957 the district was included in the single-member Rawain constituency of the then Tehri Garhwal district. The only contestant was a Congress candidate who was elected unopposed.

In the general elections of 1962, the erstwhile Rawain constituency was named the Uttarkashi constituency. The number of electors was 89,586 and that of votes polled 23,277, of which 829 votes were declared invalid. There were three contestants, one each belonging to the Congress and the Jan Sangh, and the third an independent. The seat was bagged by the Congress candidate.

Given below is a statement showing the number of seats allotted to the district, the number of contestants of the various parties, and the numbers and percentages of valid votes polled at the three general elections of 1952, 1957 and 1962 for the State legislative assembly:

Party/ Independent	1952				1957			
	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Percentage	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Percentage
Congress	1	—	9,665	38.6	1	1	Elected unopposed	—
Jan Sangh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Independent	1	1	16,753	63.4	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	26,418	100.0	1	1	—	—

1962			
Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Percentage
1	1	18,132	71.9
1	—	3,109	13.8
1	—	3,207	14.3
3	1	22,448	100.0

Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council)

The area covered by the Uttarkashi district forms part of the Uttarakhand-cum-Kumaon Graduates', Uttarakhand-cum-Kumaon Teachers', and Uttarakhand-cum-Tehri Garhwal-cum Almora Local Authorities' constituencies for the Vidhan Parishad but no person belonging to the district had been elected or nominated to the upper house till 1966.

Lok Sabha (House of the People)

In 1952, the area now covered by the district of Uttarkashi was included in the single-member constituency of Garhwal District (West)-cum-Tehri Garhwal District-cum-Bijnor District (North). There were three contestants for the seat, one candidate each belonging to the Congress and the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, and the third an independent who won the seat. The numbers of electors and of valid votes polled were 3,73,418 and 1,35,092 respectively.

For the elections of 1957, the then district of Tehri-Garhwal including the region covered by this district was delimited into a single-member constituency. There were three contestants, one each belonging to the Congress and the Jan Sangh, and the third an independent. The seat went to the Congress candidate. The numbers of electors and valid votes polled were 3,95,937 and 1,40,313 respectively.

The district continued to remain a part of the single-member constituency of Tehri Garhwal for the elections of 1962. As there was only one candidate contesting the election, he was declared elected unopposed. He belonged to the Congress.

The following statement gives some of the more important particulars about the three elections to the Lok Sabha:

Party/ Independent	1952				1957			
	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Percentage	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Percentage
Congress	1	—	51,829	40.6	1	1	1,10,687	78.2
Jan Sangh	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,429	8.2
Kisan Mazdoor Praja	1	—	11,452	8.5	—	—	—	—
Independent	1	1	68,811	50.9	1	—	18,197	12.9
Total	3	1	1,35,092	100.0	3	1	1,40,313	100.0

[continued]

1962			
Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Percen- tage
1	1	Elected Unopposed	—
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—

Rajya Sabha (Council of States)

No one had been elected or nominated to the Rajya Sabha from Uttarkashi district till 1966.

Political Parties

The political parties, active in the district, function on an all-India level, none being of local standing only. Their numerical strengths vary from time to time. The Congress contested all the three general elections, the Jan Sangh those of 1957 and 1962 and the erstwhile Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party the election of 1952 only.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

No newspaper or periodical is published from the district. The dailies which are read in the district are the *National Herald*, the *Hindustan Times*, the *Times of India* in English, the *Dainik Hindustan* and the *Nav Bharat Times* in Hindi and the *Pratap* in Urdu. The weekly periodicals which are read are the *Dharmyug* and the *Saptahik Hindustan* in Hindi, and the *Blitz* of which both Hindi and English editions are read.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Prior to the formation of the district, in the areas which now constitute it, there were a few voluntary social service organisations which mainly depended on the generosity and philanthropy of the people. The erstwhile Tehri state also extended a helping hand to these institutions occasionally. Efforts have been made to strengthen these organisations and to co-ordinate their activities with those of similar governmental institutions. In May, 1966, a district Harijan and social welfare officer was posted to the district. He was in charge of the work relating to the welfare of the people of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes up

to July of the same year, when the post was abolished. A brief account of the more important voluntary social service organisations is given below.

