

UTTAR PRADESH DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



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I.A.S.

State Editor

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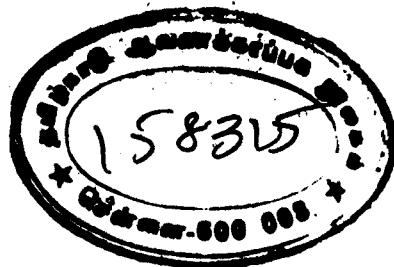
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PREFACE

The earliest accounts regarding the area covered by the present district were E.T. Atkinson's *Statistical, Descriptive and Historical Account of the North-Western Province's of India*, Vol. V, part I—Rohilkhand Division, (Allahabad, 1879), the provincial series of the *Imperial Gazetteer of India* (Allahabad, 1905), H.R. Nevill's *Bijnor: A Gazetteer* (Allahabad 1907) and its supplement volume's, A.C.L. Carlleyle's *Archaeological Survey of India Report*, (Calcutta, 1879), and various Settlement reports of the region.

This is, the thirty-second in the series of revised District Gazetteers of the State of Uttar Pradesh. A detailed bibliography of the published works used in the preparation of the present volume appears at its end.

I should like to thank the chairman and members of the State Advisory Board, Dr. P.N. Chopra, Editor, Indian Gazetteers, Central Gazetteer's Unit, Union Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, and all those officials and non-officials who have helped in bringing out this gazetteer.

LUCKNOW :

D. P. VARUN

Dated : February 25, 1977

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Origin of Name of District

The district of Bijnor forms the north-western part of the Meerut Division. Legendary history ascribes its foundation to Raja Ben (also spelt Bin or Bain) and described as Vena, a minor hero king of Northern India, in the *Mahabharata* and the *Puranas*. Allegedly this monarch never realised any tax from his subjects. He raised a part of the revenue by the sale of *bijana* (fans) manufactured by himself, because of which the place obtained its present name, Bijnor (Bijnaur). More probably the word is a corruption of Bijanagar (town of fans) or Vijayanagar (town of victory).

Location, Boundaries, Area and Population

Location and Boundaries—The district lies between Lat. 29° 2' N. Lat. 29° 58' N. and Long. 78° 0' E. and 78° 59' E. Its maximum length from north to south is about 102 km. and breadth from east to west about 90 km. In the west it is bounded by the districts of Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar and Meerut. Separated by the river Ganga on its extreme northern tip, it touches district Dehra Dun. To its north and north-east lies the hill district of Garhwal. On the south-east it brushes for a short distance district Nainital, from which it is separated by the river Phika. District Moradabad bounds the remaining south-eastern part of the district.

Area—According to the Central Statistical Organisation, in 1971 the district covered an area of 4,852.0 sq. km. and occupied the 29th place in the State in regard to size. Owing to the action of the Ganga, frequent changes take place in the area of the district.

Population—According to the 1971 census, the district has a population of 14,90,185 (males 8,04,294 and females 6,85,891), the urban population being 2,69,702 and the rural 12,20,483. The district ranked 32nd in the State in respect of population.

History of District as Administrative Unit

In the time of Akbar the district was included in the sirkar of Sambhal in the subah of Delhi. At first the district comprised seventeen parganas but frequent changes took place in its composition.

When this portion was handed over to the East India Company by the nawab vizir of Avadh in 1801, the district formed part of the territo-

rial division known as Rohilkhand and was under the charge of a collector. The district was first included in the vast area known as the collectorate of Moradabad. A new district was formed in 1817 under the name of the northern division of Moradabad, with headquarters at Nagina. The first collector was Bosanquet. He was succeeded by N. J. Halhed who shifted the headquarters to Bijnor in 1824. This was ostensibly done on the ground of the unhealthiness of Nagina but the real reason was the great distance from the military station of Meerut. It was not, however, till 1837 that the old appellation was dropped altogether and the district became known as Bijnor. The principal alterations in the area were effected by the transfer of taluka Chandi from Garhwal to the district in 1842 and the relinquishment in 1866 of the villages lying between the foot-hills and the submontane road, while minor rectifications took place from time to time on the western border by the action of the river Ganga.

The district underwent several internal changes. Islamabad had been united with Nagina in 1802 but in 1842 it was separated from Nagina to form the nucleus of the new pargana of Barhapura. In the same year Afzalgarh and Rehar became a single pargana, Haldaur and Jhalu were amalgamated with Daranagar and Bijnor respectively and in 1884 pargana Burhpur was carved out from the neighbouring parganas bringing the total number of parganas to fifteen, namely Afzalgarh, Akbarabad, Barhapura, Bashta, Bijnor, Burhpur, Chandpur, Daranagar, Dhampur, Kiratpur, Mandawar, Nagina, Najibabad, Nihtaur and Seohara. Formerly there had been five subdivisions in the district, namely Nagina, Najibabad, Bijnor, Dhampur and Chandpur. In 1894 the Chandpur tahsil was abolished and its component parts were distributed between the Bijnor and Dhampur tahsils. The villages of Ram Sahai Wali, Kundanpur Ahtamali, Himmatpur Bali, Shahpur Khadi (belonging to pargana Godhanpur in tahsil Muzaffarnagar) and village Lodhpur Latifpur (pargana Bhakasari, tahsil Jansath) were transferred from district Muzaffarnagar to the pargana of Mandawar in tahsil Bijnor in 1954 resulting in the gain of 18.6 sq. km.

Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas

The district has four subdivisions—Najibabad, Bijnor, Nagina and Dhampur, each forming a tahsil of the same name.

Najibabad is the northern tahsil or subdivision of the district and is composed of the three parganas of Najibabad, Kiratpur and Akbarabad. It is of an irregular shape and is bounded on the north by district Garhwal. To the east lie the Barhapura and Nagina parganas of tahsil Nagina, the latter also forming in part the southern boundary, the remainder of which is taken up by pargana Bijnor. On the west the Ganga forms the boundary for a considerable distance,

separating this district from Saharanpur. The area of the tahsil is 1,234.7 sq. km. It has a population of 2,95,790 (males 1,58,883, females 1,36,907). It comprises 549 villages and 2 towns.

The tahsil or subdivision of Bijnor forms the western part of the district. It comprises the parganas of Bijnor, Mandawar and Daranagar. It is like a narrow strip in shape, stretching along the river Ganga which separates it on the north and west from the districts of Muzaffarnagar and Meerut. To the south lies the Amroha tahsil of Moradabad and to the east are the Najibabad and Dhampur tahsils of the district. The total area is liable to change from year to year because of the action of the river Ganga. At present it has an area of 1,306.7 sq. km. and a population of 4,00,030 (males 2,17,906, females 1,82,124). It contains 851 villages and 3 towns.

The Nagina tahsil is the eastern subdivision of the district. It is of an irregular shape extending westward from the Phika river (which forms the boundary between this district and those of Naini Tal and Moradabad) to the border of the Najibabad and Bijnor tahsils. To the south lie the Nihtaur and Dhampur parganas of the Dhampur tahsil and on the north the boundary runs along the submontane road which now belongs to Garhwal. The tahsil contains the three parganas of Nagina, Barhapura and Afzalgarh. It has an area of 1,271.7 sq. km. and a population of 2,90,373 (males 1,56,310, females 1,34,063) spread over 709 villages and 2 towns.

The subdivision of Dhampur comprises the south-eastern portion of the district. It is bounded on the north and east by the Nagina tahsil, on the west by the Bijnor tahsil and on the south-east and south by the Moradabad district. It contains the four parganas of Dhampur, Nihtaur, Seohara and Burhpur. The area of the tahsil is 1,186.0 sq. km. which is liable to change owing to the action of the river Ramganga on its eastern border. It has a population of 5,03,992 (males 2,71,195, females 2,32,797) distributed among 4 towns and 946 villages.

Thanas—For the purpose of police administration there are 18 *thanas* (police-stations) in the district. There are 4 police-stations in tahsil Najibabad, 3 in tahsil Nagina, 5 in tahsil Dhampur and 6 in tahsil Bijnor.

TOPOGRAPHY

In its physical aspects the district possesses diverse characteristics. The greater portion of the district is open and highly cultivated. The surface is broken by several rivers of considerable size and their many tributaries, while the valleys of more important drainage lines possess distinctive features as compared with the upland region. This alteration of level country and riverain depressions extends northward to a broad

belt of forest which forms a fringe along the north-eastern border and, where the district narrows towards its northern angle, widens out so as to occupy its entire breadth; and lastly, in the north angle itself, a small range of low hills, constituting the network of the great Himalayan chain. The southern ridges of the mountains vary in their general character. In Saharanpur, the district to the west of Bijnor, the old Siwalik formation is preserved in its entirety but in the eastern half of Naini Tal (the district to the east of Bijnor) a different state of affairs exists as the place of the Siwaliks is taken by the gradual slope of the *bhabar* (a waterless tract formed of boulders and detritus from the hills) underneath which the water sinks to a great depth, to regain the surface in the swamps of the terai. In Bijnor the two systems blend, for the hills in the extreme north are practically an easterly continuation of the Siwalik chain separating Saharanpur from Dehra Dun while further east the *bhabar* characteristics are present, though in a modified form. The bed of boulders and gravel is here much more narrow and less clearly marked than in Naini Tal, the slope is more gentle and the absence of water less conspicuous. As a result of this, the distinguishing features of the terai to the south are generally absent. The northern belt is as a whole moist and fertile, with luxuriant growth of small trees and valuable grasses.

Chandi Hills—In the extreme north there is a small range of hills known as the Chandi hills, which occupies an area of about 40 sq. km. The hills are apparently an easterly extension of the Siwaliks and project southward as a spur from the higher ranges of Garhwal. They include two main ridges which unite close to the district boundary, about 9 km. east of Hardwar: one running due west and terminating in the Chandi peak, which rises to a height of about 587 m. above sea-level and is surmounted by a temple overlooking the valley of the Ganga; and the other, leading to the south-west, is separated from the former by Anjan Sot and drains on the south into the Paili Rao. The hills are little more than rugged and barren rocks, uncultivable and uninhabited but on the lower slopes and in the valleys trees are more numerous and there is a luxuriant growth of bamboos. The soil on these hills is very poor, dry and shallow, being either sandy or a stiff clay. At the foot of the hills, both on the south and north-west, the soil is a good alluvial deposit over a deep bed of boulders.

Forest Belt—The forest tract extends from the Chandi hills on the west to those of Rehar on the extreme east. The level in this belt sinks towards the east or south. At the foot of the Chandi hills, which rise abruptly from the plain, the tract is about 289 m. above sea-level and drops 277 m. at Sabalgarh and to 271 m. at Najibabad on the southern outskirts of the forest. Further east the level sinks to about 261 m. at Barhapura, while beyond the Ramganga the fall is more rapid. Kalagarh

shows a height of about 265 m. which drops to 235 m. some 10 km. to the south. The surface of the ground is very uneven throughout the tract, for the level is broken by innumerable streams and watercourses which carry off the drainage from the neighbouring hills of Garhwal, the channels of the larger rivers having wide valleys on either side and the banks of the smaller torrents being scored by ravines. In the valleys the soil is rich and moist, though on the higher level it is lighter in texture. The surface deposit which overlies the coarse gravel detritus is far deeper here than in the *bhabar* to the east.

To the south of the forest belt lies an open plain, which continues to the southern borders of the district and on into Moradabad and the wide plains of Rohilkhand and Avadh. The surface is gently undulating and rises from the low valleys of the rivers to the sandy ridges which mark the water-partings. The two main divisions of this area are the uplands and the lowlands, the former constituting about 64 per cent of the whole.

In the uplands there are three such belts, each running from north to south. They may be described as the western, central and eastern uplands.

Western Uplands—The western uplands comprise the natural watershed between the Ganga and the central drainage lines, extending from the forests of Najibabad in the north to the southern boundary of pargana Bashta. The tract is subdivided into three unequal belts by the Malin and Chhoiya rivers, which have cut their way through the high ground at some remote period. These three portions form a series of low sandy ridges running generally parallel to the Ganga and are separated by broad and level plains which gradually slope down on all sides into the surrounding valleys. The western extremity of these uplands is marked by the high bank of the Ganga, from which the land slopes gently towards the interior, the level surface being broken only by long ridges of sand. These sandhills are to be found overlying the good soil in various parts of the district but they are more common towards the south-west in the parganas of Chandpur and Bashta.

As a whole, the western belt is characterized by sparse population, inferior tillage and an inadequate water-supply. Nagal, in the extreme north, is about 261 m. above sea-level, Mandawar 238 m., Bijnor 235 m., Chandpur 225 m. and Bashta 219 m.

Central Uplands—This tract is drained by the Ban, Gangan and Karula, all of which flow from north to south and have their origin in the northern portion of the tract. This belt is superior to the western uplands as it possesses a soft, friable loam but contains a slight mixture of sand, hard and stiff clay being found along the drainage lines. This tract is highly cultivated. The rapid fall of the tract is as fully marked as in the western uplands. The level drops from 220 m. at Akbarabad in

the north to 237 m. at Nihtaur, about 226 m. at Nurpur and 224 m. at Phina near the southern boundary.

Eastern Uplands—Beyond the Karula to the east, a narrow belt extends as far as the valley of the Khoh and the Ramganga. Down the middle, from Nagina to the southern boundary of the district, runs the watershed between the Khoh and the Gangan system. On the ridge the soil is sandy but superior to that of the western tract. More usually it is loam of good quality, gradually merging into clay. From Nagina, 246 m. above sea-level, the level drops to 232 m. at Dhampur, 221 m. at Seohara and 217 m. at Sahaspur.

Lowlands or Trans-Khoh Tract—The Uplands terminate on the east in the high land above the basin of the Khoh and the aspect of the tract then changes into a wide stretch of low alluvial ground, extending to the eastern boundary of the district. In the low valleys of the Khoh and the Ramganga the soil is rich and fertile. Between these two rivers lie an extensive, raised tract stretching southward from the forests of the north. Here the soil is light and uneven. Beyond the Ramganga the land rises and the soil, more or less alluvial in character, consists largely of excellent loam and clay. On the east the district bears a closer resemblance to the terai of Naini Tal. The district east of the Khoh falls to the south with a slope very similar to that of the upland *bangar*. Barhapura stands at a height of 261 m. above sea-level, Afzalgarh at 229 m. and Sherkot, in the Khoh valley, at only 220 m.

Ganga Khadir—Another natural division is formed by the *khadir* of the Ganga. The aspect of the *khadir* varies in different portions of its length. In Najibabad, to the north, it is a narrow strip but in pargana Mandawar it widens out into a fairly level tract of alluvial loam and clay, capable of bearing good crops. In Bijnor the *khadir* proper is a narrow belt, consisting mainly of sand. Further south, in Daranagar, the high bank approaches close to the stream and below the steep bluff is a very narrow strip of inferior clay and sand. In Bashta, however, the high bank recedes inland, leaving two broad belts of upper and lower *khadir* which are swampy.

RIVER SYSTEMS AND WATER RESOURCES

The main river of the district is the Ganga which separates this district from the Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar and Meerut districts. Next comes the Ramganga. The other rivers of the district are the Khoh, Ban, Gangan, Karula, Malin, Ekra, Chhoiya, Pili, Dhara, Panaili and Phika.

Ganga—The Ganga forms the western boundary of this district, close to its point of exit from the hills above Hardwar. Then it flows southward in a wide bed of boulders, the volume of the stream being greatly diminished by reason of the Ganga canal, which takes off at

Mayapur on the right bank. A short distance below this place the bed becomes sandy and the alluvial deposit left by the annual floods makes its appearance on its banks but the channel is comparatively shallow. At Nagal it makes a sweep towards the south-east, maintaining this direction for several kilometres beyond the Balawali railway bridge. The Ganga bends southward again at Banuwala in pargana Mandawar and continues in a southerly or south-easterly course till it leaves the district at Kamharia in the extreme south-east corner of pargana Bashta in tahsil Bijnor.

Ganga Tributaries

The Ganga receives several tributaries in its course along the border of the district but few are of any importance. Those in the extreme north are mere mountain torrents, of insignificant dimensions during the summer but swelling into a boisterous rush of turbid water in the rains.

Paili Rao—The first is the Paili Rao which drains a large area in the mountains of Garhwal and in this district skirts the Chandji hills, falling to the Ganga some 3 km. below Shampur in tahsil Najibabad.

Kotawali—The Rao river, which is also known as Kotawali, passes to the south of the forest tract and joins the Ganga at Asafgarh.

Lahpi—The Lahpi, a small drainage channel in pargana Mandawar, is another tributary of the Ganga. It has its origin at Saifpur Khaddar where it carries off the surface water from the upland and then passes southward underneath the high bank, till it widens out into the broad marsh known as the Raoli *jhil*, shortly after discharging itself into the Ganga.

Malin—This river enters the district in the north of pargana Najibabad, a short distance to the east of Haldukhata. At this point the stream flows in three district channels, that on the west being known as the Ratnal and that on the east as the Riware. These rejoin the main stream after a course of several kilometres, the former close to Sahanpur and the latter near Bhogpur just north of Najibabad. About four and half km. beyond the confluence, the Malin enters pargana Kiratpur, flowing parallel to the railway line on its northern side. Just as it approaches the boundary of Mandawar, it bends southward to cross the railway line, after having received on its right bank the water of the Lakharhan, a small stream which rises in the forest of Najibabad. The Lakharhan itself is fed by several tributary drainage channels, the chief of which is the Sukha nullah. About three km. below the junction with the Lakharhan, close to the railway crossing, another small stream falls into the Malin near the village of Barampur. This is known as the Katra nullah and rises near Kashirampur in pargana Najibabad, after which it flows in an irregular course towards the south-west. Just before its junction it is fed by a channel known as the Bhera. In the remaining portion of its course through the parganas of Kiratpur and Bijnor, a large ravine touches the river on the left bank some three km. to the north-west of

Kiratpur. The confluence with the Ganga takes place at Raoli on the borders of the Bijnor and Mandawar parganas. Throughout its course the river flows in a broad and shallow valley except on the northern border of the district. The course of the Malin in this district is about 53 km.

Chhoiya—This river takes its rise in pargana Najibabad, in the village of Samipur about four and a half km. west of Najibabad. Then it flows in a south-westerly direction, skirting the southern boundary of the pargana, afterwards separating Kiratpur from Akbarabad. It then runs through the middle of pargana Bijnor, afterwards forming the boundary of Daranagar for some kilometres. Then it traverses the western portion of Daranagar and joins the Ganga about three km. below Jahanabad. The Chhoiya has a drainage channel of considerable length. A stream known as the Khalia drains a few villages in the west of Akbarabad and then joins the main stream.

Ramganga—The Ramganga is a mountain-fed stream which rises in the upper ranges of Garhwal. It enters the district near Kalagarh. At first it flows almost due west, separating Barhapura from Afzalgarh. Then it turns southward near Pempuri in the pargana of Barhapura and enters Afzalgarh, again meeting the boundary at Allahpur. From there it flows along the western border of Dhampur and Seohara and finally passes into the district of Moradabad near Sheikpur Khadar in the latter pargana. During the rains it is employed for floating down large quantities of timber.

Ramganga Tributaries

Khoh—The next important river is the Khoh, which rises in the hills of Garhwal and enters the district in the extreme north in pargana Barhapura at the point where the railway to Kotdwara crosses the sub-montane road. Passing southward it is joined at Jahanabad on its right bank by the Sukharao, a hill torrent of considerable size. Then it goes on to the western boundary of Barhapura, separating the pargana from Nagina on the west. It afterwards turns slightly to the south-east traversing pargana Dhampur and finally falls into the Ramganga near Rafatpur after a journey of about 56 km. through the district. The Khoh is a river of considerable dimensions but a large proportion of its water is drawn off into a canal near Jahanabad. As it has a wide bed, its water is quickly carried onwards and any flood is of short duration. The Khoh receives no important tributary on its right bank besides the Sukharao. A small stream known as the Paodhoi (a name given to several watercourses of a similar nature in this district) rises to the north of Nagina and passes that town on the east, eventually joining the river at Ahmadnagar Gorwa in pargana Dhampur. On the left bank it is joined by a number of small tributaries, one of the largest being the Sanah, which joins the Khoh shortly after its entry into the district. Three other streams (rather torrents) unite south of Barhapura and the

combined stream, which contains a perennial flow of water, is known as the Uni. This flow joins the Khoh near Islamabad, on the road from Barhapura to Nagina. Many small streams also flow into the Khoh in pargana Dhampur, the last being the Singhai, which has a short course through the lowlands to the west of the Ramganga and also effects its junction with the Khoh.

Gangan—The next tributary of the Ramganga is the Gangan, which flows from north to south through the middle of the district. It rises in the tahsil of Najibabad near the northern confines of the district and flows in a south-westerly course as far as the boundary of the pargana. It then becomes a perennial stream, passing in a southerly direction through Akbarabad and Nagina; it afterwards forms the boundary between Nihtaur and Dhampur. Then it flows through the north-east corner of Burhpur, finally traversing the south of Seohara before its entry into district Moradabad. The river has an extremely tortuous course, its total length within the district being about 72 km.

Ban—The Ban is a small but perennial stream which effects the drainage of a considerable area. It originates in pargana Akbarabad, where three or four watercourses unite and assume a definite channel. After dividing the pargana into two almost equal parts, the Ban traverses the south-western extremity of Nagina and then follows the boundaries of Bijnor and Daranagar on the west and Nihtaur on the east. A second channel, known as the Banra, takes a parallel course for a short distance to the east, the two uniting in the south of Nihtaur. On leaving that pargana the river then flows through the middle of pargana Burhpur and enters district Moradabad near the village of Marahat, subsequently joining the Gangan in the Amroha tahsil. The Ban flows in a well-defined bed but a great part of its course traverses a lowlying tract.

Besides the Ban, the Gangan is fed by several other tributaries. The first of these is the Katheni, which rises in Najibabad near Mordhaj and joins the Gangan on the right bank close to the pargana boundary. The second is the Pilkhala, a stream which at first separates Najibabad from Barhapura and then flows along the north-western border of Nagina to join the river at Naqipur Bammauli. The Gangan has no other tributaries in this district.

Karula—The Karula has its origin in the west of Nagina railway station. After flowing through the parganas of Nagina and Dhampur at a very short distance to the east of the Gangan river, it becomes for a few kilometres the frontier between Burhpur and Seohara. It then turns towards the south-east through pargana Seohara, leaving the district at the village of Kiwar. Close to its exit it is joined by the Ekra, which rises to the north of Dhampur and maintains a southerly course throughout its length. The Ekra is fed by a stream known as the Bakal, which rises near Seohara. There is a second Ekra which has its source near Alauddinpur in pargana Dhampur and falls into the Karula near Nindru.

The Karula is a useful drainage channel for irrigation purposes but the Ekra contains very little water except during the rains.

Banaili—The Banaili has a similar origin and flows in a wide bed through the centre of the Afzalgarh pargana in a south-westerly direction. It joins the Ramganga just within the confines of pargana Dhampur.

Pili—A third is the Pili which, rising in Rehar, follows a course almost parallel to that of the Banaili and joins the Ramganga at Rafatpur a short distance above its confluence with the Khoh.

Phika—The Phika, which forms the boundary of the district (although in several places it passes into the district of Naini Tal) for many kilometres, enters the district at Afzalgarh (for the last time) in the extreme south of the pargana and joins the Ramganga on the borders of the Moradabad district. It is fed by one or two small streams, the more important being the Kotirao (which rises in the hills and takes its name from a village there) and passing through the Rehar forests for several kilometres, unites with the larger river near Nabigarh. The others such as the Khalia and the Jabda are mere drainage channels.

Lakes—The district has several lakes. The largest is known as the Raoli *jhl* (lake). It lies below the uplands in pargana Mandawar, where the waters of the Lahpi widen out into a lake. In the *khadir* of the Ganga considerable reservoirs of water or depressions which collect the surface drainage can be found. The first in importance, which is in pargana Najibabad, is the Jhilmila *jhl*, which covers a considerable area in the low country to the north of the confluence of the Rawasan and the Ganga. Another line of swamps skirting the high bank in pargana Bashta is found in the southern *khadir*. In the pargana of Bijnor there is a *jhl* near Barauki in the extreme north-east corner. In Seohara there are several shallow lakes, the principal being those at Mahupura, Dehra and Wazirpur. In the Akbarabad and Kiratpur parganas there are several large depressions of considerable value for irrigation purposes. There are a number of small ponds in pargana Nagina and a few large tanks in the Dhampur tahsil at Bipalsana, Jamalpur and Nindru.

GEOLOGY

The major part of the district forms a part of the Indo-gangetic alluvium, which consists of clay, sand, *kankar* and *reh*. Hard granite is also available near the surface of the Ramganga in the northern part of the district. Geologically the Chandi hills belong to the upper tertiary series and comprise, towards the plains, a gentle normal anticlinal arch in the middle Siwalik rock. This is of a very micaceous character and is in a rapid state of decay by weathering; its consistency, however, varies to a considerable extent, for in places it is loose and incoherent causing frequent landslips but elsewhere it has become so indurate as to resist blasting. Further north, towards the Garhwal border, the rock

changes into the upper Siwalik conglomerate, the soft brown sandstone being interstratified with boulders, purple shells and clays where landslips are extremely common. This belt is of narrow width and separates the hills of Bijnor from the slaty rocks of the outer Himalayas proper.

Clay—Clay is found in almost all parts of the district, especially to the north and north-east of Najibabad which has been found suitable for making bricks, earthen toys and utensils.

Sand—Sand, *bajri* and boulders occur in the river beds in the tahsils of Bijnor, Najibabad and Nagina. Soft *kankar* is available from the river Khoh but is of poor quality. It is used for metalling roads and making lime.

Reh—Deposits of *reh* (saline efflorescence) are found in the Khoh and in the saturated tracks of the *khadir* of the Ganga and is utilized by washermen (in washing clothes).

Gold—Panning for gold from river sand extracted in Dhamgarh of tahsil Nagina was carried out in the early period of this century but it was stopped, probably due to its working being uneconomical. Again, in 1966, gold was reported by a man of Chandpur, who succeeded in getting a very low quantity of gold from sand. The matter was referred to the director of geology and mining for investigation which did not show any promising result.

Seismology—The district lies in the Indo-gangetic alluvial plain of Uttar Pradesh. The area experienced earthquake shocks of magnitude V to VIII (M. M. Scale) during the Kangra earthquake of 1905, the Bihar-Nepal earthquake of 1934 and the Delhi earthquakes of 1956 and 1960, as per seismic zoning map of India.

CLIMATE

The climate of this district is characterised by general dryness except in the monsoon season. There are four seasons. The winter season from the middle of November to February, followed by the summer season from March to June when the south-west monsoon ushers in the rainy season which lasts till the end of September. The period from the middle of September to the middle of November constitutes the post-monsoon season or the transition season.

Rainfall—Records of rainfall in the district are maintained at 4 rain gauge stations—Bijnor, Nagina, Dhampur and Najibabad. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in Statement I at the end of the chapter. The average annual rainfall in the district, as based on the data for the period 1901 to 1950, is 1,088.3 mm. The rainfall generally increases from the south-west towards the north-east and varies from 975.2 mm. at Bijnor to 1,167.0 mm. at Najibabad. About 85 per cent of the annual rainfall in the district is received through the south-west monsoon (July to September), July and August being the months

of maximum rainfall. The variation in the rainfall from year to year is appreciable. During the period from 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall was 151 per cent of the normal and occurred in 1942. The lowest annual rainfall, 61 per cent of the normal, occurred in 1913 and 1929. During the same period there were 9 years when the annual rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal, two of them being consecutive. Considering the rainfall at individual stations, two consecutive years of such rainfall occurred thrice at Nagina, twice at Dhampur and once each at the other two stations. The annual rainfall in the district was between 900 and 1,300 mm. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 823.0 mm. at Nagina on September 18, 1880. On an average there are 47 rainy days (i. e., days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 44 at Bijnor to 50 at Najibabad.

The statement regarding frequency of the annual rainfall in the district is given below for the period 1901—1950 :

Range in mm.	Number of years
601—700	4
701—800	4
801—900	3
901—1,000	9
1,001—1,100	6
1,101—1,200	8
1,201—1,300	5
1,301—1,400	4
1,401—1,500	1
1,501—1,600	3
1,601—1,700	1
1,701—1,800	1
1,801—1,900	1

Temperature—There is a meteorological observatory in the district located at Najibabad, the records of which may be taken as representative of the climatic conditions of the district as given in Statement II at the end of the chapter. From November both the day and night temperatures decrease rapidly. January is the coldest month with the mean daily minimum temperature of 7.0° C. and the mean daily maximum temperature of 20.2° C. During the cold season, in the wake of western disturbances, cold waves affect the district and on such occasions the minimum temperature drops to the freezing point of water and frost may occur. The temperature rises rapidly after February. May and June constitute the hottest period of the year. In May the mean daily maximum temperature is 39.2° C., and the mean daily minimum 22.9° C. On individual days, the maximum temperature reaches 42° C. The hot, often dusty westerly wind (known as "loo") makes the heat more oppressive but rarely blows after sunset. The hot wind usually ceases by mid-evening when, with the advance of the south-west monsoon, the day

temperature drops appreciably but nights throughout the monsoon season are slightly warmer than during the summer. The increased humidity during the rainy season causes general oppressiveness. After the withdrawal of the monsoon by mid-September there is a slight increase in the day temperature but the nights become progressively cooler. After October, both the day and night temperatures decrease gradually.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Najibabad was 45.2° C. on June 11, 1960, and the lowest minimum was 2.9° C. on January 29, 1964.

Humidity—A statement regarding the relative humidity of the district is given in Statement II at the end of the chapter. The air is very humid during the monsoon season with relative humidity between 70 and 80 per cent and to a lesser extent when the monsoon is over. The summer season is the driest part of the year when the relative humidity in the afternoon is between 20 and 40 per cent.

Cloudiness—During the monsoon season the sky is heavily clouded particularly in July and August but during the rest of the year it is mostly clear except for short spells during the cold season when the district is affected by passing western disturbances.

Winds—Winds are generally light or calm in the mornings. Westerlies and north-westerlies are more common from October to April. By May the wind region is reversed and east and south-west winds predominate thereafter and continue during the rainy season.

The following statement gives the mean wind speed for the district in kilometres per hour:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
3.4	3.5	4.7	5.0	6.4	7.2	6.6	5.5	4.7	3.9	2.3	2.6	4.7

Special Weather Phenomena

A statement regarding the frequency of the special weather phenomena monthwise for the district is given below :

Months	Mean number of days				
	Thunder	Hail	Dust-storm	Squall	Fog
January	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
February	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5
March	2.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
April	0.8	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
May	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
June	3.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
July	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
August	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
September	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
October	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
November	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
December	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Annual	22.4	0.3	3.0	0.0	3.0

FLORA

The forests of the district cover an area of 56,460.5 hectares under the forest department, of which 41,671.3 hectares are in the Najibabad tahsil, 13,817.9 hectares in the Nagina tahsil and 971.3 hectares in the Dhampur tahsil. The forest of the district may be divided into three main types, the hill forests, the riverain forests and the miscellaneous plain forests.

Hill Forests—These forests occur between the altitudes of 563.88 m. and 670.18 m. The species growing in these forests are sal (*Shorea robusta*), asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), haldu (*Adina cordifolia*), bakli (*Acacia latifolia*), seja (*L. parvifolia*), khair (*Acacia catechu*) and a valuable understorey of bamboos. On the higher ridge chir (*Pinus longifolia*) is found in the top canopy and sal in the lower storey.

Riverain Forests—These forests are chiefly composed of shisham (*Dalbergia sisso*), occurring by itself (or with khair), kanju (*Toddalia asiatica*), ber (*Zizyphus jujuba*), semal (*Salmelia malabarica*), dhak (*Butea frondosa*) and scattered tun (*Cedrela toona*). The undergrowth is chiefly composed of munj (*Saccharum munja*), kans (*Vetiveria zizanoides*) and patera (*Typha elephantina*).

Plain Forests

Khadir Forests—These consist of marshy grass lands bordering the Ganga river. The common species found in these forests are khair, semal, dhak, shisham, kanju, ber and jhau (*Tamarix dioca*) at the lower altitudes.

Terai Forests—The terai is lowlying area characterised by numerous springs and swamps with sandy alluvium. The soil varies from sandy loam to stiff clay. The miscellaneous forests found here are of jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), jhingan (*Lannea coromandelica*), padal (*Slerospermum suaveolens*), khair, gular (*Ficus glomerata*), safed siris (*Abbezzia procera*), bahera (*Terminalia belerica* Roseb) and pula (*Kydia calycina*), with occasional tun in the upper story. The understorey is composed of ber, chamror (*Ehretia laevis*), bel (*Aegle marmelos*), kathber, (*Zizyphus Xylophyra*), chila (*Casaria tomentosa* Roseb) and amaltas (*Cassia fistula*). The undergrowth is mainly of bansa (*Crotolaria Spp*), binda (*Colebrookea oppositifolia*) and katdm (*Murraya exotica*). Grasses like nablura (*Arundo dorer*) and patera are often found near wet spots. There are many ravines full of thorny shrubs.

Bhabar Forests—The bhabar tract includes undulating land near the foot of the hills. The common plants found in these forests are haldu (*Adina cordifolia*), kusum (*Schiechiera trijuga*), kura (*Holarrhena antyosenterica*), kurchi (*Garuga pinnata*) and phaldu (*Milragyna parvifolia*). In the middle storey rohini (*Mallotus philippinensis*), domsal (*Milsua velutina*), issora (*Cordia dechotoma*), tendu (*Diospyros tomentosa*), sahjana (*Moraga pterygosperma*), tun, ber and kathber are found. Grasses are

common and plentiful such as baib (*Eulaliopsis binata*), dob (*Desmostachya bipinnata*), khas (*Zizanoides*), and siru (*Euphorbia royleana*).

FAUNA

Animals—The wild animals of the district are more varied and numerous than in any other part of the Division. Wild elephants (*Elephas indicus*) which once extended their wandering as far as the swamps of Bashta now penetrate no further than the northern woodland. The tiger (*Panthera tigris*), panther, leopard or guldar (*Panthera pardus*) occasionally visits the northern fringes of the district from the adjoining districts of Naini Tal and Garhwal. The other carnivorous animals include the hyena (*Hyaena hyanena Linnaeus*), wolf (*Canis lupus Linnaeus*) and bankutta (wild dog) (*Cuon duk humensis*) which are found in the forest tracts and the jackal (*Canis aureus*) and fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) which are to be found throughout the district. Wild pig (*Sus scrofa cristatus*) is common in the northern forests and also in the open plains wherever ravines, tall grass and sugar-cane are plentiful. Of the deer tribe the sambhar (*Rusa aristotelis*) is met with in small numbers in the forests of Chandi and Rehar, the chital or spotted deer (*Axis maculatus*) is found throughout the northern division of the district, the kakar or barking deer (*Muntiacus muntajax*) is not common (descending sometimes into this district from the outer hills) and the para or hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) which is only met with sometimes. In former days the gond or swamp deer (*Cervus duvauceli*) was common in the district but is now extinct. The kala hiran or black buck is scarce and protected by the State, the nilgai or blue bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) which damages the standing crops, is found throughout the district. Among the other animals found all over the district are the monkey (*Innus rhesus*), hare (*Lepus reficandatus*) and sahi (*Hystrix leucura*).

Birds—Among the birds, pea-fowl and wild fowl occur in large numbers in the forests. Black partridge (*Francolinus francolinus*) is fairly common, especially in the Ganga khadir, where florican (*Sypheotides indica*) is to be seen from time to time, the sand-grouse (*Pterocle exustus Temminck*) occurs in small flocks on the more bare and sandy tracts of the district. The grey partridge (*Francolinus Pondicerianus Gmelin*) may be met with everywhere in its season. The snipe (*Cappilla gallinago Linnaeus*) is found in abundance in the winter. The goose (*Anser indicus Latham*), teal (*Anas cereca Linnaeus*), red-crested pochard duck (*Netta refina pallas*), white-eyed pochard (*Aythya nyroca Guldensted*) and widgeon (*Anas penelope Linnaeus*) visit the district in the winter and inhabit the fringes of rivers, lakes and swamps. Some other birds which are commonly found in the district are the bator or quail (*Coturnix coturnix Linnaeus*) and dhanesh (*Tockus birdstris Scopoli*).

Fish—Fish are found in the rivers, jhils, ponds and artificial reservoirs of the district, the common species being rohu (*Labeo rohita*), karaunch (*Labeo calabasu*), khursa (*Lebeo gortous*), nain (*Cirrhina mrigala*),

casta (*Oatla casta*), *rewa* (*Cirrhina reba*), *saul* (*Ophiocapalus punctatus*), *patra* (*Notopterus notopterus*), *tengra* (*Mystus tengra*), *parin* (*Wallagonta attus*) and *stnght* (*Hete-ropneustis fossilis*). Mahsher is found in the Ganga, Ramganga and Khoh but the season is very short, lasting about two months, from February to the middle of April.

Reptiles—Snakes are common in the district especially in the rural areas, the main being the cobra (*Naja naja*), *ajgar* (*python molurus*) and *dhaman* or rat snake (*Ptyas mucocus*). Of sauria the most important are the lizard, the *gharial* (*Gavialis gangeticus*) and the *mugger* (*Crocodilus palustris*).

Game Laws

In order to protect wild life from ravages, a number of Acts, such as the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912, the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Bird and Animal Protection U. P. Amendment Act (Act XIII of 1934), U. P. Private Forest Act, 1948 and the Indian Forest Act, 1951, were enforced in this district, as elsewhere in the State. The game-laws obtaining in the district are governed by the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

STATEMENT I
Normals and extremes of Rainfall

Ref. p. no. 11

Station	No. of years of date	Jan-uary	Feb-ruary	March	April	May	June	July	Aug-ust	Sept-ember	Octo-ber	Novem-ber	Decem-ber	Annual rainfall as % of normal & year	Highest annual rainfall as % of normal & year	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal & year	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours*	Date
Bijnor	50 a	32.8	33.8	17.5	11.4	15.5	100.6	277.1	274.3	167.4	30.5	3.6	10.7	975.2	158 (1906)	54 (1918)	319.5	1957 Sept. 15
	b	2.5	2.3	1.5	1.1	1.4	4.2	11.5	11.4	5.9	1.1	0.4	1.0	44.3				
Nagina	50 a	33.3	33.0	17.3	9.7	19.1	106.9	325.4	311.4	202.7	30.5	3.8	11.4	1104.5	156 (1924)	50 (1929)	823.0	1880 Sept. 18
	b	2.4	2.7	1.6	1.0	1.7	4.7	12.2	12.5	6.3	1.1	0.4	1.0	47.6				
Dhampur	50 a	33.0	35.3	17.5	9.7	16.0	116.3	319.8	319.3	153.5	28.5	4.6	12.5	1106.0	157 (1942)	57 (1913)	772.2	1880 Sept. 18
	b	2.3	2.5	.5	0.9	1.4	4.5	11.8	12.3	6.7	1.1	0.4	1.0	46.4				
Najibabad	50 a	38.1	39.9	18.3	11.2	17.8	105.4	347.5	338.6	203.5	29.7	4.8	12.2	1167.0	178 (1942)	52 (1907)	723.9	1880 Sept. 18
	b	2.6	2.7	1.5	1.2	1.7	5.0	13.1	13.1	6.9	1.0	0.4	1.1	50.3				
Bijnor	a	34.3	35.5	17.7	10.5	17.1	107.3	317.5	310.9	191.8	29.8	4.2	11.7	1088.3	151 (1942)	61 (1929)		
(District)	b	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.1	1.5	4.6	12.1	12.3	6.5	1.1	0.4	1.0	47.1				

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more)
* Based on all available data up to 1965

STATEMENT II

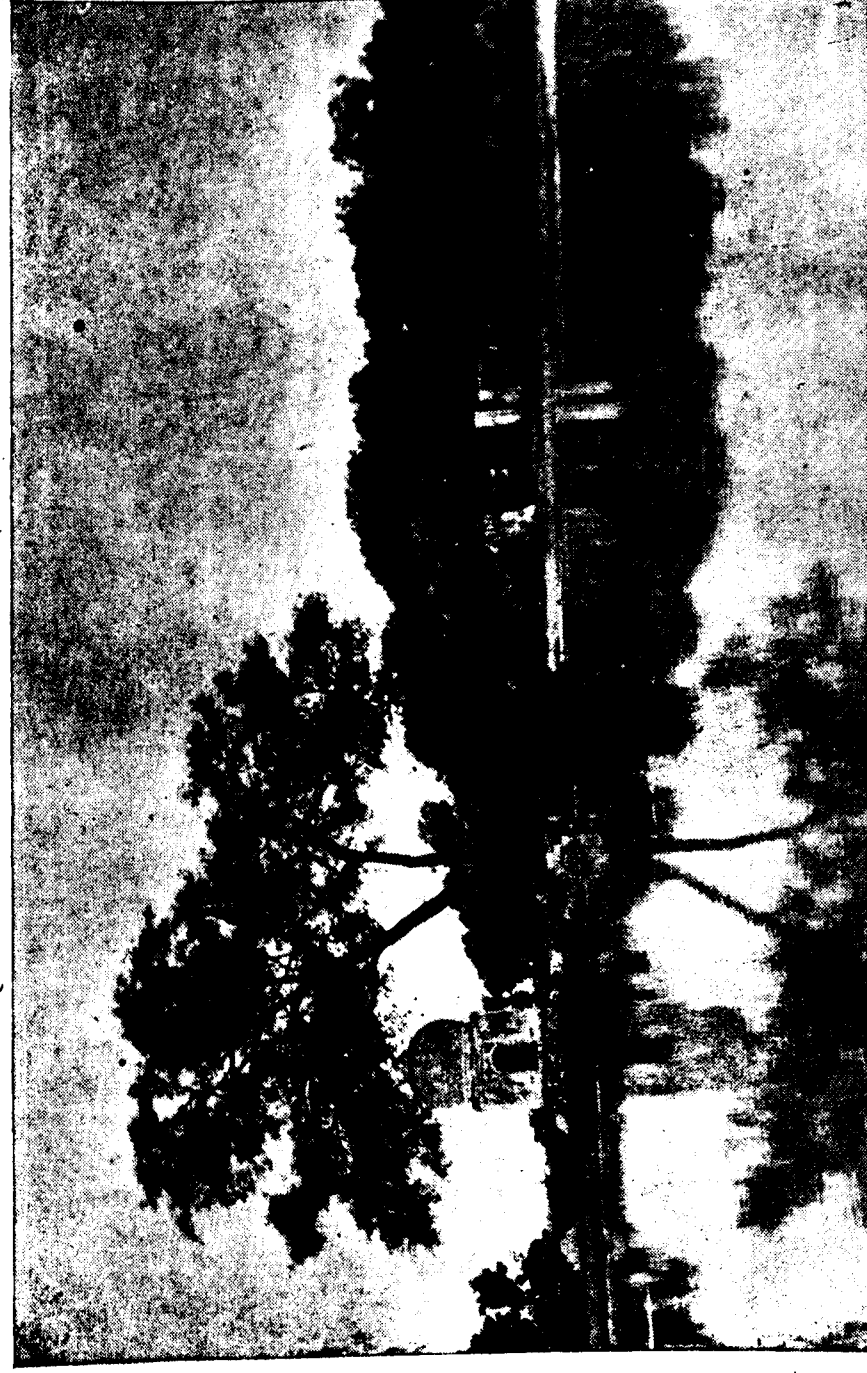
Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity (Najibabad) up to 1965

Ref. p. no. 12-13

Month	Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	Highest Maximum ever recorded	Lowest Minimum ever recorded	Relative Humidity	
					0830	1730*
	°C	°C	°C	°C	%	%
January	20.2	7.0	27.0 January 29, 1961	2.9 January 29, 1964	89	59
February	24.1	8.3	32.8 February 28, 1956	0.9 February 1, 1964	81	43
March	29.6	13.4	36.7 March 27, 1953	2.2 March 3, 1952	64	34
April	35.8	18.2	41.5 April 12, 1964	9.1 April 3, 1965	42	21
May	39.2	22.9	43.9 May 29, 31, 1962	15.6 May 9, 1960	39	22
June	38.6	26.0	45.2 June 11, 1960	18.3 June 5, 1954	58	40
July	33.3	25.3	41.7 July 7, 1963	18.4 July 10, 1965	83	69
August	32.1	24.8	37.1 August 16, 1963	18.1 August 22, 1965	85	73
September	32.6	23.3	36.7 September 13, 1963	15.6 September 30, 1962	81	67
October	30.6	17.2	35.5 October 4, 1965	10.0 October 31, 1954	76	58
November	27.0	10.2	33.9 November 1, 1952	3.3 November 21, 1956	81	54
December	22.9	7.7	36.7 December 1, 1952	0.6 December 18, 1956	86	58
Annual	30.5	17.0	—	—	72	50

*Hours I. S. T.

