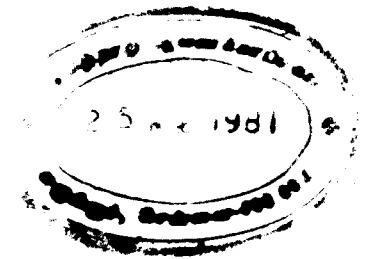
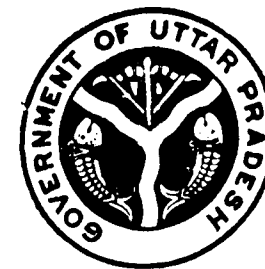


1000000 10/02/79

UTTAR PRADESH DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



UNNAO

AMAR SINGH BAGHEL,
I. A. S.
State Editor

Published by the Government of Uttar Pradesh
(Department of District Gazetteers, U. P., Lucknow)

and

Printed at the Government Press, Allahabad, U. P.

1979

Price Rs. 42.00

G
M.C.E. 35
N79

24046



GAZETTEER OF INDIA
UTTAR PRADESH

DISTRICT UNNAO

PREFACE

This is the nineteenth volume in the series of new District Gazetteers of the State of Uttar Pradesh, which are being re-written under a Centrally sponsored scheme of the Government of India, in which the costs are shared by the Central and State governments.

Early accounts about the area covered by the Unnao district were C. A. Elliott's *Chronicles of Ounao*, various Settlement reports of the region and H. R. Nevill's *Unnao: A Gazetteer*, (Allahabad, 1903) and its supplements.

The census figures of 1961 are the basis for most of the data but the figures of the 1971 census that are available have also been used.

I shall like to place on record my thanks to the chairman and members of the State Advisory Board, Dr P. N. Chopra, Editor, Indian Gazetteers, Central Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, and to all those officials and non officials who have helped in the bringing out of this Gazetteer.

LUCKNOW:

8th January, 1974.

AMAR SINGH BAGHEL

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>Map of the District</i>	
<i>Chapter</i>	
I General	1
II History	13
III People	56
IV Agriculture and Irrigation	71
V Industries	98
VI Banking, Trade and Commerce	111
VII Communications	124
VIII Miscellaneous Occupations	135
IX Economic Trends	138
X General Administration	153
XI Revenue Administration	156
XII Law and Order and Justice	175
XIII Other Departments	190
XIV Local Self-government	193
XV Education and Culture	202
XVI Medical and Public Health Services	221
XVII Other Social Services	238
XVIII Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organisations	245
XIX Places of Interest	251
 <i>Appendix</i>	
Principal Table	281
Conversion Factors	311
Glossary	313
Bibliography	315
Index	319

Description of Illustrations

Facing page

1. Grey Hornbill	...	...	...	11
2. Demoiselle Crain Pairs	...	...	...	11
3. The terracotta figure of Narsimha	...	...	...	15
4. Gold coins discovered at Sanchankot attributed to Vasudeva I, the Kushana Emperor	...	...	...	15
5. Gold coins discovered at Sanchankot attributed to Vasudeva I, the Kushana Emperor	...	...	...	15
6. Gold coins discovered at Sanchakot attributed to Vasudeva I, the Kushana Emperor	...	...	...	15
7. The earthen jar containing the gold coins	...	...	...	15
8. Residence of Shiv Ratan Singh at Kantha	...	...	...	41
9. The banian tree at Baksar	...	...	...	43
10. The temple of Chandrika Devi at Baksar	...	...	...	59
11. The temple at Kusambhi (Nawabganj)	...	...	...	59
12. Janaki Kund at Pariar	...	...	...	59
13. Palace of Raja Harbans at Badarqa Harbans	...	...	...	253
14. Main gate of the place of Raja Harbans at Badarqa Harbans	...	...	...	253
15. Ruins of the fort of Rao Ram Baksh at Daundia Khera	...	...	...	257
16. Temple of Balkaneshwar Nath Mahadeo at Pariar	...	...	...	266
17. Mausoleum of Muhabbat Shah at Patan	...	...	...	267
18. Mausoleum of Makhdum Shah Safi at Safipur	...	...	...	271
19. Makbara at Safipur	...	...	...	271