A branch of the Ashok Ashram, founded in 1942 at Kalsi in district Dehra Dun, established leprosy control units and centres to check immoral traffic in women in 1950, at Gangani and Nawagaon situated in the area now covered by this district. These had to be closed soon after 1956, because of lack of finances. However, in the buildings of the Ashok Ashram at Nawagaon, a health centre, known as the Kasturba Arogya Kendra, was established by the Kasturba Trust, Varanasi. The Ashok Ashram has also been running a Lok Karya Kshettra there since March, 1964. It conducts two adult education classes, maintains a reading-room and carries out works of public utility through *shramdan* (voluntary labour). The entire expenditure of this institution is borne by the Bharat Sewak Samaj.

A branch of the Bharat Sewak Samaj functions in the district to explore and develop avenues of voluntary service, promote social well-being of the community and mitigate the privations and hardships of the socially and economically backward. It works on a non-political basis and organises youth camps for executing works of public utility by voluntary labour. The organisation has established Lok Karya Kshettra at Bhatwari like the one at Nawagaon.

A branch committee of the Uttar Pradeshia Apradh Nirodhak Samiti has also been functioning in the district since 1961, with the district magistrate as its chairman. Its object is to find out ways and means to check crime and rehabilitate and reform ex-convicts. In the district the incidence of crime is, however, very low.

The activities of the Indian Red Cross Society commenced in the district in 1962, but a branch of it was formally opened in 1966, with the district magistrate as its president and the district medical officer of health as its secretary. The society stands for helping people in distress due to natural calamities.

A branch of the Bharat Scouts and Guides Association also functions in the district, the district inspector of schools being its local commissioner.

The Kali Kamliwala Kshettra and the Punjab Sindh Kshettra, two voluntary social service organisations with headquarters at Rishikesh, render useful service to the pilgrims coming to these parts by maintaining dharmshalas, *piaos*, dispensaries, etc. along the pilgrim routes



Bhagirathi river near village Jhala

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Bhaironghati (tahsil Bhatwari)

Situated at the confluence of the two streams of the Ganga, Bhaironghati set in picturesque forests, is about 80 km. from the district headquarters. Tradition has it that after leaving the matted hair of Siva, the Ganga followed king Bhagirath and came to this place but disturbed the sage Jahnu, in the middle of a sacrifice. Incensed at this, Jahnu drank up the whole current of water but when propitiated by Bhagirath, allowed it to emerge through his ears and to continue on its course.

It has a small temple of Bhairon who, according to Hindu mythology, was appointed by Siva to safeguard this region, and gave the place its name. It also possesses a temple of Sakti.

The place is a resting place on the pilgrim rout to Gangotri and Gaumukh.

Dharali (tahsil Bhatwari)

It is said that Bhagirath did penance here. During the winter, the image of the goddess Ganga is brought down from Gangotri to this village for worship. It is situated on the banks of the Bhagirathi about 63 km. from the district headquarters.