BIJNOR DISTRICT



Kanva Tal (related to sage Kanva). Mandawar, Tahsil Bijnor

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

ANCIENT PERIOD

Early History

The source materials for compiling the ancient history of Bijnor district are very scanty, though the mounds existing near several villages produce ample evidence of the remote antiquity of the region. That the region was inhabited in primitive times is testified to by the finding of some prehistorical copper weapons which were discovered in 1895-96. Such weapons have been recovered from several other places in northern India. The first locality in the district recorded to have possessed these is village Rajpur in the Chandpur police circle.¹ Nine flat copper axes, one long bar-celt of the Gungerian type and a six-barbed spear or harpoon-head of the Bithur type have been found.² These finds point to the attainment by this region of a considerably degree of civilisation in the past and that it must have been civilised long ago, probably during the copper age or even before that. A local legend relates that Shakuntala (a famous character in Kalidas' immortal Sanskrit play *Abhigyan Shakuntalam*) was, as a child, found near Rawli (a place on the bank of the river Malini about eleven km. from Bijnor) by the sage Kanva and brought up in his *ashrama*³ which was in close proximity. This popular belief goes back to one of the remotest periods of history. But for this no pointed references to any place in Bijnor are to be found till those regarding the foundation of the kingdom of Panchala, though some say that Sita's purification by fire took place at a site in pargana Bashta now marked by a temple called Sitabani.⁴ During the supremacy of the Panchalas the present area of the district of Bijnor was included in their kingdom. Lying 13 or 30 *yojanas* from Indraprastha and Kurukshetra (in the west and the north respectively) it was conterminous with modern Rohilkhand with the central portion of the Yamuna doab added to it. One of Dushyanta's successors became the founder of this Panchala kingdom.⁵ The country came to be known as Panchala from the "five" sons of Bhrimayasva, the sixth successor from Ajamidha (sixth in the descent from Dushyanta). This kingdom was divided among the five sons of Bhrimayasva, each of them receiving a small principality. The Panchalas were thus a branch of the Bharatas. Of these five sons Mudgala (the eldest)

1. Mitra, P. : *Pre Historic India*, (Calcutta, 1927), pp. 278, 280, 283

2. *Ibid.*

3. Nevill, H. R. : *Bijnor, A Gazetteer*, (Allahabad, 1928), p. 180

4. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 179

5. *Smriti Mayarashtra Manas*, (Meerut, 1973), p. 25

founded an important branch. His grandson, Vadhrayasva, extended the kingdom and his son Divodasa augmented it, certain scholars (Pargiter and others) identifying him and his descendant, Somadatta Sudasa, with their Vedic namesakes. These Panchalas are not mentioned in the *Rigveda* but according to the *Satapatha Brahmana*, Krivi was the older name of the Panchalas who were a composite tribe closely connected with the Kurus who ruled at Hastinapur.¹ Weber and Geldner suggest that the Panchalas represent the five tribes of the *Rigveda* but this is not probable according to the authors of the Vedic Index.²

Passing to the notice of tribes in the *Rigveda*, comparative certainty gives place to confusion and hypothesis. The one great historical event which reveals itself in the fragmentary allusions of the *Samhita* is the contest known as 'the battle of ten kings'. The most probable version of that conflict is that it was the contest between the Bharatas and the tribes of the north-west. The Bharata king, Sudasa, was the chief participant against ten allied tribes (the battle of ten kings) led by Vishwamitra.³

Not less famous was Divodasa, 'the servant of heaven', the father or grandfather of Sudasa. There are records of his conflicts with the Turvasa, Yadu and Puru tribes. He seems to have been a patron of the priestly family of Bharadwaja, the father of Dronacharya and there is little doubt that his kingdom covered much the same area as that of Sudasa. A descendant, Trikshi, is heard of and apparently still later (in the line of another descendant) Kurushravana, son of Mitrathiti and father of Upamashravas. The name is important because it suggests that already in the later Rigvedic period the Purus had become closely united with their former rivals, the Bharatas, both being merged in the Kurus, whose name is found in the later *Samhitas* and *Brahmanas*. Connected with the Kurus were the Krivis, whose name seems to be but a variant of the same root and it seems that they fought Sudasa the king of Panchala, in the famous battle of ten kings and were defeated by him.⁴ North Panchala rose into prominence during the reign of Sudasa, who made extensive conquests. He defeated the Paurava king, Samvarana, and conquered his kingdom. The next in the line of Sudasa were Sahdeva and Somaka. The other king was Ugrayudha, who defeated the king of north Panchala and was probably the grandfather of Prishata who sought refuge in south Panchala.⁵ Very little is heard of the Panchalas apart from the Kurus. Their kings, Kraivya and Sona Satrasaha, are spoken of as having performed the Asvamedha sacrifice and another king, Durmukha, is said to have conquered the whole earth. One of their kings, Pravahana

1. Majumdar, R. C. and Puralkar, A. D. (Ed.): *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. I, (*Vedic Age*), pp. 250-51, 297
2. *Ibid.*, p. 251
3. Rapson, E. J.: *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. I, p. 73
4. Rapson, E. J., *op. cit.*, pp. 74-75
5. Majumdar and Puralkar, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 298

Jaivali, appears as a philosopher king in the *Upanshads*.¹ The Vedic texts do not mention the division of this kingdom into north and south Panchala which, according to the *Mahabharata*, was made by Dronacharya, the famous preceptor of the Kauravas and Pandavas. Dronacharya was the son of the sage Bharadwaja who probably had his *ashrama* on the banks of the Ganga in this district. The famous episode in the *Mahabharata* relates that Dronacharya studied with Yagyasena (Drupada), son of Prishata, the Panchala king, in Bharadwaja's *ashrama*. Once on being insulted by Drupada, he asked his disciples to defeat him and take half his kingdom. The Pandavas marched against him, humbled him, took away half his kingdom and gave it to their guru, Drona. The Ganga became the dividing line between the two parts with the area covering the present district of Bijnor falling into Drona's kingdom of north Panchala.² But it is doubtful whether he really ruled there or he just reigned, because most of the time he stayed in the neighbouring kingdom of Hastinapur. There is a place in this district known as Sandwar which, according to local tradition, was the site of Dronacharya's *ashrama* and his school of archery and military training. There is also a big gate which was supposedly the gate of the academy. A pond, locally known as Dronasagar, marks the site of the academy. The Somakas and Srinjayas, the remnants of the Panchalas, appear to have joined Drupada and they accompanied him in the great Bharata War. Drupada (Yagyasena) performed penance in order to acquire a son who would avenge his defeat by Drona and kill him and Dhrishtadyumna was born as a result.³ The Panchalas played a very important part in the *Mahabharata* age. The Pandavas married Draupadi, the daughter of Drupada. The Panchalas sided with the Pandavas, more for taking revenge on Drona who was siding with the Kauravas.⁴ The great war, which was fought on the battle field of Kurukshetra, completely annihilated many royal families including the rulers of Panchala, Drupada and his son, Dhrishtadyumna, who was killed on the last day of the great war by Ashvatthaman (Dronacharya's son). Thus ended the prolonged enmity between the two families. According to local tradition, a monument in the present district of Bijnor of some historical importance in connection with this great war, existed in the shape of Vidurkuti, the dwelling place of the famous saint Vidur who was an eye witness of this ruinous war and who, during its course, brought all the womenfolk of the Pandavas from Hastinapur to this place which is situated in this district in Daranagar.⁵ This tradition may seem to be probable because the site of Hastinapur is across the Ganga and almost opposite Daranagar. A memorial has been constructed here to mark the site.

1. *Ibid.*, p. 251
2. *Ibid.*, p. 298; Pargiter, F. F.: *Ancient Indian Historical Tradition*, p. 283
3. *Ibid.*, p. 298
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Smriti Mayarashtra Manas*, p. 14

After the end of the great Bharata war, the Panchalas (like other royal families) became nearly extinct but one Panchala king, Asvamedhadata (the son of Satanika and the grandson of Janmejaya) was a philosopher king and a contemporary of Pravahana Jaivali, a noted scholar of the Panchalas but his name does not appear in the Vedic texts.¹ After this the history of the region (which was included in north Panchala) is obscure because the neighbouring kingdom of Kuru faced some severe calamities such as depredations by locusts, a deluge and the wrath of nature including the great flood of the Ganga which washed away the Kuru capital as mentioned in the *Chandogya Upanishad*.² Consequently north Panchala, which was in the immediate vicinity with only the Ganga separating the two Panchalas, must have suffered huge losses and it is possible it also was abandoned with the evacuation of Hastinapur.³

Buddhist Period

In the age of imperial Magadha (about 600 B. C.) reference to north Panchala's capital, Ahichhatra, is made in a *Jataka* story which seems to suggest that a Chedi prince went to the north and formed the Uttara Panchala kingdom with settlers from the Panchala and Chedi countries. The *Aitareya Brahmana* represents Durmukha as a universal monarch who made extensive conquests in every direction and was anointed by Brihaduktha.⁴ Probably Durmukha (Dummukha) of the Brahmanical and Buddhist accounts is identical with Durmukha of Panchala who, according to Jain tradition, was Pratyeka-Buddha. Some accounts associate the name of Brahmadatta, the legendary king, with Panchala.⁵ The north Panchala of 600 B. C. finds mention in the *Maha Ummagga Jataka*, the *Uttaradhyayana Sutra*, the *Divyavadana* (a Buddhist work) and the *Svapna Vasavadatta*. Even in 600 B. C., in the days of Bimbisara, Ahichhatra (Adhichhatra or Adisadra of Ptolemy or Chhatravati) was the capital of north Panchala. According to contemporary sources, the north Panchala kingdom extended approximately to the north as far as the foot-hills of the Siwaliks, to the north-west to the Ganga and to the south as far as modern Kannauj, the famous city of Kanyakubja or Kannauj being situated in this kingdom of Panchala.⁶ Originally a monarchical clan, the Panchalas formed a *sangha* or republican corporation in the sixth and fifth century B. C.⁷ This was one of the sixteen *mahajanapadas* which existed in that time but no mention of the kings

1. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. I. pp. 324-25

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*

4. *Ibid.*, p. 329

5. *Ibid.*

6. Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.): *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. II, (*The Age of Imperial Unity*), p. 11

7. *Ibid.*

who ruled there is available and in the absence of any historical details the history of this tract is obscure.

Nandas, Mauryas and Shungas

After the murder of King Kalasoka, the Sisunaga dynasty came to a close and the Nandas, who brought nearly the whole of northern and central India under one sway, came to power. This tract, which was under the Panchalas, was in all probability a part of the Nanda dominion because there is no mention of any Panchala king ruling independently in this region. According to the *Puranas*, Mahapadma is described as the second Parashurama 'the exterminator of the entire Kshatriya race' and as the sole sovereign in the country which he brought under the umbrella of one authority. Among the many Kshatriya dynasties which were uprooted were the Panchalas also. Very little is known about the subsequent history of the Nanda dynasty and its extent until the time of the last king, Mahapadmananda who was ruling at the time of Alexander's invasion. The Greek writers record some details of his power and position. According to Megasthenes the "Gangaridae and Prasii", were the people occupying the delta of the Ganga and the Prasii were the Prachya or easterners living to the east of Madhyadesa such as the Panchalas, Surasenas, Kosalas, Kasi and Videhas.¹ The statement seems to suggest that although the kingdom of Panchala existed, its independent existence is doubtful because the empire seems to have extended as far as the frontiers of Punjab. Regarding the administration prevailing in this tract, very little information is obtainable from Indian sources. Greek writers, however, make separate mention of this tract which was included in the so-called Prasii or Prachya, though hinting at their subjection to a common sovereign and Arrian notices the existence in this region "of an excellent system of internal government under which the multitude was governed by the aristocracy". This type of government to which the classical writer refers, is reminiscent of the *sanghas* of the Kurus, the Panchalas and others mentioned in Kautilya's *Arthashastra* who bore the title of raja. The flourishing condition of this area, where the inhabitants were good agriculturists, the land exceedingly fertile and internal government excellent, was in striking contrast to conditions prevailing in the main provinces of the Magadha empire. This account of the prevailing conditions in this region at that time testifies to the fact that the Nandas allowed a considerable amount of autonomy to the people in the outlying parts of the empire² and the Panchala region including this district is quite likely to have enjoyed the benefits of this policy. The Mauryas supplanted the Nandas but Kautilya in his *Arthashastra*'s section on policy towards *sanghas* (republics) gives a list of the names of important *sanghas* then in existence and Panchala is

1. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 33

2. Sastri, K. A. N. : *Age of the Nandas and Mauryas*, p. 21

mentioned there.¹ From this reference it can be assumed that these republics probably retained their separate entity although they were most probably vassals of the Mauryan empire. These republican states were apparently spread all over India at the beginning of the Mauryan empire in spite of the hostile environment. Apart from these minor details no substantial evidence or relic of this age from this district is available which may connect the history of this region with contemporary history. The Sungas under Pushyamitra Sunga (187—151 B. C.) succeeded the Mauryas. According to the *Divya Vadana* (a Buddhist treatise) and Taranatha, his dominions included Sakala in Punjab. By this testimony it can be assumed that they also contained the Panchala region which included the present district of Bijnor. The subsequent years after the fall of the Sungas are comparatively dark from the historical point of view. The absence of a central authority which could bind all the regions of north India into a unit resulted in the invasion, quick overrunning and establishment of foreign supremacy in *Uttarapatha* (northern region) and *Madhyadesa* (which included the present district of Bijnor and adjoining districts), successively by several alien powers and the Yavanas (Bactrian Greeks) were the first among them. The *Yuga Purana* section of the *Gargi Samhita* speaks of the Yavana expeditions against Panchala and other farflung regions of the east.² But according to the same source the Yavanas did not stay in this region for a long time because of their own internal dissensions and they appear to have lost this region to Pushyamitra, though temporarily.³ Menander was the last Yavana monarch who probably ruled over the Panchala region (including Bijnor)⁴ and immediately after his death the Yavana power began to decline and some Indo-Scythian kings came to power. Very little is known about them and except for the few coins which have been found in this region no relic of any antiquarian or archaeological value has been found. Tip, a small village in Mandawar on the left bank of the Ganga, possessed a *khera* (mound) of evidently great archaeological value, which was excavated by Markham (collector of Bijnor) in 1886 but no relic chamber or relics of any kind were found. Five gold coins of the Indo-Scythian king, Vasudeva (the Kushana king), and a gold coin of Bhrishaka were found by him near this mound which were sent to the Lucknow Museum.

Kushanas

In western India the Scythians were supplanted by the Kushanas as the sovereign power but they did not uproot all the numerous local principalities which continued to remain in power. The Kushana coins

1. *Ibid.*, p. 173

2. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 106

3. *Ibid.*

4. *Ibid.*, 114

found in U. P. suggest that the area witnessed a long hold by the later Kushanas on the Gangetic plains¹ which probably included the present district of Bijnor. The history of the Kushanas after Vasudeva is obscure. There is no doubt that the Kushana power declined shortly after him and various local kingdoms sprang up. The Nagas were the serpent worshipping non-Aryan tribe who rose to prominence in western U. P. and probably were the people who also ruled the tract comprising the present district of Bijnor and adjoining areas.

Gupta Period

The political disintegration which followed the dissolution of the Kushana empire continued till the beginning of the 4th century A. D. The whole of northern India was divided into a number of small kingdoms and autonomous tribal states and the time was ripe for the emergence of a mighty empire which came into being under the leadership of a ruling family known as the Guptas. The Gupta empire under its successive rulers grew in area and gradually absorbed all the petty principalities in northern India. Samudragupta was the first great imperialist of this dynasty and his reign is remarkable for a series of military campaigns. The empire continued to flourish and enjoyed vast dominions till the death of Skandagupta in 467 A. D. but after him, due to the incompetence of his successors, the empire began to disintegrate and many petty principalities sprang up within its dominions. The final blow was struck by the Vakatakas and the invasions of the Hunas. But they in turn were defeated by the Maukharis under Yashodharman. In the days of Grahavarman the Maukhari kingdom probably included the tract comprising the present district of Bijnor, a conclusion which may be drawn from the fact that certain Maukhari coins were found in Ahichhatra (modern Ramnagar)² and Kanyakubja (Kannauj) which were at one time the main cities of the kingdom of Panchala. Varahamihira (6th century A. D.) includes the Panchalas among the people of *Madhyadesa* and reckons this country to be one of the nine great kingdoms.³ The most vivid account of this region is to be had from the writings of the Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang who visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana. This Chinese pilgrim travelling from Srughna, proceeded to Mo-ti-pu-lo or Matipura which has been identified with Mandawar by Vivien de St. Martin and Cunningham.⁴ He remained at this place for some time with one Mitrasena, a disciple of Gunaprabha, studying the *Vibhashas* and Gunaprabha's *Tatvasandesha Sastra*.⁵ This town was above 6,000 *li* and its capital above 20 *li* in circuit.⁶ According to Hiuen Tsang this tract was very fertile and had

1. Srivastava, A. K. : *Findspots of the Kushana Coins in U. P.* (No. 8), p. 41

2. Tripathi, R. S. : *History of Kanauj To The Moslem Conquest*, p. 35

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 212-13

4. Cunningham, A. : *Ancient Geography of India*, p. 293

5. Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.): *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. III, (*The Classical Age*), p. 395

6. Watters, Thomas : *On Tuan Ch'ung's Travels in India*, Vol. I, p. 322

a genial climate; the people were simple and very learned in various fields including the magical arts and theology; they followed different religions including Buddhism; there were more than ten Buddhist monasteries here with approximately 800 brethren, mostly adherents of the Sarvastivadin school of the Hinayana sect. The existence of these monasteries and temples is proved by the existence of several mounds in and around Mandawar (as noticed by Cunningham). There is another place of great antiquity known as Mordhwaj near the town of Mandawar. It was situated around a fort, was spread over several square miles and was covered with traces of ancient ruins, chiefly composed of fragments of large bricks¹ each $13\frac{1}{2}$ " by $8\frac{1}{4}$ " by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". Portions of brick walls were still to be traced when Cunningham visited the place in the eighties of the 19th century. "The size and importance of this building, originally no doubt a large Buddhist *chaitya* with the usual series of umbrella-like discs composing its lofty spire, and in later days, probably a Brahmanical temple, may be evident from the fact that the entire surface of the mound to a depth from three to eight feet and many square yards of plain surface around its base to a similar depth are covered with broken debris".²

From the solid appearance of the mound, Cunningham considered it to be an old Buddhist stupa, which supposition was confirmed through the exploration of the mound by Markham. Two large terracotta medals and about two dozen smaller clay seals impressed with a figure of Buddha seated within a handsome *chaitya* and below the Buddhist creed a formula in characters of the 8th century A. D., and at least one thousand small Buddhist votive tablets of baked clay stamped with the figure of Buddha, 'the Ascetic', were excavated from the relic chamber and presented to the Lucknow Museum. All the Buddhist relics, seals and other evidence which have been found here are of the 6th century A. D. or of later dates. In addition three stone heads, of which one is of Parshvanath, the Jain Tirthankar, have been excavated from the Parshvanath *durg* (fort) which belong the period dating from the 7th to the 8th century A. D.,³ which prove that Jainism had considerable influence in this area in this period.

At the time of Hiuen Tsang's visit there were 20 Buddhist monasteries and about 50 Brahmanical temples at Matipura, of which only the ruins are left.⁴

Harsha

The extent of the empire of Harsha probably included the present district of Bijnor. But according to Hiuen Tsang's account, Matipura

1. Fuhrer, A. : *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh*, p. 32

2. *Ibid.*

3. Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 33

4. *Ibid.*, p. 32, Museum Records

of Mandawar had its own separate king who was a Sudra, was not a follower of Buddhism and worshipped the Devas. Cunningham also held that the kingdom of Matipura included the two neighbouring states of Govisana (Kashipur) and Ahichhatra and as they were without kings they were tributary to the kingdom of Mandawar.¹

Yashovarman, Ayudhas, Pratiharas and Gahadavalas

After a glorious reign, Harsha passed away in 647 A. D. leaving the whole of the empire in the throes of revolution. All the feudatories of Harsha rose in rebellion and asserted their independence. A clear picture emerged only after nearly three quarters of a century when Yashovarman ascended the throne of Kannauj in 728 A. D. but he was defeated by Lalitaditya of Kashmir and lost his dominions. Nothing certain is known about the possessions and person of Yashovarman and the history of this region becomes obscure at this time. Another shadowy figure occurring in this period is Vajrayudha, whose actual existence is borne out solely by an incidental reference made by Rajasekhara, the dramatist, who flourished at the Pratihara court in the first half of the tenth century A. D. He writes in the '*Karpurmanjari*', "to the capital of Vajrayudha, the king of Pancala (Panchala) to Kanauj", in connection with the itinerary of a merchant named Sagardatta, who had gone to the royal city on business. It is significant that Rajasekhara uses the name of Panchala for the country of which Kannauj was the capital, although from its omission by Hiuen Tsang it may be inferred that it was not the popular designation of this kingdom at that time.² Vajrayudha must have ascended that throne sometime about A. D. 770 as the Jain *Harivamsa* states that a king named Indrayudha ruled Kannauj (783-84) and he was succeeded by Chakrayudha and it seems that all the three monarchs ruled Kannauj in succession for it is difficult to find a vacant place for Vajrayudha except before Indrayudha.³ From this it is clear that the country which now comprises the present district of Bijnor was once included in the kingdom of Kannauj and was occasionally called Panchala country. The rule of Chakrayudha, the last king of Kannauj, was cut short by the attack of Nagabhata II and the Pratihara dynasty came in to power in Kannauj and soon extended its sway to this tract which was then possibly known as Arya or Aryavarta⁴ although there is no historical or any other sort of evidence to corroborate this. There is reference in the Sajan plates that because of his widespread conquests, around 812 A. D., Nagabhata's empire extended to the north as far as Panchala⁵ which indicates that his dominions included the tract now comprising the district of Bijnor. This tract continued to be under the

1. Cunningham, *op. cit.*, pp. 294-95

2. Tripathi, R. S., *op. cit.*, p. 212

3. *Ibid.*, p. 213

4. Puri, B. N. : *The History of the Gurjara-Pratiharas*, p. 22

5. *Ibid.*, p. 45

sway of the subsequent Gurjara-Pratihara rulers at least till the reign of King Bhoja II (till 890 A. D.). His son, Mahendrapala, succeeded him and continued to rule the empire created by his father and other predecessors but after him the Pratihara power began to decline till in Kannauj it was taken over by the Gahadavalas. There is mention in the Budaun inscription of Vodamyuta (a city) which is specifically described as the 'ornament of the land of Panchala' and is praised ~~copiously~~ in such a manner as leads to the belief that it was the only important city of the Chandra dynasty. At that time the possession of Kannauj—undoubtedly the most important city in the Madhyadesa—was considered to be the greatest glory that a king could achieve. Silence regarding Kannauj in the records of this Chandra dynasty or any reference to Vodamyuta as the ornament of Panchala imply that Kanyakubja (or Kannauj) may not have been included among their possessions.¹ This description of this city of Panchala points to the fact that during the transitional period between the Gurjara-Pratiharas and the Gahadavalas, several small principalities sprang up and the so-called Chandra dynasty was probably nothing but a line of rulers of a small kingdom which was formed in this tract (comprising the district of Bijnor) and it was in turn supplanted by the Gahadavalas. The last ruler of the Gahadavalas, Jayachandra, who ruled this tract was defeated by Muhammad Ghori in 1193-94 A. D.² and after that it came under the sway of the sultans of Delhi.

MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

During the early days of the Delhi sultanate, the region covered by the present district of Bijnor formed part of the tract known as Katehr or Rohilkhand and as such the history of the latter may be more or less identical with that of the former. It is also presumed that at the beginning of the 13th century much (if not the most) of the inhabited part of Bijnor was included in the single government of Budaun, later to have been divided between Sambhal and Budaun.

Early Muslim Conquest

Qutb-ud-din Aibak subjugated Budaun in 1197-98 but does not seem to have carried his arms as far north as Bijnor.³ In 1202 he was forced to lead another expedition to Budaun where he defeated Lakhanpala, a prince of the Rastrakuta dynasty and made Iltutmish governor⁴ who remained there till his accession to the throne in 1210. A little while later Qutb-ud-din subjugated all the country as far north as the Siwaliks

1. Niyogi, Roma : *History of Gahadavala Dynasty*, pp. 21-22
2. *Ibid.*, p. 22
3. Habibullah, A. B. M. : *The Foundation of Muslim Rule in India*, p. 68; Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 182
4. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalker, A.D. (Ed.) : *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. V, p. 50; Haig, Wolseley, Lt. Col. : *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. III, p. 53

and took Mandawar which is identifiable with the Mandawar in Bijnor district as it is expressly stated that it lay near the Siwalik hills. The successive governors of Budaun exercised only a nominal sway over the remote parts of Katehr. The Katehriya Rajputs, who, with the survivors of the Rashtrakuta family were creating trouble in this region, invited another imperial attack which brought it back under the authority of Delhi. In 1227 A.D. Iltutmish led a large expedition to this area and severely punished the recalcitrant Katehriyas by conquering the whole of Katehr and capturing the Mandawar fortress (12.8 km. north of Bijnor). Perhaps during this expedition Iltutmish built a mosque in Mandawar which still exists.¹

The weak rulers occupying the Delhi throne after the death of Iltutmish in 1235 seem to have had a disturbing effect on the Delhi authority which came to be flouted almost everywhere including the region occupied by the present district. In the trans-Gangetic area, the Katehriyas, from their stronghold at Ahichhatra, frequently raided the districts of Budaun and Sambhal.² An expedition led by the governor of Budaun in 1242 in which a number of Katehriyas were overthrown, was apparently ineffective, for in 1254 another attempt was made on larger scale. Led by Balban himself, the Delhi forces crossed the Ganga near Hardwar and advanced along the foot-hills to Bijnor as far as the Ramganga. The Katehriyas offered sustained resistance and killed one of Balban's officers (perhaps Izzuddin Darmashi).³ Although the chronicles state that they were punished in an exemplary manner, they were far from being effectively reduced⁴ and appeared with greater strength early in the reign of Balban. The success of Kishlu Khan, the governor of Meerut (who is reported to have reduced a portion of Rohilkhand across the Ganga near Bijnor) could hardly be permanent. The only tangible result of his operations seemed to have been the establishment of a military out-post in Amroha, mentioned for the first time in the reign of Balban as an *iqta*. This leads one to believe that the region of Sambhal remained of not much importance till the beginning of Balban's reign as the country which it then covered was known as Amroha.⁵

While Balban was busy in establishing order in the doab, news arrived of a fresh disturbance in Katehr and in the fiefs of Budaun and Amroha and it became difficult for the royal officers to keep order in the region. The king, having been exasperated at the recurring outbreak of lawlessness, assembled a huge army and appeared before Katehr. In his usual and relentless manner he ordered his five thousand

1. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalker, A.D. (Ed.) : *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. V, p. 134; Haig, *op. cit.*, p. 53
2. Habibullah, *op. cit.*, p. 155
3. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 182; Habibullah, *op. cit.*, pp. 55-56; Sirhindi, Yahya bin Ahmad : *Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi*, p. 34
4. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 192; Habibullah, *op. cit.*, p. 154
5. Habibullah, *op. cit.*, p. 156

archers to plunder and set fire to the habitations of the rebellious Katehriyas and put to the sword every adult male. The punishment was inhumanly severe and calculated to strike terror in the hearts of the insurgents. Barani records in his *Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi* how "the blood of the rioters ran in streams; heaps of the slain were to be seen near every village and the stench of the dead reached as far as the Ganges".¹ After this terrible carnage the woodcutters were detailed to clear out the jungle and roads were built to make the region readily accessible in case of any further trouble. Barani further records that from that day the *iqtas* of Baran, Amroha, Sambhal and 'Karuri' (Katehr) were rendered safe and permanently freed from trouble.²

The peace and tranquillity thus brought about did not last long and during the nominal reigns of the weak successors of Balban, trouble again marred the civil administration of the region. During the very second year of his reign (1290—95), Sultan Jalal-ud-din Firuz was forced to march towards Budaun to quell the rebellion of Malik Chhajju, the nephew of Balban. The advance guard of the royal army under Arkali Khan (the sultan's son) proceeded towards Amroha while the sultan himself led another towards Budaun. The two armies faced each other on the banks of the Rahab (Ramganga) and in the ensuing encounter Malik Chhajju and all his compatriots were defeated and taken prisoners.³ Another event of considerable importance during his reign was the founding of the town of Jalalabad, an event which is supported by tradition alone and has no documentary evidence to ensure its certainty.

In the reign of Sultan Alauddin (1296—1315), a Mughal army consisting of about thirty or forty thousand horse under Ali Beg Gurgan, a descendant of Chingez Khan, entered India and passing through Bijnor⁴ advanced into Amroha. The sultan immediately sent his veteran general, Malik Kafur, to resist the invading Mughals. With an equally strong army he marched towards Amroha and utterly routed the Mughals with terrible retribution.⁵ Amir Khusro (an eminent Persian poet of mediaeval India) has also given a considerable account of this period, particularly how Alauddin got angry with his son, Khizr Khan, at the instigation of one of his ambitious amirs⁶ and deprived him of all the insignia of princehood. He was obliged to proceed to Amroha but the prince was permitted to keep the country between that town and the

1. Habibullah, *op. cit.*, pp. 168-169; Prasad, Iswari : *History of Mediaeval India*, (Allahabad, 1928), p. 161; Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D., *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 147
2. Elliot, H. M. and Dowson, J. : *The History of India as Told by its Own Historians*, Vol. III, p. 106
3. Rizvi, S. A. A. : *Khalji Kalin Bharat*, p. 6
4. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 183; Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. V, pp. 47-48; Sirhindi, Yahya bin Ahmad, *op. cit.*, pp. 71-72
5. Rizvi, *op. cit.*, p. 88
6. Waseef : *Tafziyat-ul-Amsar*, pp. 174-175

hills as a hunting ground. Game was so numerous there that "ten antelope might be killed with a single arrow".¹ But the poet specifically mentions that the prince did not indulge in hunting or enjoying the abundance of game; instead he passed his days there in agony, being overtaken by the feeling of having been punished for no fault of his. Whatever may have been the state of the district then, it was rendered far worse in 1380 when Sultan Firuz Tughlaq attacked Katehr to avenge the treacherous murder of Saiyid Mohammad (the governor of Budaun) and his brother by Rai Kharku, the leading zamindar of Katehr.² The Rai fled to the hills but the sultan laid the whole tract waste, converting all western Rohilkhand into a vast hunting preserve, "so that nothing but game lived there".³ After the conclusion of the expedition, he appointed Malik Khitab Afghan to Sambhal to prevent the recurrence of trouble and to hold the region under firm control. He himself proceeded to Katehr annually, ostensibly to hunt but in fact to strike terror into the hearts of the zamindars.⁴

After the death of Firuz, the empire fell into a state of chaos due to a civil war between the two contending factions. By 1395, Nusrat Shah held Sambhal and a few other districts in the vicinity of his capital, Firozabad.⁵ His more powerful adversary, Muhammad Shah, was in possession of a part of Delhi and its suburbs but while the two forces were locked in fierce battle for ultimate mastery, the news of Timur's invasion arrived, quieting the two contenders.

Timur's Invasion

After sacking Delhi, Timur's left it on December 31, 1398 and proceeded to the north. The right wing of his army, under his son, Pir Muhammad, crossed the Ganga at Firozpur (in the Muzaffarnagar district), landing in the neighbourhood of Bijnor; meanwhile Timur reached somewhere about 15 kos from Firozpur, fell upon and defeated a large force which was coming down the river in forty-six boats and then making a detour he arrived at Tughlaqpur by crossing the river at a place not far from the Balawali ferry.⁶ Here he was confronted by a force of 10,000 horse and foot under Mubarak Khan but his usual intrepidity and swiftness won him the day. The enemy fled headlong, leaving behind their camp and baggage and a great body of dead.⁷ On the same day Timur proceeded north towards the Chandi hills with

1. *Ibid.*, Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 183
2. Sirhindi, Yahya bin Ahmad : *Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi*, p. 142; Ahmad, Khwaja Nizamuddin : *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Vol. I, p. 251
3. Sirhindi, Yahya bin Ahmad, *op. cit.*, p. 142
4. *Ibid.*
5. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, pp. 31, 32; Husain, Agha Mehdi : *Tughluq Dynasty*, p. 453
6. Lal, K. S. : *Twilight of the Sultanate*, p. 33; Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 184
7. Lal, *op. cit.*, p. 33; Husain, Agha Mehdi, *op. cit.*, p. 465

only 500 horsemen and there defeated a large force under one Malik Chah, capturing the latter and much booty.¹ When brought before the conqueror he expired without uttering a single word.² Timur mentions in his memoirs that he fought two more battles in the vicinity of this region and on each occasion he worsted his adversary with heavy punishment.³ His memoirs say that he found the warfare in the trackless forests of this region very distasteful and obtained very little profit in point of territory and money. There is, therefore, every reason to believe that Timur's invasion was a mere raid so far as this district was concerned and his forces, who made a stay of only three days, could leave no lasting effect except a large number of the slain.

On Timur's departure, Nusrat Shah (who had escaped to the doab during the invasion) occupied the throne for a short period. Mahmud, who succeeded him, was not a man of great personal merit and it was during his feeble reign that the power was divided among influential nobles, the most prominent being Khizr Khan, the governor of Multan.⁴ In 1407 A. D. Ibrahim Shah of Jaunpur took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the general confusion prevailing in Delhi and marched against it with a large force. Sambhal was then held by Asad Khan Lodi, who surrendered it after only two days' resistance and the country was placed in the charge of Tatar Khan, a Jaunpur noble.⁵ But the occupation proved shortlived as Ibrahim Shah was forced to march back to his own capital to avert a threatened attack by Zafar Khan of Gujarat. Mahmud Shah hurriedly recaptured Sambhal and placed it again under its former governor.⁶ The sultan did not seem to have made any effort to check the rising power of Khizr Khan, who was progressively becoming a potential danger to him; instead he busied himself in amusements and hunting in the jungles around the present district. The affairs of the State fell into the greatest disorder.⁷ Eventually his passion for the chase cost him his life as he contracted an illness in the jungles of Katehr in 1412 A. D. and died soon after.⁸ The nobles selected Daulat Khan Lodi as his successor, who seems to have brought this part of the country under his strict sway in 1414 by securing the submission of Rai Har Singh, a Hindu chieftain of Katehr.⁹ Immediately before his overthrow by Khizr Khan in the month of Zilhij of

1. Timur : *Malfuzat-i-Timuri* (Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, pp. 455-456)
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*
4. Lal, K. S., *op. cit.*, p. 47; Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 186
5. Ahmad, Khwaja Nizamuddin : *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Vol. I (English Translation), p. 288
6. *Ibid.*; Lal, *op. cit.*, p. 56
7. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 43
8. Ahmad, Khwaja Nizamuddin, *op. cit.*, pp. 290-91
9. Ahmad, Khwaja Nizamuddin, : *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Vol. I, (English translation), p. 291

that year, the latter marched against Sambhal and after pillaging and devastating the place, went to Delhi which Daulat Khan defended for four months.¹ The crown remained in Khizr Khan's possession till his death in 1421 A. D. The new ruler immediately paid attention to the disturbed region of Katehr and sent Taj-ul-Mulk to reduce Har Singh. He crossed the Ganga and Yamuna and pursued Har Singh from Aonla along the Ramganga as far as the hills north of Bijnor, who humbly submitted and agreed to pay tribute. The submission was but brief as only four years later (1418) Har Singh not only withdrew the payment of tribute but ravaged the borders of Budaun and Sambhal. Once again Taj-ul-Mulk was sent to obtain his submission who when pressed, retired to the jungles of Aonla and from there to the hills of Kumaon. After having acquired much booty the sultan's forces returned to Delhi.² It seems that after their return Har Singh came out of his retreat and again unfurled the standard of resistance, necessitating in 1419 the personal march of the sultan, who with a large army crossed the Ramganga and devastated Sambhal. It appears the expedition failed to subdue the insurgents, as in the following year yet another expedition had to be sent against Har Singh who then agreed to pay tribute. That he became subservient after this is doubtful.³ In spite of these recurring devastations, Khizr Khan's successor, Mubarak Shah, had to send a fresh expedition to Katehr early in his reign (1423) and had to be content only with the payment of revenue. An agreement was reached by which Har Singh's son entered the service of the sultan, although in the following year the latter found it advisable to send yet another expedition against Har Singh, who paid homage and was imprisoned for a few days in default of the payment of revenue but was released soon after on making payment.⁴ In 1430 A. D., Saiyid Salim (a dependant of Khizr Khan) had been given Amroha and the country adjacent to it, this region appearing to have remained under the control of his sons for sometime. His elder son, Saiyid Khan, was one of those who conspired with Allahabad Khan Lodi (governor of Sambhal) in 1434 against the powerful minister, Sarwar-ul-Mulk and put him to death in Delhi.⁵ He received a substantial reward and the title of Majlis-i-Ali Saiyid Khan from Muhammad Shah (grandson of Khizr Khan) who was then on the throne; but it appears that he received some other place in exchange for Amroha which was assigned to Malik Chaman who also received the title of Ghazi-ul-Mulk.⁶

After the death of Muhammad Shah his imbecile son, Alauddin Alam Shah, ascended the throne but his authority over the nobles was only

1. *Ibid.*, p. 291
2. *Ibid.*, p. 296; Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 186
3. Ahmad, Khwaja Nizamuddin, *op. cit.*, p. 296
5. *Ibid.*, p. 306
6. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 186; Ahmad, Khwaja Nizamuddin, *op. cit.*, pp. 324-25
7. *Ibid.*, pp. 325-26

nominal. Sambhal was still held by the Lodis, which now governed by Darya Khan Lodi, a brother of Allahdad Khan Lodi, a former governor of that place.¹ Bahlul Lodi occupied the throne in 1451 and Alauddin Alam Shah had to remain content with the small province of Budaun. In 1452, while Bahlul was away in Deobalpur, the disaffected nobles of the dethroned sultan, Alauddin Alam Shah, invited Sultan Mahmud of Jaunpur, who proceeded towards Delhi with a large force. Darya Khan Lodi (the governor of Sambhal) first threw in his fortunes with Mahmud but repenting soon after, acknowledged the suzerainty of Bahlul, who confirmed him in the possession of Sambhal.² After the victory over Mahmud, Darya Khan waited upon the sultan and made him a present of seven parganas.³ Nevertheless Darya Khan continued shifting his loyalties between Bahlul and the rulers of Jaunpur and was replaced by Mubarak Khan, who was defeated by Husain Shah, so that not only Budaun but Sambhal also passed for a short while into the hands of the eastern king.⁴ With the extinction of the Sharqi dynasty at the close of 1479 A. D., this district was restored to the Delhi kingdom and nothing is heard of the area covered by this district till 1491 when Sultan Sikandar Lodi marched against Katehr to root out the united opposition of the local zamindars.⁵ This sultan appears to have remained in the neighbourhood of the district for about four years from 1499 A. D., attending to the affairs of state and playing *chaugan*. The chase seems to have been his main attraction⁶ though the inherent turbulence of the inhabitants of Bijnor necessitated close supervision. Qasim Sambhali still held Sambhal when Babar arrived in Agra in 1526.⁷

The Afghan element was predominant in this region till 1526 as the Mughal forces sent there immediately after the conquest at Panipat were forced to evacuate it. About 1529, prince Humayun Mirza was allotted the fief of Sambhal which he held till his accession to the throne of Delhi in 1530.⁸ Sambhal was now conferred on Mirza Askari, the younger brother of the new emperor.⁹ About this time a petition of supplication came from Qasim Sambhali to the effect that Baban, a rebel chief, who had not yet acknowledged the suzerainty of the emperor, had collected a huge force and had besieged the fort of Sambhal.¹⁰ The emperor immediately sent a huge force under Amir

1. Pandey, A. B. : *The First Afghan Empire in India*, p. 39
2. Ahmad, Khwaja Nizamuddin, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 340
3. *Ibid.*, p. 341
4. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 187; Ahmad, K. N., *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 348
5. *Ibid.*, p. 360
6. *Ibid.*, p. 367
7. Ahmad, K. N., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 26; Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 263
8. Ahmad, K. N., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 44
9. *Ibid.*, p. 45
10. *Ibid.*, pp. 28-29

Kittal Beg and Mulla Qasim against the rebel relieving the besieged fort from imminent danger of defeat and devastation. Qasim Sambhali delayed the surrender of the fort from day to day and the imperial officers sent him to court by force. The Mughal occupation of this region did not last long and in 1539 Haibat Khan Niazi and other Afghans drove all the Mughals out of Avadh and Rohilkhand and captured Sambhal. Some time later he joined hands with Sher Shah when he was involved in a struggle against Humayun. After defeating him, Sher Shah entrusted Nasir Khan with the task of recovering Sambhal. But his tyrannical and obnoxious administration made him greatly disliked by the inhabitants of the place, who complained to the new emperor about his disposition. He was replaced by Masnad Ali Isa Khan Kalkapur, a man of proved merit and distinction. "Enlist five thousand new cavalry" commanded the emperor, "for the sarkar of Sambhal is full of disaffected and riotous people, and the cultivators of that sarkar are for the most part rebellious.....".¹ And certainly he ruled the contumacious inhabitants of this region with an iron hand, compelling them to cut down the jungles which afforded them safe refuge.² He was succeeded by Taj Khan Kirani, who became notorious during the reign of Islam Shah as the perpetrator of the treacherous murder of Khwas Khan, the faithful servant of Sher Shah. This chieftain had become estranged from Islam Shah when he was a prince and in subsequent years his feelings developed into hatred, mostly due to Islam Shah's suspicious behaviour. In sheer disgust, Khwas Khan was driven in rebellion to Mewar from where he proceeded to Sirhind and then to Bijnor, ravaging the parganas at the foot of the hills.³ On promise of pardon, Khwas Khan surrendered to Taj Khan, who immediately put him to death at the command of his royal patron.⁴ After the death of Islam Shah, the whole of Rohilkhand and particularly the region covering this district appears to have relapsed into a state of utter confusion and disorder without any vestige of civil government. Historical records hardly give any connected account of this region till about the accession of Akbar in 1556.