CHAPTER I

GENERAL*

Origin of Name of District

The district is named after its headquarters town, Unnao. About 1200 years ago, the site of the town was covered with extensive forests. Godo Singh, a Chauhan Rajput, cleared the forests probably in the third quarter of the 12th century and founded a town, called Sarai Godo, which shortly afterwards passed into the hands of the rulers of Kannauj, who appointed Khande Singh governor of the place. Unwant Singh, a Bisen Rajput and a lieutenant of the governor, killed him and built a fort here, renaming the place as Unnao after himself.

gana Auras belonged to the *chakla* of Sandila, district Hardoi. The tract comprised in parganas Patan, Panhan, Bihar, Bhagwantnagar, Magaryar, Ghatampur and Daundia Khera formed part of the *chakla* of Baiswara.

After the annexation of Avadh by the British in February, 1856, the district, then called district Purwa, came into existence and the headquarters were shifted from Purwa to Unnao. The district then contained 13 parganas: Bangarmau, Fatehpur Chaurasi, Safipur, Pariar, Sikandarpur, Unnao, Harha, Asiwan Rasulbad, Jhalotar-Ajgain, Gorinda-Parsandan, Purwa, Asoha and Mauranwan. In 1869, parganas Panhan, Patan, Bihar, Bhagwantnagar, Magaryar, Ghatampur and Daundia Khera were transferred from district Rae Bareli to tahsil Purwa of this district, and pargana Auras-Mohan was transferred from district Lucknow to the old tahsil Nawabganj of this district, whence the tahsil headquarters were removed first to Mohan and, again in 1891, to Hasanganj.

Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas

The district is divided into four subdivisions: Safipur, Unnao, Hasanganj and Purwa, each comprising a single tahsil of the same name.

Tahsil Safipur, comprising parganas Safipur, Bangarmau and Fatehpur Chaurasi, forms the northern part of the district and is bounded on the north and north-east by district Hardoi, the actual boundary on the latter side being the river Sai. On the east lies tahsil Hasanganj and, on the south, tahsil Unnao. The western boundary is formed by the river Ganga which separates the tahsil and the district from district Kanpur. According to the census of 1961 it had an area of 1,066 sq. km. and a population of 2,75,969 souls (females 1,29,474), and contained 377 inhabited and 24 uninhabited villages. According to the census of 1971 it has a population of 3,40,408 (females 1,56,887) and contains 374 inhabited and 28 uninhabited villages.

Tahsil Unnao, comprising the south central tract of the district, resembles a right-angled triangle in shape, having the Ganga as the hypotenuse. The river flows almost exactly from north-west to south-east dividing the tahsil from district Kanpur. The northern boundary, separating this tahsil from tahsils Safipur and Hasanganj, is longer than the eastern boundary which marches with tahsil Purwa. Parganas Unnao, Pariar, Sikandarpur and Harha constitute this tahsil. According to the census of 1961 its area was 1,051.3 sq. km. and population 2,74,925 (females 1,24,850), the rural population being 2,45,145 (females 1,11,763). There were 285 inhabited and 24 uninhabited villages in the tahsil besides Unnao town of which the population was 29,780, the females numbering 13,087. According to the census of 1971 it has a population of 3,47,321 (females 1,61,589) and contains 288 inhabited and 11 uninhabited

ed villages and the town of Unnao which has a population of 38,195 (females 17,083).

Tahsil Hasanganj, occupying the north-eastern part of the district, comprises parganas Auras-Mohan, Gorinda-Parsandan, Jhalotar-Ajgain and Asiwan-Rasulbad and is bounded on the north by district Hardoi, on the north

soil is stiff clay except where sand has been deposited by fluvial action. The lowland produces usually a precarious Kharif harvest and good Rabi crops in a succession of dry years but it is disappointing in a wet cycle. Along the immediate bank of the river, there is a narrow strip of alluvial land, constantly subject to inundations. The Ganga lowlands comprise 19 per cent of the total area of the district. The lowland of the Sai is similar though smaller in extent. It contains mostly a stiff and moist soil liable to get waterlogged in wet years and produces *reh* which greatly reduces its fertility.