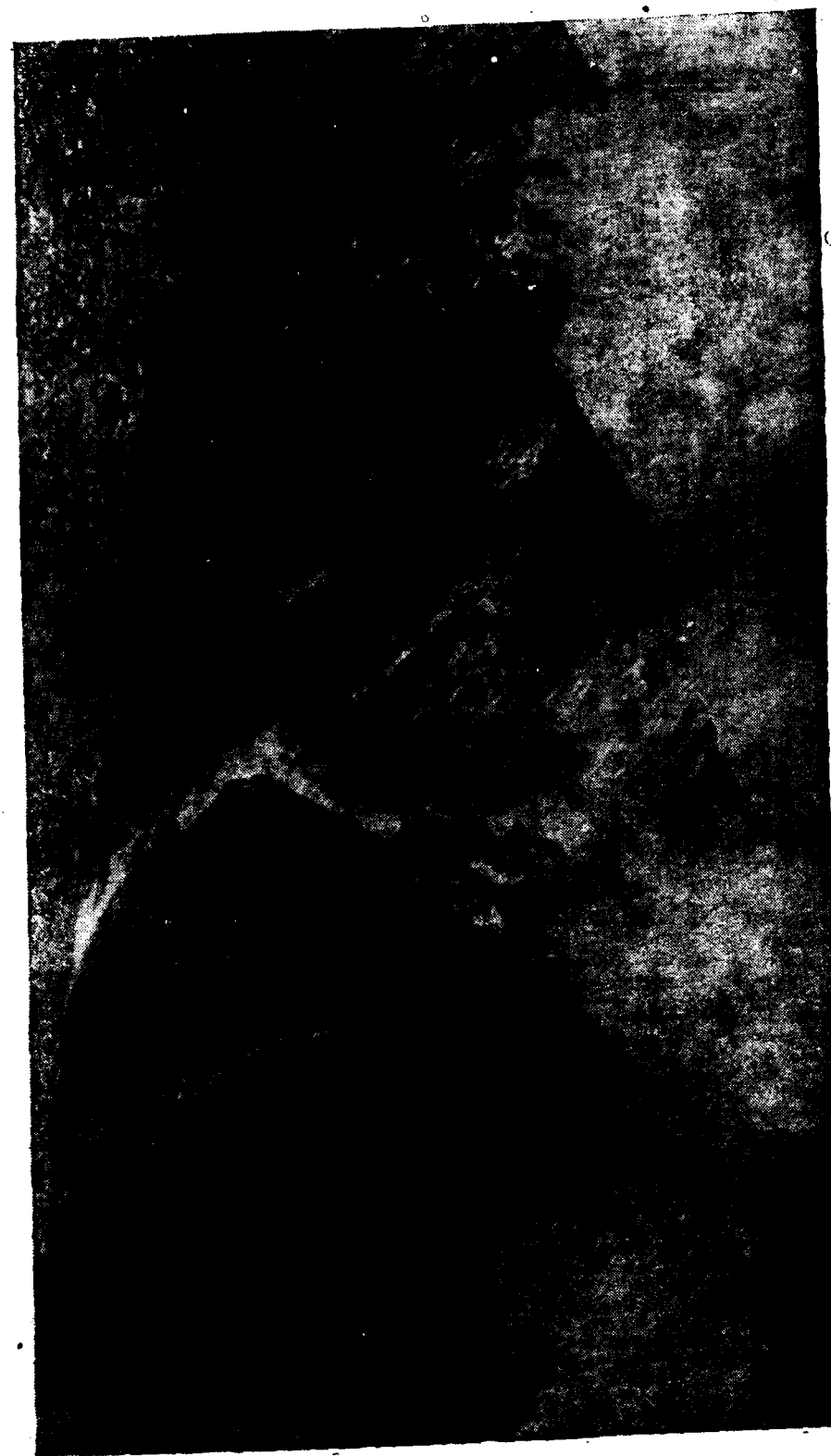
Gangani (tahsil Rajgarhi)