At the beginning of Akbar's reign the district and its neighbourhood appear to have been infiltrated by the Afghans. Ali Quli Khan, having received the title of Khan Zaman, was sent to the region with an army to chase out Shadi Khan, an Afghan chief. But when Khan Zaman was preparing for the combat, the news arrived that Hemu was marching posthaste to relieve Delhi. So he gave up the idea of subjugating the Afghans for the time being and marched towards Delhi.⁵ This region

1. Sarwani, A. K. : *The History of India as told by its own Historians : Tarikh-i-Sher Shahi* (Trans. by Elliot and Dowson), pp. 100-101
2. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 188
3. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, pp. 527-532
4. *Ibid.*, p. 532
5. Badauni, Abdul Qadir : *Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh*, Vol. II (Eng. Trans. by Lowe, W. H.) (Calcutta, 1924). pp. 5, 6

appears to have fallen under Mughal domination, as in 1566 the rebellion of the Mirzas (the relatives of Akbar) took place, an event connecting this district with the history of the imperial court. Following the example set by their grandfather, Ulugh Mirza (a descendant of Timur) who had created much trouble during the reign of Humayun, Ibrahim Husain Mirza and Mohammad Husain Mirza, in complicity with their father, Mohammad Sultan Mirza, to whom Akbar had granted the pargana of Azampur (corresponding to modern Bashta), rose in revolt when the emperor was in Punjab campaigning against Mirza Mohammad Hakim, his own brother. The Mirzas ravaged Bijnor but on being resisted by the local inhabitants, turned eastward to join Ali Quli Khan Khan Zaman, who was already in revolt in eastern Avadh and Jaunpur. Disagreement with Khan Zaman forced the Mirzas to march towards Malwa, from where they went on and captured Gujarat. Later, having been dislodged from Gujarat, Ibrahim Husain and some other Mirzas were once again heard of in Azampur in 1573, causing great consternation among the local zamindars who, with the weak and inactive governor, Muin-ud-din Khan Farankhudi, shut themselves up in Sambhal.¹ To avoid a possible attack on Delhi by Husain Khan, the governor of Kant and Gola was detailed to check the onward march of the Mirzas. Husain Khan reached Sambhal in one day by forced marches, passing through Bareilly to relieve the besieged garrison at Sambhal. He urged them on to immediate action but they refused to move.² The matter assumed alarming proportions when the news arrived that the Mirzas had plundered Amroha and were preparing for a major assault. Husain Khan Tukriya, being convinced of the danger, immediately separated himself from the cowardly local Amirs and fell upon the Mirzas with his already depleted force, obliging them to cross the Ganga and pass into the Punjab by the Gurmukhtesar ferry.³ The peace thus restored could not last very long for the military rebellion which broke out in Jaunpur under Arab Bahadur had the most disquieting effect on this region. After a chequered career the insurgent leader was defeated in Avadh from where he turned towards Rohilkhand in 1582. Sambhal was then held by Hakim Ain-ul-Mulk who drove Arab Bahadur to the hills of Kumaon, from where he occasionally raided the northern parts of this district. Eventually in 1587, he ventured as far south as Sherkot, where he was overtaken and killed by the servants of Nur Abul-Fateh, who held that pargana at the time.⁴

Imperial Administration

The fiscal records preserved in the *Ain-i-Akbari* afford valuable information about the general condition of the district in that period. In

the territorial division of Akbar, which came as a prelude to his revenue reorganisation, the entire district of Bijnor fell in the sirkar of Sambhal in the subah or province of Avadh. The tract was divided into fifteen parganas and most of the present parganas, with the exception of Daranagar, Afzalgarh and Barhapura, are to be found in the list given in the *Ain-i-Akbari* either in the same name as borne now or in other easily recognisable ones.¹ Bijnor was known by its present name and included a part of Daranagar. It had a cultivated area of 60,362 bighas and was assessed at a land revenue of 33,55,465 *dams* and inhabited mainly by Tagas and Brahmanas. They were expected to supply a contingent of 50 horse and 500 foot.² The rest of Daranagar was comprised of Jhalu, a Jat pargana, which had 26,795 bighas under cultivation, paid a land revenue of 2,37,809 *dams* and afforded a fighting force of 50 horse and 400 foot. Mandawar was owned by the Bais, the only Rajput zamindars mentioned in the whole district; it paid 12,56,995 *dams* on 65,710 bighas, the military contingent being 25 cavalry and 300 infantry. Chandpur then included most of modern Burhapur as well as the existing pargana of that name. It paid a land revenue of 4,31,071 *dams* on a cultivated area of 87,273 bighas; the landholders were Jats and Tagas and provided a force of 50 cavalry and 200 infantry. Bashta was then made up of two *mahals*, Ga daur and Azampur, a goodly portion of the latter (as probably of all those *mahals* which fringed the southern border) lying in Moradabad. Gandaaur had 18,576 bighas under tillage, was assessed at 7,51,520 *dams* and Azampur paid 23,89,478 *dams* on 55,467 bighas; the owners in both cases were Tagas who furnished 60 cavalry and 500 infantry. The present Najibabad tahsil contained the *mahals* of Kiratpur, Akbarabad and Jalalabad, the last being conterminous with the Najibabad pargana which is not supposed to have stretched as far as the Chandi hills. Jalalabad was then mainly dominated by Jats who paid a revenue of 14,70,072 *dams* on cultivated land of 49,393 bighas and contributed 25 horse and 100 foot. The holders of Akbarabad are not specified in the *Ain-i-Akbari* Jats and Tagas inhabited Kiratpur, the former paying 6,40,264 *dams* on 53,791 bighas, the local levies being 50 horse and 200 foot; the revenue due from the latter was 9,00,496 *dams*, the cultivated area 80,973 bighas and the military force 20 horse and 200 foot. The old *mahals* of Nagina and Islamabad now constitute the whole of tahsil Nagina. Afzalgarh did not then exist under its present name and whatever portion of it was cultivated formed part of Nagina. The zamindars of Nagina were Ahirs, who contributed a fighting force of 50 horse and 500 foot and paid 26,47,242 *dams* on 99,233 bighas. Islamabad was either too small or far

1. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 189; Badauni, *op. cit.*, p. 157

2. Badauni, *op. cit.*, p. 157

3. *Ibid.*, p. 158

4. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 190

1. Abul Fazl, *Ain-i-Akbari*, Vol. II (Eng. Trans. by H. S. Jarrett, Calcutta, 1949), pp. 254-257; Markham, A. M.: *Report on the Tenth Revision of the Settlement of the District of Bijnor* (1874), pp. 2-3

2. Abul Fazl, *op. cit.*, p. 295

less developed as it had a cultivated area of only 25,261 bighas, paid a revenue of 3,46,348 *dams* and provided a contingent equal to that of Nagina. The pargana of Dhampur was then and for nearly three centuries afterwards known as Sherkot. Though the cultivated area was only 19,870 bighas, the revenue demand was no less than 49,21,051 *dams*, the zamindars providing no fewer than 100 cavalry and 1,000 foot. The *mahals* of Seohara and Sahaspur now constitute the existing pargana of Seohara. It is thought that a portion of Sahaspur formed a part of district Moradabad. Both were owned by the Tagas who afforded a force of 100 horse and 700 foot, cultivated an area of 82,789 bighas and paid revenue amounting 22,78,036 *dams*. The remaining *mahal* of Nihtaur was also a Taga *mahal*, the area under tillage being 35,975 bighas, the revenue 17,38,160 *dams* and the local contingent 50 horse and 300 foot.

The details given above are very suggestive. The total area under tillage was 4,75,918 acres, surprisingly high considering the paucity of facilities and incentives then afforded to the cultivators. It is also remarkable as this region, of all the neighbouring provinces, remained a scene of constant warfare, either in the form of insurrections or invasions by an ambitious prince or a disaffected noble. This might have been due to the peaceful and organised administration of Akbar which, besides consolidating the weak and crumbling parts of the empire, afforded encouragement to agriculturists. Of the whole district, the central parganas were the most highly cultivated and the military force of 680 cavalry and 5,400 infantry testifies to the density and strength of the Taga and Jat population. The amount of revenue paid by this district also reflects the general prosperity of the people. In addition to the revenue, a considerable sum was paid by the people as cesses (*sayurghal*).

The district, with the rest of Katehr, appears to have remained tranquil for a considerable period after the strong and peaceful administration of Akbar came to an end as no contemporary historian mentions any outbreaks or associates this district with any disquietude. The peaceful flow of life here continued till about the end of Aurangzeb's reign when the seeds of disintegration had taken firm root in every chink of the administration.

The district continued to be administered from Sambhal through the agency of a deputy, the rulers of this rich government being favoured nobles who resided permanently at court. The Katehriya Rajputs appear to have maintained some sort of power, as in 1624 Raja Ram, a Rajput leader, incurred the emperor's displeasure on account of his bold attack on the terai region and the oppression which he let loose. He was defeated and killed by Rustam Khan Dakhini who founded the city of Moradabad in 1625 and who continued to hold this region till 1658 when he was defeated and killed at Samogarh in a battle between Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh. His jagir was then

granted to a pardoned rebel, Mohammad Qasim Khan, Mir Atish. After this nothing is heard of this region till much after Aurangzeb's death.¹

MODERN PERIOD

On the eve of Aurangzeb's death, the area comprising the present district of Bijnor formed part of the sirkar of Sambhal in the subah of Delhi and was held in jagir by Qamar-ud-din Khan, the imperial vizir.²

The Rohillas

During the reign of Bahadur Shah (1707-1712), Daud Khan, an Afghan slave, who originally belonged to Roh in Afghanistan, deserted his master, Shah Alam Khan, came to India and took up service in the territory known as Katehr in the Moradabad district under a local chief named Mudar Shah of Madikar.³ About this time some followers of Daud Khan had settled down in Bijnor.⁴ On behalf of his new master, Daud Khan fought against the ruler of Bankoli (in the present Bareilly district) where he captured a handsome Jat boy (7 or 8 years of age), converted him to Islam, named him Ali Muhammad Khan and adopted him as his son.⁵ In 1721 Daud Khan was put to death by Raja Debi Chand of Kumaon for his treachery.⁶ Ali Muhammad Khan now assumed leadership of the local Afghans who were commonly known as Rohillas and in 1722 enrolled himself as a jamadar in the personal force of Azmat Ullah Khan, the imperial *faujdar* of Moradabad.⁷ In 1737-1738, Ali Muhammad Khan led an expedition sent by Qamar-ud-din Khan for the overthrow of Saiyid Saifuddin Khan of Jansath (in Muzaffarnagar district). In the ensuing battle the Afghan columns secured a signal victory for the imperial forces and the title of nawab with the privilege of *naubat* (announcement of arrival or departure of a dignitary, generally by beat of kettledrum) was conferred on Ali Muhammad Khan who was also granted a reduction in the revenue payable by him.

In the confusion that followed the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739, Ali Muhammad Khan declared himself to be independent and to augment

1. Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 193
2. Irvine, W. : *Later Mughals*, Vol. II, (Calcutta, 1922), pp. 117-118; Seid Gholam Hossein Khan : *The Seir Mutaqherin*, Vol. III, (Calcutta), p. 233
3. Srivastava, A. L. : *The First Two Nawabs of Awadh*, (Agra, 1954), p. 103; Syed Ali Husun Khan Bahaduri : *Brief History of the Chiefs of Rampur*, (Calcutta, 1892), pp. 3-4
4. Nevill, H. R. : *Bijnor : A Gazetteer*, (Allahabad, 1908), p. 172
5. Strachey, J. : *Hastings and the Rohilla War* (Oxford, 1892), pp. 10-11; Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, p. 103; Irvine, W., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 118
6. Irvine, W., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 120; Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, p. 104; Maulvi Muhammad Ikram Alam : *Haqueqat Rampur*, (Urdu text, Budaun, 1940), p. 19
7. Sarkar, Jadunath : *Fall of the Mughal Empire*, Vol. I, (Calcutta, 1932), p. 48; Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, p. 104
8. Sarkar, Jadunath, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 49; Aitchison, C. U. : *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and the Neighbouring Countries*, Vol. I, (Calcutta, 1909), p. 1; Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, p. 104

his possession started rampaging in this region.¹ On being apprised of his excesses, Qamar-ud-din Khan, the vizir, who also held Bijnor in fief, directed his deputy, Raja Harnand Arora, to expel the Rohilla chief from the imperial territories encroached upon.² But in the battle that took place on April 5, 1741, near the village of Asalatpur Jarai, on the river Aril, the Raja and his son, Moti Ram, were defeated and killed by the Rohillas,³ who seized the bulk of Sambhal⁴ including Bijnor, Moradabad, Shahabad, Shahjahanpur and several parganas of Bareilly, except the town.⁵

Instead of avenging the wrong, the vizir sought to placate Ali Muhammad Khan in order to consolidate his own position.⁶ He despatched a force from Delhi under the command of his son, Mir Mannu, apparently to chastise the Rohillas but when Mir Mannu reached Daranagar (in this district) he met Ali Muhammad Khan and agreed to accept the hand of his daughter for himself and the offer to pay an annual tribute to the emperor.⁷ In return the Rohillas were allowed to retain Sambhal, including Bijnor. An imperial firman followed appointing Ali Muhammad Khan as the lawful governor of Katchr, which was named "the land of the Ruhelas".⁸ According to a contemporary writer, it was from this time that he rose to figure amongst the princes of Hindustan.⁹

Ali Muhammad Khan now set upon the task of raising his military strength by enrolling Afghan immigrants who had settled in this region and by 1742 he was able to mobilise an army of thirty to forty thousand Rohillas.¹⁰ The rising power of the Rohillas posed a threat to Safdar Jang, the nawab of Avadh, who ultimately persuaded the emperor, Muhammad Shah, to lead an expedition to crush the Rohillas.¹¹ On May 14, 1745, an army jointly led by the emperor and Safdar Jang, defeated the Rohillas in Budaun and carried Ali Muhammad Khan to Delhi as a state prisoner. But Ali Muhammad Khan was released

1. Sarkar, Jadunath, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 49; Seid Gholam Hossein Khan : *The Seir Mutagherin*, Vol. III, p. 234

2. Sarkar, Jadunath, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 49

3. *Ibid.*, p. 50; Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, p. 104

4. Seid Gholam Hossein Khan, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, pp. 234-236

5. Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, p. 105

6. Sarkar, Jadunath, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 50

7. Hamilton, C. : *An Historical Relation of the Origin, Progress and Final Dissolution of the Rohilla Afghans in the Northern Provinces of Hindostan*, (1787), pp. 48-52; Atkinson, E. T. and Conybeare, H. C. : *Statistical, Descriptive, And Historical Account of the North-Western Provinces of India*, Vol. V, Rohilkhand Division, Part I, Bijnor (Bijnour) District, (Allahabad, 1879), p. 348; Sankhdhar, B. M. : *Sambhal, A Historical Survey*, (Delhi, 1971), p. 81

8. Sarkar, Jadunath, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 50

9. Seid Gholam Hossein Khan, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. 236

10. Sarkar, Jadunath, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 51

11. *Ibid.*, p. 57

shortly after on the intervention of Qamar-ud-din Khan and appointed governor of Sarhind in Punjab.¹

When Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded India in 1748, Ali Muhammad left Sarhind and repaired to Rohilkhand² where the local Afghans rallied round him in active support. He was able to mobilise a large force with which he crossed the Ganga at Daranagar on March 1 and annexed Nagal, Jalalabad, Dhampur and Sherkot.³ The remainder of the district was conquered for him by Najib Khan, another Rohilla chief, to whom Ali Muhammad Khan gave the Jalalabad⁴ tract in jagir. Although Ali Muhammad once again became master of Rohilkhand, he did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his triumph as he died on September 25, 1748.⁵

The confusion and instability in which he left the Rohilla territory made it difficult for his son and successor, Sadullah Khan, to have a peaceful time. Taking advantage of the chaotic conditions, Safdar Jang urged Qutb-ud-din (whose father had formerly received from emperor Muhammad Shah the military command of the region) to invade Rohilkhand but the step ended in disaster as Qutb-ud-din was killed by the Rohillas under Dunde Khan at Dhampur.⁶ Safdar Jang then incited Qaim Khan, the Bangash nawab of Farrukhabad, who attacked them in 1749 with a large force but was killed in action.⁷

The campaign against the Rohillas was discontinued when news of a fresh invasion by Ahmad Shah Abdali reached the court. Safdar Jang made peace with the Rohillas who were allowed to retain their lands subject to regular payment of revenue to the emperor.⁸ The Rohilla principality was divided among the sons of Ali Muhammad Khan, Bijnor going to the joint share of Sadullah Khan and Allah Yar Khan.⁹ But their dissensions prompted Hafiz Rahmat Khan (Sadullah Khan's father-in-law, who had emerged as the most important leader of the Rohillas) to strike a fresh compromise according to which Bijnor went to Dunde Khan and Sadullah Khan received a pension of eight lakh rupees.¹⁰ Allah Yar Khan died in 1754 to be followed by Sadullah Khan after ten years both being victims of consumption. Dunde Khan gave his daughter in marriage to Najib Khan which added to the prestige of the latter. In a short time Najib Khan figured prominently at the imperial court and was appointed *mir bakhshi* (paymaster general) with the title of

1. *Ibid.*, pp. 61-62; Hamilton, C., *op. cit.*, pp. 65-67

2. Sarkar, Jadunath, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 64-65

3. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.* p. 348; Hamilton, C., *op. cit.*, pp. 83-84; Srivastava, A. L. : *The First Two Nawabs of Awadh*, p. 109

4. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 349; Hamilton, C., *op. cit.*, p. 132

5. Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, p. 109

6. Hamilton, C., *op. cit.*, p. 94

7. Strachey, J. : *Hastings and the Rohilla War*, pp. 16-17

8. Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, p. 182

9. Hamilton, C., *op. cit.*, p. 117; Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 174

10. Hamilton, C., *op. cit.*, pp. 118-122

Najib-ud-daula about 1755, the year in which he founded the town of Najibabad (which became the headquarters of his jagir in the district) and erected in tahsil Najibabad the stone fort of Pathargarh.¹

The Marathas

Soon after, differences arose between Najib-ud-daula and Ghazi-ud-din 'Imad-ud-Mulk' (the then vizir) who, backed by the Maratha power, removed Najib-ud-daula from his post and drove him to Najibabad.² In July, 1759 the Marathas embarked upon a scheme to crush Najib-ud-daula permanently. On hearing this Najib-ud-daula left his family and treasure at Najibabad with his son, Zabita Khan, and entrenched himself at Shukartal (in Muzaffarnagar district).³ Realising the futility of attempting a siege, Dattaji Sindhia, the Maratha commander-in-chief, resolved to make a diversion. At his orders his deputy, Govind Ballal, after hustling a Rohilla contingent at Sabalgarh, a fortress 10 miles north-west of Najibabad, made a sudden dash with 10,000 light cavalry for Jalalabad, 2 miles south-west of Najibabad.⁴ Meanwhile, Najib's Rohilla kinsmen, Sadullah Khan, Hafiz Rahmat Khan and Dunde Khan assembled in the vicinity of Sabalgarh. Overwhelmed by this confederacy, Govind Ballal marched away in a south-westerly direction.⁵ From Shukartal Najib solicited help from other Rohilla chiefs and Shuja-ud-daula, the nawab of Avadh. When their combined forces were on the way to Shukartal, they learnt that a Maratha army had crossed the Ganga and was advancing towards Najibabad.⁶ So 4,000 Rohillas under Mulla Sardar were quickly detached to oppose the Marathas. Shuja-ud-daula, himself having crossed the Ramganga on November 1, 1759, hastened to Chandpur and then to Haldaur⁷ (both places in tahsil Bijnor). While encamping at Haldaur, Shuja-ud-daula sent his advance guard of a 10,000 strong under his two commanders, Anup Giri and Umrao Giri, with orders to chastise the Marathas wherever they could be found.⁸ In the course of a month the Marathas ransacked a large number of villages in the region covering the district of Bijnor. The Rohillas failed to offer any effective resistance to the Marathas who were subsequently driven back by Shuja-ud-daula's troops.⁹

After the defeat of the Marathas in 1761 at Panipat, Najib-ud-daula was confirmed as *mir bakhshi* at the imperial court. In the

1. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, pp. 350-351

2. Srivastava, A. L. : *Shuja-ud-Daulah*, Vol. I, (Agra, 1961), p. 50

3. *Ibid.*, p. 70

4. *Ibid.*, pp. 70-71

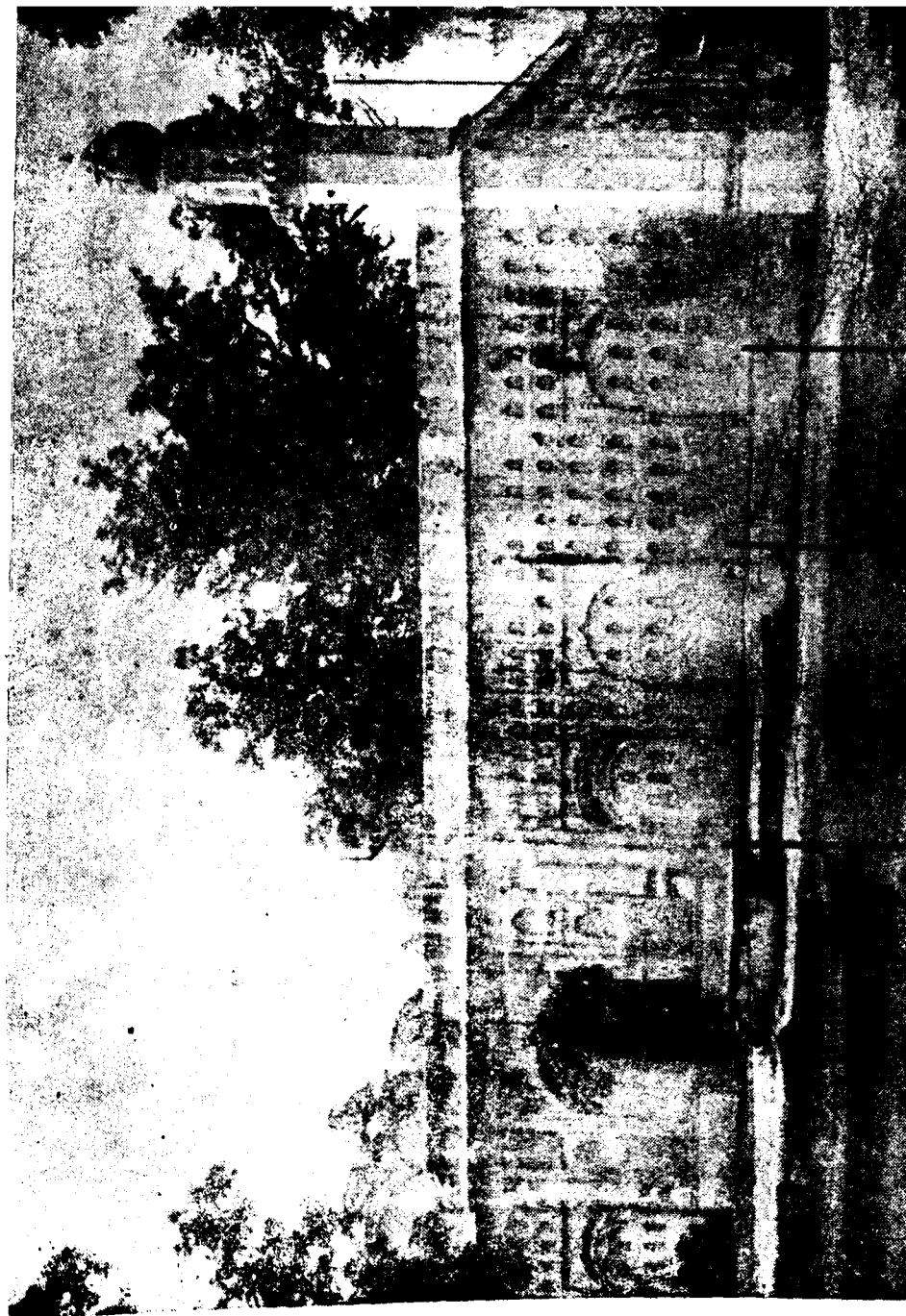
5. *Ibid.*, p. 71

6. *Ibid.*, p. 72

7. *Ibid.*, p. 73

8. *Ibid.*

9. *Ibid.*; Strachey, J., *op. cit.*, p. 21



Tomb of Najib-ud-daula, Najibabad, Tahsil Najibabad

meantime nothing disturbed Bijnor except in 1764 when the Sikh marauders of the Punjab, during one of their many raids, crossed the Ganga and ravaged all the territory to the east as far as the town of Nihtaur (in this district). Najib-ud-daula was away at Delhi and Hafiz Rahmat Khan was unable to reach the district before the Sikhs had withdrawn.¹ Najib died on October 31, 1770,² and was laid to rest at Najibabad. His son, Zabita Khan, succeeded to his estates but he was not destined to live in peace. In December, 1771, the Marathas accompanied by the Mughal emperor, Shah Alam II and his troops under Najaf Khan, attacked Zabita Khan who took to flight.³ The Marathas in rapid pursuit of the Rohillas invested the fort of Pathargarh in the beginning of March, 1772. The emperor himself arrived there, encamping some four miles west of Najibabad. The fort was strong but sufficient provisions had not been laid in and it accommodated the wives and children of fugitive Rohilla leaders. After a fortnight's exchange of fire, old Sultan Khan, who commanded it, offered to capitulate if the lives and family honour of the garrison were assured.⁴

The Marathas at once accepted the offer and on March 16, 1772, Pathargarh was vacated. "The Marathas took their stand at the gate of the fort. At first the poorer people came out; they were stripped and searched and let off almost naked. The rich people threw caskets full of gems and money from the ramparts into the wet ditch for concealing them. Many noble Afghan families, after coming out of the hands of the Marathas, sought asylum within the circuit of the imperial halting place. But the plunderers of the camp and the Turani Mughals robbed them of the clothing on their persons which even the Marathas had spared, and they dragged away the women by the hands towards their own tents".⁵ But they were rescued by Najaf Khan who sent them away to the district of Muzaffarnagar.⁶

The Marathas defaced the workmanship of Najib-ud-daula's tomb and spent twenty days in seizing the property found in Pathargarh and digging out the buried treasure. Spies had reported to them that the inmates had thrown their riches into the wet ditch. As it was very deep, they drained it by drawing off a canal from it to a neighbouring stream and thus recovered the treasure.⁷ A quarrel soon broke out between the two allies, the emperor and the Marathas over the division of the spoils of victory. The Marathas were charged with

1. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 175

2. Srivastava, A. L.: *Shuja-ud-Daulah*, Vol. II, (Lahore, 1945), p. 156

3. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 176

4. Sarkar, Jadunath: *Fall of the Mughal Empire*, Vol. III, (Third ed., Calcutta, 1964), pp. 38-39

5. *Ibid.*, p. 39

6. *Ibid.*

7. *Ibid.*, pp. 39-40

breach of the agreement made at the beginning of the campaign. On imperial side it was alleged that "the faithless Marathas had seized all the artillery and treasure of Zabita Khan, as well as his elephants, horses and other property, and offered only a worthless fraction to the Emperor".¹ At last the patience of the emperor was worn out and on May 3, 1772, "harsh altercations broke out between him and the envoys of the Marathas, and the latter went away in anger".² However, on May 11, an agreement was reached through the aid of Sindhia and of the property officially seized at Pathargarh, half was given to the emperor, one fourth to the Peshwa and the remaining quarter was divided among the Maratha commanders but the elephants, cash and jewels remained unshared. The emperor's demand was for money and Sindhia promised him two lakhs of rupees. But this was only a fraction in value of what had been seized. As a Maratha agent reported from Nagina on May 9, lakhs and lakhs of rupees worth of booty was appropriated by the Maratha officers without crediting it either to the Peshwa or to the emperor.³ From the account books of the Peshwas, an exact and detailed statement of the Maratha gains at Pathargarh is available. The total value of the gold and silver of all kinds (including coins) was ten lakhs of rupees. Also, 2,298 horses were found, of which 1,043 were given to the emperor. Arms and amunitions amounted to 3 large cannon, 2 Jazails, 7 Zamburaks, 1,842 cannon-balls, 100 rockets and 530 maunds of powder.⁴

The fugitive Zabita Khan now went to the terai jungles at the foot of the Himalayas and met Hafiz Rahmat Khan and other Rohilla chiefs who were hiding there. His appeal to them for aid in recovering his patrimony having fallen on deaf ears, he once again solicited the help of Shuja-ud-daula against the Marathas.⁵ At Shuja-ud-daula's intervention peace was made between Zabita Khan and the Marathas. The latter withdrew from Rohilkhand and Zabita Khan was restored to Najibabad.⁶ The emperor began his return journey from Najibabad to Delhi at the end of May, 1772, by way of Nihtaur, Sherkot and Seohara⁷ (all places in tahsil Dhampur). In June, 1772, a treaty was made between the Rohillas and Shuja-ud-daula (which the British commander, Robert Barker, witnessed) by which the Rohillas agreed to pay Shuja-ud-daula Rs 40 lakhs on his obliging the Marathas to retire from Rohilkhand "either by peace or war."⁸

1. *Ibid.*, p. 40

2. *Ibid.*

3. Sarkar, Jadunath: *Fall of the Mughal Empire*, Vol. III (Third ed., Calcutta, 1964), p. 40

4. *Ibid.*

5. *Ibid.*, p. 41

6. *Ibid.*, p. 42

7. *Ibid.*, p. 43

8. Moon, Penderel: *Warren Hastings and British India*, (London, 1947), p. 124; Srivastava, A. L.: *Shuja-ud-Daulah*, Vol. II, pp. 201-202; Dodwell, H.H. (Ed.): *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V (First Indian Reprint), pp. 217-218

Fall of the Rohillas

In the winter of 1772-1773, the Marathas marched into Rohilkhand once again but on an intimidating movement by the nawab's army, which was accompanied by a detachment of the Company's troops, the Marathas withdrew hastily and were soon recalled to their bases in central India due to internal dissensions at Poona. Shuja-ud-daula demanded the stipulated indemnity from the Rohillas and repeatedly wrote to Hafiz Rahmat Khan to pay the amount due but when his demand was not met he invaded Rohilkhand with the help of the British on April 17, 1774.¹ The Rohillas resisted the invasion but were badly routed in a fierce battle on April 23, 1774, Hafiz Rahmat Khan himself being killed.² The remnant of the Rohilla army under Faiz Ullah Khan, the eldest son of Ali Muhammad Khan, fled by way of Najibabad to Laldang (at the foot of the Garhwal mountains) and from there prepared to take possession of Pathargarh.³ But before he could proceed, the allied troops arrived near Pathargarh on August 26 and Shuja-ud-daula annexed Zabita Khan's forts of Najibabad and Pathargarh.⁴

Avadh Rule

Thus the whole of Rohilkhand came into the possession of Shuja-ud-daula who appointed Sidi Muhammad Bashir Khan *faujdar* of Najibabad and commandant of the forts.⁵ The latter was also honoured by the bestowal on him of the insignia of the Fish (*mahi-maratib*) and the privilege of having *naubat* as well as a fringed palanquin.⁶ The *faujdar* made Pathargarh his headquarters with a garrison of 5,000 cavalry and 10,000 infantry.⁷ For purposes of revenue collection the conquered territory was divided into three parts and was farmed out to three personages, one of whom was Sidi Muhammad Bashir Khan for an annual sum of sixty-five lakhs of rupees.⁸ Under the new dispensation Najibabad became a flourishing centre of the cotton industry. A variety of cotton and silk products, finished and complete, was from there transported by land to Surat and Calcutta and from there shipped to Persia, East Asia and Europe.⁹

On October 7, 1774, Faiz Ullah Khan entered into a treaty with Shuja-ud-daula, under which he was left only with the Rampur¹⁰ district.

1. Dodwell, H. H. (Ed.): *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, p. 219

2. *Ibid.*, *op. cit.*, pp. 127-128; Srivastava, A. L.: *Shuja-ud-Daulah*, Vol. II, pp. 248-252; Hamilton, C., *op. cit.*, pp. 195-196

3. Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 260, 268

4. *Ibid.*, pp. 268-269; Sarkar, Jadunath: *Fall of the Mughal Empire*, Vol. III, p. 90

5. Srivastava, A. L.: *Shuja-ud-Daulah*, Vol. II, pp. 269-270

6. *Ibid.*, p. 275

7. *Ibid.*

8. *Ibid.*

9. *Ibid.*, p. 369

10. *Ibid.*, pp. 272-273.

About this time nearly 18,000 Rohillas were driven out of Bijnor into the doab.¹ Subsequently together with the Sikhs, they flocked to the standard of the banished Zabita Khan and made occasional raids on Bijnor but were repulsed in Rohilkhand by Mirza Muhammad Qasim Khan,² the *amil* of Asaf-ud-daula (the son and successor of Shuja-ud-daula). Another incident connected with the history of Bijnor during the reign of Asaf-ud-daula was the revolution at Rampur, resulting in the deposition and murder of Muhammad Ali Khan (the eldest son of Faiz Ullah Khan) by his brother Ghulam Muhammad in 1794. This necessitated armed intervention and after the defeat of the Rampur troops in the Bareilly district by the combined forces of the British and Asaf-ud-daula, Ghulam Muhammad fled to the foot-hills. The allied forces took up the pursuit, passing through Rehar, a town in tahsil Nagina, with the result that Ghulam Muhammad made his submission.³

Cession of the District

Asaf-ud-daula died in 1797 and was succeeded by Wazir Ali who, after a short rule, was replaced by Saadat Ali Khan. The mounting debt on account of the maintenance of British forces led to the surrender of the whole of Rohilkhand (including Bijnor) to the British by the treaty of November 10, 1801.⁴ At that time the present district of Bijnor formed part of Moradabad district. In 1803-04 Bijnor was visited by a severe famine.

In February 1805 lawlessness became rampant in Bijnor when Amir Khan (a Rohilla free booter, born and bred in Sambhal) then serving under Holkar was sent to foment trouble in Rohilkhand in his master's interest. He raided this region marching by way of Moradabad and Kashipur and reached Tajpur, a town in tahsil Dhampur, where he stayed for a week and sacked it. But on the approach of Smith, the English general, he fled again to Kashipur, subsequently devolving upon Sherkot, Dhampur and Nagina. Advancing further with the remnants of his army, now reduced to two or three thousand sabres, Amir Khan made forced marches through Najibabad and Kiratpur (both places in this district). At the latter place he halted to collect his scattered troopers but Smith arrived there and a skirmish ensued between the out-posts of the two armies. As Amir Khan found that his opponents were too strong for him, he gave up all hope of eluding them and with the object of tiring them out as far as possible, escaped by way of Sherkot to Afzalgarh. But the British force followed rapidly and on March 2, 1805, brought the

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raiders to bay. Amir Khan ultimately retired hastily to Rehar and from there to the Moradabad district.¹ In 1812 the British allowed Zabita Khan's son, Muin-ud-din (generally known as Bambu Khan) then living in Bareilly, to return to his paternal estate of Najibabad with a monthly pension of Rs 5,000.²

In 1817, Bijnor region was detached from the Moradabad district and was constituted into a separate district with headquarters at Nagina. In 1824 the district headquarters was shifted to Bijnor.

In 1837-38 the district once again suffered a serious famine.

Struggle of 1857-58

News about the launching of an organised struggle for freedom at Meerut reached Bijnor on May 13, 1857, causing excitement and unrest among the people of the district. Precautions were taken by the British authorities to ensure the enforcement of law and order.³ In spite of this, disturbances took place on May 16, within 8 miles of Bijnor, in the villages of Jhal and Olenda in pargana Daranagar to be followed by an attack on the village of Shahbazpur Khaddar.⁴ On the same day Rs 16,000 of the land revenue sent by Chaudhuri Pratap Singh of Tajpur was received and deposited into the treasury. The dak courier of Kari Sahib was looted in the Rauli Ghat, 10 miles north-west of Bijnor. The magistrate, (Shakespeare) sent requisitions for aid to the principal landholders, recalled all the Indian soldiers on leave and started recruitment of sowars. He also directed Chaudhri Nain Singh (a zamindar) of Bijnor to keep a vigil in the night and to secure the protection of the city. The officials were divided into two groups, the first under Rahmat Khan (a deputy collector) who patrolled during the night; the second led by Mir Turlab Ali, the tahsildar of Bijnor. These patrol parties took particular care of the prison and the treasury, because disorder was prevailing everywhere and every minute was potent with danger⁵ for the authorities. It posed a threat on May 18, when a Company of the 29th Native Infantry passed through Bijnor on its way from Saharanpur to Moradabad. The departure of the soldiers was followed by the arrival at Najibabad from Roorkee of some 300 Sappers and Miners who met the self-styled nawab, Mahmud Khan of Najibabad (Muin-ud-din's son and Zabita Khan's grandson) with the intention of provoking him against the British.⁶ Some of them also met Ahmad Ullah Khan, the tahsildar of Najibabad. After some conversation, Ahmad Ullah Khan went with them to Mahmud

1. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 355

2. *Ibid.*, p. 356; Hamilton, G., *op. cit.*, p. 177

3. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 178

4. Atkinson, C. U.: *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and Neighbouring Countries*, Vol. I, (Calcutta, 1909), p. 2

1. Rusawun Lal: *Memoirs of the Puthan soldier of fortune the Nuwab Ameer-ood-Doulat Mohummud Ameer Khan* (English translation by H. T. Prinsep, Calcutta, 1832), pp. 253-258; Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, pp. 359-360

2. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 356

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 361-362

4. Rizvi, S. A. A. (Ed.): *Freedom struggle in Uttar Pradesh*, Vol. V (published by the Information Department, U. P., Lucknow, 1960), pp. 245-246

5. *Ibid.*, p. 247

6. *Ibid.*, pp. 247-248

Khan who, being anxious to avoid a clash at Najibabad, instigated them to attack Bijnor. It was the first time that the spirit of rebellion against the British asserted itself in the hearts of Mahmud Khan and Ahmad Ullah Khan¹. The Indian soldiers entered Nagina on May 21 where they plundered the tahsil treasury and carried off over Rs 10,000 from where they proceeded to Dhampur. The news of their march had preceded them and as the tahsil officials had adopted adequate defensive measures they could not lay hands on the treasure². The same day about noon 341 prisoners in the Bijnor jail, ostensibly with the connivance of Ram Swarup (the guard who had joined Mahmud Khan) stormed the main gate, dislodged it from its hinges and escaped. Immediately afterwards the magistrate arrived with the joint magistrate, and opened fire killing seven fugitives and capturing 126. The remaining 215 effected their freedom by taking refuge on a sand bank of the Ganga³. The British tried to save the valuables of the Bijnor treasury by throwing the cash into a deep well. Immediately afterwards Mahmud Khan arrived with a number of empty carts to carry off the treasure to Najibabad⁴ and stayed at Bijnor for two days but in the meantime the magistrate who had mustered the support of the retainers of the leading Hindu zamindars, including a body of horse⁵, so overawed the adversary that Mahmud Khan had to repair to Najibabad on May 23. The British now proceeded against the Gujars, Banjaras and Mewatis who had openly joined the struggle. An expedition was directed to Chandpur on May 26, and on the way the British destroyed a Mewati village. On May 28 the magistrate received from Moradabad a contingent of 40 horse and an equal number of sepoy belonging to the 29th Native Infantry whom he despatched immediately to Mandawar who forced the people to evacuate the village. The British army burnt down the villages of Bhojpur, Jahangirpur, Sheikhpura, Husainpura, Aminpur and Narayanpur⁶. On June 1, Mahmud Khan reappeared at Bijnor with a body of 250 Afghans to establish his sway but he was persuaded by the local authorities to move to Daranagar⁷. In the meantime the district magistrate arranged to transfer some of the treasure and sent a remittance of Rs 50,000 that reached Meerut on June 2. The bulk, however, still remained with him and on June 3 he received a letter from Moradabad advising immediate flight. On June 6 the district magistrate sought help from Meerut but was informed that it could not be made available from that quarter⁸. The climax was reached the next day when Mahmud Khan returned. The Pathans and other

1. *Ibid.*, pp. 248-249

2. *Ibid.*, pp. 249-250, 263

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 264, 250

4. *Ibid.*, pp. 251, 265

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 265-266

6. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 183; Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, Vol. V, pp. 254-257

7. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 184; Rizvi, *op. cit.*, pp. 256-258

8. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 184

sepoys enlisted by the British were found to be leaning towards Mahmud Khan. The idea that British rule would be overthrown once and for all had now taken deep root in the hearts of the people and it was being believed that Mahmud Khan would occupy the *masnad* (throne). Therefore every inhabitant of this district found it expedient to have relations with Mahmud Khan. The men enlisted on the British side were accordingly least trusted by the British¹. It was about this time that a Muslim officer, who was later to come to fame as a statesman and educationist, got an opportunity of displaying his diplomatic skill. Syed Ahmad Khan, a subordinate judge of Bijnor, had parleys with Mahmud Khan and persuaded him to leave the Europeans unmolested². As the British could no longer control the district, they moved all the European women and children to the other side of the Ganga. The authorities realising the inability of the Hindu zamindars to hold out against Mahmud Khan, left the district on June 8 entrusting its charge to Mahmud Khan "till the English returned to claim it"³. The magistrate accompanied by other officers eventually reached Roorkee on June 11.

Mahmud Khan at once assumed power proclaiming himself the ruler on behalf of the emperor of Delhi. He abolished the standard weights in place of which he substituted a *ser* of 100 tolas on which his own seal was impressed. He also enlarged his force, stopped the mails and posted guards at all the ferries. He now harassed the Hindus and despatched his nephew, Ahmad Ullah Khan, to take charge of the Najibabad tahsil and began to chastise Umrao Singh the Rajput chief of Sherkot⁴. Ahmad Ullah Khan found a strong opponent in the person of Mareh Khan who was already pillaging Sherkot. Ahmad Ullah Khan eventually entered into an alliance with him with the result that in July, 1857, Umrao Singh lost his property but saved his life by flight⁵.