Upland—Extending from the old high bank of the Ganga to the Sai valley, the upland comprises about 76.3 per cent of the area of the district. The course of the high bank, though irregular, is well defined. On top of the high bank there is a belt of light soil, with a width from 1.5 km. to 7 km. In the upland the surface is gently undulating, the water-table low, and the irrigation facilities scanty. Another belt of similar light soil is met with along the banks of the Sai. The soil occasionally rises to *bhur* and, in parganas Sikandarpur and Fatehpur Chaurasi, there are substantial sandy bluffs projecting into the *tarai*. Further inland the tract is mainly of fertile stiff loam broken by large *usar* wastes and shallow rice depressions. At places, ridges of sandy soil give place to wide depressions in which clay predominates. The deeper of these depressions forms permanent lakes and tanks. The depths and sizes of these lakes and tanks increase as one proceeds from north to south. The streams running through the tract are comparatively unimportant, with the exception of the Basha and the Loni streams. The country on either side of the former, which springs in the *bhur* tract in the north-west of pargana Jhalotar-Ajgain and runs, like a stream, through parganas Gorinda-Parsandan, Purwa and Maucanwan and then leaves the district for Rae Bareilly, is characterised by frequent outcrops of *bhur*. It provides a cheap and easy means of irrigation and excellent crops of rice are, in many places, grown in its bed. The Loni is shallow at its source, but during the rains it flows in a wide bed in which excellent crops of transplanted paddy are grown.

RIVER SYSTEMS AND WATER RESOURCES

The Ganga and the Sai are the main rivers of the district, the former making its western and southern boundaries and the latter, for the greater part of its course, forming its northern and eastern boundaries. Among the other main streams of the district are the Kalyani, the Tinai, the Loni and the Morahi (Naurahi), all tributaries of the Ganga. These rivers generally run dry during the hot weather, but hold water during the greater part of the year and are utilised for irrigation by erecting temporary earthen bunds at fixed places in their courses.

Ganga—The only great river of the district is the Ganga which first touches the district near the village of Purwa Gahir, in pargana Bangarmau, and flows south-eastward, separating this district from districts Kanpur and Fatehpur. Generally it flows from the north-west to the south-east, but it makes several sharp bends, such as those near Umriya Bhagwantpur, and Rustampur in tahsil Safipur, Rautapur in tahsil Unnao and Ratua Khera and Duli Khera in tahsil Purwa. The Ganga receives the Morahi near Baksar where it flows close to its old high bank. It leaves the district at a short distance from Baksar.

The river is not, however, put to much use either as a waterway or a source of irrigation. There are several ferries for pedestrians and pilgrims but none of them approaches what may be termed a trade route. The river cannot, as a rule, be utilised for irrigation owing to the height of the bank but certain of its small drainage channels or *sotas*, which run inland for a considerable distance in some parganas, are sometimes used to irrig



Grey Hornbill

Groves—In 1902, the area under groves was 26,102 hectares or 5.5 per cent of the total area of the district of which about 12,140 hectares lay in tahsil Purwa, and a large portion of the remainder in pargana Harha, tahsil Unnao. Since then the area under groves has consistently decreased so that in 1968-69 it was only 7,194 hectares or about 1.5 per cent of the total area of the district. Of this, 3,353 hectares lay in tahsil Purwa, 1,514 hectares in tahsil Unnao, 1,351 hectares in tahsil Hasanganj and 976 hectares in tahsil Safipur. These groves chiefly consist of mango and mahua trees. Among the other trees found in these groves the main are the, jamun, bel, guava, neem and sissoo.

FAUNA

Wild animals have greatly decreased in number and variety in the district during the present century. The Indian antelope, wild boar and wolf have become rare and are, indeed, getting extinct due to the encroachment of agriculture on their habitat and by indiscriminate shooting. Now they have been declared protected. Among the other animals found in the district are the large Indian antelope, porcupine, hare, hyaena, jackal, fox, Indian ratel, jungle cat, mongoose and palm squirrel. These animals generally inhabit the khadar tract and are occasionally seen in some other parts of the district.