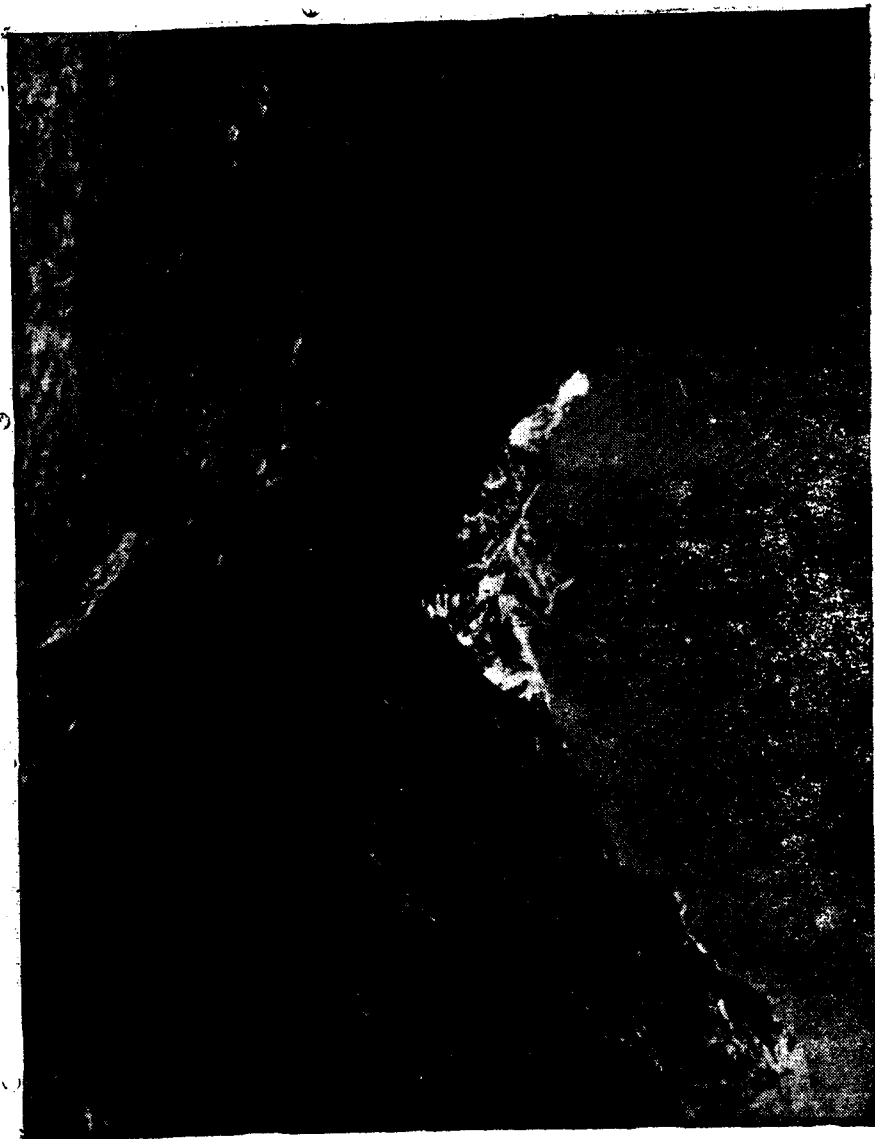
On the way to Yamnotri, Gangani is a place of pilgrimage. In the neighbouring village of Than there is a temple dedicated to the sage Jamdagni. There are a hot spring and a tank (known as the Ganganayan Kund) believed to receive their supply of water through an underground channel from the other side of the mountain. Tradition has it that when the sage, Yamun, who used to take a bath in both the Ganga and the Yamuna, became too weak due to old age to walk to the river for his bath, prayed to the Ganga. The river appeared near his hermitage from the tank to enable him to perform his ablutions. Near the tank there is a temple which has idols of both the goddesses (Ganga and Yamuna). Gangani lies on the left bank of the Yamuna, about 95 km. from Uttarkashi.

Gangani (tahsil Bhatwari)

Gangani has a temple dedicated to the sage jamdagni, near which there is a hot-water spring, Rishi Kund, which has been converted into a tank for the facility of bathers and it is considered a sacred duty by the Hindus and the pilgrims going to Gangotri to bathe in this tank.

Gaumukh Glacier





Sudevashan Peak from Gangotri

Gangnai is a halting place on the way to Gangotri and is about 72 km. from Uttarkashi.

Gangotri (tahsil Bhatwari)

The place is one of the great centres of Hindu pilgrimage and stands on the bank of the river Bhagirathi, which is known as the Ganga. Gangotri is also known as Gangodbhava Kshetra.

It is said that it was the first place where the Ganga came down to the earth and that the name Gangotri is a combination of the words, Ganga and Utari (meaning 'descended') though the source of the river is at Gaumukh, about 18 km. from Gangotri. Another derivation of the name is from the term "uttari" meaning northerly as the river takes a bend, to the north here.

According to tradition, Sankaracharya installed the idols of Bhagirathi, Yamuna and Lakshmi here. There is a great slab of stone in the bed of the river which is dedicated to Bhagirath whose efforts are said to have brought the Ganga down from the heavens.

The place is held in great reverence by the Hindus. In spite of the difficulties of the terrain 20,000 to 25,000 pilgrims visit the place every year during the summer. The temple dedicated to Bhagirathi is a small one and opens for pilgrims generally after the first week of May and closes by the middle of November, with the commencement of the winter when nearly all the Brahmana priests and ascetics move to Mukhba, a village about 21 km. downstream on the right bank of the river.

Near Gangotri is Kedarprayag, the confluence of the Bhagirathi and the Kedar Ganga. A short distance downstream, the former falls into what is known as the Gauri Kund, after Gauri, the spouse of Siva and the daughter of Himachal, who performed severe penances here with the object of acquiring Siva as her husband. It is believed that there is a lingam in the *kund*. The holy water of the river is collected before it falls into the *kund* for use at the worship of Siva at Rameshwar in the extreme south of India.