This act excited Hindu indignation and on August 5, the nawab's troops were routed and turned out of Sherkot, Ahmad Ullah Khan himself fleeing by night to Najibabad⁶. Next day the Hindu zamindars of Haldaur, assisted by those of Bijnor, taking advantage of the comparative isolation of Mahmud Khan at Bijnor, attacked him and drove him to Najibabad.⁷

Before news of these events reached Roorkee, Shakespear had already superseded the nawab who was ordered not to quit Najibabad and had entrusted the district to the Hindu zamindars of Haldaur and Tajpur⁸. According to British chroniclers this move was made apparently

1. Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, p. 258

2. Sen, S. N.: *Eighteen Fifty-Seven*, (Delhi, 1957), p. 350

3. *Ibid.*; Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, pp. 259-260

4. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 366; Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, pp. 331-332

5. Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, p. 332; Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 366

6. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 185; Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 366

7. Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, p. 332

8. *Ibid.*; Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 366

to strengthen the hands of the Hindus but probably it was intended to sow discord between the Hindus and the Muslims.

On hearing of the discomfiture of the nawab, Shakespear made other arrangements to restore the British administration¹. Syed Ahmad Khan and Mahmud Rahmat Khan, the deputy collector, assumed charge by his orders on August 16, and the district was once again governed on behalf of the British but for a few days only². By August 23, the nawab's troops at Nagina and Najibabad, making a fresh advance by gathering together under the green flag of Islam, marched towards Bijnor, setting ablaze and plundering a large Jat village in the vicinity. Mahmud Khan thus infused into the struggle all the rancour of a religious war. Although his authority was re-established in Bijnor, some of the Hindu landholders were opposed to him. Therefore in August and September, several skirmishes took place between these chiefs and the nawab's troops under Ahmad Ullah Khan at Nagina, Haldaur, Phiona and Sherkot but ultimately Mahmud Khan reigned supreme throughout the district³.

Mahmud Khan's lieutenants now divided the district among themselves. The nawab was himself recognised as the nominal ruler with a monthly allowance of Rs 12,000, March Khan and Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Mahmud Khan's eldest son) received the Nagina and Dampur tahsils and Chandpur and the remainder of the district fell to the share of Ahmad Ullah Khan⁴.

In October their authority was again threatened as the British officers at Meerut instigated the principal landholders, Gulab Singh of Khatkhat (in Jalandhar) and Gur Sahai of Hasanpur to attack Bijnor. The effort was abortive as a large number of freedom fighters deterred the British allies at Chandpur. The freedom fighters now turned against Randhir Singh of Haldaur, a staunch British supporter. He was captured at Haldaur and confined in Najibabad till the British returned and released him. This success attracted several noted freedom fighters to the district from the doab including Kazi Inayat Ali, Daler Singh and three royal princes from Delhi. Joined by them the struggle against the British was now carried across the Ganga. Emboldened by a series of successful raids against the police out-posts on the right bank of the Ganga, Mahmud Khan's army despatched to this spot a large force with two guns under Inayat Ali and Daler Singh on January 5, 1858⁵. This force twice set on fire some government buildings and successfully dispersed the troops sent against them. But on January 9 their leader Shafi, Ullah, was defeated at Roorkee by the British force under Captain Boisragon⁶. This reverse dealt a crushing blow on the fighters for freedom.

1. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 367

2. Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, p. 333

3. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, pp. 367-368

4. Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, p. 334

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 334-335; Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 368

6. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, pp. 368-369; Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 186

Ahmad Ullah Khan now endeavoured to enlist the sympathy of the people by remitting the revenue on rent-free lands which had been resumed by the British. Soon after fresh arrangements were made among the leaders. Eventually Mahmud Khan's allowance was further reduced to Rs 8,000, Ahmad Ullah Khan was declared his representative, March Khan was given a jagir in Sherkot and Ghazanfar Ali Khan was recognised as the heir apparent of Mahmud Khan¹.

Under instructions of Colin Campbell (later Lord Clyde) a column of the British army under Brigadier Jones and Colonel J. Coke was directed to this region. On April 17, 1858, this force arrived at Nagal where the freedom fighters, opposed its way but were ultimately defeated. On April 18 Jones occupied Najibabad where Mahmud Khan's hall of audience was destroyed. The fort of Pathargarh was found empty except for a number of guns and large quantities of ammunition and grain. Shakespear, who had accompanied the force, at once resumed charge of the district, making Najibabad his headquarters². He also re-established the police posts and induced all active anti-British elements to stop the struggle. Several relatives of Mahmud Khan who had taken refuge in the jungles were arrested³. On April 21 the British defeated Mahmud Khan's force consisting of 10,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry which was assembled at Nagina but the British success cost the life of Gosling, a British officer⁴. The British now occupied Bijnor and Jones proceeded from there to Moradabad. Mahmud Khan was captured and died in prison after being sentenced to transportation for life. His property was confiscated, as was that of others who fought against the British, the supporters of the British being rewarded in various ways.

In 1860-61 the district suffered from a serious famine. Another famine occurred in 1868-69 when Bijnor suffered more than any other district in the State.

During the First World War (1914-18) Bijnor came into prominence as a centre of political activity when Chandan Singh and Thakur Das, two prominent local leaders, launched a movement against free and involuntary transport of arms and ammunition by the kisans of the district to the border district of Garhwal where one of the important military stations had been established at Lansdowne.

In 1919, the Hindus and the Muslims of the district united against the infamous Rowlatt Act of 1919 which aimed at drastically curfailing the liberties of the people by giving government unlimited powers to

1. Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, pp. 334-336, 340-341; Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 369

2. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 187

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 187-188

4. Rizvi, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, p. 406

5. *Swatantrata Sangram Ke Sainik, Zila Bijnor* (Published by the Information Department, U. P., 1969), p. Cha

arrest people without warrant and to detain them without trial. The Act gave vent to feelings of deep resentment and indignation and raised a storm of protest all over the district.

Khilafat and Non-co-operation Movements

In 1921, when the Khilafat Movement was in full swing in other parts of the country, Mirza Latif Beg, a local organiser, called upon the people to join it wholeheartedly. He was soon arrested. As a protest against his arrest a procession of about 20,000 persons was taken out. The same year the activities of the Indian National Congress also came into prominence in the district with the commencement of the people's support for Mahatma Gandhi's Non-co-operation Movement. British goods were boycotted and foreign cloth was burnt publicly. Instead of western-style clothes, khadi and the Gandhi cap were used to symbolise protest against British rule. Processions and meetings became a daily feature and government offices and liquor shops were picketed. Courts of law and government service were also boycotted and normal studies in educational institutions were seriously disrupted as students left their classes to take part in meetings and processions. The government, alarmed at the mass support for the Movement, arrested about 55 persons including Vishwa Mitra, Chandan Singh, Mirza Latif Beg, Jagdish Datt, and Nemi Saran Jain, all prominent local Congress workers. In 1924 a big fair was held by the district board on the occasion of Ganga Snan which also served as the platform for an organised Congress propaganda. The district magistrate took over the arrangement of the fair from the control of the district board which was dominated by Congress members. To obstruct attendance in the fair and to weaken the Congress hold, the district magistrate levied a tax on bullock carts coming to the fair. This arbitrary levy of an unreasonable tax was only a preface to the serious agitation which followed the mass arrests even of women and the imposition and realisation of oppressive fines. Ultimately the district magistrate had to respect public opinion and the fair was placed under the management of the district board¹.

Simon Commission

In 1928, when the Simon Commission visited India, protest processions and demonstrations were organised in the district (as elsewhere). Placards and banners with the words "Simon, go back" were displayed and black flags were unfurled.

The district was visited by Mahatma Gandhi in 1929. He was given a rousing reception by the people. He addressed a large audience at Dhampur where among the prominent leaders present was Govind Sahai who, in 1935, was appointed secretary to the U. P. Congress Working Committee and the Parliamentary Board. A group of volunteers was

1. *Ibid.*, p. Chha

also raised to carry the Congress programme to the remotest areas of the district.

Salt Satyagraha and the Civil Disobedience Movement

Mahatma Gandhi's famous Dandi march undertaken on the 12th of March, 1930, as a symbolic protest against the British government's monopoly to assert the right for manufacture of salt, was the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement in Bijnor also¹. Such was the enthusiasm of the people that on April 30, 1930, batches of volunteers (including women) from every corner of the district poured into Bijnor city and paraded in a procession. A lathi charge was resorted to by the British authorities and indignities were heaped on the freedom fighters. More than 400 arrests were made in the district but the agitation continued.

In 1931, the Civil Disobedience Movement was temporarily suspended in view of the negotiations to be made at the Round Table Conference in London. On its failure, the Civil Disobedience Movement was resumed in the district (as elsewhere) by picketing of shops selling liquor and foreign cloth and holding protest meetings. On March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh, the famous freedom fighter was executed at Lahore. The news of his execution produced a wave of intense anger all over the district and a large meeting was held next day at Dhampur eulogising his deeds.

In February, 1932, public meetings were held in this district to protest against Mahatma Gandhi's arrest in Bombay. The district magistrate banned such meetings and imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the district. Govind Sahai led a procession on February 12 carrying the tricolour in the streets of Bijnor city. All the processionists were immediately arrested². A week later a meeting was held at Bazar Sambha which was attended by thousands of persons, with Ratan Lal Jain, the dictator of the Salt Satyagraha in the district, as chief invitee. The police arrested him and many persons. About 400 persons were arrested in that year in the district³.

In 1936, Jawaharlal Nehru visited the district. He urged the people to support the Congress in the elections. Of the two seats of the Legislative Assembly allotted to the district, one was annexed by Khub Singh, the Congress candidate and the other went to the Muslim League candidate, Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim.

The first Congress ministry in Uttar Pradesh was sworn in in 1937 with Govind Ballabh Pant as the leader.

Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim resigned from the membership of the Muslim League and contested the fresh elections on the Congress ticket.

1. *Ibid.*
2. *Ibid.*, p. ja
3. *Ibid*

He was declared successful¹ and joined as cabinet minister. About this time Govind Sahai was appointed secretary to the minister for jails and revenue (Rafi Ahmad Kidwai).

In 1939, when the Second World War broke out, the leaders of the Indian National Congress decided not to co-operate with the government in its war effort unless the British government gave the assurance that India would be granted her independence and the ministry resigned. Consequently Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim returned to the district and organised the Congress movement there.

Individual Satyagraha

In October, 1940, Mahatma Gandhi began Individual Satyagraha. The satyagrahis in Bijnor were selected from among the members of the district Congress committee and other eminent Congress leaders, including Govind Sahai and Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim. The satyagrahis appeared individually in the streets, uttered anti-war slogans and were arrested and sent to prison. In 1940-41 the number of imprisoned satyagrahis of the district was 182².

Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement, inaugurated on August 9, 1942, was acclaimed widely by the people of the district although before that fateful day had dawned the police had arrested all the eminent leaders of the district³. The police attacked the district Congress office on August 9, and robbed it. It then combed the district hunting out Congress volunteers and arrested people on mere suspicion. Villages were raided and pillaged and all Congress party offices were sealed by the police.

These oppressive measures adopted by the administrative authorities to suppress the movement gave birth to revolutionary activities in the district as in other parts of the country. On August 12, 1942, the local students took out a large procession, attacked thana and tahsil buildings and hoisted the tricolour on various government offices⁴. Next day the people also joined the students of Chandpur high school in the procession. On August 14 the processionists smashed the glass panes in the railway station. On August 16 the villagers of Phina, Tajpur and Gopalpur in police circle Nurpur, numbering about 15,000, marched in a procession to hoist the tricolour on the Nurpur police-station. On their way they damaged tube-wells, inspection houses and post-offices. An armed police force was posted at Nurpur thana to meet them. Hardly did the procession reach Nurpur than the police made a lathi charge but the procession continued its march peacefully. As soon as it reached the thana the police opened

fire on it. Parvin Singh and Rikkhi Singh died, ten persons were wounded¹ and 32 processionists were arrested. An amount of Rs 6,000 was imposed as collective fine. A huge fair held annually on August 16 at Nurpur now commemorates the martyrs² of this event.

In spite of the repressive measures, an overwhelming majority of the people kept up the non-violent struggle for which they paid a heavy price. More than 314 persons were arrested and 86 detained³. Those imprisoned included Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim, his son, Atiq-ur-Rahman, who was appointed a minister in the State in 1969. Govind Sahai⁴ and Abdul Latif who was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957⁵.

The year 1945 marked the end of the Second World War. By this time British public opinion had veered round to granting complete independence to India.

On August 15, 1947, the country and with it the district was liberated from alien rule and declared independent. This day has since been declared one of the three National Days of the country. The district celebrates Independence Day every year in a befitting manner and there is rejoicing in every home. The National flag is hoisted on the collectorate building and on almost all private and government buildings. The district has played its part in the fight for freedom. The country had become free but before the people could fully enjoy the sense of liberation and victory, they awakened to find that a great tragedy had accompanied freedom. The Congress as well as the Muslim League had accepted the principle of the partition of the country. The partition was an occasion of great mourning for the nation. About 5,593 displaced persons from Pakistan came to the district and were rehabilitated.

On hearing the news of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi (on January 30, 1948) the whole district went into mourning. Markets, offices and other institutions were closed and several processions were taken out and meetings held to mourn the tragic and irreparable loss in the death of the Father of the Nation. Though he died he still lives in the memory of the people and is remembered on October 2, his birthday, which is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti in the district as in other parts of the country. On this occasion meetings, discussions and discourses are organised all over the district to eulogise his deeds and ideals. The people also take a pledge to serve the nation and follow his way of life.

With the enactment and adoption of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic. The

1. *Ibid.*, pp. 262-263; *Swatantrata Sangram Ke Sainik, Zila Bijnor*, p. 70
2. *Swatantrata Sangram Ke Sainik, Zila Bijnor*, pp. 70 and 71
3. Sahai, Govind, *op. cit.*, p. 262
4. *Swatantrata Sangram Ke Sainik, Zila Bijnor*, pp. 3, 18, 78
5. Gopal, B. (Ed.): *Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru*, Vol. V, (Delhi, 1973), p. 419

1. *Ibid.*

2. *Ibid.*, p. 70

3. *Ibid.*

4. Sahai, Govind : '42 Rebellion, (Delhi, 1947), p. 262

CHAPTER III PEOPLE

GROWTH OF POPULATION

The earliest attempt to enumerate the inhabitants of this district was made in 1847, when its population totalled 6,20,552—an average density of 325 persons to the square mile. The number of inhabited towns and villages was 1,976, of which all but 72 contained less than 1,000 persons. Of the remainder, 11 had a population exceeding 5,000, though the list excludes Najibabad, presumably because that place, the largest in the district, was made up of several separate *mauzas*. The towns in question were Nagina, Chandpur and Sherkot, in each of which the total exceeded 10,000, and Bijnor, Seohara, Dhampur, Nihtaur, Kiratpur, Mandawar, Jhalu and Sahaspur. The urban population amounted in all to 99,275 or 16 per cent of the whole. A rapid growth in population was noted at the census of 1853, when the district contained 6,95,521 persons, the density being 366 persons per sq. mile. The census of 1865 showed a slight decrease in population, the total number of persons being 6,91,009 and the density 367 persons per sq. mile—the increase in density being due to the diminished area as the submontane road had now become the northern boundary. At the census of 1872, the population rose to 7,37,153 adding 21 persons to the sq. mile. The outbreak of famine and epidemics in the following decade caused a decline of 15,703 persons as seen at the census of 1881, lowering the density to about 386.2 persons per sq. mile. In 1891, the population increased to 7,94,070 persons, raising the density to 418 persons per sq. mile. In 1901, the population decreased by 14,119 persons and the density came down to 415.9 persons. This decrease was due to the agricultural depression in certain tracts of the district and extensive migration due to floods. The decade opened with a series of unusually wet years, which produced much saturation in the lowlying portions of the district, the parts most affected being Afzalgarh and Barhapura in which the population had decreased rapidly, though to a less extent in Mandawar and the northern portions of the central upland.

The decennial changes in the population during the period 1901—1971 and the variation per decade was as follows :

Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation
1901	7,80,105	—	—
1911	8,06,089	+ 25,984	+ 3.33
1921	7,40,368	- 65,721	- 8.15
1931	8,35,469	+ 95,101	+ 12.85
1941	9,10,223	+ 74,754	+ 8.95
1951	9,84,196	+ 73,973	+ 8.13
1961	11,90,987	+ 2,06,791	+ 21.01
1971	14,90,185	+ 2,99,198	+ 25.12

S. No.	Captions of photo	Facing Page No.
1.	Kanva Tal (related to sage Kanwa), Mandawar, Tahsil Bijnor.	19
2.	Tomb of Najib-ud-daula, Najibabad, Tahsil Najibabad	43
3.	Tomb of Shujaat Khan Jahanabad, Tahsil Bijnor	280
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7.	Roman Catholic Church, Tajpur, Tahsil Dhampur	282

The decrease in the third decade was due to the severe famine of 1918. Between 1901 and 1971 the population increased by 7,10,080 persons (91.02 per cent).

By 1971 the population had risen to 14,90,185 (8,04,294 males and 6,85,891 females). The rate of growth of the population in the decade 1961—1971 was 25.12 per cent which was much higher than the State average of 19.8 per cent. This district then occupied the 32nd position in the State in respect of population.

In 1971 the total area of the district (according to the central statistical organisation) was 4,852 sq. km., giving the district the 29th place in the State.

The density of population in 1971 was 307 persons per sq. km. which was slightly higher than the State density of 300 persons per sq. km. The most densely populated tahsil was Dhampur, the density there being 425 persons per sq. km. Next came Bijnor with a density of 306 persons, Najibabad with 240 and Nagina with 228 persons per sq. km.

In 1971 the sex ratio of the district was 853 females per 1,000 males, which was considerably lower than the State average of 879. The rural and urban sex ratio was 847 and 881 respectively. The tahsilwise sex ratio in 1971 was 862 in Najibabad, 836 in Bijnor and 858 in both Nagina and Dhampur tahsils. The sex ratio in the district between 1901 and 1971 was as follows :

Year	Males	Females	No. of females per 1,000 males
1901	4,06,793	3,73,312	
1911	4,27,109	3,78,980	910
1921	3,89,730	3,50,618	887
1931	4,43,867	3,91,802	900
1941	4,81,872	4,28,551	883
1951	5,21,972	4,62,224	890
1961	6,34,468	5,36,519	886
1971	8,04,294	6,85,891	877
			853

The fall in the sex ratio as pertaining to females was probably due to the higher fertility rate in the district, a higher mortality among female children and the migration of females on account of marriage.

In 1971 the district comprised 2,102 inhabited villages and 11 towns, their number in 1961 being 2,108 and 10 respectively. This increase in the number of towns was due to the inclusion of Seohara which was formerly classified as a village.

Details regarding the distribution of the population and other relevant features appear in the following table :

Distribution of Population According to Age Groups, 1971

Age group	District population			Rural population			Urban population		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
0-14	6,62,121	3,57,656	3,04,505	5,45,703	2,96,620	2,49,083	1,16,458	61,036	55,422
15-19	1,21,056	67,482	53,574	94,170	53,488	40,682	26,886	13,994	12,892
20-24	1,07,151	53,827	53,324	86,008	42,908	43,100	21,143	10,919	10,224
25-29	99,608	51,051	48,557	81,391	42,002	39,389	18,217	9,049	9,168
30-39	1,69,521	88,046	81,476	1,41,316	73,150	68,166	28,205	14,896	13,309
40-49	1,36,128	74,348	61,780	1,11,431	60,503	50,928	24,697	13,845	10,852
50-59	92,306	51,812	40,494	75,789	42,766	33,023	16,517	9,046	7,471
60 and above	1,02,214	60,042	42,172	84,635	49,463	35,172	17,579	10,579	7,000
Age not stated	40	30	10	40	30	10	—	—	—
Total	14,90,185	8,04,294	6,85,891	12,20,483	6,60,930	5,59,553	2,69,702	1,43,964	1,26,338

Population by Tahsils

In 1971 the district had four tahsils—Najibabad, Bijnor, Nagina, and Dhampur, which had 2,102 inhabited villages and 11 towns. These towns contained 18.10 per cent of the total population. The population of the towns and other details are given in the following tables :

Name with category of town Municipal Board/Town Area/ Notified Area	Tahsil	Total number of		
		Persons	Males	Females
Najibabad M. B.	Najibabad	42,586	22,766	19,820
Kiratpur N. A.	—do—	25,147	13,131	12,016
Bijnor M. B.	Bijnor	43,250	23,171	20,120
Chandpur M. B.	—do—	28,179	14,927	13,252
Mandawar T. A.	—do—	9,648	5,071	4,577
Nagina M. B.	Nagina	37,066	19,770	17,296
Afzalgarh M. B.	—do—	10,765	5,756	5,009
Seohara N. A.	Dhampur	22,821	12,052	10,729
Dhampur M. B.	—do—	22,639	12,176	10,463
Nihtaur M. B.	—do—	20,286	10,617	9,669
Tajpur T. A.	—do—	7,275	3,888	3,387
Total		2,69,702	1,43,364	1,26,338

Tahsilwise Population with Number of Villages and Towns, 1971

Tahsil	Village		Towns	Population			Percentage of total population	Rural/urban population
	Inhabited	Uninhabited		Persons	Males	Females		
Najibabad								
Rural	406	143	—	2,28,057	1,22,586	1,05,071	15.33	77.09
Urban	—	—	2	67,733	35,897	31,836	4.52	22.91
Total	406	143	2	2,95,790	1,58,883	1,36,507	19.85	100.00
Bijnor								
Rural	364	287	—	3,18,913	1,74,738	1,44,175	21.40	79.72
Urban	—	—	3	81,117	43,168	37,949	5.45	20.28
Total	364	287	3	4,00,030	2,17,906	1,82,124	26.85	100.00
Nagina								
Rural	453	256	—	2,42,542	1,30,784	1,11,758	16.27	83.52
Urban	—	—	2	47,831	25,526	22,305	3.21	16.48
Total	453	256	2	2,90,373	1,56,310	1,34,063	19.48	100.00
Dhampur								
Rural	679	267	—	4,30,971	2,32,422	1,98,549	28.89	85.51
Urban	—	—	4	73,021	38,773	34,248	4.93	14.49
Total	679	267	4	5,03,992	2,71,195	2,32,797	33.82	100.00
G. Total	2,102	933	11	14,90,185	8,04,294	6,85,891	100.00	100.00

1971—Extent of Population in 2,102 Inhabited Villages

Range of population	No. of villages	Persons	Males	Females	Percentage of rural population.
Less than 200	508	50,256	27,683	22,573	4.12
200-499	744	2,48,606	1,35,662	1,12,944	20.37
500-999	569	3,97,214	2,15,382	1,81,832	32.55
1,000-1,999	218	2,84,706	1,53,759	1,30,947	23.33
2,000-4,999	54	1,43,047	80,265	68,782	12.21
5,000-9,999	7	55,583	29,680	25,903	4.55
10,000-and above	2	35,071	18,199	16,572	2.87
Total	2,102	12,20,483	6,60,930	5,59,553	100.00

About 81.90 per cent of the people lived in the rural areas. Out of 2,102 inhabited villages, 1,252 were small each having less than 500 inhabitants, villages with a population varying between 500 and 2,000 numbering 787. The remaining 63 villages were larger with a population above 2,000 persons.

The area and population of the district in 1961 and 1971 have been given in Statement I at the end of the chapter.

Immigration and Emigration

In 1961, among the people enumerated in the district, 93.7 per cent were born within the district, 4.8 per cent in other districts of the State, 0.8 per cent in other parts of India, 0.5 per cent in other countries and 0.2 per cent were from unstated places. Among those from other countries 4,796 were from Pakistan, 1,238 from Nepal and 25 from other countries. Of the immigrants from adjacent States, 5,898 were from Punjab, 660 (males 385, females 275) from Bihar, 561 (males 193, females 368) from Madhya Pradesh, 387 (males 209, females 185) from Rajasthan and 104 (males 56, females 48) from Himachal Pradesh. The number of immigrants from other districts of the State was 56,734. Some Muslim families migrated to Pakistan at the time of the partition of the Country in 1947. Some people also left the district in search of employment or in connection with trade or business or on account of their marriage.

Displaced persons

After 1947 about 5,593 (3,032 males and 2,561 females) displaced persons particularly Hindus, Sikhs and Jains, mostly from Pakistan, came to the district. Their number came down to 4,796 in 1961 which implies that during the intervening period some of them went out of the district to settle elsewhere. At the time of the census of 1971, there had been no substantial rise in their numbers. Most of the displaced persons preferred to settle in the urban areas of the district.

LANGUAGE

The language spoken in 1971 by the inhabitants of the district were about 24. Hindi-speaking persons were the most numerous (66.51 per cent) followed by Urdu-speaking persons (32.36 per cent). The remaining 1.13 per cent persons spoke Punjabi and Bengali and allied forms of Hindi such as Garhwali, Kumauni and the like. This district is third in the State in respect of Urdu-speaking persons. The common tongue of the people is Urdu or the Hindustani dialect (a form of Western Hindi) which has sometimes been classified separately as Rohilkhandi between which and Hindustani there is no marked distinction in idiom or vocabulary.

Script

The Devanagri script is used for Hindi and its allied branches, such as Garhwali and Kumauni. That for Urdu is Persian, other languages generally using their own particular scripts.

RELIGION AND CASTE

The numbers of adherents of different religions in the district as in 1971, were as follows :

Numbers of Adherents of Different Religions, 1971

Religion	Adherents						
	Total		Males		Females		
	Persons	Males	Females	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Hinduism	9,23,263	5,03,581	4,19,682	4,48,204	55,377	3,72,102	47,580
Islam	5,46,282	2,90,048	2,56,234	2,03,865	86,183	1,79,207	77,027
Sikhism	17,010	8,757	8,253	8,066	691	7,576	677
Christianity	1,098	560	538	316	244	290	240
Jainism	1,276	650	626	26	621	15	611
Buddhism	1,103	615	488	367	248	293	195
Religion not stated	153	83	70	83	—	70	—
Total	14,90,183	8,04,294	6,85,871	6,60,930	1,43,364	5,59,553	1,26,338

Thus in 1971 there were 61.96 per cent Hindus as compared to the State average of 83.76 per cent and 36.66 per cent Muslims as compared to the State average of 15.48 per cent. This district stands third in respect of the Muslim population of the State. The remaining 1.38 per cent of the population of the district was comprised of Sikhs, Christians, Jains and Buddhists, 0.01 per cent of the population remaining unclassified.

Hindu—This major community was originally divided into four ~~branches~~ ^{castes}—Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaish and Shudra. This ancient division was originally occupational but gradually developed into a hereditary

order. Now, due to the impact of social educational and economic forces, the old caste structure is crumbling and it has already lost much of its rigidity. There are several social groups such as the Jats, Kayasthas, Gujars, etc., within the four traditional castes, the subcastes of which are difficult to categorise.

The Tyagis or Tagas, who claim to be a branch of the Brahmanas, are capable cultivators and not ashamed to till the land. Their important subdivisions are the Bassas and Dassas.

The Rajputs, who claim to be Kshatriyas, have a good representation here and most of them belong to the Dhampur and Nagina tahsils. Their main subdivision is the Chauhan. The other subdivisions of Rajputs represented in the district are the Jadons, Kachhwahas, Gahlots, Jaiswars and some others.

The Vaishs are evenly distributed throughout the district and most of them are traders and money-lenders by profession. Many Vaishs belong to the Bishnoi sect (worshippers of Vishnu) and are Vaishnavas.

The Jats, who are generally of fine build, are numerous in the Bijnor tahsil and here they belong for the most part to three classes—the Chauhans, Deswalis and Pachhades. The Jats are cultivators of a high order and set the fashion for agriculture which is followed by other agriculturists. Their living is simple and unostentatious.

The Gujars, also an agriculturist class, are mainly confined to the Dhampur and Bijnor tahsils, to which they are said to have migrated from Gujarat (in Punjab) during the days of Najib-ud-daula.

The occupational groups, like the Barahi, Bharbhujia, Chippi, Darzi, Kori or Orh, Kumhar, Lohar, Nai, Mali and Sonar, which together form a small percentage of the Hindu population, are spread all over the district.

About two dozen subdivisions of the Scheduled Castes are represented in the district. In 1971 the persons belonging to them numbered 3,01,924 and formed nearly 20.26 per cent of the district population and 32.6 per cent of the Hindus. They comprised 23.26 per cent of the rural and 6.70 per cent of the urban population. Among them the most numerous were the Chamars (also known as Dhusia, Jhusia or Jatava) who numbered 2,40,800. Next came the Balmiki (21,893), Bhuyiar (3,816), Dhobi (5,136), Dhanger (3,786), Kanjar (751), Khatik (518), Nat (414), Shilpkar (361), Bangali (348), Pasi or Tarmeli (328), Mazhabi (144) and Rawat (120). In the following subdivisions of the Scheduled Castes, the number of persons was below 100: Dom, Baheliya, Badi, Agariya, Barwar, Bedar, Balai, Belahar, Beriya, Dhanuk, Domar, Gual, Kalabaz, Karwal, Saharya and others. According to the 1971 census, 23,188 persons were shown as being in unclassified castes. Persons of the Scheduled Tribes, who were 3,173 in number, formed 0.21 per cent

of the district population. They live mainly in the rural areas and most of them are found in the Najibabad tahsil.

The distribution of people in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as in 1971, was as given below :

District/ Tahsil	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
District						
Rural	2,83,853	1,52,633	1,31,220	2,754	1,442	1,312
Urban	18,071	9,748	8,323	419	155	264
Total	3,01,924	1,62,381	1,39,543	3,173	1,597	1,576
Najibabad						
Rural	60,132	32,164	27,968	1,920	1,006	914
Urban	5,457	2,861	2,596	36	20	16
Total	65,589	35,025	30,564	1,956	1,026	930
Bijnor						
Rural	70,977	38,489	32,488	99	58	41
Urban	6,119	3,349	2,770	378	132	246
Total	77,096	41,838	35,258	477	190	287
Nagina						
Rural	60,475	32,541	27,934	635	322	313
Urban	3,279	1,810	1,469	3	2	1
Total	63,754	34,351	29,403	638	324	314
Dhampur						
Rural	92,269	49,439	42,830	100	56	44
Urban	3,216	1,728	1,488	2	1	1
Total	95,485	51,167	44,318	102	57	45

Muslim—The majority of Muslims in the district belong to the Sunni sect and there are some Shias also who are mostly Saiyids.

Sheikhs are numerous in the district. The main subdivisions are the Qurrishi, Siddiqi, Ansari, Faruqi, Abbasi and Usmani.

The Julahas, who still follow their ancestral industry of weaving, are mainly found in the Dhampur and Nagina tahsils though they may be come across in any part of the district. They often work as cultivators and attain proficiency as husbandmen. The Behnas (cotton carders), who are almost akin to the Julahas, are also numerically strong.

The Saiyids, who are large in number, claim connection with the Barha Saiyids of Muzaffarnagar. The various subdivisions of this group are the Husaini, Zaidi, Bukhari, Taqvi, Rizvi, Jafari, Chishti and Tirmizi, persons belonging to the first two being the most numerous.

The Pathans are mainly confined to the Najibabad tahsil. Among the subdivisions of the group are the Yusufzai (the strongest in number), the Kakar, Lodhi, Rohilla, Muhammadzai, Ghor and Bangash.

The remaining subdivisions, mostly occupational, are the Darzi, Hajjam, Dhobi, Qassab, Jhojha, Chippi, Faqir, Lohar, Bhangi, Bhisti, Barhai and Manihar.

Sikh—In 1971 there were 17,010 Sikhs (8,757 males and 8,253 females) who resided mainly in the rural areas, only 1,368 living in the urban. They constitute about 1.14 per cent of the district population.

Christian—In 1971 there were 1,098 Christians in the district of whom 560 were males and 538 females, 606 residing in the rural areas. Most of them were Methodists.

Jain—They numbered 1,276 in 1971, with 1,232 residing in the urban areas, the males and females being 650 and 626 respectively.

Buddhist—In 1971 the Buddhists numbered 1,103 persons of whom 615 were males. Most of them (660) resided in the rural areas.

Religious Beliefs and Practices

Hinduism—Hinduism (prevalent in the district, as elsewhere) is a collection of diverse beliefs, doctrines and practices ranging from polytheism to absolute monism and the identification of the *atman* (individual soul) with the *Parmatman* (divine essence). It believes in freedom of thought and action as far as its religious beliefs and practices are concerned, a stand that has naturally given rise to many philosophical schools and sects. A special feature of Hindu religious thought is the belief in the doctrine of transmigration of souls and rebirth after death according to one's karma and actions in life. It is pantheistic and includes the worship of many gods and goddesses in their various aspects, the chief being Siva and Vishnu and their consorts (Parvati and Lakshmi), Durga, Narain, Rama, Sita, Hanuman, Krishna and many forms of Devi. Spirits of streams, trees, rivers, rocks and tutelary village and other lesser deities are also worshipped by people in the villages. Hinduism touches the entire gamut of religious experience—from animism to the spiritual realisation of the ultimate reality. Taking a dip in holy rivers daily or on special occasions (such as Kartiki Purnima and Dasahra) and on days which are festivals is also a common religious custom. Worship in temples is not obligatory but some people visit them daily, others doing so only on special occasions. Some people also have a separate place for puja in their houses where idols of the chosen or favourite deities are kept and worshipped and prayers offered daily. Fasts are also observed on various week-days or according to the dates of the lunar calendar and on important festivals like Nav Durga, Ram Navami, Janmāstami, etc. Discourses and recitations (*kathas*) from religious

books (the *Gita*, *Srimad Bhagvata*, etc.) and collective singing of devotional hymns (*kirtans*) are also sometimes arranged privately or publicly. Many people (particularly those who are educationally and socially backward) indulge in superstitious beliefs and the propitiation of ghosts, spirits, etc.

Vidur Kuti on the banks of the Ganga—about 12 km. from Bijnor—has been recognised as a place of religious importance as it contains the shrine of the great saint, Vidur, one of the noblest characters of the *Mahabharata*. This place attracts thousands of visitors throughout the year.

Arya Samaj Sect—The followers of this sect, who are monotheists, repudiate idol worship and the observance of rituals, are numerous in this district. The movement found its way to the district about 1881 and rapidly acquired strength. The founder, Swami Dayanand Sarasvati, did not himself visit Bijnor but several of his prominent followers did and gained the respect of the people. The members of this sect do not worship in temples but offer *sandhya* (prayers) by themselves and some also perform the *hawan*.

People of the Bishnoi sect (here) are followers of Vishnu. They sometimes profess that the derivation of the word Bishnoi comes from the term "bisnau", which means twenty-nine and refers to the articles of faith inculcated by their founder, Jhamaji, for the guidance of his followers, such as living a pure life, not committing adultery, not stealing, not telling lies, avoiding the use of intoxicants, preserving trees, etc.

There are also some followers of the Radhasoami sect in the district which is an offshoot of the bhakti cult of Hinduism but is appreciably different from it. It is open to people of any caste, religion or walk of life. The Satsangis (its followers) believe that the true name of the supreme being is Radhasoami, that the universe has three divisions—the spiritual, the spiritual-material and the material-spiritual and that the four essentials of religion are *sat-guru* (the true guru), *sat-shabd* (the true word), *sat-sang* (the true order or association) and *sat-anurag* (true love).

Islam—The Muslims of the district believe (as Muslims do elsewhere) that there is one God, Allah, and follow the principles laid down by their prophet, Muhammad. Islam enjoins five duties upon its followers—the recitation of the *kalma* (an expression of faith in God and the prophet Muhammad); the offering of *namaz* (prayers—namely Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha) five times a day preferably in a mosque (individually or in congregation); *roza* (fast) during the month of *Ramadan*; hajj to Mecca; and *zakat* (cash or kind given in charity). Their holy book is the *Quran*.

Most of the Muslims of the district offer prayers (*namaz*) regularly, particularly on Friday. On important festivals like Id-ul-Fitr and Id-uz-Zuha, most of them offer the *namaz* collectively in Idgahs

(mosques). The sacrifice of sheep or goats is also common feature on Id-uz-Zuha. There are many mosques in the district, the important ones being at Mandawar, Jogirampuri, Nagina, Bijnor, Najibabad and Dhampur. The Dargah Najaf-e-Hind at Jogirampuri (tahsil Najibabad) is one of the foremost shrines of the Shia Muslims. The Muslims also have faith in and great veneration for *pirs* (saints) and hold *urs* or celebrations in their honour. *Milad* celebrations, to commemorate the birth of the prophet Muhammad, in the month of Rabi I, are also arranged here amidst great rejoicing, when religious discourses highlighting the teachings of Islam are held.

Sikhism—The Sikhs of the district follow Sikhism, a monotheistic religion which disavows idolatory and makes no distinction of caste among its followers. It enjoins on each of its believers the wearing of a *kanghi* (comb), a *kara* (iron bangle), a *kripan* (dagger), *kachha* (short drawers) and prohibits the cutting of *kesh* (hair). The Sikhs here (as elsewhere) attend congregational prayers in *gurdwaras* (literally the guru's doors—places where Sikhs worship). *Granth* is their holy book which consists of words and prayers recited by their preachers and religious teachers (*gurus*) and the Sikhs (of the district) celebrate the birth anniversaries of their gurus when the *Granth* is taken out in procession.

Christianity—Christians believe in on God, His only son, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the resurrection of the dead and everlasting life. The *Bible* is their holy book and congregational religious services are held in churches or chapels, particularly on Sundays and on special festivals such as Christmas and Easter. Among their churches, the church of the Sacred Heart at Tajpur is a grand religious monument and a centre of attraction.

Buddhism—As elsewhere, Buddhists here believe in the eight-fold middle path of righteousness, *satya-vichar*, *satya-bishwas*, *satya-bhasan*, *satya-karma*, *satya-nirvah*, *satya-prityana*, *satya-dhyan* and *satya-bhas* (right views, right aspiration, right speech, right conduct, right living, right effort, right recollection and right rapture). This path leads to the end of sorrow and to the attainment of peace, enlightenment and nirvana.

Jainism—The Jains of the district believe in the Triratna (three gems)—right faith, right knowledge and right conduct—which leads to the path of *moksha* (liberation). According to their belief the universe has 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 in the presence of the images of their *Tirthankaras* or *Jinas*.

Festivals and Fairs

Hindu—All the important Hindu festivals are celebrated by the Hindus of the district. Some of the important ones are mentioned below.

A series of festivals commences with Sheetla Ashtami, which falls on the 8th day of the dark fortnight of Chaitra, the first month of the Hindu calendar, when the goddess Sheetla is worshipped. The ninth day of the bright half of the same month is celebrated as Ram Naumi, the birthday of Rama, when devotees fast till midday, decorate temples of Rama and worship his idols. The *Ramcharitmanasa* is read and devotional music and discourses, etc., are also arranged. Ganga (or Jeeth) Dasahra falls on the 10th day of the latter half of Jyaishta when the Hindus bathe in rivers. Nag Panchami falls on the 5th day of the bright half of Sravana, when the Nagas (serpent gods) are worshipped by offerings of milk, flowers and rice. Raksha Bandhan is celebrated on the 15th of the first half of the same month when sisters tie *rakhis* (threads symbolising protection) round the right wrists of their brothers (who are expected to pledge their protection to them) and Brahmana priests do the same to their patrons. Janamashtami is observed on the 8th day of the dark half of Bhadra to commemorate the birth anniversary of the god Krishna. People fast throughout the day and break their fast at midnight by tasting *prasad*. His temples are decorated and *jhankis* are also arranged depicting various anecdotes of his life. Krishna Lila is performed in almost every town and village of the district to celebrate the festival. The worship of Durga continues for nine days during the bright half of Asvina and the period is known as Nav-Ratri, the 9th day being known as Durga Naumi. The 10th day is Dasahra or Vijaya Dashmi, when the goddess Vijaya is worshipped and the victory of Rama over Ravana is also celebrated by the performance of Ramlila at many places in the towns and villages of the district. The 4th day of the first half of Kartika is called Karwa Chauth, when married women fast for the well-being of their husbands. Diwali or Deepavali falls on the last day of the dark half of Kartika but festivities start two days earlier with Dhanteras when new utensils are purchased as a token of desired prosperity. The next day, Chhoti Diwali (or Narak Chaturdashi) a few *diyas* (small earthen lamps) are lit as a preliminary to the next day's bigger festival when every Hindu house is illuminated and the goddess Lakshmi is worshipped. Govardhan falls on the day after Deepavali and Chitrakupta (or Dawait puja) on the day after Govardhan, both these minor festivals also being celebrated in almost every town and village of the district. Bhaiyya Dwij is celebrated on the third day after Deepavali when women put a mark (*tika*) on the foreheads of their brothers. A big bathing fair is organised on Kartiki Purnamashi, the full moon day of Kartika. On this occasion people take their bath in rivers and big fairs are held at different places in the district. Makar Sankranti, another important bathing festival, falls on the 11th day of the dark half of Magha. Vasanta Panchami, which marks the advent of spring, falls on the 5th day of the latter half of Magha and is devoted to the worship of Sarasvati, the goddess of learning. On this occasion people wear something yellow. Shivratri

is celebrated in honour of Siva's wedding and falls on the 13th day of the dark half of Phalgun when a fast is observed during the day and a vigil is kept at night when the god is worshipped and his temples are specially decorated. A large number of devotees offer water, yellow flowers and *belpatra* (leaves of *Aegle Marmelos*) to icons of Siva. For the Arya Samajists (of the district), Sivaratri is a memorable day because Dayananda, son of a devotee of Siva and the founder of the Arya Samaj sect, obtained enlightenment on this particular night. They celebrate the week preceding this day as *Rishi-bodha-saptah* when discourses by learned scholars are arranged. Sivaratri fairs are also held at different places in the district. Holi, which is the last festival of the Hindus, falls on the full moon day of Phalgun, when bonfires are lit on cross-roads at a fixed time to commemorate the annihilation of ill will, malice and the evil forces of the previous year represented by the demon goddess, Holika. Ears of barley are roasted in these fires as offerings to the gods. An important feature of this festival is the squirting of coloured water and throwing of coloured powder on friends—or any one encountered—in a mood of joy and abandon. People exchange greetings by visiting friends and relations. The rural inhabitants also sing *phaags* (the special seasonal songs of phalgun) accompanied by the *dholak* (a type of drum).

About 30 Hindu religious fairs, big and small, are held annually at different places in the district, most of which are accompanied by local fairs. Mela Kartiki, a bathing fair which is held in village Daranagar (tahsil Bijnor) about 11 km. from the railway station of Bijnor, is the biggest Hindu fair of the district and attracts about one lakh persons. Another bathing fair, Ganga Asnan, is also held on the same occasion in village Nangal of tahsil Najibabad and attracts about 10,000 persons. Another fair, the fair of Chharhi Zahir Diwan, is held in Sravana in village Ganj in tahsil Bijnor, about 11 km. from the railway station of Bijnor. It is dedicated to the saint Zahir Diwan and is attended by about 40,000 persons. Other fairs in honour of this saint are organised at the villages of Inderpur, Raj Roop, Daranagar, Nazabatpura, Jahanabad, Mohammadpur Deomal and Bijnor (all in the Bijnor tahsil) in the month of Sravana. Fairs in memory of Burhey Baba are held at the villages of Haldaur, Sikanderpur, Budh Singhabad Shahazpur, Bijnor city (all in the Bijnor tahsil), Parshottampur, Gajraula, Lalpur Mau, Takaribpur Israj (in the Najibabad tahsil) Garabpur, Haibalpur and Phakhanpur (in the Nagina tahsil) in the month of Bhadra and are known as Doyaj fairs. The Chait-ki-Ashtami fair, occurring in Chaitra, is held in the village of Barampur in the Najibabad tahsil near the railway station of Narain and is attended by about 15,000 persons. The Ramlila fairs on the occasion of Dasahra are held in the villages of Mandapur, Chandpur (in the Bijnor tahsil), Seohara, Sherkot and Tajpur (in the Dhampur tahsil) and each is attended by 2,000 to 10,000 persons. The Janamashtami fairs are held at Dhampur,

Sherkot, Seohara (in the Dhampur tahsil) in the month of Bhadra. The Naumi of Bhadon fair is organised in the village of Phina (in the Dhampur tahsil) and is attended by 10,000 persons. Other small fairs are also held in the district on different occasions. (Vide Statement II at the end of the chapter.)