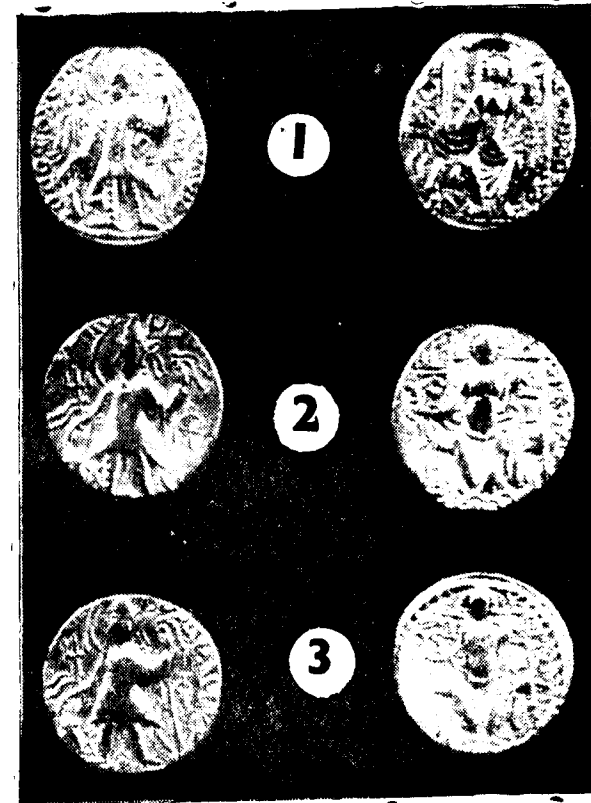
Birds—The birds of the district are similar to those of the adjoining districts. The chief game birds found are several varieties of partridges, ducks, and pigeons. Some species of geese, moorhen, coots, snipe and sandpiper are also met with. In the cold weather there are plenty of waterfowls and snipes, quails being fairly common. Green pigeons are becoming rare due to felling of fruit and berry trees. Quails, partridges and partridges are getting rare due to indiscriminate netting. Besides these game birds there are innumerable other ordinary varieties of birds common to the plains e.g. the grebe, cormorant, darter, heron, kite, vulture, cuckoo, owl, kingfisher, boopoe, hornbill, woodpecker, parrot, lark, oriole, black drongo, crow, sparrow, bulbul, flycatcher, warbler, sunbird and peafowl.

Reptiles—Different varieties of snakes and other reptiles are found everywhere in the district. Some snakes are harmless while others are deadly e.g. the cobra, krait and rat-snake. The Russel's viper, which is viviparous and nocturnal in its habits is commonly found in the district. Though most of the snakes are non-poisonous, a few people die of snake bite every year.

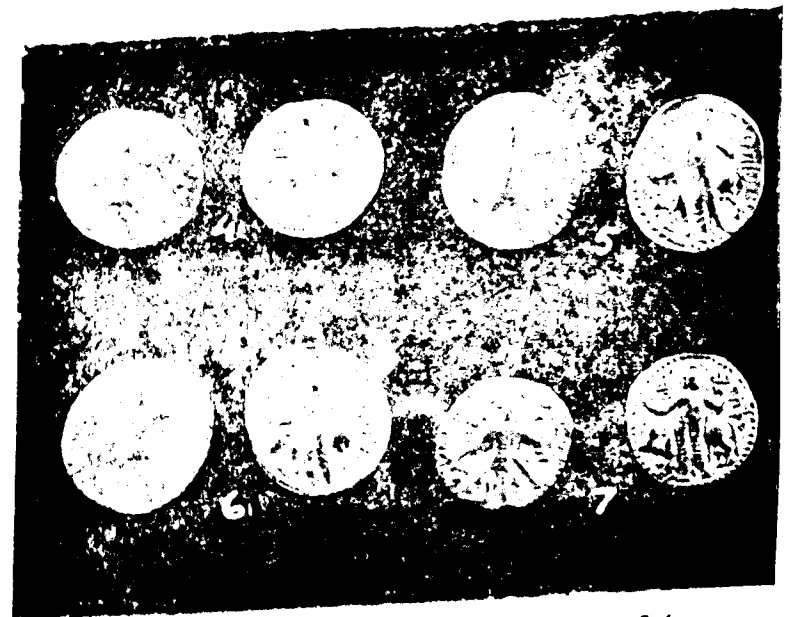
Other reptiles found in the district are the chameleon, gecko and monitor lizard, the last getting extinct due to netting and shooting. It is now protected by law. The marsh crocodile and gharial, generally