Gaumukh (tahsil Bhatwari)

Gaumukh is the source of the Bhagirathi and is the name given to a cave formed by the junction of 15 glaciers which has the appearance of the mouth of a cow (*gaumukha*). The terrain to Gaumukh from Gangotri is difficult but as it is considered to be one of the most important centres of pilgrimage in India, it is visited by many pilgrims, yogis and sanyasis. The natural scenery of the place is magnificent and those who visit it in a spirit of religious dedication speak of being spiritually elevated.

The place is about 78 km. from the tahsil and about 109 km. from the district Headquarters.

Nakuri (tahsil Dunda)

Nakuri is a small village on the right bank of the Bhagirathi. It is at the junction of the routes to Yamnotri and Gangotri.

There is a temple in the village of Renuka Devi (the mother of Parashurama) who is widely worshipped in this part of the Himalayas. Parashurama, the obedient son of the rishi Jamdagni is said to have killed his mother here at his father's command and when asked by him to ask for a boon in return requested that her life be restored.

Uttarkashi (tahsil Bhatwari)

Uttarkashi, the district headquarters, lies on the right bank of the Bhagirathi, about 665 km. from the State capital.

A famous centre of pilgrimage, it is next only to Gangotri in importance. It is also known as Soumya (modest) Kashi or Soumya Varanasi and like the Varanasi of the plains is situated between the Varuna and the Asi, which join the Bhagirathi on the west and east of the town respectively.

In the *Shand Purana* it is called Varnavata, was formerly known as Barahat, and has been a celebrated place for centuries. This is where Duryodhana planned to kill the five Pandavas by housing them in a house of lac and then setting fire to it, but they managed to escape with the aid of Vidura. An *ashrama* (hermitage) attributed to an ancient royal sage, Jada Bharata, who gave up his throne and led the life of a wandering ascetic, is also located here.

The place is the northernmost of the five Kashis in India, is set in picturesque surroundings and stands on the Bhagirathi and against the background of hills. According to the *Puranas*, Vishvanath (Siva), who has mainly contributed to the sanctity of Uttarkashi as his northern (*uttariya*) dwelling place, prophesied that in Kaliyuga his seat at Varanasi would lose its religious sanctity when he would move to the Himalayas to reside at Uttarkashi where the Kirata-Arjuna duel had taken place.

Like Varanasi it is also a town of temples and, as at Varanasi, the most important temple is dedicated to Siva under the name of Vishvanath and is visited by thousands of pilgrims every year. In a hall in front of the temple stands the *trishul* (trident) of Siva, which is believed to symbolise divine power and was erected by a Malla prince. Other important temples in the town are those dedicated to Parashurama, Dattatraya, Annapurna, Bhairava and Ekadashrudra. The temple of Lakheshvar is in the eastern part of the town and is associated with the lac house built by Duryodhana to kill the Pandavas.

The town has a number of ashrams and dharmshalas where many persons who have renounced the world or otherwise retired from life have settled down.

Yamnotri (tahsil Rajgarhi)

Yamnotri, another famous centre of pilgrimage on the banks of the Yamuna, lies about 131 km. from the district headquarters. Here the current turns northwards (*uttari*) giving it the name Yamnotri.

A special feature of Yamnotri is its numerous hot springs of varying temperatures, in which a bath after a strenuous journey is particularly refreshing. The water of these springs is so hot that pilgrims boil rice and potatoes in it. These springs are associated with the twelve rishis who followed Mahaveda (Siva) from Lanka to Yamnotri. The Yamunotri-temple which is famous, is dedicated to the goddess Yamuna.