Islamic—The Muslims celebrate almost all their important festivals but the number is limited. The important ones are mentioned below.

The first ten days of the month of Muharram are devoted to the memory of the martyrdom of Imam Husain (the grandson of Mohammad, the prophet of Islam) and his companions on the battle field of Kerbala and is observed as a period of mourning by the Shias. Ashra, the tenth day, is the most important as it commemorates the anniversary of the day when Imam Husain was killed, *Tazias* are taken out in processions by the Shias of the district for burial at Kerbalas. Chehellum, the 20th day of Safar, falls on the 40th day from Ashra and usually marks the end of the mourning period during which the Muslims wear black clothes and women observe various mourning customs such as breaking their bangles, not wearing jewellery, etc. *Majlises* (gatherings) are also organised when readings of *marsia* are read or chanted and various forms of lamentation such as beating the breast, flagellation etc., are indulged in. Barawafat, falling on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal, celebrates the birthday of the prophet Muhammad, when alms are distributed and discourses on his life and mission are held. Shab-e-barat, falling on the 14th of Shaban, is a festival of rejoicing, marking the birth of 12th Imam and is celebrated by display of fireworks, distribution of sweets and *fatiha* (prayers) for the peace of the souls of those who have departed this life. Ramadan is the month of fasting and on its expiry, when the new moon is sighted, the festival of Id-ul-Fitr is celebrated on the 1st of Shawwal by offering prayers (*namaz*) in the Idgahs and mosques and exchanging gifts and greetings. Id-uz-Zuha, their last festival, is celebrated on the 10th of Zilhij, in memory of the prophet Ibrahim's submission to the will of God, by being willing to offer his son as a sacrifice to God. On this occasion they say their *namaz* in Idgahs and sacrifice goats and sheep to commemorate Ibrahim's sacrifice. A typical feature of these two festivals is the preparation and eating of vermicelli.

Other important fairs held in the district are connected with *urs* celebrations in memory of important *pirs* (Muslim saints) who flourished here at one time or another. Among these the *urs* performed at village Sahaspur (in tahsil Dhampur) is the biggest and is attended by about 15,000 persons. Two *urs* celebrations are held at village Rampuri (in tahsil Najibabad), one from the 19th to the 21st day of Ramadan and the other on the 20th of Shawwal. They are known as Anjman and Mela Dargah and are attended by about 3,000 and 6,000 persons respectively.

The *urs* at village Kalheri (of the Najibabad tahsil) is held on the 20th of Shawwal and is attended by approximately 1,000 persons.

Sikh—The important festivals of the Sikhs are the birthdays of Guru Nanak Deva and Guru Govind Singh, when the Sikhs of the district take out processions, hold congregational prayers in their *gurdwaras* and gather to hear extracts from the holy *Granth*. They also celebrate the festivals of Baisakhi Purnima and Lohari. Local fairs are held near their *gurdwaras* on these occasions.

Christian—The important festivals of Christmas, which falls on December 25 and celebrates the birthday of Jesus Christ, Good Friday which commemorates his crucifixion and Easter Sunday which is in memory of his resurrection, are celebrated by the Christians of the district by attending the special services held in their churches on these occasions.

Jain—The Jains of the district celebrate the birth and nirvana anniversaries of the last *tirthankara* Mahavira, the former on the 13th day of the bright half of Chaitra and latter on the day of Deepavali. The Paryushan or the Dashalakshana Parva (falling during the last ten days of Bhadra) and the three Ashtanhikas (during the last day of Kartika, Phalguna and Asadha) are the periodical holy days when devotees observe fast.

Buddhists—The principal festival of the Buddhists is Buddha Purnima which is celebrated by the Buddhists in the district on the last day of Vaisakha and marks the birthday as well as the nirvana of Buddha.

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and Inheritance

Inheritance of property other than agricultural holdings among the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists, is governed by the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, which confers, equal rights of inheritance on sons and daughters with regard to coparcenary property but also enables such property to be distributed through wills or gifts. Thus often those sons who live with their parents and look after such property, are favoured by their parents to the disadvantage of their sisters who after marriage are looked upon as having become members of other families. Transfer of coparcenary property through gifts is not so common in the district as it involves much financial expenditure (such as court fees) and can lead to legal complications. Devolution of agricultural property follows the provisions of the U. P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950. In respect of other civil property the Muslims are governed by their personal law of succession and inheritance and Christians by the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

The joint family and coparcenary systems are still in existence in the district but they are disintegrating under the impact of new

social and economic forces and the growing individualistic outlook of the younger generation. The pattern of family life in the district is still patriarchal to a large extent and women are generally dependent on their menfolk for maintenance and protection, only a few being economically independent and earning their own living.

Marriage and Morals

The distribution of the population of the district according to marital status (or otherwise) was as follows in 1971 :

Marital status or otherwise	Persons	Males	Females
Unmarried	7,81,301	4,50,631	3,30,670
Married	6,36,302	3,19,869	3,16,433
Widowed	71,297	32,829	38,468
Divorced or separated	580	550	30
Unspecified status	750	415	290
Total	14,90,185	8,04,294	6,85,891

The percentages of unmarried, married and widowed or divorced persons in the district was 52.4 and 42.7 as regards the first two groups and 4.7 and 0.03 per cent for the last two. For males, the corresponding percentages were 56.0 and 39.7 and 4.1 and 0.06 respectively and for females these were 46.0 and 48.1 and 5.6 and 0.04 respectively. The percentages of unmarried males and females in the marriageable age group is small, which indicates that marriage is almost universal in the district. Again, since widowed females numbered 38,468, widow marriage does not appear to be popular. The people are by and large monogamous.

Among the Hindus of the district (as elsewhere in the Country) marriage is a sacrament, governed by the *Dharma Shastras* and to some extent by custom and tradition which are now changing with the times. Some variations in performance of marriage rites may occur from caste to caste or even from family to family within a caste but ceremonies like *bhanwar* or *saptapadi* (literally seven steps) and *kanyadan* (giving away of the bride) are essential and customary in every marriage. Intercaste marriages are not so common but inter-subcaste marriages are becoming popular. After the enforcement of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, certain old restrictions like the prohibition of marriage between persons of the same *gotra* have been abolished. This Act makes polygamy illegal and invalidates marriages between *sapindas* (agnates within seven generations on the paternal side and within five generations on the maternal side) and also fixes the minimum marital age at 18 years for the man and 15 years for the girl. If the girl is below 18 years of age, the guardian's consent is essential. Nowadays, adult marriages are sometimes contracted as the welfare of the family is gradually becoming a serious consideration in marital life. When the girl's parents have found a suitable match

for her, various ceremonies like *sagai* (engagement) are performed at the bride's place and *tika* (hetrothal) at the bridegroom's when presents and cash are sent to him by the bride's party. The date and time of marriage, as fixed by the priest, is communicated to the bridegroom's side. On the appointed day the *barat* (marriage party) comes to the bride's house where the ceremony of *dwarpuja* (puja at the door-step where the bridegroom is received) takes place. The main rites that constitute the marriage ceremony are *kanyadan* (giving away of the bride), *ganthbandhan* (tying of the nuptial knot) and *bhanwar* or *saptapadi* (seven steps taken round the sacred fire) which are essential for the solemnisation of every marriage. The marriage feast follows. The next day there is the *vida* or leave-taking ceremony when the bride and bridegroom and the *barat* go away to the bridegroom's house. Marriage among the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes is also considered to be a sacred rite but it is performed more simply. A declaration before the caste panchayat by the bride that she accepts the bridegroom or the reciting of *katha* or the knotting together of one end of the bride's garment with that of the bridegroom's or the putting of vermilion powder in the parting of the hair of the former by the latter are considered enough to complete the alliance. Among Hindus divorce or separation, though permitted by law, is socially taboo. The birth of a son is also considered to be a necessity in order to propitiate the ancestors and to continue the line.

Marriage among Muslims is a civil contract and a Muslim of sound mind who has attained puberty may enter into such a contract but a marriage of such a Muslim is void if it is brought about without the contracting parties' consent. Islam permits polygamy to the extent of four wives at the same time but a Muslim who is a government employee can not have more than one living wife. An important feature at the time of marriage is the settlement of *mehr* (dower) which the bridegroom contracts to pay the bride. There has to be a proposal by or on behalf of one of the parties and an acceptance by or on behalf of the other in the presence and hearing of two men witnesses or a man and two women witnesses who must be sane and adult Muslim (but Shia law dispenses with this). The proposal and acceptance must be expressed at the same meeting. The *paigham* or *mangni* (asking for the hand of the bride) is the first ceremony that takes place and in the district as in other parts of the State, certain other ceremonies such as *manjha*, *sachak* and *mehndi* are also performed. On the fixed date, the bridegroom, with his *barat*, goes to the bride's residence, where her *vakil* (usually an elderly relative) obtains the consent of the contracting parties in the hearing of the witnesses in whose presence the *qazi* performs the *nikah* or *aqad* (marriage) ceremony. The marriage feast follows. After the formal leave-taking (*rukhsati*), the bride accompanies the bridegroom to his house. In the district (as elsewhere) the *nikah* at a Shia marriage is performed

not by the *qazi* but by two *maulvis* (or *mujtahids*), one from each side. The guardian of a minor can also enter into a marriage contract on behalf of his or her ward.

Among Christians, marriages are governed by the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, as amended by the Act of 1952. The marriage customs of the adherents of different denominations in the district usually follow the same general pattern as elsewhere. The marriage may be contracted by the parties concerned or arranged by their relatives. The period of engagement which precedes the marriage, may be long or short. The banns are published three times (one every week) by the priest of the church where the marriage is to be solemnised, to give an opportunity for raising objections, if any. On an agreed date, the marriage is performed in the church by the priest. The essential requisites of the ceremony are the giving away of the bride by the father or other relative or friend, the taking of the marriage vows by the bride and the bridegroom, placing a ring by the bridegroom on the third finger of the bride's left hand (sometimes the two exchange rings), the pronouncement of the couple as husband and wife by the priest and the signing of the marriage register by the couple and their witnesses. Wedding festivities then usually follow at the bride's home.

The important feature of a Sikh marriage is the recitation of suitable extracts from the *Granth*, the couple going round the holy book several times. The marriage party goes in a *barat* to the bride's residence. After offerings are made at the *gurdwara*, the marriage feast takes place, usually at the bride's place.

In a Jain marriage sacred hymns from the Jain scriptures are chanted and *puja* (in the presence of the images of their *tirthankars*) as performed.

Dowry—To remove this evil from society, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, has been enacted which prohibits the giving and taking of dowry. But the system still persists in the district as elsewhere. The dowry (which is a burden on the bride's parents) is generally settled before the marriage and is given in cash as well as in kind. The government is taking strict steps and framing new provisions to root out this age old social evil.

Civil marriage—The Special Marriage Act, 1954, provides for the performance and registration of marriages of parties belonging to any religion by a marriage officer appointed by government for the purpose. Such marriages are simple affairs, the parties having to appear before the marriage officer who registers the marriage. The consent of both parties (who should have attained their majority) is essential. The number of civil marriages performed by the marriage officer in the district in 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974 were 7, 3, 3 and 5 respectively.

Widow marriage—Despite the enabling provisions of the Hindu Widow Marriage Act, 1956, marriage of Hindu widows (particularly

among the so-called high castes) has not become popular but members of the Jat, Gujar and Scheduled Castes follow their old custom of allowing the widow to marry a brother (generally the younger) of the deceased husband. Among Muslims and Christians such marriages are permitted and contracted.

Divorce—The dissolution of marriage either by law or by custom was not permissible among the Hindus but among the Scheduled Castes and some of the Other Backward Classes, it was allowed with the sanction of the caste panchayat. But after the enactment of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the facility of divorce and dissolution of marriages has become available in special circumstances to all sections of Hindu society. The personal law of the Muslims (of the district as in the rest of the Country) allows husbands to divorce their wives on making payment of the dower but the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, also empowers the wife to seek a divorce from her husband. Divorce among Christians is governed by the Indian Divorce Act, 1869.

The tendency of seeking divorce in the district is not extensive and the people generally remain with their married partners for life. During the five years from 1969 to 1973, the number of persons applying to the court for a divorce was 99, which was granted in 23 cases.

Prostitution and Traffic in Women—No organised prostitution centres or brothels exist in the district, which is perhaps the result of the enforcement of the suppression of Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956. Formerly there were many prostitutes and dancing girls plying their trade in Bijnor and other towns of the district but their exact number is not known.

Gambling—The Public Gambling Act, 1867, as amended from time to time, declared gambling in public an offence punishable under the law. The evil does not seem to have assumed a serious form here. The people of the district indulge in gambling during the Deepavali festival usually by playing cards. The figures of prosecution and conviction made under the Act are given below :

Year	Prosecution	Conviction
1970	36	23
1971	50	30
1972	60	35
1973	58	27
1974	90	22

Home Life

In 1971 the district contained 321 houseless persons, of whom 156 were males and 165 females and of the total 293 were residing in the rural and 28 in the urban areas. The tahsilwise break up of such population was 50 in the Najibabad, 8 in the Bijnor, 28 in the Nagina and 235 in the Dhampur tahsils. The institutional population then numbered 2,592 persons (1,943 males and 649 females), of whom 1,381 were residing in rural and 1,211 in urban areas. There tahsilwise distribution was 87 in the Najibabad, 916 in the Bijnor, 203 in the Nagina and 1,386 in the Dhampur tahsils. There were 3,93,230 houses in the district accounted for by the census authorities of which 3,32,560 were in the rural and 60,670 in the urban areas.

The district contained 2,63,470 households (a household denoting a group of persons ordinarily living together and having a common kitchen) of which 2,17,700 were in the rural and 45,770 in the urban areas. The average size of a household in the district was about 5.65, in the rural areas it was 5.60 and in the urban 5.88 persons. Households occupying one-room tenements predominated and accounted for 51.2 per cent and for 28.3 in two-room, 11.3 in three-room, 4.9 in four-room and 4.2 in five-room tenements. The average density of persons per room in the district was 3.01, being 2.95 persons in the rural and 3.28 in the urban areas. The majority of persons in households—94.8 per cent—resided in their own houses and only 5.2 per cent lived in rented houses. In the rural areas 97.2 per cent were residing in their own houses and 2.8 per cent in rented ones, whereas in the urban areas 83.4 per cent lived in their own houses and 16.6 per cent in rented ones. This district is the second in the State where such a high percentage of urban householders was found to be living in their own houses. The following statement gives the number and classification of households according to their size and tenure status :

Tenure Status	No. of census households	No. of persons occupying households						
		One person	Two persons	Three persons	Four persons	Five persons	Six persons	Unspecified
District								
Owned	2,49,760	11,195	19,785	25,945	33,645	38,980	1,20,185	25
Rented	13,710	2,100	1,170	1,720	1,935	1,910	4,315	20
Total	2,63,470	13,295	21,495	27,665	35,580	40,890	1,24,500	45
Rural								
Owned	2,11,570	9,445	17,225	22,540	28,560	33,775	99,615	10
Rented	6,130	1,175	920	810	860	735	1,630	—
Total	2,17,700	10,620	18,145	23,350	29,820	34,510	1,01,245	10
Urban								
Owned	38,190	1,750	2,560	3,405	4,685	5,205	20,570	15
Rented	7,580	925	790	910	1,075	1,175	2,685	20
Total	45,770	2,675	3,350	4,315	5,760	6,380	23,255	35

The number of household having six or more persons predominated in the district, the number of households with a single member being the smallest, which implies that the joint family system still obtains to a large extent in the district.

House in Towns—The houses in towns have not been built according to any set architectural style. The dwellings are generally pukka (made of bricks), usually having more than one storey. The urban areas also have a few *kuchcha* houses (made of mud and unbaked bricks) which are occupied by poor people. There is not much that is architecturally ornamental except for some *jali* work in their external portions. Big houses, generally occupied by rich persons, have a drawing room, dining room, bed rooms, store rooms, kitchen and bathroom, etc., but most of the urban population lives in one-or two-room tenements. The open courtyard in the middle of the house is known as the *angan*. There is a lavatory in every house but a separate urinal is not found in a majority of the houses. Public latrines have also been constructed for those whose houses do not have latrines. Houses are on the whole badly ventilated and the drainage leaves much to be desired.

Houses in Villages—In rural areas the dwellings are generally *kuchcha*, single-storeyed, built of mud or unbaked bricks and have roofs of wooden beams covered with planks, thatching grass or tiles. Pukka houses have also been built in rural areas and this vogue is increasing. In *khadir* areas, where floods are common, the walls of houses are generally made of thatching grass and mud and are more like huts. In the villages, houses generally contain spacious *ghears* and big *angans* but separate kitchens and gardens are rare. Latrines are not to be found in the houses and the out-of-doors and fields are used instead. Nevertheless better ventilation and drainage, improved cattle sheds, etc., are now to be found in many villages, where people have begun to take an interest in the community development schemes.

Furniture and Decoration—The social standing the economic status of persons determine the quality and quantity of furniture, etc., used by them. However, a cot to sleep on is a necessary item for every one and is to be found in every home, irrespective of income. For sitting, *takhs* (wooden divans) and *murhas* (chairs of reeds) are commonly used in the rural areas. In more urbanised families, particularly those residing in the towns, chairs and sofa sets are generally come across. People who eat in the kitchen use either an *asani* or a *patli* to sit on and place the vessels in which they eat on the floor but those who eat in some other room sit on a cot or a *takht* which is also used as a table. With the rapid pace of urbanisation, dining tables and chairs are coming into use. On occasions like Deepavali, Dasahra, Id and Christmas, houses are cleaned and decorated, the standard of decoration depending on the taste and purse of the householder. Those who can not afford very much hang illustrated calendars and other pictures on the walls, etc.

Dress—The influence of clothes worn by people in the urban areas has brought about some changes in the sartorial habits of the rural areas of the district. Traditional garments and styles are yielding place to modern and standardised dress—some times made of synthetic fabrics. But men of the older generation still wear the dhoti and *kurta* or the pyjama and *kameez* (long shirt). Young men generally wear a coat or bush shirt or shirt and trousers. Formal dress for men comprises a *sherwani* (long knee-length coat with a buttoned up closed collar or buttoned up jacket and a pyjama or trousers. Women, usually in the towns, wear a sari and blouse or *choli* (short blouse) or *salwar* (full trousers taken in at the ankles) and *kameez* (knee-length shirt) and a long scarf for the head and shoulders (the *salwar* and *kameez* being at one time the particular dress of punjabi women). The women in the villages often wear the *lehnga* (very full long skirt) with an *orhni* (long scarf for the head) but the sari is also worn by them now. Though the turban (*pugree* or *safa*) is used sometimes, men prefer to go bare-headed or to wear the Gandhi cap. Shoes form an assential item of dress and very few people are now seen going barefooted.

Jewellery—In this district (as elsewhere) men generally wear a gold or silver ring and sometimes a thin chain round the neck. The men among the Jats and Gujars wear small ear-rings (*murkhis*). Women wear various types of jewellery such as bangles of gold and coloured glass, rings, necklaces, nose rings or nose studs, ear-rings, *payal* (ankle-rings), *bichchua* (toe-rings, worn by married women only) etc. The poor people usually go in for silver and the rich for gold ornaments studded with precious or semi-precious stones. The vogue for heavy jewellery is on the decline partly due to the high price of gold and silver and partly because of the changing taste in jewellery.

Food—Wheat and maize comprise the staple food of the people in the district. Chapatis of wheat or corn flour are generally eaten with *dal* (pulse), the best liked being *uril* (*Phascolies mungo*) which is sometimes mixed with a little gram. Other pulses consumed are *moong* (*Phas colur-vadiatus*) *chana* (*Cicer arietinum*), *arhar* (*Cajanus cajan*) and *masur* (*Leno culinare*). Generally two meals are taken in a day, the morning one often being of milk or whey and a chapati or two. Gur and Khand-sari (raw sugar) are the chief sweetening agents. Among edible fats ghee, vegetable oils and mustard oil are commonly used. Many people drink tea but the habit is not common. The consumption of fresh vegetables and fruits is increasing. A highly spiced diet is not preferred.

Communal Life

Amusements and Recreations—Among the rural folk, talking, telling of stories and collective singing of folk-songs, etc., are common. Performances given by *natak mandalts* (play-acting groups), *bhajan mandalts* (groups singing religious songs) rendering of the *Ramayana* and

Bhagvata, performances by *kathavachaks*, exhibitions and cultural programmes organised by various development departments are some of the means of entertainment enjoyed by the people. People still take an interest in dances by monkies which are taken round by their owners, bear dances and *kathpulli* (marionete) shows but these folk entertainments are gradually disappearing from the district. People play cards and chess but listening in to the radio has become a common passtime among rural and urban people. In 1974, the district had 12 cinema houses, with a total seating capacity of 6,771 persons. The cinema is a popular means of entertainment with people in the towns. Another source of cheap recreation is the broadcasting sets to which people listening in villages and cities. In 1974, there were 16,018 radio or transistor sets in the district. There are several recreational clubs in the district.

The indigenous sources of entertainment of the district, which are still in existence, are the Ramlila celebrations, fairs, *nautanki* (open-air folk theatre), group renderings of songs and dances, singing of devotional songs (*kirtan*), *kawwali* programmes, circus shows, etc. Common among the indigenous type of games and sports are *kabaddi*, kite flying, *Gulli danda*, card games and wrestling. Modern games that are generally played in schools, colleges and some clubs are hockey, cricket, basket-ball, foot-ball, volley-ball, bad-minton, table tennis and tennis. Annual sports and games meets are also organised in schools and colleges and for the district as a whole. Hockey and foot-ball tournaments are also organised annually on an all-India level in Bijnor. An agricultural and industrial exhibition is also organised annually in Bijnor city. Another exhibition has been organised annually at Chandpur for the last few years.

Impact Of Zamindari Abolition on Social Life

Prior to the enforcement of the U. P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, the land in the district was predominantly occupied by the zamindars, whose wealth and traditional status influenced the social and economic conditions of the rural inhabitants of the district. The rural community was composed mainly of two categories of people, the zamindars and the farmers and the whole fabric of social life was centered round the zamindars. Factional feuds and rivalries also abounded particularly connected with the land. Absentee landlordism was the order of the day. The big landlords maintained city residences in addition to their rural holdings and their affairs were generally managed by *karindas* (agents) whose treatment of the tillers of the soil was often cruel. The big zamindars set the pace in social life and spent lavishly on entertainments, social and religious functions and their personal whims and pleasures. With the abolition of zamindari after Independence and the consequent emergence of new economic and political forces in the rural areas, the era of the landed aristocrats came to an end. Those entirely dependant on their rent-rolls were hard hit but many of them doing their own farming as *bhumidhars* or *sirdars*. Other went into politics

or into business on fresh avenues for earning their livelihood. Those cultivators who became *bhumidhars* or *sirdars* became masters of their own land, the land revenue now being paid direct to the government instead of through an intermediary (the zamindar) which has imbued the farmers with a sense of self-respect and dignity. Under the old, semi-feudal system the zamindar often acted as the guardian of the village community and many big landlords were active patrons of men of letters, poets, musicians, artists, jewellers, gunsmiths, craftsmen and those manufacturing articles of luxury and participated in local cultural and religious activities and helped the poor in times of natural or other calamities, marriages and other functions. Those traders who dealt in articles of luxury in demand by the zamindars also had to find new avenues of employment.

The void created by the disappearance of the zamindari system in the rural areas, has been filled by a new village hierarchy which has come into being in the wake of the establishment of *gaon* panchayats and *kshettra samitis* elective bodies in which party politics often finds a not very desirable manifestation. These newly-created institutions have hardly fulfilled the aspirations and expectations of their framers and the right type of civic and patriotic sense and political consciousness has yet to be developed by them before the people can be benefitted.

New Trends

The winds of change are blowing all a round under the impact of the Five-year Plans. The pattern in dress, ornaments, social customs, food, the mode of living, religious beliefs and practices and other habits of the people have undergone noticeable transformation. The impact of the cinema is far-reaching but not always healthy. With the diversification of occupations and spread of education, social barriers are gradually breaking down and the rigidity and rigours of the caste system have disappeared to a large extent. As a result, cases of inter-caste and inter-provincial marriages have increased and the entire society has become sociable except in a few cases where untouchability persists, particularly in the rural areas, where the social legislation for abolition of untouchability has not made any serious impact. The extension of general and technical education has opened up new vistas of employment on account of the schemes of the Five-year Plans. Women have shed their shyness and have begun to take their place along with men in the society. By and large the people have become politically conscious and take interest in the elections whether of panchayats, State legislature or Parliament. With the increase in agricultural production and prices, the purchasing power of agriculturists has increased with the result that they spend lavishly on their religious and social customs. With the introduction of the Panchayati Raj the farmers have acquired political power through the right of franchise both at the State and the district levels.

STATEMENT I
Area and Population

District and Tahsil	Area in sq. km.		Population					Reference Page No. 61
	1961	1971	1961		1971			
			Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	
District total	4,936.1	4,852.0	11,90,987	6,34,468	5,56,519	14,90,185	8,04,294	6,85,891
Rural	4,901.8	4,786.9	9,95,079	5,31,141	4,63,938	12,20,483	6,50,930	5,59,553
Urban	34.3	65.1	1,95,908	1,03,327	92,581	2,69,702	1,43,364	1,26,338
Bijnor total	1,285.4	1,306.7	3,25,979	1,74,760	1,51,219	4,00,030	2,17,906	1,82,124
Rural	1,279.7	1,300.1	2,62,136	1,41,120	1,21,016	3,18,913	1,74,738	1,44,175
Urban	5.7	6.6	63,843	33,640	30,203	81,117	43,168	37,949
Dhampur total	1,195.3	1,186.0	4,03,849	2,14,223	1,89,626	5,03,992	2,71,195	2,32,797
Rural	1,183.9	1,144.7	3,05,009	1,63,514	1,41,495	4,30,971	2,32,422	1,98,549
Urban	11.4	41.3	38,840	20,709	18,131	73,021	38,773	34,248
Nagina total	1,243.0	1,271.7	2,17,498	1,16,454	1,01,494	2,90,373	1,56,310	1,34,063
Rural	1,234.6	1,263.3	1,80,160	96,363	83,797	2,42,542	1,30,784	1,11,758
Urban	8.4	8.4	37,338	20,091	17,697	47,831	25,526	22,305
Najibabad total	1,212.4	1,234.7	2,43,211	1,29,031	1,14,180	2,95,790	1,58,883	1,36,907
Rural	1,203.6	1,225.9	1,87,774	1,00,144	87,630	2,28,037	1,22,986	1,05,071
Urban	8.8	8.8	55,437	28,887	26,550	67,753	35,897	31,836

1. There has been no jurisdictional change in the district during the decade. The difference in area figures is due to revised calculation of area done by the Board of Revenue
2. According to Central Statistical Organisation the area of the district in 1971 was also 4852 sq. km.

STATEMENT—II

Fairs

Reference Page No. 697

Village/town	Name	Date	Approximate attendance
1	2	3	4
NAJIBABAD TAHSIL			
Musseypur	Devi-ka-Mela	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 8	2,000
Barampur	Chait-ki-Ashtmi	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 8	15,000
Parshottampur	Burhe Baba	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	5,000
Gajraula	Doyaj-ka-Mela	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	2,000
Lalpur Mau	Doyaj-ka-Mela	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	1,000
Takaribpur Israj	Doyaj-ka-Mela	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	1,500
Budgara	Naumi-ka-Mela	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 9	1,000
Sarkara Kheri	Naumi-ka-Mela	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 8	1,000
Ghazipur	Naumi-ka-Mela	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 9	1,000
Nangal	Ganga Asnan	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	10,000
Sahanpur	Shivratri	Phalgun, 14	2,000
Rampuri	Anjman	Ramzan, 19-21	3,000
Kalheri	Urs	Shawwal, 20	1,000
Rampuri	Mela Dargah	Shawwal, 20	6,000
BIJNOR TAHSIL			
Chandpur M.B.	Chhaiti Athey-ka-Mela	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 8	4,000
Ladupura	Chhaiti Athey	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 8	1,000
Raft-ul-nagar urf Raoli	Mela Ganga Dasahra	Jyeshtha, <i>sukla</i> 10	2,000
Sikandarapur	Devi-ka-Jat	Every Monday in Asadha	2,000
Daranagar	Chharhi Zahar Diwan	Sravana, <i>sukla</i> 9	15,000
Nazabatpura	Chharhi Zahar Diwan	Sravana, <i>sukla</i> 9	15,000
Jahanabad	Zahar Diwan	Sravana, <i>sukla</i> 9	5,000
Mohammadpur Deomal	Zahar Diwan	Sravana, <i>sukla</i> 9	1,000
Ganj	Chharhi Zahar Diwan	Sravana, <i>sukla</i> 9	40,000
Bijnor M.B.	Burhe Bawa-ki-Doyaj	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	1,500
Haldau	Budari Doyaj	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 3	12,000

Continued

1	2	3	4
Sikanderpur	Bhadon Doyaj	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	5,000
Budh Singhabad	Bhadon Doyaj	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	5,000
Shabazpur	Burhe-Baba-ki-Doyaj	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	4,000
Mandawar T.A.	Ram Lila	Asvina, <i>sukla</i> 10	2,000
Chandpur	Ram Lila	Asvina, <i>sukla</i> 10	2,000
Raft-ul-nagar urf Raoli	Kartiki Ganga Mela	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	5,000
Mandnor	Kartiki Ganga Mela	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	2,000
Daranagar	Mela Kartiki	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,00,000
NAGINA TAHSIL			
Haji Mohammadpur	Devta-ka-Mela	Every Sunday of Asadha	1,200
Darabpur	Doyaj-ka-Mela	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	1,000
Haibatpur	Doyaj-ka-Mela	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	1,000
Phakhanpur	Doyaj-ka-Mela	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	1,000
Raipur Sadat	Naumi	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	1,000
Harganpur	Naumi	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 2	1,000
DHAMPUR TAHSIL			
Allahpur	Ram Naumi	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 8-9	4,000
Dhampur M.B.	Sateyn	Jyeshtha, <i>sukla</i> 7	2,000
Sherkot	Chharhi Zahar Diwan	Bhadra, <i>krishna</i> 9	2,000
Phina	Naumi of Bhadon	Bhadra, <i>krishna</i> 9-13	10,000
Dhampur M.B.	Janam Ashtmi	Bhadra, <i>krishna</i> 9	3,000
Sherkot	Janam Ashtmi	Bhadra, <i>krishna</i> 9	2,000
Seohara	Janam Ashtmi	Bhadra, <i>krishna</i> 9	5,000
Seohara	Ram Lila	Asvina 10	10,000
Sherkot	Ram Lila	Asvina 10	8,000
Tajpur	Ram Lila	Asvina 13	6,000
Sahaspur	Urs	—	15,000

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

LAND UTILISATION AND RECLAMATION

The following statement gives a picture of land utilisation in the district in 1961-62 and 1970-71 (the area being given in hectares).

Year	Land not available for cultivation	Culturable land	Fallow land	Net cultivated land	Percentage of net cultivated area vide total area of district
1961-62	52,800	94,520	32,440	3,12,440	63.8
1970-71	59,819	79,989	22,768	3,24,732	66.6

Precarious Tracts

On the whole the natural lines of drainage serve the purpose (of drainage) adequately and the rapid slope the country from north to south effectively prevents any serious default in the natural flow of water. But there are a few areas where drainage is impeded. A series of small swamps and marshes is to be found where the Ganga, Kloh and Ranganga have abandoned their old channels. The swamps of the Ganga *khadir* also owe their origin to the same cause. In the lowlying valleys of the Kloh and the Ranganga, the land is subject to fluvial action. The *khadars* of these two rivers closely resemble one another but the lower *khadir* of the Ranganga is far more liable to change than that of the Kloh and though the deposit of the former river is more fertile, the deterioration liable to result from heavy floods is greater.

In the low central uplands there is some danger of flooding along the Ban and its numerous channels in years of heavy rainfall, owing to the silting up of the beds and, in some cases, to the temporary irrigation dams built by the cultivators.

Soil Conservation

As the district lies close to the Himalayan ranges, there is a network of rivers and rivulets spread all over the district. The topography is very undulating and sloping, on account of which the water holding and absorption capacity is reduced to a large extent. The velocity of the flow of water being excessive on sloping ground, there is large-scale erosion of fertile and productive surface soils. Land worst affected by soil erosion is estimated to measure about 60,000 hectares in the district, an area which does not cover all the waste lands in the district.

It includes only that land which is either under actual cultivation is considered fit for cultivation. In 1968-69, steps were taken to adopt a soil conservation scheme in the district with the establishment of a unit at Bijnor. Initially work was taken up in the Bijnor and Najibabad tahsils. Later the entire district was brought under the scheme through the aid of five units located at Bijnor, Dhampur, Nagina, Noorpur and Najibabad. The programme aims at exploiting the soil and the water resources by intelligent uses through measures like levelling, bunding, canalising, check-damming, gully plugging, summer ploughing, contour sowing, strip-and-cover-cropping and other scientific agronomical practices. The following statement gives the area of land covered under various soil conservation works from 1968-69 to 1973-74 :

Year	Area covered in hectares
1968-69	411
1969-70	3,395
1970-71	3,250
1971-72	3,075
1972-73	3,426
1973-74	1,366

Since 1951-52 the government has taken up an ambitious plan of land reclamation and colonisation named after the headquarters town of Afzalgarh in the north-east submontane *tarai* tract near the border of the district with G. A. W. L. The total area of land falling under the scheme was estimated at nearly 24, 532 acres (9,928 hectares). Of this 4,458 acres (1,804 hectares) have been allotted to the cultivators of this area and 3,438 (1,392 hectares) ear-marked for the construction of roads, buildings, schools, etc. The government has decided to distribute the remaining 16,636 acres (6,733 hectares) to the ex-soldiers of the Indian defence services. The total extent of land given to the soldiers till 1974 measured 10,286 acres (4,163 hectares).

The cultivators in the scheme area have been provided with financial assistance by the government to use improved implements and methods of farming and the result is that this area has developed very fast agriculturally.

IRRIGATION

Canals constitute the major source of irrigation in the district but there are still vast stretches of land which have not been reached by them and have to depend on rainfall, wells and rivers. In the submontane belt (the Siwalik region) in the extreme north of the district, owing to the immense depth of the water level, the construction of wells is practically impossible. Nor does the rapidity of the slope of the country afford an opportunity for the collection of surface drainage in pools and depressions. This area has consequently to depend wholly on the rainfall which in normal years is more than sufficient but a failure of rains means heavy loss of crops.

BIJNOR DISTRICT

Irrigation is seldom required in the lowlands washed by rivers where the water table is high and the soil capable of retaining sufficient moisture.

The statement below gives the figures pertaining to the area (in hectares) in the district irrigated by various sources, the net irrigated area and the gross irrigated area and its percentage in relation to the gross cropped area in 1951, 1961 and 1971 :

Year	Area irrigated by wells (including tube-wells)	Area irrigated by canals	Area irrigated by other sources	Net irrigated area	Gross irrigated area	Per cent of gross cropped area
1951	27,627	10,861	2,942	41,430	42,845	12.84
1961	27,025	9,340	708	37,073	40,408	10.78
1971	1,10,510	9,725	3,794	1,24,029	1,40,138	33.50

Wells—Wells and tube-wells constitute an important source of irrigation. There were very few masonry (pucka) wells in the past but their number has increased in recent years. They can be dug in all parts of the district except where (as in the high western plateau) the subsoil is so sandy that the sides can not be prevented from collapsing before water is reached. They are not common in *sacai* soils, especially in the neighbourhood of villages. Kutchha wells are usually lined with coils of twigs and grass ropes which protect the sides from external pressure to some extent and also from the swing of the bucket, a practice which enables them to last more than a single season. The longevity of the well depends on the nature of the subsoil. If it is sunk through strong and consistent stratum, it lasts for years and is worked by means of a large leathern bucket (known as *charasa*) usually drawn by bullocks. This tenacious clay stratum is called *bam* and corresponds to the *moti dharti* of the adjacent district of Budann. But the distribution of such subsoil is very uneven in the district, abounding generally only in the south-west. In the Chandpur and Burhpur parganas there are wells which, being protected by a thatched covering during the rain, have been in constant use for twenty to twenty-five years or even longer. The more common variety is a more shallow affair, dug at the beginning of the cold season and caving in during the rains, the water being extracted by means of a *dheklā* or wooden lever to one end of which an earthen pot is fastened by a rope.

The following data indicates the number of pucka and kutchha wells used for irrigation in the district :

Year	Number of Wells	
	Pucka	Kutchha
1951-52	758	5,200
1961-62	1,078	1,977
1972-73	6,873	547

CH. IV—AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

In the post-Independence period the government initiated programmes for the construction of State tube-wells and also provided liberal financial assistance to the cultivators of the district to set up their own irrigation works like deep-lored masonry wells fitted either with *rahals* (Persian wheels) or power-operated pumping sets.

Tube-well construction has been undertaken in the district since the fifties of the present century. The total number of State tube-wells in the district in 1975 was 509 and they provided irrigation to 24,331 hectares.

Financial assistance for small private irrigation works has been provided by the government since 1951 resulting in a rapid expansion of this programme, the progress under which till 1973 is indicated below :

Works completed	1951-52	1956-61	1961-62	1966-70	1971-73
Masonry wells	474	994	4,235	5,754	1,087
Installation of <i>rahals</i> (Persian wheels)	319	1,609	2,732	3,822	898
Installation of pumping sets	21	40	178	6,863	2,434
Construction of private tube-wells	276	483	733	8,107	4,175
Irrigated area by minor irrigation works (in hectares)	3,537	56,341	63,929	—	84,117

Canals—The canals in the district belong to two systems, the Nagina canal and the Nihtaur canal.

The proposal for the construction of the Nagina canal was first mooted in 1824. It was adopted in 1838 and construction work was completed in 1840 at a total cost of Rs 57,843. As originally constructed the Nagina canal emerged on the Kloh river near Kammaruddin-nagar, an earthen dam some 183 km. long being thrown across the river. The water passed through a supply channel about 4.5 km. long into the Pilkhala river and then down that stream to the canal head at Jogipura, 3 km. distant from the junction. A change in the course of the Kloh necessitated the building of a new dam which was located about 1.5 km. higher up at Jahanabad, the water thus being brought into the Sukharao over which a second embankment was thrown in order to force it into the new supply channel leading to the Pilkhala. The regulator at Jogipura, as originally constructed, had a head on the west side for the Ranikota branch, a minor channel some 4.5 km. long that irrigates a small tract of country to the south-west, and another head on the east for the main canal, sluices being provided in the centre to pass the surplus water down the Pilkhala into the Gangan. For the first 3 km. the main channel passes through high ground and thus little irrigation is effected but further below the channel surface is slightly above the level of the country, so that the fields can be watered

by flushing. At first the canal was slightly more than 14 km. long and tailed into the Karula close to the town of Nagina; an earthen dam placed across the stream about 1.5 km. below the town supplied water to two small branches on the right and left banks, each about 4.5 km. long and known as the Kiratpur and Puraini branches. Between 1882 and 1884 the canal was partially remodelled at a cost of Rs 11,480. A more complete scheme of reconstruction was undertaken between 1892 and 1894 at an outlay of Rs 37,197, the Kiratpur branch was made to command a much larger area and at the same time extended for a considerable distance to the south along the watershed of the Gangan and Karula, eventually tailing into the Gangan canal near Nihtaur; and the Puraini branch was carried past the town of Nagina and continued along the doab of the Karula and Paodloi as far as Fekhanpur, with a total length of 15 km. In 1895 the Kota channel was added to the Puraini branch at a cost of Rs 2,369, in order to reach the country to the south-east of Nagina and in 1897 an escape was made from the same branch leading into the Paodloi. In 1901 the Nainpura channel (nearly 3 km. long) was constructed taking off from the right bank of the Kiratpur branch. In 1909 the Mughalwala channel (nearly 3 km. long) was taken off from the Kiratpur branch on the right bank.

The supply channel leading to the Pikhala was remodelled in 1911 at a cost of Rs 20,527. The canal obtains its supply from the Sukhao and Khoh rivers, the headworks in the former being raised to give better control. The work on the Khoh were modernised in 1913 at a cost of Rs 17,000. In 1921 new permanent headworks were completed replacing the former system of temporary bunds making it possible to control the river in all the seasons of the year. These new constructions cost Rs 2,23,287 and consisted of an open weir 191 m. long with three six metres span sluices on its right flank and a regulator at the head of the supply channel. The weir over the Khoh was out-flanked by the heavy floods of 1924 and as a result a new flank was constructed together with a 61 m. long bund to protect the weir.

The work on the Nihtaur canal was taken up in 1850 and completed in 1863, involving a total cost of Rs 12,123. The Nihtaur canal begins close to the town of that name near the village of Rasulpur Sheikh. It was originally known as the lower Gangan canal to distinguish it from the upper Gangan, a small supplementary channel dug about 1840 from the source of the river with the object of replenishing the supply for the Nagina canal but the undertaking did not prove to be of any value. For the Nihtaur canal, the waters of the river Gangan are held up at Rasulpur Sheikh by a masonry regular. At first the canal passes for some distance through a deep cutting. Originally the canal was only 12 km. long and ended near Alinagar but in 1882, the channel was extended as far as Morna. It was remodelled in 1896 at an estimated cost of Rs 81,994. In its initial course for some distance, the canal is now carried along the watershed of the Gangan and runs for a total length of 22 km. as far as Tajpur. The old Umri distributary channel was also reconstructed and its length was also increased. Two new channels, the Bhatiana and Sarakthal, were excavated on the left bank of the canal. In 1901 Tajpur minor was constructed and ran from Morna to Tajpur. The total length of the Nagina and Nihtaur canals and their distributary branches in the district is 329 km.

Ramganga River Project

The project for a high dam on the Ramganga near Kalagarh was conceived as early as 1855 but the survey was taken up after 1947 and the project report was ready in 1961, construction work being initiated in 1962. The river was run through the diversion tunnels in 1968 when the construction of the main dam and power-house was taken up.