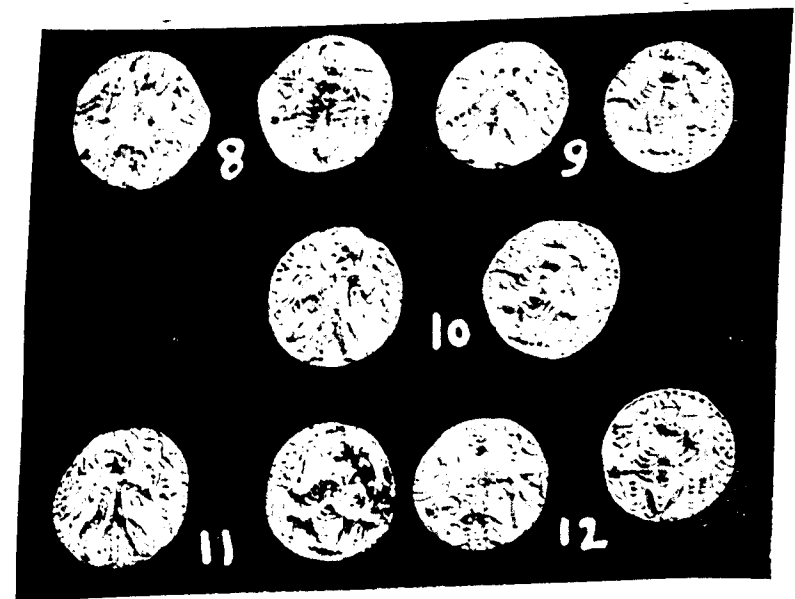
The terracotta figure of Narsimha, the man-lion incarnation of Vishnu, discovered at Sanchankot



**Gold coins discovered at Sanchankot
attributed to Vasudeva 1, the
Kushana emperor**



Gold coins discovered at Sanchankot attributed to
Vasudeva 1, the Kushana emperor



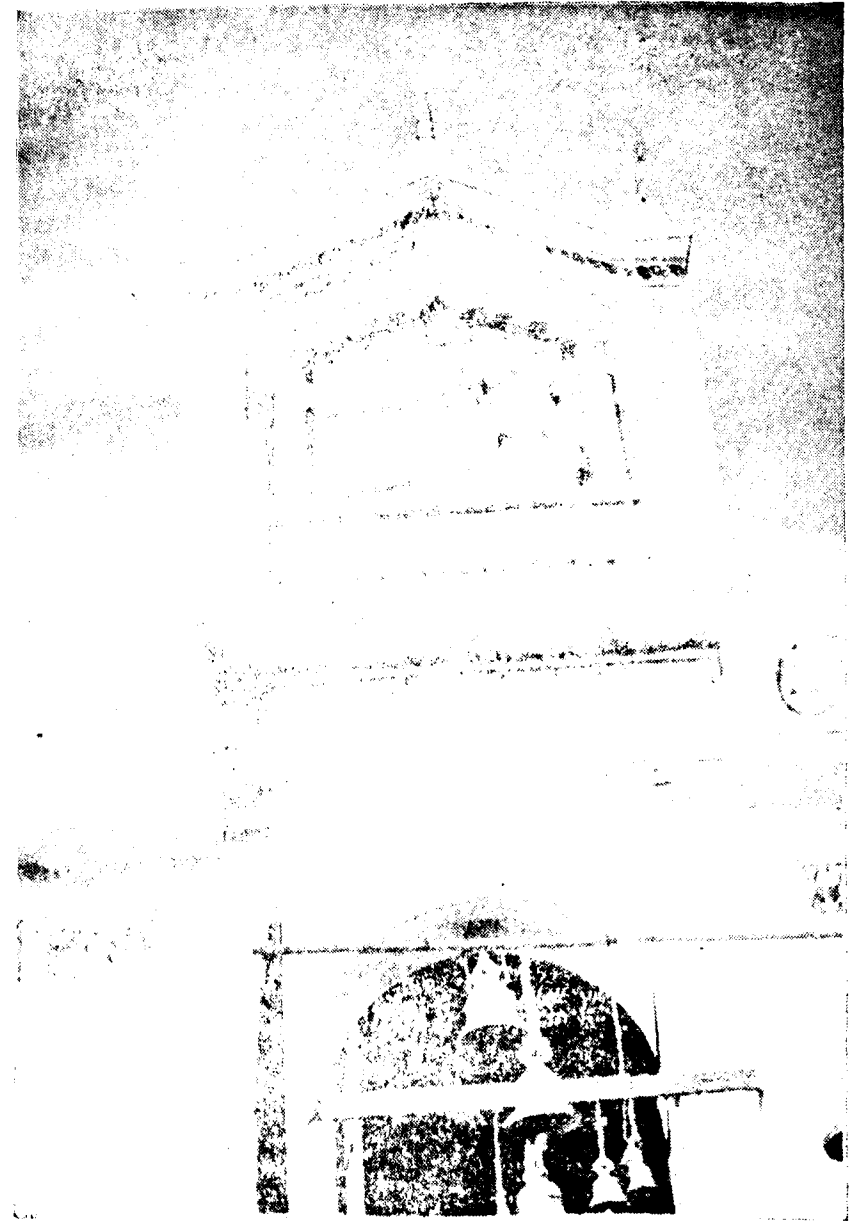
Gold coins discovered at Sanchankot attributed to
Vasudeva 1, the Kushana emperor