CONVERSION FACTORS

Money

1 pie = 0.52 Paise

1 pice = 1.56 Paise

Linear Measure

1 inch = 2.54 centimetres

1 foot = 30.48 centimetres

1 yard = 91.44 centimetres

1 mile = 1.61 kilometres

Square Measure

1 square foot = 0.093 square metre

1 square yard = 0.836 square metre

1 square mile = 2.59 square kilometres = 259 hectares

1 acre = 0.405 hectares

Cubic Measure

1 cubic foot = 0.028 cubic metre

Measure of Capacity

1 gallon (imperial) = 4.55 litres

1 seer* (80 tolas) = 0.937 litre

Measure of Weight

1 tola = 11.66 grams

1 chhatak = 58.32 grams

1 seer* = 933.10 grams

1 maund* = 37.32 kilograms

1 ounce (Avoirdupois) = 28.35 grams

1 pound (Avoirdupois) = 453.59 grams

1 hundredweight = 50.80 kilograms

1 ton = 1016.05 kilograms = 1.016 metric tonnes

Thermometer Scales

1° Fahrenheit = $9/5$ ° centigrade + 32

* As defined in Indian Standards of Weight Act, 1939

GLOSSARY

INDIAN TERMS

<i>Gurudwara</i>	: Place of Sikh worship
• <i>Kanungo</i>	: Petty revenue official
<i>Kinana</i>	: Spices and condiments
<i>Mahal</i>	: Unit of land under separate engagement for payment of revenue
<i>Malguzar</i>	: One engaged for payment of revenue
<i>Naib</i>	: Assistant, deputy
<i>Pradhan</i>	: Headman of a village
<i>Pathshala</i>	: School
<i>Patti</i>	: Group of villages in hills—a revenue circle
<i>Patwari</i>	: A petty revenue official, <i>lekhpal</i>
<i>Piao</i>	: Place where drinking water is supplied free of cost
<i>Prasad</i>	: Part of offerings made to deity and distributed among devotees
<i>Tirthankara</i>	: In Jainism, expounder of religion, deified hero or saint

LATIN NAMES OF TREES, HERBS, ANIMALS, BIRDS, ETC.

Trees and Herbs

<i>Aila (Ilaichi)</i>	: <i>Ammomum sabulatum</i>
<i>Ainua</i>	: <i>Ranunculus scleratus</i>
<i>Akhrot</i>	: <i>Juglans regia</i>
<i>Amarbel</i>	: <i>Cuscuta reflexa</i>
<i>Amla (Amaliha)</i>	: <i>Fonblica officinalis</i>
<i>Amra (am)</i>	: <i>Mangifera indica</i>
<i>Angu</i>	: <i>Fraxinus floribunda</i>
<i>Anjuwar</i>	: <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>
<i>Ank</i>	: <i>Calatropis gigantea</i>
<i>Archa (dolu)</i>	: <i>Rheum emodi</i>
<i>Arjuna</i>	: <i>Terminalia arjuna</i>
<i>Aru</i>	: <i>Prunus persica</i>
<i>Atis</i>	: <i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i>
<i>Ayar</i>	: <i>Lyonia ovalifolia</i>
<i>Bacha (buj)</i>	: <i>Acorus calamus</i>

Bahera (bair)	: <i>Terminalia chebula</i>
Bajradanti	: <i>Potentialla nepalensis</i>
Bakola	: <i>Anaphalis species</i>
Bana	: <i>Viscum album</i>
Banafsa	: <i>Viola serpens</i>
Ban-ajwain	: <i>Thymus serpyllum</i>
Banchula	: <i>Primula denticulata</i>
Ban-haldi (Amla-haldi)	: <i>Curcuma amada</i>
Banjwan	: <i>Micromeria biflora</i>
Bankakri	: <i>Podophyllum emodi</i>
Bannibu	: <i>Glycosmis pentaphylla</i>
Banoi	: <i>Schizandra grandiflora</i>
Banpij (ghesuas)	: <i>Urginea scilla</i>
Barua	: <i>Daphne papyracea</i>
Bastuk (Bethua)	: <i>Chenopodium album</i>
Bel (bilar or bilwa)	: <i>Aegle marmelos</i>
Betaim (bakayan)	: <i>Melia azederachta</i>
Bhambeli	: <i>Euonymus tingens</i>
Bhangra	: <i>Eclipta alba</i>
Bhojpatra	: <i>Betula utilis</i>
Bhorar (kaladana)	: <i>Ipomoea hederacea</i>
Bhotia-badam	: <i>Corylus colurna</i>
Bhuj	: <i>Betula utilis</i>
Bhunra kiyoi	: <i>Rosa macrophylla</i>
Bhutkeshi	: <i>Corydalis gowaniana</i>
Bhutoni	: <i>Viburnum</i>
Bichhu	: <i>Girardiana wallichii</i>
Bis	: <i>Aconitum nepellus</i>
Brahmdani	: <i>Echinops echinatus</i>
Burans	: <i>Rhododendron arboreum</i>
Chaksoo	: <i>Cassia absus</i>
Chabmar (almer)	: <i>Rumex vasicarius</i>
Changeri	: <i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
Chatrod	: <i>Berberis petiolaris</i>
Chir (salla)	: <i>Pinus longifolia</i>
Chinaita	: <i>Swertia chirata</i>