The project envisages the construction of a 126 metre high and 726 metre long earth and rockfill dam across the river. A chute spillway with a discharge capacity of 8,466 cusecs is also proposed. A power-house with three units of 66 M.W. each is under construction. To plug a low saddle on the left rim of the reservoir another 72 metre high dam with an ancillary spillway has been provided. A pick-up barrage about 26 km. downstream of the dam, a barrage on the Khoh and an 82 km. long feeder channel have been provided to carry the water from the dam to the Ganga near Garhmukteshwar. The water is to be picked up at the Narora headworks and then diverted to the canals for irrigation. The project provides for the construction of 57,000 km. of new channels and the re-moulding of 6,000 km. of existing channels in the upper Ganga, lower Ganga and Agra canal systems.

On completion the project will irrigate nearly 6 lakh hectares of land in the Bijnor, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Aligarh, Bulandshahr, Mathura, Agra, Fatehpur, Kanpur, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Etah, Mainpuri and Allahabad districts. It will also provide protection from the floods of the Ramganga to the Bijnor, Moradabad, Rampur, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, and Farrukhabad districts and power and drinking water to Delhi. The reservoir will also be used for pisciculture and will add to the beauty of the National Corbett Park which is an important tourist attraction in this area. The project is nearing completion, the work of irrigation having commenced from December, 1974. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs 133 crores.

A pumping scheme on the Ramganga was started at Bhagwanpur Raini in 1929 and was completed in 1930. It comprises a 457 m. weir thrown across the river with an electrically operated pumping station. Very little benefit is provided by this canal in this district as most of the command area lies in Moradabad district in the south. Other sources of irrigation are *jhils*, smaller rivers and rivulets. There are some fair-sized *jhils* in the upland plains. The Malin and Rawasan are utilized for irrigation purpose in pargana Najibabad, the Gangan in the Burhpur and Nihtaur parganas and the Ekra and Dugraiya in pargana Soohara. Water is obtained by the usual system of *beris* or swing-baskets by which it is lifted to the level of the channels feeding the fields. Temporary earthen dams are also thrown across the small rivers to obtain water for irrigation.

AGRICULTURE INCLUDING HORTICULTURE

Land and Soils

Many diverse characteristics mark the physical features of the district. An outlying spur of the Siwaliks, known as the Chandi Hills,

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forms the extreme northern corner, and is classed as a reserved forest. Below it lies the *bhabar*, a broad belt of forests which runs along the north-eastern border from the Chandi hills to the Naini Tal district on the south-east. It is traversed by numerous rivers flowing down from Garhwal. The remaining portion of the district is an open plain cut by valleys of the Ganga, Malin, Khoh and Ramganga. The two divisions of this plain are the uplands and the lowlands. The uplands can be subdivided into three portions—the western, central and eastern. The first forms a watershed between the Ganga and the central drainage system. Preponderance of sand renders it poor in fertility. The central portion slopes downward, the soil is rich and abounds in irrigation facilities. The eastern tract rises towards the watershed between the Khoh and the Ramganga valleys. The soil here is rich loam with stiff clay. The Afzalgarh alluvial tract, lying to the east of the Ramganga, resembles the neighbouring *tarai* of the Naini Tal district. The rest of the area of the district constitute the *khadars* of the rivers.

As the whole country to the south of the hills and the low *bhabar* at their base consists of riverine alluvium of varying age, the composition of the soil is more or less uniform. The variations in its character appear to depend solely on the level. On the higher ground the soil is light and sandy, often pure sand; in the level stretches it is a mixture of sand and clay in varying proportions, classified generically as loam. In the low country and the depressions of the uplands the sand disappears leaving only a stiff argillaceous clay. The more recent deposits left behind by the rivers when the waters recede after the monsoons, differ with the nature of the inundations, a strong current carrying away all but the heavier particles of sand and a stream of less violence being beneficial in its action by letting the fine silt and mud settle gently, with the result that the flooded ground is covered with a fertile layer of the richest loam.

The natural soils of the district fall into four main divisions. The first is *bhur* or sandy soil, in which the proportion of loam is very small. It is of a very inferior quality producing crops of the coarser grains. Next comes *bhur-sawai*, or sandy loam, in which sand still predominates but it is superior to *bhur* and yields fair crops of wheat barley and sugar-cane. Here the true loam is known as *sawai* (a term equivalent to the *rausli* of the northern doab and *dumat* of other parts). It has exceptional fertility, is light and friable, capable of producing every kind of crop and is usually reserved for the more valuable staples like wheat and paddy. Clay, known by the local name of *matiyar*, is highly productive in seasons of suitable moisture but in times of drought it becomes too stiff to be workable. It is sown with all varieties of crops but is most suited to the cultivation of rice. According to the Settlement records this *sawai* constitutes nearly 50 per cent and the *matiyar* area averages about 20 per cent. Of the sandy soils, *bhur-sawai* accounts for nearly 16 per cent and *bhur* for 10 per cent. A certain area (nearly 4 per cent) is included in a special class known as *bara*. It is highly manured land in the immediate vicinity of the village sites and corresponds to *gauhan* or *goind* in other districts. It is used exclusively for the cultivation of garden crops like vegetables and spices.

Cultivation

The district is one of the agriculturally advanced districts in the western part of the State. The Sanis are highly skilled in the art of cultivation. It is generally the custom in this district (as in Muzaffarnagar to the west) to devote almost equal attention to all good land in the village but no special care is taken of the fields in the immediate neighbourhood of the homestead except by the cultivators of garden crops. The only exception is that made in favour of sugar-cane to which, by reason of its intrinsic value, almost all the available supply of manure and water is devoted. Modern agricultural implements have of late replaced the old, indigenous ones—wooden ploughs by iron ones, wooden sugar-cane and oil-seed crushers (*kolhus*) by iron ones, etc. In other respects also, considerable progress has been achieved, particularly in the extension of the double-cropped area and also in the quality of the crops themselves, the more valuable and high-yielding staples and those necessitating a higher style of husbandry having largely taken the place of the indigenous grains and seeds that constituted the principal products in the district till the middle of the present century.

Harvests

The agricultural year is divided into three parts by the 3 harvests which here go by the usual names of *kharif*, *rabi* and *zaid* (or extra). The last is of very little importance in this district and consists of cucurbits, vegetables, spices, tobacco, wind-resistant varieties of maize, legumes and a host of low grade cereals and covered only 969 hectares in 1970-71. Melons, *kakri* and *khira* (cucumber) are mostly grown in *khadirs* and along the sandy banks of the rivers. The *kharif* crops are sown in Asadha-Sravana (June-July) and reaped in Kuar-Kartika (September-October) after the cessation of the rains usually well before the preparation of the fields for the *rabi* sowings which begin in October-November (Kartika-Agrahayana) and are harvested in March-April and even May. The double-cropped area (*dofasli*) (more correctly the area cropped more than once in a year) is fairly large in the district. A good deal depends on the nature of the soil, the sources of irrigation and the choice of crops. Double-cropping is mostly practised in those parts of the district where much of the land is ordinarily under sugar-cane, paddy or *arhar* and where there is an abundant supply of water for irrigation or where the situation of the terrain is such that watering of fields is not necessary such as the submontane belt of land stretching from the Chandi hills in the north-west to Rehar in the east. The relative figures regarding the area covered by the *kharif*, *rabi* and the *dofasli* crops in the district are given below :

Year	Area under <i>kharif</i> acres/hectares	Area under <i>rabi</i> acres/hectares	Area under <i>dofasli</i> acres/hectares
1961-62	5,41,182 (2,19,009)	3,82,055 (1,54,612)	1,53,862 (62,276)
1970-71	6,15,905 (2,49,240)	4,19,530 (1,69,778)	2,35,155 (95,264)

Principal Crops

Kharif—Among the various *kharif* crops in the district, by far the most important is rice. The rice area is usually confined to the lowlying lands and richer soils in which the natural moisture is more abundant and artificial irrigation practicable. Thus in parganas Akbarabad, Afzalgarh, Nihtaur, Nagina and Dhampur more than half the *kharif* area is under rice. Parganas Seolara, Najibabad and Barhapura are also notable for rice cultivation. The lowest proportion is to be found in the southern half of the Bijnor tahsil and in pargana Baslita, where much of the land lies high. Among the numerous local indigenous varieties of rice the most notable is *munji*, for which the *khadar* lands of Mandawar have long been famous. Improved paddy strains like Saket-4, Bijai, Ratna, Jaya, T-3 and I.R. -8 are mostly preferred by the cultivators now. Almost all the rice grown in the district is of the late (*jarhan*) or transplanted variety, the early one known as *kuari* being grown to an appreciable extent only in pargana Nagina. The *jarhan* is sown after the commencement of the rains. The plants are first raised in specially prepared beds and on attaining a height of nearly 15 cm., are transplanted in properly tilled fields. The crop is reaped in November after which the fields sometimes lie fallow during the *rabi* season, though now this practice has been abandoned as a result of intensive cultivation and sugar-cane or the *rabi* crops of wheat, pea or gram are sown immediately after the paddy is harvested.

Maize has become popular during the last 100 years (as is the case throughout Rohilkhand). In 1865 it was almost unknown in this district. The lowlands of the Dhampur, Afzalgarh and Seohara parganas are specially suited for maize cultivation. The extension of maize is a welcome feature, as the crop is one of the earliest to come to maturity and this is of great importance in a district which usually suffers from a premature cessation of the monsoon.

A large area is taken up by millets, especially *bajra*, which is grown extensively on the higher and unirrigated soils. More usually it is sown in combination with *arhar*, the latter remaining in the field throughout winter. The soil in the Kiratpur and Burhapur parganas is specially suitable for *bajra*. There is but little jowar in the district as very little is allowed to come to maturity, the crop being mostly cut while green for feeding cattle. This is of great value and the practice has the further advantage of clearing the fields fairly early so as to admit of adequate preparation for ensuring the *rabi* crop.

The rest of the *kharif* area used to be taken up for the most part by small and coarse millets such as *sawan*, *kodon*, *kutki* and *kangni* which were grown in all parts of the district especially in the Bijnor and Najibabad tahsils. Of these *sawan* is comparatively more important, the rest now having yielded place to more remunerative crops like rice, maize and sugar-cane during the last two decades.

Of the *kharif* pulses, *urd* claims the largest area, *moong* and *moth* also occupying some area in the district. The district was first in the whole Division in point of area under *urd* in 1971-72.

The following statement gives some relevant details of the main *kharif* cereals in the district in 1971-72 :

<i>Kharif</i>	Irrigated area (in hectares)	Area sown (in hectares)	Total production (in tonnes)	Average yield per hectare in district (in quintals)	Average yield per hectare in State (in quintals)
Rice	4,877	1,01,504	1,23,619	12.18	7.98
Maize	206	8,524	5,551	6.51	5.65
<i>Bajra</i>	—	5,078	1,797	3.54	3.58
Jowar	—	1,471	775	5.27	3.67
<i>Sawan</i>	—	1,274	535	4.20	4.20
<i>Urd</i>	—	7,254	2,326	3.21	1.86
Moong	—	320	67	2.09	2.55
<i>Moht</i>	—	17	5	3.05	3.05

Rabi—Of the *rabi* crops the lead is taken by wheat which is the most valuable of all the food-grains. In terms of area it occupied more than 80 per cent of the total area under *rabi* cereals in 1971-72. Wheat is sown alone as well as mixed with crops like barley, gram, pea or mustard or some of these in combination. The area under wheat raised by itself has increased in recent decades but the old practice of sowing it with other crops has not disappeared altogether. In this district wheat requires a good soil, careful tillage and an assured supply of water.

In recent years a number of improved and high-yielding varieties of wheat have been evolved at the agricultural university, Pantnagar (district Naini Tal), and various other research institutions in the country. The cultivators have now virtually replaced their indigenous seed stock with new, better and hybrid seeds. The varieties mostly sown now by the farmers are Sonalika, Kalyansona, Sharbati, Sonara, K-68 and K-65.

Barley was a favourite *rabi* crop in the past and maintained its hold till the thirties of the present century when it occupied more than 27,114 hectares in the district after which its area continued to decline. In 1951-52 it covered nearly 19,425 hectares and by 1971-72 became limited to 4,406 hectares. Wheat, gram and pea, which are now paying, have now taken its place. Barley flourishes even in inferior soils and in tracts which are not suited to wheat cultivation for lack of irrigation facilities. The cultivators of the district usually prefer to sow barley in the newly cleared tracts, because of its being less prone to depredations by wild animals in the fruiting stage. Barley is also sown mixed with wheat, gram, pea, mustard or *masur*.

In the district gram is largely grown by itself, in addition to its admixture with wheat or barley, locally known as *guchane* (or *gujai*) and *bejhar* respectively. Gram is a hardy crop and thrives well in all kinds of soils. In the district its cultivation is highest in those tracts in which rice is the chief autumn staple because gram is commonly sown as a second crop. Between the thirties and sixties of the present century, gram registered a phenomenal increase in its area in the district and from 12,950 hectares in 1930-31, it jumped to more than 37,230 hectares in 1961-62. Since then it has lost the race against wheat, the area under which has swelled at the cost of other *rabi* crops.

Of the pulses only *arhar* and *masur* are important. *Arhar* is sown with the main *kharif* crops and harvested after most of the *rabi* crops. This is perhaps why it is hardly ever sown as a single crop being usually combined with jowar or *bajra* which are harvested by November-December, leaving it standing alone in the field. *Masur* supplants *arhar* in point of area sown.

The following statement gives some relevant particulars about the principal *rabi* cereals produced in the district in 1971-72 :

<i>Rabi</i>	Irrigated area (in hectares)	Area sown (in hectares)	Total production (in tonnes)	Average yield per hectare in district (in quintals)	Average yield per hectare in State (in quintals)
Wheat	58,747	1,27,487	1,32,834	10.42	12.66
Barley	149	4,406	3,107	7.05	10.41
Gram	1,357	19,713	12,766	6.48	7.88
Pea	553	1,416	738	5.21	8.36
<i>Masur</i>	46	3,332	2,304	6.92	6.35
<i>Arhar</i>	—	1,637	1,877	11.47	12.81

Non-food Crops

Sugar-cane, oil-seeds (like ground-nut, linseed, til and mustard), vegetables and fruits, sunn-hemp, jute, cotton and tobacco are the main non-food crops of the district.

Sugar-cane is one of the the most important cash crops of the district (as of the Country). The area under it has always been appreciable and has steadily increased during the last 70 years. From nearly 28,788 hectares at the beginning of the century it increased to nearly 77,000

hectares in 1971-72. The older strains of sugar-cane have now been replaced by better and high-yielding varieties like C.O.-1148 and C.O.-1158.

Oil-seeds occupy a sizeable area in the district which held the top position in the whole of the Division in 1971-72 as regards the area sown with mustard and rape-seed, occupied the third place with regard to that sown with til and was fourth in the Division as regards the total area covered by oil-seeds.

Though vegetables occupy a small area in the district (mostly near the towns and large villages) they constitute a valuable crop; the potato is one of the most important of these and covers the largest area of all the vegetables in the district.

Sunn-hemp is sown for its fibre and as green manure. Cotton is also a valuable crop, though its area has gone down during the last 100 years. In 1865 it covered more than 18,615 hectares but in 1971-72 the area under it was only 760 hectares. Nevertheless the district then stood first in the whole of the Division in cotton cultivation. The crop is commonly sown in sugar-cane fields after the latter has been harvested. Its decline is due to the substitution of maize, millets or rice (cultivated as a dry crop) which can be immediately followed by the sowing of more profitable cereals such as wheat or wheat and barley mixed. Cotton requires careful tillage, the fields having to be ploughed nearly six times and well weeded a number of times.

Bijnor was famous for its tobacco cultivation in the past. In the seventies of the last century, it occupied an average area of more than 607 hectares. It is by no means every kind of soil which will grow tobacco. It must have sufficient marl to be strong and sufficient sand to be loose. It also requires large quantities of manures and abundant water. The Sanis (like the Kachhis of the Doab district) are by far the most laborious of cultivators, manipulating the soil and watering, manuring and weeding their crops. As tobacco requires all these more than other crops, the Sani is the only cultivator who is able to bring it to perfection. The tracts best suited for its cultivation are fields around village homesteads, parts of the *khadir* and other low alluvial areas and cattle stations (*khaltas*) on the edge of the submontane forests. A number of experiments were also conducted here in order to improve its cultivation by the introduction of five Turkish and some American varieties. Several of these failed but one or two (notably the Virginian) succeeded admirably and a smoking mixture, composed of this tobacco blended with Manila and Latakia, grown at Bhogpur in the forests of Najibabad, was tinned and sold to European traders. But the experiment was abandoned chiefly because the imported plants degenerated rapidly necessitating the procuring of fresh seeds from abroad. The process of curing was also very complicated, requiring supervision by foreign technical experts not easily available in the district. The result was that the close of the 19th century saw very little tobacco grown in the district, the average area being merely 60 hectares.

The statement given below provides some relevant facts about the important cash crops raised in the district in 1971-72 :

Crops	Irrigated area (in hectares)	Area sown (in hectares)	Total production (in tonnes)	Average yield per hectare in district (in quintals)	Average yield per hectares in State (in quintals)
Sugar-cane	42,474	76,888	37,04,084	484.90	387.85
Mustard and rape-seed	1,196	9,043	3,664	4.05	3.76
Ground-nut	—	12,483	8,162	6.54	5.59
Til	—	380	49	1.30	1.30
Cotton	20	763	249	0.61	0.83
Sunn-hemp	—	59	23	3.85	3.85
Jute	—	108	849	14.84	14.8
Tobacco	223	226	190	8.41	9.81
Potato	809	954	9,148	95.80	95.89

Improvement of Agriculture

The ever-increasing demand for food-grains necessitated far-reaching improvements and changes in the pattern and technique of agriculture. After the achievement of Independence, the development of agriculture has been given an important place in the Country's Five-year Plans. So improved and scientific methods of growing wheat, barley and rice have also been popularised among the cultivators of the district. These methods include proper tillage, sufficient and timely manuring, sowing of seeds of improved varieties and of high-yielding crops, proper and timely irrigation and protection of crops against pests and diseases. The sixties of this century saw the ushering in of the 'green revolution' in the Country, under which schemes of intensive cultivation and the sowing of high-yielding seeds of wheat, barley, maize, jowar, *bajra*, sugar-cane and other crops have been implemented. The government agricultural farms in the district and various other agencies of the Central and State Governments, the food and agriculture organisation of the United Nations, agricultural colleges and universities and research centres in the Country are doing a pioneering job in orientating the farmer for him to adopt better and scientific methods and implements of cultivation for higher production and in explaining the technique of improvement through demonstrations and exhibitions in the field. The latest techniques and cultivation practices, improved implements, high-yielding varieties of seeds, chemical fertilizers and plant protection

services are made available to the agriculturists in the district through the development blocks. Farmers are trained in improved agricultural techniques and *rabi*, *kharif* and *zaid* campaigns are organised every year through which the experts of the agriculture department and development blocks help the cultivators to solve their problems and also demonstrate the latest scientific methods in the field itself to enable them to increase the agricultural output.

Seed Supply

The most common high-yielding varieties of seeds in the district are Exotic paddy and millets, Hybrid maize, Mexican wheat, U.P. wheat, U.P. maize and Hybrid *bajra*.

Seeds of cereals are supplied by the government through the seed stores (maintained by the agriculture department) and co-operative seed stores (under the supervision of the co-operative department). The former advance seeds on cash payment or as *taqavi* and the latter on a *sawai* basis (that is, repayable at 25 per cent in excess of the quantity advanced). There were 54 such seed stores in the district in 1973-74 of which 24 were under the agriculture department and the rest were managed as co-operative institutions. The seed stores meet a small fraction of the total demand of seeds by the farmers, the bulk being supplied by local dealers who obtain them from the national seed corporation, the *tarai* seed development corporation and other agencies. The total quantity of improved seeds of various cereals distributed by these seed stores was 3,033 quintals, 3,003 quintals and 3,806 quintals in 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74 respectively.

Soil Nutrients

The traditional manures are cattle dung, farm refuse and stable litter. The usefulness of green manure crops, such as *lobia*, *guar*, *dhaincha*, *sana*i and *moong* which provide nitrogenous ingredients to the soil and increase its fertility, is being increasingly realised by the cultivators of the district. The increased popularity of these nutrients is gauged by the fact that in 1973-74, an area of 23,952 hectares was sown with these crops in the district and approximately 19 quintals of their seeds were distributed by the government seed stores in the district.

The use of chemical fertilisers (which are costly because of their insufficient production in the Country) has become popular among the cultivators in this district. Among these the most popular are the nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic.

The seed stores of co-operative and agriculture departments are able to meet only a fraction of the total requirement in the district of green manure crop seeds and chemical fertilizers. The cultivators have usually to make their own arrangements to purchase them from private

dealers at exorbitant rates in order to use them exactly when required. The government seed stores and the co-operative institutions in the district distributed 17,980 tonnes, 18,464 tonnes and 16,068 tonnes of chemical fertilisers to the cultivators of the district in 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74 respectively.

Agricultural Implements and Machines

The pace of replacement of traditional agricultural implements such as the spade, sickle and wooden plough has been faster in this district as compared to other districts of the State. The reason apparently is the comparatively more advanced agricultural practices and the resultant economic well-being of the farmers. According to the live-stock census of 1971, there were in the district 1,71,573 ploughs, 58,052 other improved agricultural implements (such as harrows, cultivators, sowing machines, threshers, etc.) 3,097 machines for spraying insecticides and pesticides, 91,408 bullock carts, 1,622 sugar-cane crushers, 800 tractors, 746 *ghanis* (oil-seed crushers), 8,887 oil-engines and electric pumping sets for irrigation and 5,515 Persian wheels fitted on the wells for watering the fields. The cultivators usually make their own arrangement for the purchase of improved agricultural implements, the agriculture department and the State agro-industries corporation, U.P., being the main agencies for the sale of such commodities, 4,640 such implements being sold by them in 1973-74.

The State agriculture department gives *taqavi* loans to the cultivators for purposes like the purchase of chemical fertilizers, agricultural implements, improved varieties of seeds, pesticides and bullocks. The co-operative institutions in the district also advance credit to them for these purposes. The farmers of the district have received considerable assistance in the form of *taqavi* loans for the purchase of improved agricultural inputs in the last few years, the total amount of *taqavi* loan distributed in the district in the three-year period 1971-72 to 1973-74 being Rs 2,14,28,071. The co-operative institutions of the district also disbursed long-medium-and short-term loans for agricultural purposes to the farmers to the extent of Rs 10,05,000 during the same period.

Rotation of Crops and Fallowing

Formerly the practice of leaving the fields fallow for at least one season was common among the cultivators as it was considered necessary to allow the land time to recuperate in order to enhance its fertility. But of late this practice is gradually giving place to the old and tried method of sowing crops in rotation and the mixed cropping system which makes for intensive cultivation and increases the total yield.

The district has benefited agriculturally by the active efforts made by the agricultural experts of the government and other agencies (the agricultural universities and research centres in the Country) which have been propagating modern methods in these matters for the last decade or so with the object of ushering in the 'green revolution' and making the Country self-sufficient in food-grains.

The most common patterns of crop rotation practised by the cultivators in the district are mentioned below :

One-year Rotational Pattern

Type of soil	Irrigated/unirrigated	Kharif	Rabi
Sandy	Unirrigated	Ground-nut + <i>bajra</i> + <i>urd</i> + <i>arhar</i> or ground-nut, <i>bajra</i> , <i>mung</i>	Wheat or barley or melons, cucurbits
Sandy loam	Irrigated	<i>Bajra</i> + <i>lobiya</i> + <i>arhar</i> , maize Jowar + <i>mung</i> + <i>arhar</i> Jowar + <i>urd</i> + <i>arhar</i> <i>bajra</i> + <i>urd</i> + <i>arhar</i> Green manure, paddy Paddy	<i>Arhar</i> , Wheat or barley + pea or Wheat + gram or potato Gram or potato or <i>arhar</i> Wheat or barley Wheat or gram or pea
	Unirrigated	Ground-nut + <i>bajra</i> + <i>urd</i> + <i>arhar</i> Jowar + <i>urd</i> + <i>arhar</i> Ground-nut + til + maize	<i>Arhar</i> <i>Arhar</i> <i>Arhar</i> Barley + gram
Loam	Irrigated	Paddy, maize, jowar <i>urd</i> , fallow Green manure	Wheat or wheat + gram, Wheat or potato Wheat + gram Wheat or potato
	Unirrigated	Paddy Maize	Gram or fallow, barley + pea or Wheat + gram or barley + gram
Clay	Irrigated	Paddy	Wheat or wheat + gram or pea
	Unirrigated	Paddy	Fallow or pea or gram

Two-year Rotational Pattern

Type of soil	Irrigated/unirrigated	First year		Second year	
		Kharif	Rabi	Kharif	Rabi
Sandy loam	Irrigated	<i>Bajra</i> + <i>urd</i>	<i>Arhar</i>	Fallow	Wheat
		<i>Arhar</i> + jowar	do.	do.	do.
		<i>Bajra</i> + <i>mung</i>	<i>Arhar</i>	<i>Bajra</i> + <i>arhar</i>	<i>Arhar</i>
		<i>arhar</i> , maize	Wheat or potato	do.	do.
		<i>Bajra</i> + <i>arhar</i>	<i>Arhar</i>	Paddy	Wheat or pea
		Green manure	Wheat	do.	
	Unirrigated	<i>Bajra</i> + <i>arhar</i>	<i>Arhar</i>	Fallow	Barley + gram or barley
		Jowar <i>mung</i> + <i>arhar</i>	do.	do.	do.

[Contd.]

		Sweet potato	Fallow	Fallow	Wheat + gram or barley + gram
		Arhar ground-nut Ground-nut	Arhar	do.	Barley or gram, fallow
			Fallow	Sweet potato	
Loam	Irrigated	Bajra, (fodder) + urd + arhar Jowar (fodder) mung + arhar Maize Paddy	Arhar	Maize	Wheat
			do.	do.	do.
			Potato Wheat or pea	Paddy Vegetables	Wheat or wheat + gram
	Unirrigated	Jowar (fodder) + urd + arhar Bajra + mung + arhar	Arhar do.	Fallow do.	Wheat + gram do.
Clay	Unirrigated	Paddy	Gram or pea	Fallow	Wheat
Sandy soil	Unirrigated	Ground-nut + bajra + urd Arhar	Arhar	Fallow do.	Barley or Wheat + pea

Three-year Rotational Pattern

Type of soil	Irrigated/ unirrigated	First year		Second year		Third year	
		Kharif	Rabi	Kharif	Rabi	Kharif	Rabi
Sandy	Irrigated	Bajra + lobiya Jowar + mung Maize	Sugar- cane do. Potato	Sugar- cane do. do.	Sugar cane do. do.	Sugar- cane do. do.	Sugar- cane do. do.
	Unirrigated	Ground- nut Bajra + urd	Sugar- cane Barley	Sugar- cane do.	Sugar- cane do.	Sugar- cane do.	Sugar- cane do.
Loam	Irrigated	Paddy	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane
		Paddy	Wheat	do.	do.	do.	do.
		Maize	Potato	Green manure	Wheat	Jowar + urd or maize	Gram + wheat
	Unirrigated	Jowar	Wheat	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane
			Maize				
Clay	Irrigated	Paddy	Wheat	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane	Sugar- cane
		Maize and rape- seed	Mustard do.	do. do.	do. do.	do. do.	do. do.

Mixed Cultivation

The practice of simultaneously raising more than one crop in a single field more or less in a single season gives additional harvests and increases the overall yield, the field being utilised to the maximum. This also serves as a security against adverse weather conditions and pests and insects as there are always chances of saving at least one crop in the field as these enemies and adverse weather conditions do not usually affect the different crops in the field with equal severity. The sowing of leguminous crops like *mung*, *urd* and *guar* with cereals provides the soil with nitrogenous ingredients in the most perfect natural state. Accordingly, almost always, *arhar* is sown mixed with *jowar*, *urd*, til or ground-nut; *bajra* with *urd*, *arhar* or ground-nut; wheat with gram, pea or mustard; barley with gram or pea; maize with *urd*; ground-nut with jowar; and cotton with *urd*. Potato is generally sown mixed with *methi* (fenugreek) or onion; sugar-cane with *mung*; and rainy season vegetables and late paddy with coriander (*dhaniya*) or *methi*.

Agricultural Co-operatives and Joint Farming

The practice of cultivating the land jointly (*sajha*) is very old among the farmers of the district. Forests and pasture lands are still used in common. Cultivators often pool their implements, bullocks and labour for a season or two for growing crops. Costly implements and machines are also sometimes owned or hired jointly and used in rotation.

In recent times co-operative societies have been formed in the villages for farming, distribution of seeds, loans, fertilisers and implements, cattle breeding, supply of milk to big towns and the marketing of the agriculture produce of the cultivators.

In 1974 the district had 30 co-operative seed stores, whose main function was to arrange for seeds of crops (on credit) to the cultivators and 62 co-operative farming societies which produced agricultural commodities worth Rs 75,84,767 in that year. The district had agricultural co-operative marketing societies one each at the four tahsil headquarters.

Horticulture

The existence of an abundant natural supply of timber generally renders the plantation of trees unnecessary and this fact is illustrated by the comparative absence of groves in the forest parganas of the north, the southern tracts (which have less ready access to the forests) exhibiting a far higher proportion of grove land. Groves are not commonly planted for timber but rather for fruit production which, in recent year, has grown into a lucrative industry. In the past religion, sentiment and aesthetics also played a major part as far as the plantation of groves was concerned. Small as is the area in comparison with other districts of the Division, the mango groves of Bijnor are famous, the trees grow with great luxuriance and the fruits attain considerable perfection. The

percentage of grove area is fairly high in the Chandpur, Nihtaur, Bijnor, Daranagar, Nagina and Kiratpur parganas. For the most part the groves consist of mango trees but other varieties of fruit trees are also common, especially the *jamun*, *ber* and *imli*. In the neighbourhood of towns and roadside villages many orchards are to be seen and these contain orange, lemon, loquat, pomegranate and peach trees which yield fruit of good quality. The common mulberry is abundant but has never been utilised for silkworm culture though an attempt was made to introduce this industry by one (Major) White in 1861, the experiment proving successful. The reusucitation of the venture would give gainful employment to a number of people and would add an important industry to those existing in the district.

The area under orchards and vegetables in the district was 4,633 hectares in 1973-74. The horticultural needs of the district are met by the well-known government garden at Saharanpur (which serves as a supply point for a number of other districts also). The government also established a nursery at Pirithipur in 1956-57 in the Haldaur development block near Bijnor town, which supplies fruit plants, seeds, seedling and grafted plants to the cultivators. A private nursery at Dhampur also sells such items. In 1973-74 the government nursery supplied 64,343 seedlings of fruit plants and 4,443 seeds of vegetables, flowers, commercial crops, etc.

Agricultural Diseases and Pests

There are three main enemies of crops in the district animals, birds and insects. Plant diseases, fungi and weeds also cause a great deal of damage to plants of food-grains, vegetables and fruits. Monkeys, rats, squirrels, wild animals, bats, parrots and other birds damage the crops badly. The usual methods of protection normally provided by the cultivators are fencing, keeping watch and destruction of the animal and bird predators. Leaf-mosaic, rust, smut and termites attack the wheat, barley and pea crops. The paddy crop is generally damaged by leaf-mosaic, blight and the *gundhi* pest. Potatoes and other vegetables are mostly affected by blight, leaf-mosaic and pink boll-worm. Canker and wither-tip take heavy toll of citrus fruit. Mango and guava orchards are the worst sufferers from die-back, black-tip of mango, damping of seedlings and wither-tip. There are various insecticides and pesticides like Aldrin, and BHC which are sprayed or dusted on the crops to control plant pests and diseases. To save the crops from seed-borne diseases, the seeds are dried in the sun and also treated with certain chemicals before sowing. There are also numerous other growths and weeds which are harmful to the crops. These can be destroyed by systematic and timely weeding, interculturing and the deep ploughing of the fields. In 1974-75 there were eight plant protection centres in the district and their trained personnel gave free advice to the cultivators on matters relating to the raising of healthy crops of fruits, vegetables and cereals and taking timely measures for the protection of plants from diseases, pests, etc. They also provided insecticides, spraying and dusting machines and their service to the cultivators at moderate charges.

CH. IV—AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

The following statement sums up the work done by the plant protection centres in the district in 1974-75 :

Work done	Area (in hectares)
Seed treatment	45,656
Eradication of rats	38,212
Control of insects and pests	15,205
Intensive crop protection	38,787
Eradication of weeds	7,726
Training of cultivators in plant protection methods (Number)	4,358

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES

The cattle of the district are as a rule poor in quality and much inferior to those found in the areas north of the district. Till the beginning of the present century there were only local breeds of cattle, very few being bred and no attempts being made to improve the strains of inferior quality. Selection was unknown and the only system was that of reproduction through stray bulls. In spite of the paucity of pasture lands, the cattle are still fed well as the farmers are economically sound enough to afford this. For a large parts of the year the cattle of the district live on the by-products of agriculture and green fodder. Sheep and goats are numerous but there is no especially good breed. They are gradually decreasing in number because of the recent extension of cultivation which has reduced the area available for grazing. There is a great demand for the ordinary pony and it is usually a serviceable beast. Camels are used but very seldom as the climate of the district is unsuitable for them. According to the live-stock censuses of 1956, 1961, 1966 and 1971 the live-stock population of the district was as follows :

Live-stock	1956	1961	1966	1971
Cows and bulls	4,80,050	4,81,719	4,53,436	4,48,786
Buffaloes	1,27,416	1,29,634	1,52,177	2,04,005
Sheep	16,678	19,684	15,555	14,208
Goats	25,170	25,516	26,714	32,544

Sheep and goats are generally reared by the Gadariyas for flesh and skin. Goat's milk is given to patients suffering from liver ailments and is often dearer than buffalo's milk. Wool obtained from the sheep in the district is used locally for making coarse blankets.

Development of Live-stock

Considerable progress has been made in the district in recent years in improving the breed of cattle through selective breeding, culling undesirable animals and upgrading the indigenous breeds by crossing the with improved bulls of well known and good Indian breeds and then distribution of seeds of improved varieties of fodder and feed at moderate prices. Artificial insemination for improving the breed of cows and buffaloes was started in the district in the First-plan period (1954-55) and there were 12 centres and 14 subcentres for this purpose in 1974-75. Government supplies bulls of the Murrah and Hariyana breeds at concessional rates particularly in areas which are not served by the artificial insemination centres. A total number of 30 stud bulls was distributed in the district in the period from 1969-70 to 1973-74. Loans are also given to the cultivators for the purchase of cows and buffaloes of improved breeds. In the period between 1969-70 and 1974-75 a sum of Rs 15,000 was distributed in the district through the animal husbandry department for this purposes.

For improving the breed of sheep and goats, stud rams and bucks of the Burbari and Jamunapari breeds are stationed at all the veterinary hospitals in the district. 14 Rams and 42 bucks were distributed in the period from 1969-70 to 1973-74. Steps have also been taken to encourage the setting up of piggeries in the district and 6 boars were supplied in 1970-71.

Poultry Development

Poultry farming is rapidly gaining ground with the increasing demand for animal protein. In 1971 there were 1,04,156 fowls in the district of which 98,758 were hens and cocks, 1,051 ducks and drakes and 4,347 other birds. To encourage poultry breeding as a subsidiary industry in the rural areas, the government arranges to supply birds of improved breeds. About 6,240 fowls were supplied in 1974-75. The department of animal husbandry trains villagers in poultry farming.

Cattle Diseases and Treatment

In this district the common cattle diseases are rinderpest (Pokna or Rez), malignant sore throat (Galaghotu), Black-quarter (Paksuja), anthrax (Tilsuja), dysentery (Pechish), foot-and-mouth disease (Kl urba) and haemorrhagic septicaemia. As many superstitions, out of the way practices and taboos are still rife among the local people, they do not always take recourse to modern medicines and methods of treatment for the prevention and cure of animal diseases. With the opening of veterinary hospitals and stockman centres in the district and practical demonstrations and publicity carried out by the animal husbandry department, the villagers are becoming more aware of the efficaciousness of scientific and modern methods of the treatment of cattle diseases. There is a live-stock officer who is in charge of the animal husbandry department in the district. To help him there is a veterinary officer who looks after the schemes for improving the breed of live-stock through artificial insemination. There were 19 veterinary hospitals

and 13 stockman centres in the district in 1974. The statement below gives the number of cattle treated, vaccinated and castrated from 1969-70 to 1973-74 :

No. of animals	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Treated	80,757	96,128	97,209	1,00,411	1,15,093
Vaccinated	2,25,977	84,055	2,24,723	1,84,055	1,42,229
Castrated	8,769	11,667	9,572	10,810	10,878

Housing and Feeding

Domestic animals are generally housed in kutcha sheds. Pucka and well-ventilated byres with roofs of iron or asbestos sheets are to be seen only in the government farms and big cultivators' farms. Although government provides monetary help for constructing community cattle sheds in the villages, the people's response has not been encouraging.

Grazing facilities for cattle are provided by the government and the village panchayats in the forests and waste lands under their respective control. Grazing is also allowed in private groves and harvested or fallow fields. On the canal banks and within the precincts of the railways, cattle are allowed to graze under stipulated conditions. In 1970-71 the area covered by culturable waste land, grazing grounds, forests and fallow land was 79,989 hectares. Barren and unculturable land covered 10,850 hectares in that year.

The crops which provide cattle fodder are maize, jowar, bajra, barseem and lobia. The husk and dried and crushed stalks of wheat, barley, arhar, urd, mung, pea, gram and paddy are also used by the cultivators to feed their cattle.

Fisheries

The fisheries of the district are of no great importance being confined to the larger streams and tanks in which the usual varieties of fish common to the plains are found. There is good mahasher fishing to be had in the upper reaches of the Ganga, particularly above the Shisham-wala ferry; but the season is very short, lasting for only two months—from February 15 to the middle of April. The water then becomes cold again (with the melting of the snows in the hills) and the fish do not rise freely. A little more good fishing may be obtained in October when the rains have ended and the water is still not too cold. The number of professional fishermen and of those who depended on fishing as a subsidiary means of subsistence in the district was 3,786 in 1972, when there were 2,865 fishing nets and tackle as wells.

The government has taken up a few schemes for the development of pisciculture in the district. Under the 'small water scheme,' finger-

NATURAL CALAMITIES

Famines

The intimate connection between irrigation and scarcity is emphasised in this district by the fact that Bijnor has on several occasions suffered greatly from abnormal climatic conditions. There are no records on the subject of famines prior to the advent of British rule. It may be assumed with some degree of certainty that in the early days the district suffered from famines at times (as did the tract beyond the Ganga to the west). It is not known to what extent the district was affected by the famines of 1345, 1471, 1631 and 1661. The famines of 1761 and 1783 swept over the whole of Rohilkhand and so the area covered by the present district must have suffered also.

In 1803-04 the failure of the monsoon and of the winter rains resulted in the loss of the *kharif* and *rabi* crops. Remission of revenue amounting to Rs 2,50,000 was allowed as relief to the cultivators. The famine came to an end with the rains of 1804 though it took the district a long time to recover from the ravages made by this famine.

The minor scarcities which occurred from time to time during the next thirty years do not seem to have troubled this district. In 1825 there was a serious drought throughout the western half of the State resulting in the failure of the *kharif* but cotton and sugar-cane narrowly escaped. Bijnor did not fare very badly as the *khadar* lands of the Ganga and Runganga yielded a moderate harvest as did the parganas of Chandpur and Burhpur.

A general famine once more occurred in 1837-38 and the *kharif* was practically destroyed by a premature cessation of the rains. As there was an opportune fall of rain in the beginning of the February of 1838, the *rabi* harvest proved fairly satisfactory.

The failure of the rains in 1860 followed by a series of defective monsoons produced great distress in Bijnor as the harvests failed. The government started relief measures in 1861 and by July, 1861 nearly 9,3,489 persons had been relieved at an expenditure of Rs 32,000.

Another severe famine occurred in 1868-69 when Bijnor suffered more than any other district in the State because of the drought in July. The crops (rice, *bajra*, jowar and sugar-cane) failed. Relief work was started on five roads, part of the revenue was suspended and advances were offered for the construction of masonry wells, 20 tanks were excavated, roads and *jhils* were repaired and the cleaning of the Nagina canal was undertaken throughout its length. Counted by daily units, 22,37,692 persons were employed on the relief works which included 17 poor-houses (providing food to 6,83,039 women and children). The total cost of famine relief amounted to Rs 1,79,483. In addition Rs 70,000 was distributed as advance to the farmers for obtaining seeds and for digging wells and land revenue amounting to Rs 4,00,000 was suspended.

The failure of the rains caused a severe famine in 1877-78 and by the end of August the district resembled a desert. By the following

BIJNOR DISTRICT

lings of *rohu*, *naini*, *catla* and *karaunch* are provided to private pisciculturists, *gaon* panchayats and other institutions at the concessional rate of Rs 40 per thousand plus transportation charges. The number of fingerlings supplied by the government to private breeders in the district was 30,000 and 63,000 in 1969-70 and 1970-71 respectively and 9,500 in 1973-74.

FORESTRY

The entire northern submontane belt of the district abounds in forests. In former times these forests were very dense. The wanton cutting and destruction of trees and clearings made for cultivation during the last few decades has resulted in the thinning out of these forests. The forests of the district are of two kinds: reserved forests managed by the forest department which cover a larger area than the other which constitute the private or civil forests and are managed by the *gaonsabhas*. In 1972-73 the former covered 36,752 hectares and the latter 2,092 hectares. The reserved forests fall in the Najibabad and Afzalgarh parganas.

The common trees in these forests are *sal*, *shisham*, *khair*, *semal*, *dhak*, *sain*, *tendu*, *haldu* and bamboo. Of these the *sal*, *shisham*, *khair* and bamboo are industrially more important. Scrub, reeds and *bhabar* grasses are also found profusely. In the areas adjoining the forests people pursue occupations connected with them such as wood cutting for timber and fuel, making of agricultural implements, railway sleepers, wooden toys, safety matches and furniture. Bamboo is used for a variety of purposes. Grass is used for making ropes, strings and thatch. *Khair* yields *kattha* (catechu). *Dhak* is used for the lining of kutecha wells and the manufacture of charcoal and fuel. Its bark produces a kind of red dye. The wood of the *shisham* is considered very good for the making of furniture, door frames, almirahs, boxes and beds and it is also exported to Saharanpur which is famous for its wood carving. Other minor forest products are gum, honey and medicinal herbs and plants. The following statement gives the quantities of the important forest products of the district as in 1973-74 :

Product	Quantity produced cubice metres/quintals
Sal (cubic metres)	717
Shisham do.	113
Semal do.	240
Haldu do.	88
Dhak do.	158
Kokat do.	2,614
Other trees do.	522
Baib, munj, grass (quintals)	80,805
Fodder grass do.	2,370
Khair do.	10,914
Bajri do.	10,210
Bamboo do.	15,562
Maighan leaves do.	204
Gum do.	45

February it was clear from the number of deaths from starvation and the crowds that flocked to the poor-houses (on the running of which Rs 43,756 was spent and where 6,66,670 persons were given food) that the relief works were inadequate. They were mostly confined to the improvement of various roads in the district, the total expenditure on such works amounting to Rs 1,43,314 and employment being provided to approximately 14,10,123 men, women and children per day. The land revenue finally remitted amounted to Rs 35,800. The cultivators also received advances for the purchase of seeds and cattle, the amount thus disbursed in the district being over Rs 6,800.