fort, and at village Rao Karna, 3 km. further north, are several high *kheras*, supposed to represent the ruins of an old fortified city. By far the most important ancient site in the district is, perhaps, Sanchankot, also known as Sujankot, which lies in village Ramkot, in pargana Bangarmau of tahsil Safipur, about 55 km. north-west of Unnao. The present village is situated on a large mound, on the right bank of the Sai, about halfway between Bangarmau and Sandila in district Hardoi. The Sai makes a bend and washes two faces of the mound, generally known as Qila (fort). The fort appears to have been about half a mile square, with two suburbs outside it, and lay on the ancient high-road between Kanyakubja (Kannauj) and Ayodhya. From another mound close by, bricks of an ancient Buddhist stupa had, at the turn of the last century, been gradually dug out by the villagers, but from what remained of the structure, the stupa appeared to have been eighteen and a half feet in diameter, standing on a lofty terrace, sixty feet square and fifteen feet above the surrounding fields. A six-foot thick wall ran all around the stupa. It was built entirely of very large wedge-shaped curved bricks, six of which when placed touching each other were found to form exactly one-sixth of the circumference (or 9 ft. 1½ inches) of the stupa. Interesting fragments of stone sculptures and terracotta figures have been found scattered all over these mounds which have also yielded hoards of ancient coins, including the punch-marked and cast silver ones of pre-Christian era, and the Indo-Greek, Saka, Kushana and Gupta coins of copper, silver and gold.¹ In September 1969, a fine terracotta figure of Narsimha, the man-lion incarnation of Vishnu, and a hoard of twelve round gold coins, stuffed in a tiny earthen jar, were accidentally discovered from the site. The coins weigh about 90 gm., and have on the obverse the image of a king and a Greek legend decipherable as 'Sha-a-na-no-sha-a' (Shahanushahi), the imperial title of the Kushana kings of the first and second centuries A. D. On the reverse, eight of the coins bear the image of a goddess in a sitting posture, the remaining four bearing the image of Siva standing with the trident in one hand and the bull behind, and the legend O-i-sho (Siva) in Greek characters.

Local traditions connect a number of well-known personages, like Parashurama, Dasharatha, Shravana, Valmiki, Sita, Lava, Kusha, Baka-sura, Krishna, Mayuradhvaja, Ashvatthama and Astika, mentioned in the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharata* and the Puranas, with different places in the district, adding sanctity to them.

¹ cf. Cunningham, A.: *Archaeological Survey of India*, Vol. XI, pp. 47—58;

Fuhrer, A.: *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh*, pp. 268—276.



The Temple of Chandrika Devi at Baksar