Chitrak	: <i>Plumbago zeylanicum</i>
Chota gokhroo	: <i>Xanthium strumarium</i>
Chupra	: <i>Myrsine africana</i>
Chyun	: <i>Agaricus Campestris</i>
Deodar	: <i>Cedrus deodara</i>
Dhataki (dhaula)	: <i>Woodfordia floribunda</i>
Dhatara	: <i>Datura suaveolens</i>
Dhauanak (dharia)	: <i>Coriandrum sativum</i>
Dhaula	: <i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>
Dhup	: <i>Juniperous mocopoda</i>
Dudhia	: <i>Taraxicum officinale</i>
Durba	: <i>Cynodon dactylan</i>
Ekalbir	: <i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
Etgha (bhumimadhin)	: <i>Paeonia emodi</i>
Faran (jamboo)	: <i>Jamboo</i>
Galla	: <i>Quercus infectoria</i>
Gania (tukhmalanga)	: <i>Salvia lanata</i>
Gaunchi	: <i>Mucuna prurens</i>
Ghugtai	: <i>Dactylis staminea</i>
Giloy (gurach)	: <i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>
Gindaru (gajiyar)	: <i>Stephania glabra</i>
Gokhru	: <i>Pedaliium murex</i>
Golda	: <i>Pennisetum orientale</i>
Guggal	: <i>Doronicum roylei</i>
Guia	: <i>Compennlatum</i>
Gulab	: <i>Rosa indica</i>
Gwalkakri	: <i>Zehneria umbellata</i>
Haldi	: <i>Herpestis monniara</i>
Hansraj	: <i>Adiantum venustum</i>
Haritaki (harar)	: <i>Terminalia chebula</i>
Hathjari (salampanja)	: <i>Orchis mascula</i>
Himari	: <i>Ulmus wallichiana</i>
Hisaloo	: <i>Rubus ellipticus</i>
Inda (andi)	: <i>Ricinus communis</i>
Isabgol	: <i>Plantago major</i>
Jai	: <i>Jasminum grandiflorum</i>

Jamnoi	: <i>Prunus cornuta</i>
Janu (jamu)	: <i>Strobilanthes</i>
Jatamansi	: <i>Nardostachys jatamansi</i>
Jhinti	: <i>Barleria cristata</i>
Jhora (chichia)	: <i>Juniperis communi</i>
Jhunjhunta	: <i>Crotolaria albida</i>
Jyotishmati	: <i>Celastrus paniculatus</i>
Kachnar	: <i>Bauhinia variegata</i>
Kadali (kela)	: <i>Musa paradisiaca</i>
Kaddu	: <i>Cucurbita maxima</i>
Kahu (kulpha)	: <i>Lactuca scariola</i>
Kail	: <i>Pinus excelsa</i>
Kairua (satawari orjhiram)	: <i>Asparagus racemosus</i>
Kakra	: <i>Pistacia integerrima</i>
Kakrasinghi (Karkat-sringi)	: <i>Rhus succedaenia</i>
Kakraiya	: <i>Anemone obtusiloba</i>
Kala himsar	: <i>Rubus ellipticus</i>
Kampilak (kamila)	: <i>Mallotus philippinensis</i>
Kandai	: <i>Flacourtia indica</i>
Kaner	: <i>Nerium odorum</i>
Kanjar	: <i>Aesculus species</i>
Kanthkari	: <i>Solanum xanthocarpum</i>
Kapoor Kachari	: <i>Hedychium spicatum</i>
Kasmor	: <i>Desmodium tiliaefolium</i>
Kathbhuj	: <i>Betula alnoides</i>
Kathkonkon	: <i>Enyonymus tingens</i>
Kauni	: <i>Climetis barbellata</i>
Kesar	: <i>Crocus sativus</i>
Keura	: <i>Iris nepalensis</i>
Khagsi	: <i>Cornus macrophylla</i>
Khanderu	: <i>Ilex dipyrrena</i>
Kharik	: <i>Acer caesium/Celtis australis</i>
Khinna	: <i>Sapium insigne</i>
Khubaji	: <i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>
Khurusani Ajwain	: <i>Althoea officinalis</i>