In 1896 there was a severe outbreak of plague in the district (which took a heavy toll of life) which was accompanied by bad scarcity conditions. A sum of Rs 61,158 was spent on relief works and an additional Rs 15,000 on providing work for the able-bodied. Work was started on the Moradabad-Hardwar road, the portion falling in this district, which was between Nagina and Dhampur, being completed by December, 1896. Another road from Haldaur to Nihtaur was also begun.

In 1907 again the monsoon failed, affecting the *kharif* and *rabi* crops disastrously and scarcity was formally declared in the district in December, 1907. Advances for aided relief works amounted to Rs 18,000, gratuitous relief cost Rs 20,752, *taqavi* amounting to Rs 4,82,623 was advanced and Rs 1,66,423 of the land revenue was remitted.

Since that time the district has, on the whole, been prosperous, the rainfall being not less than the average. Construction, improvements to and extension of the government canals in the district, the construction of State tube-wells and the providing of financial aid for constructing private masonry wells and the installation of tube-wells and pumping sets worked by electric power or diesel oil, especially after Independence, have provided a great deal of immunity to the cultivators from famines and droughts.

Floods

In years of heavy rainfall, flood and inundations in the Ganga, Ramganga and other rivers in the district, cause vast damage to the crops. Even in years of normal rainfall the *khadar* areas of the major rivers (especially the Ganga and Ramganga) remain submerged during most of the monsoon months. This annual flooding is welcomed by the farmers as in addition to destroying the rats, it brings with it very fertile silt which it leaves in the *khadar* areas.

There was a very heavy flood in the Ganga in 1880. Again in 1894 heavy rains and the bursting of the Golna lake in the Garhwal hills caused abnormal floods in the Ganga. Heavy floods again occurred in 1923 when all the rivers in the district were in spate.

1927 and 1928 were years of drought because of the early cessation of the rains. The situation worsened on account of the inundations in the Ganga and Karula in 1928. Agriculture was badly hit by the invasion of locust swarms in 1929 and 1930 by the onslaught of which

nearly 777 villages in the district were very badly damaged. Extensive operations were undertaken to destroy the swarms and a sum of Rs 40,945 was spent on this.

In 1947-48, there was a heavy flood in the Ganga and much damage was done in the riparian areas. In 1968-69 there was a slight rise in the level of the Ganga but not much damage was caused. In the following year also floods in the Ganga and other rivers caused considerable damage to large areas.

The following statement gives the details of various natural calamities affecting the district and the amount of money spent for providing relief from 1968-69 to 1974-75 :

Year	Calamity	Gratuitous relief (in Rs)	Distress relief (in Rs)	House building advance (in Rs)	Grant to student (in Rs)	Suspension of land revenue (in Rs)
1968-69	Drought and floods	32,720	2,500	—	—	—
1969-70	Floods	17,080	5,700	4,975	—	—
1970-71	Floods	19,725	96,285	55,030	—	4,000
1971-72	Drought and floods	49,960	71,971	17,860	—	9,355
1972-73	Drought and floods	38,856	36,700	13,750	—	77,255
1973-74	Drought and floods	1,77,104	2,39,342	2,41,060	1,565	4,966
1974-75	Drought and floods	51,243	31,200	31,025	—	4,000

CHAPTER V INDUSTRIES

Old-time Industries

In the past the district of Bijnor was predominantly agricultural* as it is even today but it was known for certain cottage industries and industrial arts and crafts. Najibabad was a flourishing centre of the cotton industry. Woollen rugs and carpets produced in Bijnor had a good market. Matchlocks made at Dhampur and Nagina were used by the East India Company. Some of them were exhibited in 1867 in the Paris Exhibition where they won rewards and were sold.

Nagina, Najibabad, Chandpur, Sahaspur, Afzalgarh and Darnagar were celebrated centres for the manufacture of *garha* and *gazi*, two common varieties of cloth and 66,000 workers were engaged in this industry in 1901. The weavers of Afzalgarh produced fabrics of the finest quality and were honoured at an exhibition held at Agra in 1867. The cross-lined pattern of red and white woven cloth known as *chauthai* was produced at Chandpur—a novelty among textiles. An inferior variety of muslin called *thathawa* or *lamgaia* was manufactured at several other places in the district. Nihtaur was famous for printed cloth, the dyes used being of vegetable origin. Some printers of Bijnor adorned the fabrics with patterns done in white metal, such as tin and alloys of tin and lead. The carpets and bedsheets of Sherkot were well-known. Other textile fabrics, such as coarse hempen sacking, were manufactured at Nagina and woollen blankets at Nijibabad.

Perhaps the most significant old-time industrial art of the district was ebony carving which was carried on at Nagina. It is said that this craft was introduced by Multani traders and the Nagina workmen have for generations made gunstocks, cot legs and *masnads* of ebony, usually adorning them with superficial floral patterns. Later on they attained high proficiency in cabinet making. Ebony was imported from central India (at Rs 14 per maund). This industry was mostly in the hands of Muslims and the designs, geometrical or floral, wrought by the chisel in delicate and clear relief. Other ornamental objects manufactured were inkstands, folding tables, trays, caskets, screens, picture frames and walking sticks. Sometimes the wood was inlaid with silver, mother-of-pearl and ivory. The products received international fame and were awarded prizes at exhibitions held in India, London, Glasgow and Paris.

Nagina was also famous for its metal industries. Najibabad, Dhampur and Nagina manufactured weapons and the raw material (iron) was

*Srivastava, A.L. : *Shuja-ud-Daulah*, Vol. II, p. 360; Bhanu, Dharma : *History and Administration of the North-Western Provinces (subsequently called the Agra Province)*, p. 389; Atkinson, E.T and Conybeare, H. C. : *Statistical, Descriptive And Historical Account of the North-Western Provinces of India*, Vol. V, *Rohilkhand Division*, Part I, *Bijnor (Bijnaur) District*, p. 335

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imported from Hathras. Locks and cutlery were also made at these places. The Lohars of Bijnor manufactured pocket knives and the Kaseras and Thatheras of Dhampur produced candlestands, gongs, bells and other metal ware of common use. At Najibabad decorative hookahs and other articles of domestic use were manufactured out of brass, copper and bell metal. Four matchlocks with carved wooden stocks were sent to the Paris Exhibition as far back as 1867 and found a ready sale.

Glass vessels were manufactured at Nagina and Najibabad, crude glass being imported from Aligarh and other places. Glass phials and lamp chimneys were produced in large quantities. The glass makers of the district were remarkable for being the only craftsmen in the State who could make bottles of moulded glass. These were small flasks resembling cheap Venetian scent bottles. As regards pottery, Chandpur was famous for its pipe bowls and *surahis* (water goblets). Lacquered and painted articles of wood and bamboo were manufactured at Nagina and Kiratpur. Najibabad was known for its bamboo baskets and Mandawar specialised in papier mache goods. Articles of leather (especially sambur) were manufactured at Najibabad and the shoes produced there had a large market. *Janeos* (sacred Brahmanical threads) made at Bijnor were also exported to other districts.

Power

According to the census of 1961, most of the establishments, both in villages and towns, ran without power. The percentage of such establishments was 74.5 in the rural and 58.8 in the urban areas. Electricity was used in 68 rural and 52 urban establishments in the district.

In 1970 the total industrial consumption of power in the district was 1,96,15,000 kw. which increased to 2,61,97,899 kw. in 1974. The per capita consumption of electricity during 1970 was 45 units.

The number of industrial consumers which was 1,827 in 1970 rose to 3,528 in 1974.

The consumption pattern of power in the various sectors of economy in 1974 is indicated below :

Sector *	Total consumption of power(kw.)
Light and fan	96,85,150
Industrial	2,61,97,899
Private tube-wells	2,76,26,350
State tube-wells	62,70,000

Electrification—92 towns and villages were electrified in 1950-51, their number rising to 825 in 1969-70 and to 427 in 1970-71. The U.P. State Electricity Board has drawn up a scheme to provide electricity to 00 villages per year during the next five years.

Large-scale Industries

There are three sugar-mills in the district, each located at Dhampur, Seohara and Bijnor. The Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd., Dhampur, and the Upper Ganges Sugar Mills Ltd., Seohara, were established in 1933 by Sahu Murli Manohar of Bareilly and the House of Birla respectively. The S.B. Sugar Mills, Bijnor, was started in 1984 by Seth Banarsi Das of Meerut.

These units are equipped with modern machines and are manned by a trained and skilled staff. Sugar production being a seasonal operation, these mills run between the months of November and March. Sugar-cane and certain chemicals are the raw materials of the industry, sugar-cane being available locally in abundance. The total investment of these mills was Rs 8,35,68,763, the total production was valued at Rs 18,68,60,792 and the persons employed numbered 2,088 in 1974. The sugar-mills at Dhampur and Seohara are among the ten largest sugar factories in the Country. In the district other large scale industries comprise a glass factory, a *katha* (catechu) manufacturing unit and a distillery. Their combined investment was Rs 39,59,396 and their products were valued at Rs 67,01,024 in 1974.

Glass—The Ganga Glass Works, Balawali, Bijnor, (established in 1918) manufactures lamps, bottles, tumblers, jugs, jars and other articles of domestic use besides scientific instruments. The raw materials are sand, lime, soda ash and some chemicals. Sand is available locally and other ingredients are imported. In 1974, the total capital outlay of the factory amounted to Rs 2,32,000, in which year it produced goods worth Rs 16,58,024 and consumed raw materials valued at Rs 8,80,000.

Katha (catechu)—The Lakshmi Katha Factory, Najibabad, extracts *katha* from *khair* wood found in plenty in the neighbouring forests. In 1974 the capital investment was Rs 26,87,000, the product was valued at Rs 33,50,000 and 176 persons were employed in the industry. *Katha* is used for edible purposes, its by-product being utilised in leather tanning and dyeing. The raw material consumed by the factory amounted to Rs 18,18,000 in 1974.

Alcohol—The Alco Chemicals, Seohara, is the only factory manufacturing power alcohol in the district. In 1974 the capital investment in the factory was Rs 10,40,396. Denatured spirit and power alcohol produced in that year were valued at Rs 16,98,000. The raw materials for the industry are molasses, ammonium sulphate and sulphuric acid which were valued at Rs 7,68,115 in 1974.

Small-scale Industries

Aluminium utensils, steel furniture, centrifugal pumps, razor blades, steel boxes, shutters, agricultural implements, sugar-cane crushing machines, washing soaps, candles, chemicals, oils, glass phials and other glass articles, *khandsari*, plywood furniture, rickshaw bodies, tent parts and packing cases are produced by small-scale units, which are mainly located in the urban areas.

The following statement gives comparative figures of progress of small-scale industries in the district in 1956 and 1974 :

	1956	1974
Total number of units	650	941
Total number of persons employed	10,594	—
Total investment (in Rs)	81,69,800	1,73,28,000
Value of raw material consumed (in Rs)	1,06,51,420	8,28,37,901
Total production (in Rs)	1,87,95,950	1,28,03,13,248

The small-scale industries of the district may be broadly classified as these based on agriculture such as those engaged in producing agricultural implements, soap and chemicals, glass goods, mechanical engineering goods and cane crushing.

Industries Based on Agriculture—13 units, located at Najibabad and Bijnor are engaged in extracting oil from oil-seeds, the production of *dals* (pulses) and legumes (decortication, etc.) and flour from wheat. The units are operated either by electricity or diesel oil.

Agricultural Implements—Agricultural implements, ploughs, crushers, buckets and pans (for making jaggery) are produced in 23 units located at Dhampur, Bijnor, Najibabad and Nagina. The units are operated by electricity and use iron and coal as raw materials.

Soap and Chemicals—Washing soaps, candles, sodium silicate, sulphur rolls, lime and other chemicals are manufactured in 31 units located at Dhampur, Bijnor, Najibabad and Naina. Rock sulphur, paraffin wax, sodium silicate, oils, soda ash, tallow, limestone and other chemicals are used as raw materials which are imported from Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Bombay, Calcutta, Dclra Dun and Delhi.

Glass Industry—Glass phials, thermometers and lantern chimneys are produced in 7 units most of which are situated at Najibabad. Broken glass and coal are used as raw materials which are imported from Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Mechanical Engineering Industry—Aluminium utensils, steel furniture, centrifugal pumps, razor blades, scissors, steel boxes and shutters are manufactured in 17 units, located at Najibabad, Bijnor and Dhampur. Steel and aluminium scrap are used as raw materials which are imported from Kanpur, Delhi, Meerut and Lucknow.

Cane Crushers—Cane crushing is undertaken by 841 units which are scattered throughout the district. Sugar-cane is locally available in large quantities.

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Other Industries—Plywood goods, rickshaw bodies, tents, shutters and packing cases are manufactured in 9 units located at Najibabad, Bijnor and Dhampur. Timber and bamboo are used as raw materials which are available locally.

The following statement gives relevant details regarding these small scale industries of the district as in 1974 :

Industries	Total investment (in Rs)	Value of raw material consumed (in Rs)	Total productions (in Rs)	No. of persons employed
Industries based on agriculture	26,65,000	36,75,000	46,50,000	133
Agricultural implements	11,38,000	10,15,000	14,98,000	280
Soap and chemicals	99,72,500	70,02,535	1,38,58,740	114
Glass industry	8,15,000	9,04,450	18,26,128	500
Mechanical engineering industry	13,06,000	5,94,000	11,47,000	230
Cane crushing	12,45,000	6,03,43,916	1,21,35,20,000	4,895
Other industries	2,81,500	3,53,800	7,13,180	331

VILLAGE AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

The village and cottage industries, which comprise mostly handicrafts, have come down from generation to generation. Cotton textiles, glass phials and brushes are the main goods produced in this sector. The textile industry provides employment to the largest number of workers (as compared to other cottage industries).

A survey of the village and cottage industries in 1956 revealed the following facts :

Total number of units	49,907
Total number of persons employed	1,14,574
Total investment (in Rs)	42,14,600
Total value of raw materials used (in Rs)	5,76,41,080
Total value of goods produced (in Rs)	8,13,45,000

A brief account of each industry follows.

Handloom Industry—This industry is the oldest industry of the district. *Garha, khes*, bedcovers and various kinds of shirtings were manufactured on 26,299 handlooms and 97 power-looms in 1974, engaging 61,696 weavers. The power-looms are mainly installed at Dhampur, Nihtaur, Tajpur, Chandpur, Rawana and Shikarpur.

The yarn is mainly purchased direct from Delhi by individual weavers or through yarn dealers of the district. The annual consumption of yarn is 15,600 bales, a bale weighing 160 kg. On an average a worker weaves 12 to 16 metres of cloth daily and gets a wage between Rs 4 and Rs 6 per day. In 1973-74 the cloth produced was 36,54,279 metres in length, was valued at Rs 42,49,471 and was sold for Rs 45,04,541, the capital investment amounting to Rs 6,25,000.

Glass Phial-making Industry—This cottage industry is located mainly at Najibabad, Nagina, Kiratpur, Sherkot, Mandawar and Nihtaur. The glass phials are prepared from broken glass which is melted in ovens and the molten glass is blown (by mouth) into phials. The number of ovens was 64 in 1974. The capital outlay on this industry was Rs 3,20,000 and it consumed raw materials worth Rs 8,50,000. The value of goods produced was Rs 17,92,000 in 1974. The demand for glass phials is mostly from Delhi, Punjab, Bihar, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

Brush-making Industry—Brushes are manufactured in 50 units, located mainly at Sherkot. For making brushes, bristles are purchased from Kanpur, Delhi and Bombay, wooden blocks being available locally. The capital outlay of this industry was Rs 3,50,000 in 1974. It consumed raw materials worth Rs 3,50,000 and the output amounted to Rs 7,00,000. As many as 800 persons were engaged in this industry during that period.

Woollen Blankets—Najibabad is famous for the manufacture of woollen blankets. Wool is imported from other districts and the finished goods have a local market.

Oil—There are three oil expellers in the district manned by 26 families. Generally the machines are driven by bullocks. The total investment in these units was Rs 19,632 and the production was valued at Rs 1,24,830 in 1974.

Footwear—Shoe making is an age-old industry dependent mostly on traditional skill and workmanship. The shoes made conform mostly to indigenous designs and utilise locally tanned leather. About five units manned by 76 persons are engaged in this industry. The total investment was about Rs 62,825 and the production was valued at Rs 5,02,610 in 1974.

Ban-making—Ban is made by five units generally situated along the banks of the rivers of the district. This industry is very old. The basic raw material is available in appreciable quantity and about 27

persons are engaged in this industry. The investment was Rs 22,950 in 1974 and the output amounted to Rs 1,68,925.

Gur-making—The indigenous production of *gur* (jaggery) and *rab* (molasses) provides a seasonal job for about 247 persons who work on a daily-wage system. About seven units with a total investment of Rs 64,725 are engaged in this industry. The production amounted to Rs 18,68,744 in 1974.

Smithy and Carpentry—Simple agricultural tools and implements, such as sickles, spades, axes and cutters are manufactured and this industry is scattered throughout the district. Work is done on daily wages.

A number of carpenters are engaged in manufacturing wooden frames for doors and windows, beds, wheels for carts, ploughs and pieces of furniture. About 70 persons are engaged in smithy and carpentry. The total outlay was about Rs 28,400 and the production figures were about 2,08,465 in 1974.

Pottery—Pottery, an old industry of the district, still sustains the economic life of some people. Besides earthenware and tiles, the potters usually concentrate on making images of Gods and Goddesses particularly of Ganesha, Lakshmi, Siva, Durga and Sarasvati. These products are easily sold out on the occasion of fairs and festivals. Smooth black clay, commonly used for pot making is available locally. The industry is not in a prosperous state. The estimated investment was about Rs 6,800 and the output figures were Rs 50,000 in 1974. About 14 persons are engaged in this industry.

Industrial Art

Nagina has long been famous for its ivory and ivory goods, particularly a variety of jewellery (necklaces and chains, etc.), tie boxes, make-up boxes, wooden sticks, bangle boxes, *gupties* (sword sticks) and *kukries* and a number of such industrial arts, all of which vie with one another in beauty and excellence. The local zamindars were patrons of such art but with their disappearance and the advent of cheaper articles in the market, the death knell of these industries has been sounded. Though the annual production capacity is of Rs 8,60,000, due to lack of demand this industry is decaying and goods are made only on order. The finished articles are exported to Delhi and other big cities.

Industrial Estates—There are two industrial estates in the district: the Backward Industrial Estate, Bijnor, and the Rural Industrial Estate, Nagina. The work of these estates was undertaken and completed during the third Five-year Plan. The Backward Industrial Estate, Bijnor, was constructed at a cost of Rs 8,98,000. It has five big and 12 small sheds for establishing industries. The Rural Industrial Estate, Nagina, has two big and eight small sheds.

Aid to Industries

Assistance is given to various industries in the district under the State aid to industries scheme and the credit guarantee schemes of

the State Bank of India but as there is a dearth of enterprise in the district, these credit facilities are not being utilised fully.

The U.P. financial corporation advances loans at a lower rate of interest than other institutions—between 7 and 7.5 per cent with a rebate of 1 to 1.5 per cent for prompt payment and also gives a longer grace period (upto 4 years) and a longer repayment period (upto 15 years) and 50 per cent reduced guarantee commission to small-scale units.

The Central Financial Institution—The Industrial Development Bank of India and the industrial financial corporation of India advance loans for projects upto Rs 1 crore to entrepreneurs at an interest lower by one per cent than the normal rate of interest charged by other commercial banks.

The U.P. financial corporation has four schemes under which it has advanced loans in the district. The corporation provides assistance to industrial concerns both directly by way of loans and indirectly by issuing deferred payment guarantees on account of industrial purchases of indigenous machinery and by guaranteeing loans raised from other sources by industrial concerns. Under the liberalised loan scheme the corporation acts as an agent of the State Government for disposal of loan applications received from the directorate of industries, U.P. For small-scale units, under the ordinary loan scheme the corporation advances loans for the creation of fixed assets. In special cases, working capital facilities to the extent of 35.3 per cent of the total loans are also provided. The assistance rendered in the district through these schemes is mentioned in the following statement:

Scheme	No. of units assisted	Amount (in lakhs) disbursed till 31-3-1974
Corporation loan scheme	4	6.22
Liberalised loan scheme	41	22.40
Ordinary loan scheme	4	0.66

The other institutions which have rendered assistance to industries are the U.P. small-scale industries corporation, Kanpur and the national small industries corporation. The State Government also renders help through the handloom industry scheme, the khandi development scheme, the intensive developments scheme, the credit and grant scheme and the industrial co-operative society scheme.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

With the introduction of modern methods of cultivation and the fixing of a minimum price for agricultural produce, the economic condition of the people has improved, providing the district with a better base

for industrial development. There are bright prospects for setting up new industries. The existing three sugar-mills do not seem to utilize all the sugar-cane available in the district thus necessitating either their expansion or the establishment of more such factories. There is also good scope for starting ancillary units to utilise by-products like bagasse and molasses, etc. Fibrous plants, shrubs and grasses grow in plenty and can be transformed into *sulli* (string), *ban*, rope and packing paper. The number of *khair* trees is so large that they could give rise to more *katha* (catechu) factories. The production of hardware, engineering goods, machine tools and cement pipes can be expanded to meet the growing demand for these articles. New units for the manufacture of scientific instruments, aluminium conductors and furniture could well be started to capture local markets. The demand for cycles and their spare parts has recorded a considerable increase in recent years and the district has the capacity to manufacture these items. Large quantities of animal bones, which are exported every year, may easily be utilized locally if a few bone meal plants are set up in the district.

The rich forest area in the north of the district is capable of providing adequate resources for the development of the papier mache, wood-seasoning and plywood industries. Small units for manufacturing low-priced, simply designed, ready-made handloom garments can be set up to generate employment.

Labour Organization

There were 22 trade unions in the district in 1974 with a total membership of 1,23,718 workers. Among the objects of these bodies are payment of fair wages, good living and working conditions, proper medical and educational facilities for labourers and their general welfare. They also help in creating a healthy relationship between employer and employee. The district has one labour welfare centre each at Bijnor and Dhampur which provides medical, educational, cultural, recreational and sports facilities to the working people.

Labour Welfare—The Indian Trade Union Act, 1926, the Employment of Children Act, 1936, the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, the U.P. Industrial Establishment (National Holidays) Act, 1961, and the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, are operative in the district. In 1974 there were three labour inspectors in the district to ensure the enforcement of the labour laws, advance labour welfare schemes and maintain liaison between employees and employers.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

BANKING AND FINANCE

History of Indigenous Banking in the District

Money-lending has been an age-old practice in some form or other in the district. The usual indigenous modes of financing trade were in vogue as money was always available with the affluent. In ancient times, trade and industry were well developed. Institutions called Srenis existed¹ and almost every important industry had a Sreni which laid down rules and regulations for the conduct of its members and ensured a high standard of service for the people. One of the important functions of the Sreni was to operate local banks. People directed the banks to spend the accruing interest on deposits for specific purposes².

These Srenis disappeared in the mediæval period and the merchants and middlemen emerged as financiers. In this period, the business of dealing in money was well developed and foreign travellers noticed the presence of expert money dealers in the centres of trade³. The indigenous financing agency comprised wealthy bankers of the towns and petty village *mahajans* (money-lenders). They conducted large transactions at the chief commercial centres and at the courts of local rulers, for whom they sometimes acted as finance ministers.⁴ Even in times of anarchy they were generally respected. Their credit stood so high that their bills of exchange or *hundis* were negotiable throughout India and even beyond its boundaries. The use of *hundis* has been considerably restricted in recent years.

The first bank, the District Co-operative Bank Ltd., was established at Bijnor in 1914 and for the next 33 years it was the only bank in the district. On April 8, 1947, the State Bank of India opened a branch at Seohara, on June 1, 1954, another branch was opened at Bijnor and on July 11, 1958, and August 11, 1958, two more branches were opened at Najibabad and Dhampur respectively. In 1973 there were in the district 26 branches of different commercial banks apart from ten branches of the Co-operative Bank.

Rural Indebtedness

The main occupation of the people of the district has always been agriculture. At the beginning of this century the economic condition

1. Majumdar, R.C. : *Ancient India*, p. 215

2. *Ibid.*

3. Moreland, W.H. : *India at the Death of Akbar*, p. 55

4. *The Imperial Gazetteer of India, the Indian Empire* (Oxford, 1909) Vol. VI, p. 522

of the agriculturists was not satisfactory. Their holdings were small and the price of agricultural produce was low. Small proprietors formed a large proportion of the landholding community. The normal condition of the proprietary communities was one of abject poverty, resulting from continuous multiplication of owners and the subdivision of land, which took place under the law of inheritance then prevailing. At the beginning of the present century petty loans, provided some valuables were pawned, carried interest ranging from 12 to 18 per cent per annum and in case of personal security from 18 to 37½ per cent. In bigger transactions with goods pledged, lower rates of interest were charged. Small plots of land were mortgaged for the purpose of obtaining loans at a rate between 9 to 18 per cent but the interest dropped to 7 or 8 per cent in the case of large properties and was lower when the mortgage was accompanied with actual possession. During the First and Second World Wars, cultivators were benefited from the rise in the price of agricultural produce as it increased their purchasing capacity but the high price which they had to pay for clothes, livestock and implements almost neutralised the advantages.

The situation did not change and even after Independence the general financial difficulties of the cultivators remained as acute as before due to the increase in population and no dispersion of it to other occupations. Unless the average cultivator of the district inherited some money he remained in debt as was the plight of the farm worker and the landless labourer. Indebtedness in the district is also connected with social, religious and traditional obligations, money being borrowed for performing marriages, *upnayana* (sacred thread ceremony), *mundan*, funeral ceremonies and often for litigation.

About 47.26 per cent of families were in debt, the highest percentage of households in debt being in the income group of Rs 26—50 per month. Debt was also incurred in connection with the needs of cultivation, purchase of land, performance of marriage, to meet expenses during illness and to some extent even to meet day to day domestic expenditure.

Although no survey has been carried out after 1961 to indicate recent trends, it is noticeable that with the increasing attention paid by the government to improvement in agriculture—like land reforms, the introduction of high-yielding varieties of seeds and liberal use of chemical fertilisers, etc., farm production has risen considerably in recent years. Coupled with these measures, a marked rise in the price of agricultural commodities has also augmented the average income of the cultivators so that loans are now generally taken more for productive than for other purposes.

Urban Indebtedness.—Factory and office workers residing in urban centres are generally indebted. This is a natural consequence of rising prices since the beginning of the nineteen seventies. Salaries of workers and earners have increased but not in proportion to the high cost of living. A worker with a family of five or more finds it difficult to make both ends meet. There has been a phenomenal rise not only in the price of food-grains but in the rent of houses, tuition fees in educational institutions and the prices of many essential goods.

An economic survey in the village of Rafiuhagar or Raoli (in tahsil Bijnor) conducted in 1961 revealed certain trends in indebtedness which are indicated in the following statement :

Total number of households	146
Total number of household in debt	69
Total amount of debts (in Rs)	18,421
Average indebtedness per indebted household (in Rs)	266.97

Debt-relief Legislation

Attempts were made since the first quarter of this century to find a remedy for rural indebtedness mainly through legislative measures seeking to regulate the terms and conditions of money-lending.

The Usurious Loans Act was passed in 1918 which enabled the courts to examine transactions in order to see if excessive interest was being charged. By an amendment in 1926 the Act was made applicable to all parties seeking relief from mortgage. An amendment affected in 1934 made the Act applicable generally to all debtors and debts and also, for the first time, provided definite limits beyond which the rate of interest would be deemed to be excessive.

During the economic depression of the thirties, some legislative measures were taken for the scaling down and clearance of debts. The United Provinces Agriculturists' Relief Act, 1934, gave some relief to the agriculturists by providing *inter alia*, for payment of debts in easy instalments and at a low rate of interest. The Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Act, 1937, provided for unconditional stay of proceedings of execution of decrees against tenants and those proprietors whose land revenue did not exceed Rs 1,000 a year.

The United Provinces Debt Redemption Act, 1940, provided for the accounting of interest at a low rate and protecting the property of debtors from large-scale liquidation but these advantages could be availed of mainly by educated and rich borrowers. Recent legislation enacted by the U.P. Legislature has relieved Harijans and landless labourers of their obligation to repay their debts.

Role of Private Money-lenders and Financiers

Though there are no licensed money-lenders or indigenous bankers in the district the money-lending business was till recently carried on both in rural as well as in urban areas. The unlicensed money-lenders operating in the district were those who hailed from Moradabad district and those who belonged to the district itself. The former were known as Qistiyas and their business was known as Qistiyan Wala business. Five Qistiya business houses of district Moradabad were operating in district Bijnor and made advances which usually amounted to Rs 25 or 30 lakhs in a year against ornaments, jewellery, pledges, etc., and straight advances. Normally the Qistiyas did not insist on any security and

advances were made to borrowers at the time of their needs for both productive and unproductive purposes against a *rugga* (pronote) and a receipt. The rate of interest varied from 18 to 20 per cent per annum but no formalities were observed when making such advances except that the *ziledar* (a servant of the Qistiyas) went to the house of the borrower to be assured of his address. The government, the co-operative societies, the nationalised banks and other financial institutions have now extended their services to the farmers in the effort to eliminate private money-lending.

Government Loans

The British government adopted the practice of extending some monetary help to agriculturists in times of distress, flood, famine and other calamities. On the recommendations of the Famine Commission the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883 (Act XII of 1883) and the Agriculturists Loans Act, 1884 (Act XIX of 1884) were passed which empowered the State Governments to frame rules governing the grant and disbursement of loans to agriculturists. The Grow More Food Campaign has been financed by the State Government since 1947 and the policy of increasing agricultural production and helping the agriculturists in distress by suitable provision of funds continues to be followed by the government. Long-term loans are provided by the U.P. State Co-operative Land Development Bank, Ltd. The loans advanced by the government are generally given against the security of immovable property and they have to be repayed in instalments within two years. The loans distributed in 1971-72 and 1972-73 were Rs 71,974 and Rs 36,700 respectively and Rs 2,89,342 in 1973-74.

Co-operative Credit Societies and Banks

The co-operative movement was introduced in the district in 1910 but it gathered momentum only after 1947.

In the First Five-year Plan period (commencing in 1951-52) the co-operative societies provided loans to its members primarily for increasing agricultural production. During the Second Five-year Plan, with the increase in the membership of the primary societies, funds were made available for productive purposes and also for buying consumer goods from the marketing societies. As the responsibilities of the co-operative societies increased, they were reorganised in 1960 and subsequent years and the smaller ones were combined to form bigger multi-purpose societies. The total number of societies therefore registered a decrease after 1960. The following statement indicates the progress of the co-operative movement in the district since 1959-60 :

	1959-60	1969-70	1973-74
No. of primary co-operative societies	716	385	186
Membership of the primary co-operative societies (number)	58,131	84,312	1,12,000
Loans advanced by primary co-operative societies (in Rs)	71,14,236	1,86,12,000	29,30,000

Other Co-operatives—During the Second World War the prices of consumer goods of daily use rose considerably and some consumer co-operatives were established in the district.

The district co-operative federation, Ltd., Bijnor, was established on November 29, 1945, to link the various local co-operative marketing institutions with the Uttar Pradesh co-operative federation, Lucknow. It is an apex institution of the district with 83 co-operative unions as its members. Some of its important functions are to make arrangements for the supply of agricultural requisites (such as fertilisers, agricultural implements and improved varieties of seeds) and to accelerate the pace of agricultural development. The federation does not advance credit but renders services and arranges for supplies.

Marketing Societies—There are four major co-operative marketing societies in the district which are located at Chandpur, Kiratpur, Dhampur and Haldaur. They provide implements, seeds, fertilizers and consumer goods to the agriculturists. They also provide a ready market for the agricultural produce of the farmer who is thus assured reasonable returns and is saved from the clutches of unscrupulous traders, and money-lenders who are always eager to buy his produce but beat his prices down. The following statement indicates the transactions undertaken by the co-operative marketing societies as in 1974 :

	Goods (value in Rs) sold in 1974
Chandpur Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd.	1,16,000
Kiratpur Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd.	2,00,000
Dhampur Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd.	1,80,000
Haldaur Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd.	85,000

There are 30 co-operative seed stores, 152 service co-operatives, 62 co-operative farming societies, seven salary earners societies, seven co-operative housing societies, nine primary consumer stores, one processing society and one wholesale and retail consumers store in the district.

Co-operative Banks—The District Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Bijnor, was established in 1914. It has 10 branches, which are located at Bijnor, Kiratpur, Najibabad, Nagina, Dhampur, Haldaur, Chandpur, Noorpur, Afzalgarh and Seohara.

The bank finances the primary co-operative societies which in their turn advance loans to their members for utilisation in farm production. The bank also accepts deposits and collects inward bills. It had advanced loans to its member societies amounting to Rs 2,58,00,000 till June 30, 1974, and its share capital was Rs 42,42,120. The rate of interest charged by the bank from the member societies was 8½ per cent per annum whereas the primary credit societies charged 11 per cent interest from their members.

The U.P. State Co-operative Land Development Bank, Ltd, established a branch at Bijnor on October 15, 1965. Three more branches of the bank are located at Nagina, Dhampur and Najibabad.

The bank provides long-term loans to the agriculturists for agricultural improvements.

Commercial Banks

Commercial banks play a crucial role in economic development because they collect idle resources and channelise them for various productive purposes. The district's banking structure consists of four commercial banks which operate 26 branches. The following statement gives the location of the branches of each commercial bank in the district.

Commercial bank	Location of branches
1. Punjab National Bank	Barhapura, Haldaur, Jhalu, Kotwali, Mandawar, Nagul, Nurpur, Sahaspur, Afzalgarh, Bijnor, Chandpur, Dhampur, Kiratpur, Nagina, Najibabad, Nihtaur
2. State Bank of India	Sherkot, Bijnor, Chandpur, Dhampur, Nagina, Najibabad, Seohara
3. Banaras State Bank, Ltd.	Najibabad, Seohara
4. Lakshmi Commercial Bank, Ltd.	Bijnor

Commercial banking has been growing since 1969 and the deposits and advances have also been growing. The commercial banks had a total deposit of Rs 7.31 lakhs and the total advances made by them were Rs 2.30 lakhs in 1972.

Each branch of these banks serves in a year on an average 50,000 people residing within a radius of 11.3 km. The economy of the district is based principally on local finances or on borrowed funds made available by non-institutional sources.

Industrialists, government servants and big traders depend on institutional finance which is organised. The commercial banks, the co-operative societies, banks and government constitute the organised sources of finance. The savings of the rural population of the district are still untapped but the commercial banks have opened branches in the rural areas to attract such investments. Efforts are being made to encourage the agriculturists to bank their savings and also to provide them with money for agricultural purposes. The rates of interests on deposits vary from 5 to 11 per cent per annum and on advances from 10 to 15 per cent per annum.

National Savings Organization

The post-office savings bank scheme has been operating in the district since the last decade of the nineteenth century. This and other subsequent small-saving schemes have been formulated to tap the savings of those who generally do not subscribe to government loans, to inculcate the habit of thrift and to make funds available to government for investment in development schemes.

The scheme of premium prize bonds was introduced in the district on January 1, 1963. Bonds were available at the treasuries and post-offices up to December 31, 1964, in denominations of Rs 5 and Rs 100. They were encashable five years after the date of sale with a premium of 10 per cent, each holder being eligible to participate in the draws for prizes. This scheme was withdrawn later.

Life Insurance

The Life Insurance business was nationalised in September, 1956, with the setting up of the life insurance corporation of India, of which a branch office was opened at Bijnor in September, 1958. The office is managed by a branch manager and a staff of 48 persons. The progress of life insurance business in the district is indicated below :

Year	No. of lives assured	Total sum assured (in Rs)
1960	1,499	62,28,750
1970	2,115	17,08,60,000
1974-75	2,778	8,90,277

The life insurance business is expanding in both urban centres and in rural areas.

Currency and Coinage

In India gold dust or ingots of gold and silver served as currency as far back as the sixth century B.C. Coins, pieces of metal of regular shape, whose weight and fineness was guaranteed by a recognized authority, were also in use. Coins were issued by merchant guilds and corporations as well as by the government of the day. They were known as punch-marked coins because one or more figures on them were marked as symbols of the issuing authority but they bore no names and no legends.

The weight of the earliest coins was based on the system laid down in the *Manu-Samhita*. Generally coins of a single metal (copper or silver) were in circulation. Silver coins (the *purana* or *dhurana* of 32 *rattis*) and their various multiples and subdivisions have been discovered all over India.

In the mediæval period there were mainly three divisions of the currency system. A gold mohar was equivalent to 10 silver rupees and a rupee comprised 40 copper *dams*.

During the time of the Rohillas the value of the rupee was about 171 grains of silver. The British issued their own rupee which comprised 16 annas, an anna being subdivided into 12 pies or 4 pice.

The decimal system of coinage was introduced on October 1, 1958. The rupee has been divided into a 100 paise. The coins in circulation in the district are the same as those current in the rest of the country which are 1 paisa, 2, 3, 5, 20, 25 and 50 paise coins.

The distribution of one rupee coins is undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India as the agent of the Central Government. In October, 1969, a restricted number of ten rupee Mahatma Gandhi centenary silver coins were issued to the various States.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Trade in the past was inconsiderable owing to the lack of effective means of communication. Before the advent of British rule, the usual means of communication were unmetalled roads and rivers. There were small markets where gatherings took place once or twice in a week for the disposal of indigenous articles. Such markets were not registered as trade centres because they were concerned only with collecting and distributing goods. The only large trade centres were the chief towns (Dhampur, Nagina, Najibabad, Bijnor, Chandpur, Kiratpur and Nihtaur),

Bijnor is one of the "sick" districts of western U.P. as regards industrial well being and progress. It is mainly an agricultural district and about 80 per cent of its population lives in villages, the main source of livelihood being agriculture. About 60 per cent of the district's total income is contributed by agriculture. The input-output ratio, though a little higher than in some of the neighbouring districts, is not satisfactory because the techniques of agriculture adopted are traditional out-of-date and not adequately productive. An average villager hardly earns enough for his subsistence and has to supplement his income through some alternative occupation, usually a cottage industry.

The development of the railway system augmented the volume of commerce. At the close of the last century the main items of export of the district were sugar, bamboos and other forest produce which were sent neighbouring districts. The main items of import were salt, fabrics, metals and spices.

Though the district is industrially under developed a number of cottage industries have been famous for a long-time and the products have been exported to far off places. The district is now well linked by road and rail to Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Moradabad and

other places. Najibabad railway station, being on the main line, has a direct link with Calcutta, Amritsar and New Delhi. The banking and transport facilities of the district have helped in the promotion of its trade and commerce in recent years.

There is a forest belt of 33,953 hectares or 7.3 per cent of the total area of the district, the main produce of which is catechu and in 1969-70 the total income from it amounted to Rs 55 lakhs which was roughly 75 per cent of the total income from the forests. Other forest products are timber and varieties of hard and soft woods.

Exports and Imports

With the establishment of certain industries there has been considerable increase in the district in exports and imports. 60,000 metric tonnes of sugar and 40,000 of jaggery (gur) were exported from the district in recent years. The imports in recent years were 11,550 metric tonnes of black coke, 2,006 metric tonnes of soft coke and 14,000 metric tonnes of hard coke.

Trade Centres

The district has numerous centres for distributing goods, whether imported or locally produced. Each tahsil has its own trade centre for the purchase and sale of goods together with a network of local markets which are held once or twice a week at convenient places. Broadly speaking, there are three types of markets in the district—primary, secondary, and terminal. The primary markets function mostly as produce-assembling centres, where a large part of the produce comes from neighbouring villages. Secondary markets transact wholesale business dependent upon the arrival of goods. Terminal markets generally function as produce-distributing centres fed mostly by secondary markets.

Bijnor is a secondary market. It is a consuming market with regard to pulses (dals) and general merchandise and an assembling market in respect of sugar, *khandsari*, and *catechu*. Bijnor (the headquarters of the district) grew into importance after 1824, when the collector of the district (Hallhead) shifted the district headquarters from Nagina to Bijnor. Its market, which is situated on the north of the town and the south of the collectorate is known as Pamerganj (after the magistrate who designed it). The old trade centre was at Daranagar (commonly known as Ganj), situated about 3.8 km. south of Bijnor on the left bank of the Ganga. As Bijnor was handicapped by the absence of good means of communication in olden times and also because it was nearly 5 km. distant from the Ganga, it could not develop into a flourishing trade centre for a long-time. The need of a market was greatly felt both by the government and the people after it became the district headquarters. As no trader was willing to shift his trade from Ganj to Bijnor, the government induced the landlords and businessmen to construct the market by selling the land to them at a nominal price. As time went on, communications were improved and with traders shifting from Daranagar to Bijnor, the market began to flourish. The present market is connected by metalled roads with Nagina, Najibabad, Nihtaur,

Dhampur, Sherkot, Chandpur, Amroha and Moradabad. There are four other main markets which are at Kiratpur, Najibabad, Dhampur and Nagina.

Wholesale dealers collect goods from the trade centres to sell to retail traders who earn commission on the sales and also make a profit because of the difference in the wholesale and retail prices. There are now co-operative marketing societies at each of the tahsil headquarters towns in the district.

The village *hats* are numerous and well distributed all over the district. Markets are held on fixed days of the week and supply goods of every day use to the villagers. Cattle are also bought and sold in some of these markets of which there are 65 in the district.

The charges realised in both cases from the purchaser are on the commission paid, the rate per Rs 100 being Rs 1.05 and for weighing goods at Rs 1.05 per bag.

Price Control and Rationing

During the Second World War, prices of all commodities rose and to alleviate the hardship of the public the prices of a number of essential commodities were controlled and rationing was introduced. The important commodities thus controlled or rationed were food-grains, cloth, sugar, firewood, kerosene oil and cement and dealers of such commodities had to obtain licences before they could sell these things. Various schemes for the rationing of food-grains—mainly wheat and its products, gram, rice and sugar—were tried out during the war. The continuance of the rationing of wheat and its products, rice, sugar and kerosene oil has persisted ever since then and there were 330 fair price shops in the district in 1974.

The inflationary trends of recent years have necessitated the adoption, by the government, of several measures like procurement of food-grains, State trading in food-grains (mainly wheat and rice), warehousing and storage on behalf of the State and legislation to prevent hoarding and profiteering by well-to-do growers and middlemen. These steps have been helpful to some extent in holding the price line.

Fairs

Several fairs are held in the district. The gatherings are ostensibly of a religious nature but a considerable amount of business is also conducted. They are generally of local importance and the people who attend them usually come from within the district itself. The most important is the Daranagar fair where about 1,00,000 persons assemble on the full moon day of Kartika. Another important one, the Zahir Diwan, is held at Jahanabad, which is attended by about 40,000 persons. There are some fairs of purely Muslim origin held near the tombs or in commemoration of departed saints but they are attended by people of various communities and religious and brisk trade is carried on at the time.