Kilmora	: <i>Berberis species</i>
Kirmola	: <i>Acer oblongum</i>
Kukurdara	: <i>Smilax aspera</i>
Kunis	: <i>Alnus nitida</i>
Kurkurimakuri	: <i>Oxbeckia crinita</i>
Kutki (kaurai)	: <i>Picrorrhiza kurrooa</i>
Lewri	: <i>Curessus torulosus</i>
Lilari (liljari)	: <i>Geranium nepalensis</i>
Mahameda	: <i>Reptadaenia spartum</i>
Makol	: <i>Coriaria nepalensis</i>
Mamiri (pinglijari)	: <i>Thelictum foliolosum</i>
Manjistha	: <i>Rubia cordifolia</i>
Mirch-gandhi	: <i>Cymbopogon martini</i>
Moru	: <i>Quercus delitata</i>
Muli (mulaka)	: <i>Raphanus sativus</i>
Nagarmotha	: <i>Cyperus scariosus</i>
Nairpati	: <i>Skimmia laureola</i>
Narka	: <i>Myrica sapida</i>
Naspati (bihi)	: <i>Pyrus cydonia</i>
Nirbishi	: <i>Delphinium denudatum</i>
Nirgundi	: <i>Vitex negundo</i>
Padam	: <i>Prunus cerasoides</i>
Palas	: <i>Butea frondosa</i>
Pangar	: <i>Aesculus species</i>
Papal (pipal)	: <i>Ficus religiosa</i>
Papri	: <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>
Pari	: <i>Cissempeles paniera</i>
Pasanbheda (silphora)	: <i>Bergenia ligulata</i>
Pati	: <i>Artemesia maritima</i>
Piobi	: <i>Reinwardtia trigyna</i>
Pissumar	: <i>Boeninghusania albiflora</i>
Prisniparni	: <i>Uraria picta</i>
Puddum	: <i>Prunus pudumma</i>
Pudina	: <i>Mentha sylvestris</i>
Purcha	: <i>Artemesia sacrorum</i>

Riswak (lahsun)	: <i>Microstylis</i>
Rohini	: <i>Mallotus philippinensis</i>
Sahtara (bantulsi)	: <i>Origanum vulgare</i>
Sahdevi Bari	: <i>Sonchus arvensis</i>
Sajji (apasamarg)	: <i>Achyranthes aspera</i>
Salammisri	: <i>Eulophia campestris</i>
Sameo	: <i>Valeriana wallichii</i>
Seesham	: <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>
Semal	: <i>Salmelia malabarica</i>
Semru	: <i>Rhododendron</i>
Shalpharni	: <i>Desmodium gangeticum</i>
Simris	: <i>Rhododendron campanulatum</i>
Soma	: <i>Ephedra vulgaris</i>
Somaiya	: <i>Valeriana wallichii</i>
Sonf	: <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Suina	: <i>Arundinalia nepalensis</i>
Tachlo	: <i>Apluda mutica</i>
Tamkakoo	: <i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>
Tatar	: <i>Berberis lycium</i>
Thuner	: <i>Taxus baccata</i>
Timru	: <i>Xanthoxylum alatum</i>
Tejpat	: <i>Cinnamomum zaylanicum</i>
Tooni (tun)	: <i>Cadrella Toona</i>
Ugal	: <i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>
Vasak	: <i>Adhatoda vasica</i>

Animals, birds, etc.:

Chakor	: <i>Aleckories graeca</i>
Fakla	: <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Ghugti	: <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Harial	: <i>Treron sphenura</i>
Kalij	: <i>Lophura bucomelana</i>
Kokla	: <i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>
Safed Malyo	: <i>Columba leuconota</i>
Thar	: <i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>

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