Weights and Measures

In the first decade of the present century a variety of weights and measures were in use in the district. The customary *ser* was of 90 tolas, as compared with the regulated *ser* of 80 which was in general use. These weights were found in all parts of Rohilkhand. The rupee struck by the Rolillas of Najibabad was equal to about 171 grains of silver and perhaps its nominal weight was greater (nearly equal to 175 grains) in order to produce the 90 tola *ser* in vogue at that time. Possibly in this area (as in other districts where sugar was manufactured), a larger *ser* was used for weighing sugar to make a fair allowance for moisture. As for linear measures, the measuring unit was the Akbari *bigha* of 3,025 sq. yds. (being a square of 55 yds.) and had replaced the numerous varieties of the pukka *bigha* though usually almost every pargana had a separate standard of its own. These local *bighas* varied considerably from 80 to 90 per cent of the government measure resulting in much confusion and their abolition was effected by 1865. The small or *kutchha bigha* was usually one third of the full measure but actually admitted of no exact determination as it nominally consisted of a square of 20 paces which was far from being exact. In most places the *kutchha bigha* was about 900 square yards but the extremesouth of the district it was much less and was often regarded as merely one-fourth of the pukka *bigha*.

Till 1959, the weights in use were the maund, *seer*, *chhatak*, *tola*, *masha* and *ratti* and the linear measures were the mile, furlong, yard, foot and inch. Till recently there was hardly any use of the volumetric measurement of liquids such as milk, ghee, etc., and they were measured in terms of measurements of weights as the *ser*, etc.

The metric system of weights and measures became current in the district with effect from October 1, 1960, and now only metric weights (the milligram, centigram, decigram, gram, decagram, hectagram, kilogram, and metric tonne, etc., are used). The linear measures are the millimetre, centimetre, decimetre, metre, decametre, hectometre, kilometre, etc., the measures of capacity in terms of the millilitre, centilitre, decilitre, litre, decalitre, hectalitre and kilolitre.

In the interior of the district (as in other districts) the old weights and measures are still in use but with the vigorous and continued efforts made by the enforcement staff of the government the metric system is expected completely to replace the old measures in due course.

CHAPTER VII COMMUNICATIONS

TRADE ROUTES AND HIGHWAYS AND MODES OF CONVEYANCE

Old and New

In ancient times Bijnor was a centre of trade and pilgrimage and it is said that it was connected with the ancient towns of Mandawar on the north, Moradwaj on the north-east and Chandpur and Sambhal (district Moradabad) on the south-east. Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese traveller, visited Mandawar in the seventh century. An ancient route running along the foot-hills from Hardwar to the river Ramganga was followed by Nasir-ud-din Mahmud during his expedition in 1254. It was on this very road that Jalal-ud-din Firoz Shah, the first of the Khalji Sultan of Delhi founded the town of Jalalabad which, during the reign of Akbar, was the capital of a *dastur* (district) and a pargana. Roads from this place led to Kotdwara on the north-east, to Nihaur on the south, to Bijnor on the south-west and to Chandighat on the river Ganga on the north-west. There were several local roads connecting the important places of the district. On the whole, during Akbar's reign, the main roads in the district were those which exist at present except that they were unmetalled. These roads had ferries on the rivers which flowed through the district. During the rainy season they were generally difficult to negotiate. Some improvements were effected during the days of the Rohillas and some more places were connected by kutcha roads. This was the state of affairs when the district was ceded to the East India Company in 1801. The new administration gave instructions to local authorities to open internal communications. The zamindars were made responsible for the maintenance of tracks but the arrangement proved unsatisfactory. On the failure of the zamindars' agency, a road cess of one per cent was levied in lieu of the landlords' obligation to maintain the roads. Funds were utilized both for the maintenance and construction of new roads till 1841 when they were made over to a local committee which continued till the formation of the district board in 1883. More emphasis was laid on good communications and new roads, both metalled and unmetalled, were gradually constructed. In the beginning of this century the unmetalled roads, though numerous, were of an inferior type. In 1906 the total length of the roads in the district was about 930 km. The only provincial road in the district was unmetalled and its length was about 21 km.

In 1947 (at the time of Independence) the district had about 236 km. of metalled roads, of which about 162 km. were under the public works department and 74 km. under the district board. Some of the village roads were also constructed through *shramdan* (voluntary labour). During the period from 1947 to 1963 about 262 km. metalled roads and about 22 km. C.C. (cement concrete) tracks were laid and about 55 km. metalled roads were reconstructed. Thus in 1963 there were

521 km. of metalled roads in the district including about 24 km. of roads of the Zila Parishad. Of these about 443 km. were painted (black topped) or had a cement concrete surface.

There are 212 km. of State highways, 572 km. of major and other district roads, 140 km. of forest department roads and 351 km. roads under the control of the Zila Parishad.

State highways connect the district with Muzaffarnagar, Naini Tal, Moradabad and Dehra Dun. The major district roads connect the district headquarters with those of the tahsils. The village roads connect various places in the interior and they are generally unmetalled.

Statements I and II showing these roads their lengths in the district are appended at the end of the chapter.

MODES OF CONVEYANCE

No authentic account is available of the conveyances used in the district in ancient times but palanquins, horses, ponies, elephants, camels and carts and carriages drawn generally by bullocks and horses were probably used. The bulk of goods was transferred by pack animals. Ekkas and buggies appeared in this region during the reign of Akbar. Till the first quarter of the present century the rich kept their own means of transport and hackney carriages served the needs of the common people. Buggies and four-wheeled carriages generally drawn by one or two horses were owned by landlords and well-to-do people.

Dolis (litters), ekkas and tongas have now been replaced almost entirely by cycle-rickshaws in urban areas. As an economic and easy means of transport, bicycles are popular among all classes of people especially students, small traders, office workers and washermen. *Dolis* and palanquins sometimes even now make their appearance in village marriage processions but they are dying out and have become obsolete in the cities and towns. They are eminently suited for village roads which are generally rough and uneven. Carts fitted with pneumatic tyres are growing in popularity. Cycle-rickshaws have also started plying on village roads. The number of hackney carriages is rapidly diminishing with the rising cost of maintenance. Bicycles are now quite a common sight in the villages of the district. Of late tractors, which are used for agricultural purposes, are also being utilised as a means of transport in the rural areas.

In the urban areas vehicles have to be registered with the local bodies which lay down standard rates of fares, though in practice the fare is settled mutually between the two parties and is usually higher than the standard rate.

Vehicular Traffic

Till 1947 motor vehicles (mainly lorries and trucks) were few in number in the district as most of the roads were not worthy of heavy traffic movement but with the development and improvement of roads in the last three decades, their number has increased considerably and now they ply by day and night on all the main routes of this and the

Shipping districts. Consumer goods, agricultural produce, building materials and many other types of goods are now transported by truck. The freight is usually settled by the parties concerned and varies from one to two rupees per km. An average-size truck carries 74 quintals of weight. Taxies and buses are also available in the district for transport of passengers.

U.P. State Road Transport Corporation—The State transport organization which has now been converted into the U.P. state road transport corporation with effect from June 1, 1972, runs passenger buses in the district and their number is on the increase.

With the development and improvement of roads and the increase in passenger traffic, the bus service has been expanding and by 1974 it covered 31 routes.

Railways

The district was originally served by the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway which traversed the district from the south-east to the north-west, entered pargana Scohara from Moradabad and passed through the eastern uplands. Portions of this line were opened between 1884 and 1886. A branch line from Najibabad to Kotdwara was opened in December, 1897. After the nationalization and regrouping of the railways with effect from May 14, 1952, it has been included in the Northern Railway with divisional office at Moradabad. There are 28 railway stations in the district, 14 each on both main and branch lines.

Waterways and Ferries

Waterways—The Ganga is not navigable in this district and has never been utilized for traffic except for floating timber down from the forests. In fact boats can not be plied on it because of the boulder-strewn rapids in its course. The Ramganga's utility for transporting timber and bamboo has also ended after the construction of the Kalagarh dam on the river in the Garhwal district.

Ferries—There were numerous ferries on the different rivers passing through the district. In 1906 their number was 16 and they were maintained mostly by the district board. With the construction of bridges a number of ferries have ceased to operate. In 1974 there were nine ferries in the district—seven controlled by the Zila Parishad and the remaining managed by the public works department.

Travel Facilities

Before the introduction of locomotives and mechanised transport, journeys were beset with several dangers and difficulties and people generally travelled in groups. The serais or inns provided food and shelter to travellers as well as a resting place for their animals specially during the Mughal period. Serais were found in all the main towns of the district till the beginning of the present century.

In the beginning of this century there were government encamping grounds at Amhera and Puranpur on the road from Bijnor to Moradabad and at Amost and Dhampur between Najibabad and Hardwar. There

were two dak bungalows in the district—one each at Bijnor and Nagina, under the management of the district board and inspection houses for the use of officials were maintained at Nagina, Dhampur and Nurpur. In addition to these there were several dak bungalows belonging to the forest and the irrigation departments. Now the number of inspection houses, rest houses and dak bungalows has increased considerably and they are maintained by different departments of the government. They meant chiefly for the use of their own officers but the officers of other departments as well as member of the public and tourists can also be accommodated there. The irrigation department maintains seven inspection houses, the public works department and the forest department five each and the Zila Parishad one inspection house in the district. One rest house each is maintained by the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board and the District Co-operative Bank at Bijnor.

There are a number of dharmshalas (lodging houses) for travellers at Bijnor, Dhampur, Najibabad and Nagina. The important dharmshalas of Bijnor are the Rani Bibi Kunwar dharmshala, Jain dharmshala and Asharfi Lal dharmshala. They are managed privately and only a nominal rent is charged. Some of the dharmshalas have spacious rooms and are equipped with electricity.

Hotels at Bijnor and in other towns provide lodging and boarding facilities. There are also a number of restaurants which offer food and light refreshments.

POST AND TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONES

Prior to the introduction of the railways the carrying of the official post was entrusted to the police, there being no facility for carrying private post. In 1888 a government post-office was opened at Bijnor and a regular mail service was started between Bijnor and the main trade centres and police-stations. A cess was levied on the landholders of the area to meet the cost. It was only in 1846 that the district post was opened to the public commencing with the levy of a postal rate of two pice per packet. The government post was extended to the district in 1966 and in the following year a number of the local mail lines were taken over from the district authorities and placed under the post and telegraph department. This arrangement continued for some time and in 1876 there were eleven imperial and eight district offices. In 1906 the postal authorities took over all the local offices. In that year there was head office, 12 suboffices and 20 dependent branch offices at Bijnor. The mail was also carried by rail but a large part of the district was served by runners. In 1918 the number of post-offices increased to 37 (including a head office) and in 1921 it rose to 38. By 1931 there were 18 new post-offices in the district. In 1961 there were 73 post and telegraph offices, the number increasing to 207 in 1970, of which 172 were branch offices, 34 suboffices and one head office, 18 of them working as telegraph offices. On an average a post-office directly serves 15 villages.

The district is served by telephones also. There were eight telephone exchanges located at all the important towns of the district and the total number of connections in the district was about 500 in 1970.

STATEMENT I

Roads Under Public Works Department

Reference Page No. 181
(of length more than 10 km.)

Name of road	Length in km.
Provincial Highways	
Panipat-Muzaffarnagar-Bijnor-Haldaur-Afzalgarh-Kashipur-Kitcha Khatema State Highway Route No. 12	91
Moradabad-Nagina-Kotwali-Najibabad-Hardwar-Dehra Dun State Highway Route No. 49	121
Other Metalled Roads	
Moradabad-Amroha-Bijnor Road	72
Afzalgarh-Kalagarh Road	12
Bijnor-Gajraula Road	48
Najibabad-Srinagar Road	28
Bijnor-Nagal-Najibabad Road upto km. 86	89
Nagina-Barhapur Road	14
Seohara-Thakurdwara Road	16
Chandpur-Khanpur-Datiyana Road	1
Bijnor-Najibabad Road	83
Nurpur-Chajlet Road	14
Rehar-Kheripur-Kotwali Road	18
Dhampur-Nurpur Road	20
Seohara-Nurpur Road	19
Balkishanpur-Ulehra Road	11
Jaspur-Dhampur Road	18
Nagina-Raipur-Sadat-Jogirampuri Road	14
Nurpur-Hardwar Road	19
Afzalgarh-Kashipur Road	13
Ex-Soldier Colony Road at Afzalgarh	18

STATEMENT II

Roads Under District Board

Reference Page No. 131

Name of Road	Length in km.
Metalled Roads	
Ganj-Fathpur	7
Bijnor-Ujalighat-Bijnor	7
Mandawar-Mandaoli	6
Chandpur-Gowali	55
Mandawar-Shekhupura	5
Baigawala-Dharmnagri	4
Nehru-Marg	1
Unmetalled Roads (of length 10 km. and more)	
Nehtaur-Nagaljat	10
Nehtaur-Nagina	12
Bhaguwala-Najibabad	24
Najibabad-Mohanpur-Ranisati	20
Raipur-Badhapur	11
Chandpur-Nehtaur	24
Kiratpur-Akbrabad	12
Nagina-Sherkot	16
Nagina-Afzalgarh	23
Bijnor-Fathpur-Uladha-Chandpur	20
Kiratpur-Nehtaur	26
Bijnor-Circular	12
Najibabad-Kotdwar	13
Najibabad-Haldukhata	18
Sherkot-Afzalgarh	12

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In 1961, the population of the district numbered 11,90,987, of which 8,89,244 were workers. A study of the occupational structure of the working population reveals that 1,76,588 persons were engaged in miscellaneous occupations. The break-up according to the census report of 1961 is given below :

Occupation	Number
Personal services	9,394
Public services	5,672
Educational and scientific services	8,417
Religious and welfare services	1,805
Medical and health services	1,860
Recreation services	910
Business services	407
Community services, trade and labour associations	406
Legal services	840
Electric, gas, water and sanitary services	6,065
Unspecified services	41,825
Industry	65,190
Trade and commerce	16,941
Live-stock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities	18,081
Transport, storage and communications	5,180
Construction	4,707
Mining and quarrying	82

In 1971, the population of the district was 14,90,185 and the number of workers 4,19,049. The classification of workers under various categories of economic activities differed from the previous arrangement resulting in a lower enumeration of miscellaneous workers whose number was recorded as 1,80,695.

Public Services

With the growing responsibility of the government towards the planned economic and social development of the country, employment opportunities under the Central and State Governments at different levels

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have increased considerably. Activities in the public administration of corporations and local bodies have also assumed large dimensions. An idea of this may be had from the following table :

Type of establishment	No. of reporting establishments		No. of employees	
	1972	1973	1972	1973
State Government	79	79	18,776	19,416
Quasi-government (Central)	17	17	1,102	1,162
Quasi-government (State)	—	—	—	—
Local bodies	36	44	4,710	5,087

Persons in the above-mentioned services come under the category of fixed-wage earners who are hard hit by the rising cost of living. Dearness allowance is paid to all classes of such employees at rates varying in accordance with their salaries. Benefits like provident fund and free medical treatment are available to government servants as well as employees of the local bodies but by and large, pension facilities are extended to government servants only. Leave rules have been revised by the government to provide more relief to its temporary employees. Other benefits include granting of advances for purchase of a conveyance and construction or repair of house. Residential accommodation at moderate rent is made available in government colonies and a house-rent allowance is paid to certain categories of employees if non-governmental accommodation is occupied on rent. Non-practising allowance is given to doctors holding posts prohibiting private practice. Employees are free to form service associations or unions under the Societies Registration Act XVI, 1860, for their welfare and for the protection and promotion of their service interests. The State employees of the district have joined the State employees' joint council or the ministerial employees' association which is affiliated to its parent body at the State level. The employees of the local bodies have become members of the local authorities employees' association and the employees of the State road transport corporation are members of the employees' road transport corporation-joint council. These are affiliated to the apex organisations at the State level.

LEARNED PROFESSION

Education

In 1961, the district had 3,097 teachers including 403 women. In 1974 they numbered 5,157 including 1,125 women. The following

statement gives the number of teachers of primary and secondary schools employed by different agencies in 1974 :

Employing agencies	No. of teachers		Total number
	Male	Female	
Government	88	85	168
Local bodies	2,892	789	3,121
Private	1,557	811	1,838
Total	4,032	1,125	5,157

Since 1964, the triple benefit scheme has been extended to state-aided institutions run by local bodies or private managements bringing the advantages of contributory provident fund, compulsory life insurance and pension (including family pension) to teachers. Payment of salaries to the teachers of those institutions which are on the grants-in-aid list of the State Government are made through cheques signed by the managers of the institutions concerned and nominee of the district inspector of schools, usually the associate inspector of schools.

Teachers' wards are entitled to free tuition up to the intermediate stage. Needy and disabled teachers can obtain financial assistance from the national foundation for teachers' welfare fund and those suffering from tuberculosis can get admission to the Bhowali sanatorium where a certain number of beds are reserved for them. The teachers of the district have organised themselves into various associations such as the Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh which is comprised of teachers of the higher secondary schools of privately managed institutions and the Prathamik Shikshak Sangh formed by the teachers of the primary and junior high schools of the district. These associations are affiliated to the parent body at the State level. The main aims of these associations are to protect and promote the service interests of their members. There is an association of the teachers of the graduate and post-graduate affiliated colleges in the district. The teachers of these colleges draw their pay direct from the treasury. In addition to teachers, in 1961 the district had 15 authors, one editor, 2 language specialists, 42 painters and ratists, 820 musicians, 15 dancers and 5 artists and related workers.

Medicine

Before the advent of British rule, the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine were practised by the *vaid*s and *hakims* in the district. With the coming of British rule the allopathic system was introduced and such dispensaries were opened with the result that the Ayurvedic and Unani systems began to lose ground. In the due course the homoeopathic system also entered the field providing relief particularly to the less affluent sufferers of the population.

In 1961, there were 803 medical practitioners of these systems of medicine, 11 nurses, 18 midwives and health visitors, 856 nursing attendants, 170 pharmacists, 25 vaccinators and 49 sanitary technicians, 73 allopathic doctors, 309 Ayurvedic *vaid*s and 38 homoeopathic physicians. In 1974, the various hospitals and dispensaries had 51 doctors, 56 compounders and 6 nurses.

A branch of the Indian medical association has been established in the district, the main aims of which are to promote and advance medical and allied services in all the different branches of medicine and public health, to promote medical education and to maintain the honour and dignity of the medical profession. It had 15 members on roll in 1974.

Law

The legal profession attracts law graduates and a few retired persons possessing at least a degree in law. Each has one or more *moharrirs* (clerks). The State Government appoints district government counsels for criminal, civil and revenue work (from among qualified legal practitioners) to conduct its cases. Some lawyers are appointed as panel lawyers and special counsels. To conduct cases in the lower criminal courts, the government appoints qualified persons and lawyers as public prosecutors and assistant public prosecutors.

With the influx of new entrants in large numbers into the legal profession, legal practice has become more competitive though not less remunerative. Some malpractices have also crept in but the profession retains its high position in the district. Lawyers lead in almost all spheres of public activity, particularly those connected with social service and politics. They generally practise at the district headquarters as the majority of cases have to be conducted in courts located there. A few also practise at the *tahsil* headquarters where subordinate courts are established. The legal practitioners of the district have formed the civil bar association, Bijnor, and the bar association, Bijnor, with a branch at Nagina. There were eight judges and magistrates, 184 legal practitioners and 18 legal technicians (including petition writers) in the district in 1961. In 1974, the number of legal practitioners in the district was about 800. The main aims of these associations are to create a feeling of brotherhood among their members, to maintain harmonious relations between the bench and the bar, to safeguard the civil liberties of citizens and to render free legal assistance to deserving persons.

Engineering

Engineering services in the district are represented mainly by four branches : building and roads, irrigation, local self-government engineering and hydel. They have separate divisions of survey, design and construction. The Zila Parishad and the municipal boards of Bijnor, Najibabad and Chandpur employ an engineer each. A number of overseers (now called junior engineers), linemen and draughtmen are also employed in these branches. Several industrial establishments of the district have on their pay rolls qualified engineers and diploma holders. Some engineers, architects and surveyors are employed by private employers. In 1961, the district had 2 architects, 65 civil engineers (including overseers), 15 mechanical engineers, 5 electrical engineers and 10 surveyors.

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICE

Domestic Servants

Domestic servants comprise a fair proportion of the population of the district. They are not necessarily unskilled workers but get lower wages as compared to other members of the labour class. They render wholtime as well as limited or part-time service in homes. Full-time domestic servants are generally employed by well-to-do persons. Usually these employees are paid their remuneration in cash but occasionally receive meals, clothing and other amenities in addition. Generally they dwell in slums or in outhouses provided by their masters and eke out a miserable living. They have no security in their jobs and change masters frequently. In 1961, there were 1,849 house servants, cooks, maid-servants and other related workers of whom 454 were cooks and bearers (who also did the work of cooking), 855 bearers, waiters, maidservants and others and 40 nurses, ayahs and related workers. The number of cleaners, sweepers and watermen was 7,071.

Barbers

In the past barbers (*nais*) occupied an important place in the life of the people as apart from their own work they performed important services at the time of marriages, deaths, etc., and were often assisted by their women folk. Many of them move from home to home almost daily to attend to their clients. But as many men now shave themselves the need for barbers has declined somewhat. Many of them have opened saloons where customers come to them. The number of hair-cutting saloons in the district is larger in the urban areas. They are often manned by more than one person, the owners generally employing paid workers. One still sees roadside barbers who attend their customers on the pavements, particularly on festive occasions and in fairs. In 1961, there were 8,699 barbers and related workers in the district.

Washermen

Washermen still go from house to house in cities and towns to collect soiled clothes for washing. But they are not so much in demand now owing to their high rates and the larger use of synthetic fabrics which are easily washable at home and are crease resistant. Conditions obtaining in the villages have not undergone any substantial change and people there usually still wash their own clothes. In cities and towns laundries and dry cleaning units have become popular. In 1961, there were 8,429 washermen including dry cleaners in the district of whom 1,008 were in the urban areas.

Tailors

In urban areas tailoring is considered to be an art and needs specialised training. Big tailors use the scissors themselves and employ a number of workers on daily or monthly wages for stitching and other miscellaneous jobs connected with tailoring. In the rural areas the entire job is done by a single individual. *Kurtas*, shirts and *payjamas* continue to be the chief items of dress in rural areas where the women hardly sew their own children's garments at home. In 1961, there were 4,405 tailors and makers of garments in the district of whom 1,855 lived in the urban areas.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

Among those pursuing certain other occupations in the district in 1961, were 29,808 spinners, weavers, knitters and dyers, 4,804 carpenters, joiners and pattern makers, 3,529 hawkers, pedlars and street vendors, 2,741 basket weavers, 3,153 potters, 2,514 bricklayers, plasterers and construction workers, 2,480 oil-seed crushers and pressers, 2,251 *khand-sari*, sugar and *gur* makers, 1,948 religious workers, 1,597 compositors, printers, engravers and book-binders, 454 cooks, 1,255 bakers, confectioners, candy and sweetmeat makers, 1,203 shoe-makers and repairers, 1,185 fishermen, 1,137 animal-drawn vehicle drivers, 1,112 millers, pounders, huskers, parchers, grain and related food workers, 1,078 jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths, 907 electricians and electronic workers, 880 log-fellers, 820 musicians, 866 blacksmiths, hammersmiths and forgers, 763 *malis* (gardeners), 749 astrologers, 296 book-keepers, 14 stenographers, 480 salesmen and shop attendants, 478 cycle-rickshaw pullers, 1,135 watchmen, 274 sawyers and wood-working mechanists, 118 plumbers and pipe fitters and 49 palm tappers.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

Workers and Non-workers

In 1921, the percentage of workers of the total population in the district was 44.4 (agricultural workers 22.5 per cent and non-agricultural 21.9 per cent) but by 1951 it had come down to 34.6 per cent (agricultural 19.6 per cent and non-agricultural 15 per cent). The census of 1961 that followed that of 1951 pooled the dependants of all the divisions of economic activity into one class defined as non-workers. Consequently the data after 1951 does not help to indicate the degree of dependence existing in agricultural and non-agricultural activities.

The census of 1961 adopted a different definition of workers and differs in economic classification from that which was adhered to (to some extent) in 1971. Hence an exact comparison with earlier data is not possible. The comparative position with the data of 1971 is given below :

Year	Total population	Total number of workers	Percentage of workers of total population			
			Agricultural workers	Non-agricultural workers	Total number of workers	
					District	U.P.
1961	11,90,987	8,89,244	17.9	14.8	82.7	89.1
1971	14,90,185	4,19,049	19.8	8.8	28.1	80.9

The statement indicates a big decrease in the working population implying unemployment even amongst the already employed number of 1961. This anomaly has arisen due to the change in 1971 in the definition of workers which allowed many other types to be included in the category of workers. In 1961 as little as one hour's work in a day entitled a person to be treated as a worker. Accordingly a woman whose time was basically utilised in household duties was deemed to be a worker even if she ate her meals away from the home (usually in the field) and also tended the cattle. In the census of 1971 a person (man or woman) who was engaged primarily in household duties, such as cooking for the household or augmenting the family's economic resources as a part-time worker, was not treated as a worker and was categorised as a non-worker. On this basis there was a decrease in the number of workers in 1971 inspite of an increase in the population by about 24 per cent.

In the 1971 census, workers have been classified in nine major categories, the basis of the classification being those economic activities which were similar in respect of process, raw material and products. The details regarding these categories of workers in that census are as follows :

Categories	Percentage of total population					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cultivators		1,88,904	2,232	1,91,186	45.61	.83
Agricultural labourers		95,535	1,685	97,220	23.20	6.53
Live-stock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities		5,515	188	5,698	1.38	0.38
Mining and quarrying		130	2	132	0.04	—
Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairing		27,488	1,917	29,405	7.01	1.98
(a) Household industry		22,295	525	22,820	5.49	1.53
(b) Other than household industry		6,539	30	6,619	1.51	0.45
Construction		19,931	240	20,171	4.81	1.85
Trade and commerce		9,358	68	9,426	2.25	0.63
Transport, storage and communications		38,824	2,598	86,422	8.70	2.44
Other service		4,08,569	9,480	4,19,049	100.00	28.12
Total workers		3,94,725	6,76,411	10,71,136	—	71.88
Non-workers		8,04,284	6,85,891	14,90,185	—	100.00

As will be observed from the above, all non-workers have been grouped together as a single unit, though they have been classified in the census of 1971 as follows :

- (a) Full-time students
- (b) Those attending to household duties
- (c) Dependents and infants
- (d) Retired persons and rentiers
- (e) Persons of independent means
- (f) Beggars and vagrants
- (g) Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions
- (h) Others

GENERAL LEVEL OF PRICES AND WAGES

Prices

Although the early records pertaining to price trends in the district are very meagre, they show that at the cession of the district to the East India Company in 1801, prices were very low. In 1804 a rupee purchased 19 seers of wheat and 49 seers of gram. In 1866 the prices per rupee were; wheat 23.8 seers; barley 33.4 seers; rice 15.1 seers; and *bajra* 27 seers. From 1872 to 1876 the average rates per rupee of these grains were 20.37 seers; wheat for 29.24 seers for barley; 14.2 seers rice for and 22.6 seers for *bajra*. Between 1897 and 1901 the prices per rupee averaged 18.27 seers for wheat, 20.05 seers for barley, 10.47 seers for rice and 16.88 seers for *bajra*.

The average retail prices of these commodities for the five years ending in 1906 were wheat 15.62 seers, rice 10.81 seers, barley 25.18 seers and *bajra* 20.48 seers for a rupee. In 1911 the price of wheat was 11.25 seers, rice 6.75 seers and gram 14 seers for a rupee.

With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, a series of changes in prices, including a considerable rise in the cost of food-grains, was witnessed in the succeeding years.

A world-wide economic depression started in 1930 and continued for a few years. Prices remained low till the end of the first half of 1936 when they began to be stabilised, becoming steady in 1937, at a level higher than that of 1936.

After the outbreak of the Second World War (in 1939) there was a steep rise in prices largely due to speculation and profiteering. Other factors like the holding back of stocks in anticipation of future shortages contributed in no small measure to maintain and even to advance the high level reached. At the beginning of 1940, price control measures (which had been put into operation on the outbreak of the war) were vigorously enforced by the district authorities; nevertheless prices continued to go up. To ease the situation a partial rationing scheme was introduced in 1943 for the poorer section of the people and the markets were allowed to function normally. In 1944, this partial rationing was

converted into total rationing and all sections of the population were allowed the facilities of obtaining rationed food-grains at subsidised rates from government shops.

The expectation that, after the termination of the war and the enforcement of several price-control measures by the government, the general price situation would ease did not materialise and the price level in August, 1944, was higher by 366 per cent than in 1911 and by 185 per cent than in 1939. The period between 1945 and 1952 was that of rationing and controls.

A change in government policy with regard to rationing and controls was made in 1953. Total rationing was abolished. The system of issuing food-grains to ration-card holders from ration shops was continued in order to arrest any rising trend of prices in the open market. Prices began to show a downward trend only at the end of 1953 but the normal forces of demand and supply began to come into operation in consequence of which prices began to rise again and by 1953 the prices per seer were Re 0.45 for wheat, Re 0.33 for coarse rice and Re 0.31 for gram. The retail prices of the principal food-grains for 1965 and from 1970 to 1974 were as under :

Year	Rates in kg. per rupee		
	Wheat	Gram	Rice
1965	0.90	0.78	0.71
1970	1.15	1.25	1.18
1971	0.83	0.80	1.13
1972	1.00	1.10	1.25
1973	1.15	1.40	1.80
1974	1.67	2.50	1.55

The retail prices of certain other essential commodities obtaining in the town of Bijnor in 1974 were as follows :

Commodity	Rates in kg. per rupee
Wheat	2.80
Ghee	20.83
Mustard oil	9.38
Firewood	0.23
Sugar	3.83
Jaggery	1.48
Kerosene oil	1.05
	(per litre)

BIJNOR DISTRICT

The intrinsic value of the rupee went down sharply due to inflation in the district (as elsewhere in the country). The purchasing power of a rupee (as computed on the basis of the consumer price index with 1949 as base) was 99 paise in 1950, 80.6 paise in 1960, 44.6 paise in 1970 and 86 paise in 1978. It declined to 24.6 paise in September, 1974, but recovered slightly being 25.3 paise in December, 1974.

Wages

In olden days unskilled labourers and particularly farm workers were paid in kind, usually in grain. When paid in cash, an agricultural worker received about two annas a day. Skilled workers, such as carpenters and blacksmiths, received wages ranging from three to four annas a day according to their proficiency and the nature of work involved. In due course the wages of field workers and skilled workers rose considerably. During 1875-1905 there was a rise of about 25 per cent in the cash wages of a field labourer. But the rise in wages did not keep pace with the increase in prices, probably due to the increase in population.

The first wage census of the rural areas was carried out in the State in 1906. A comparative survey of rural wages for unskilled and skilled labourers for certain years from 1906 to 1944 is given in the statement that follows :

Year	Wages (in Rs per day)	
	Unskilled labourer	Skilled labourer
1906	0.18	0.31
1911	0.16	0.31
1916	0.22	0.45
1928	0.31	0.78
1934	0.19	0.52
1939	0.28	0.52
1944	1.09	1.72

After the First World War a marked increase in wages occurred as revealed in the wage census report of 1928. The year 1930 was one of world-wide economic depression, after which wages began to rise. In

1944, as a result of the Second World War (which began in 1939) wages continued to rise steeply as indicated in the following statement :

Year	Wages (in Rs per day)			
	Unskilled labourer		Skilled labourer	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1950	1.00	1.12	2.00	2.50
1955	1.00	1.12	2.50	2.62
1960	1.00	1.17	2.50	2.62
1965	1.00	1.18	2.50	2.62
1970	2.00	2.51	4.00	4.41
1974	4.00	5.00	7.00	8.00

In 1974 wages for various agricultural pursuits such as weeding, reaping, transplantation, ploughing and irrigation were Rs 4 per day for eight working hours. Wages prevailing in 1974 in Bijnor (town) were as given below in respect of certain main occupations :

Occupation	Unit of quotation	Wages (in Rs)
Gardener	Per month, whole time	150.00
Chowkidar	Per month	100.00
Wood-cutter	Per 37.5 kg. of wood turned into fuel	0.50
Herdsman	(a) Per cow per month	2.50
	(b) Per buffalo per month	4.50
Porter	Per 37.5 kg. of load carried for 1½ km.	0.75
Casual labourer	Per day	4.00
Domestic servant	(a) Per month without food	100.00
	(b) Per month with food	50.00
Carpenter	Per day	8.00
Blacksmith	Per day	8.00
Tailor	(a) Per man's cotton shirt (long sleeves)	3.00
	(b) Per man's cotton shirt (short sleeves)	2.00
	(c) Per cotton suit	20.00
Motor driver	Per month	200.00
Truck driver	Per month	300.00
Midwife	(a) For delivering a boy	10.00
	(b) For delivering a girl	5.00
Scavenger	Per month for a house with one lavatory for one cleaning per day	4.00

GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

According to the 1971 census, cultivators and agricultural labourers formed 68.81 per cent of the total working population in the district. The small number of people (31.19 per cent) carrying on non-agricultural pursuits indicates that opportunities of employment in general have been meagre, there being little scope for the shifting of workers from agriculture to other sectors of economy.

There are 6 large-scale industries in the district of which 3 are sugar-mills located at Bijnor, Dhampur and Sohara and the rest the Alko Chemical, Sohara, the Laxmi Katha Factory, Najibabad, and the Ganga Glass Works, Balawali, which employ a large number of workers. The small-scale industries which exist in the district are mostly based on agriculture and forest produce and employ seasonal labour. The workers engaged in industries such as handloom weaving, engineering, shoe-making, earthen pot making, oil pressing, *khandasari* and sugar making, basket making, glass works, etc., are mostly self-employed.

Employment Trends

The data collected on the basis of the employment market information during 1969-78 show the following distribution of employees in the various establishments in the district :

Year	No. of establishments			No. of employees		
	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total
1969	105	107	212	7,611	11,469	19,080
1970	97	112	209	8,218	12,085	20,303
1971	100	127	227	8,451	22,049	30,500
1972	100	132	232	5,686	24,588	30,274
1973	101	140	241	8,485	25,665	34,100

The employment pattern during 1972 and 1973 in the above units has been classified further in the statement that follows :

Nature of activity	No. of reporting establishments		Number of employees		
			1972		1973
	1972	1973	Private sector	Public sector	Total
Agriculture, live-stock, hunting and fishing	7	7	937	609	1,546
Manufacturing	19	19	2,124	1,293	3,417
Construction	21	21	43,452	13,632	57,084
Electricity, gas, water and sanitary services	11	11	1,409	1,409	2,818
Trade and commerce	22	23	110	121	231
Transport, storage and communication	1	1	384	423	807
Services (public, legal, medical, etc.)	151	154	2,515	2,801	5,316
Total	232	241	5,686	24,588	30,274
			8,485	25,665	34,100

Employment of Women

That fewer women are employed than men in the district is borne out by the data given in the following table :

	No. as on December 31, 1973
No. of reporting establishments	288
No. of women employees in public sector	1,885
No. of women employees in private sector	375
Total number of women employees	1,710
Percentage of women employees in private sector of total number of employees (in that sector)	4.66
Percentage of women employees in public sector of total number of employees (in that sector)	5.03

The distribution of women workers in the various spheres of employment is indicated below :

Spheres	Percentage
Education	38.10
Medical and public health	21.20
Transport	20.00
Manufacturing	20.10
Construction	0.10
Trade and commerce	0.50

Un-employment Trends

The numbers of men and women who sought employment in different spheres during the year ending December, 1973, were as follows :

Educational standard	Men	Women	Total
Post-graduate	177	10	187
Graduate	870	48	918
Intermediate/undergraduate	1,376	73	1,449
Matriculate	2,044	141	2,185
Below matriculate including illiterate	5,505	205	5,710
Total	9,981	477	10,458

Vacancies notified to the employment exchange during the first quarter (ending March, 1974) numbered 236, their monthly break-up being as under :

Month	Name of authority					Total
	Central Government	State Government	Public undertaking	Quasi-government and local bodies	Private sector	
January	—	173	—	—	1	174
February	—	1	—	6	1	20
March	2	1	—	9	4	42
Total	2	211	2	15	6	236

The district experienced a shortage of skilled and trained workers such as stenographers, typists, trained nurses, pharmacists, crane operators, etc. Unskilled labourers or persons without any previous experience or technical training were surplus to the requirement.

Employment Exchange

An employment exchange was established at Bijnor in 1957. It has brought together employers and employment seekers and has placed many of the latter in jobs which suit their qualifications and experience. The introduction of the Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act, 1959, and the Apprenticeship Act of 1961 have widened the scope of employment service in the district. Under the employment market information scheme introduced in 1960, information relating to occupation and training is collected and registration and placement activities are also undertaken. Accordingly an employment market information unit was set up in the employment exchange in the district. It is the main source for the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics in regard to employment and unemployment trends and the requirements of the different occupations and industries in regard to manpower. Under the scheme, information pertaining to the number of persons employed by certain establishments, the number of posts that fell vacant and the types of jobs for which availability of qualified candidates was poor, is collected quarterly. The following statement indicates the amount of assistance rendered by the employment exchange during the years 1969 and 1973 :

Year	Vacancies notified by employees	No. of persons registered for employment	No. of live pupils	Persons provided with employment				Other fields
				Domestic service	Teaching	Technical jobs	Government service	
1969	865	8,187	3,559	2	3	55	488	857
1970	1,149	11,873	7,035	—	100	99	497	716
1971	1,744	15,777	10,558	—	182	127	1,070	1,397
1972	1,515	19,904	18,115	1	41	54	1,183	1,301
1973	1,956	12,270	16,458	—	3	29	1,200	1,246

NATIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Under British rule, national planning and rural development received hardly any attention and efforts made in this direction were confined to such subjects as sanitation and expansion of agricultural and irrigation facilities in the villages. A beginning was made in these directions when the first Congress government came into office in the State in 1937 and a scheme of rural development was adopted in some villages of the district. Subsequently the scheme was expanded and a rural development association was formed. It had a nominated non-official chairman and a subdivisional magistrate as secretary. The work related to rural hygiene, construction of roads, establishment of libraries, construction of *parachayat ghars*, night schools for adults and allied development activities. With the outbreak of the Second World War (in September, 1939) the Congress government went out of office and rural development came more or less to a stand-still. In May, 1947, the rural development work was merged with co-operative department and the rural development association was replaced by the district development association with a non-official as chairman and district co-operative officer as secretary.

With the setting up of the Planning Commission of India in 1950 development activities took a new turn. In 1951, the Commission presented the First Five-year Plan (1951-52 to 1955-56) in which agriculture, including irrigation and power, was given top priority. Accordingly funds were allocated to various States which in turn allocated money to their districts. A department for planning and development was also created in this State and in 1952 the district development association was replaced by the district planning committee with district magistrate as its chairman and the district planning officer as secretary. It had a number of subcommittees for the preparation and execution of Plan programmes but functioned only as an advisory body.

In 1952, community development blocks were opened in the State. The first was established at Kotwali on October 2, 1954, and the second at Afzalgarh (both in tahsil Nagina) on October 26, 1954, followed by nine more in other parts of the district.

The Second Five-year Plan came into force from April, 1956. Its scope was enlarged to include industrialisation and the district was divided into a number of development blocks for the implementation of the various schemes under the Plan.

In 1958, a new institution called the Antarim Zila Parishad was established amalgamating the district planning committee and the district board.

For the successful implementation of the planning and development programmes a three-tier structure of local self-government bodies was adopted from 1963. Now there exist a *gaon* (village) panchayat at the village level, a *kshettra samiti* at the block level and a Zila Parishad at the district level. For the co-ordinated execution of Plan schemes the agriculture, co-operative and animal husbandry departments and the Panchayat Raj at the district level have been put under the control of the district planning officer. A few details regarding these block are given in the following statement :

Some Details Regarding Development Blocks In District

Tahsil	Name of block	Present stage	Date of inauguration	No. of <i>gaon</i> <i>sabhas</i>	No. of <i>nyaya</i> panchayats	Population in 1971
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nagina	Kotwali	Post-stage	2-10-1954	135	17	1,88,811
Do.	Afzalgarh	Do.	26-10-1954	70	8	1,01,536
Bijnor	Jalilpur	Do.	2-10-1955	109	11	1,56,704
Do.	Jhalu	Do.	1-4-1960	104	12	1,34,648
Do.	Mohammadpur Dev Mal	Do.	1-4-1962	117	12	1,53,762
Najibabad	Najibabad	Do.	2-10-1956	116	15	1,97,141
Do.	Kiratpur	Do.	1-10-1961	65	8	98,658
Dhampur	Dhampur	Do.	1-4-1957	105	13	1,15,286
Do.	Nurpur	Do.	1-4-58	126	14	1,36,249
Do.	Aku	Do.	1-4-1961	100	11	1,09,245
Do.	Burhanpur	Do.	1-4-1962	85	10	1,08,198

The *kshettra samiti* is responsible for all the development activities within a development block. The block development officer is the executive officer of the *kshettra samiti*. He is assisted by an assistant development officer each for agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operatives, panchayats, etc., and also at the village level by a multipurpose worker designated *gram sevak* (village level worker).

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The area covered by the present district was acquired by the East India Company by cession in 1801 and formed the northern subdivision of the district of Moradabad. In 1817 it was constituted a separate charge with headquarters at Nagina and in 1824 Bijnor became the headquarters of the district.

Commissioner

Bijnor is now one of the seven districts of the Rohilkhand Division which, for purposes of general administration, has been placed under a commissioner whose headquarters is located at Bareilly and who functions as a vital link between the districts under him and the government. He supervises all administrative and development activities in his division and controls, guides and advises district and regional level officers, solves inter-departmental problems and assesses the work of officers of the various departments. On the appellate side, his jurisdiction extends to hearing appeals and revisions under the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, and other enactments like the Arms Act, 1959, etc. He is the chairman of the regional transport authority and has extensive powers for the supervision of Zila Parishads, municipal boards and other local bodies.

District Officer

The general administration of the district is vested in the district officer (designated collector and district magistrate). He is the supreme executive authority in the district. The maintenance of law and order, enforcement of various laws, rules and regulations and miscellaneous government orders, prosecution of criminal cases, release of prisoners, appraisal of public opinion and avoidance of explosive situations are some of the important duties assigned to him as district magistrate and it is in their performance that he comes in close touch with the police which follow his instructions. He is the licensing authority for the possession of arms and ammunition and for the distribution of motor spirits. As collector he is responsible for the recovery of land revenue and other government dues and the maintenance of an up-to-date record of rights in land. Survey records, record operations, settlement of land, consolidation of holdings, resumption and acquisition of land, rehabilitation of displaced persons and distribution of relief on calamitous occasions are some other subjects dealt with by him as the principal revenue officer of the district.

As district officer he is responsible for the equitable distribution of food-grains and other essential commodities for which purpose there is a district supply officer under him. He is also the ex-officio district election officer and president of the district soldiers', sailors' and air-men's board.

He is the keystone of the Planning set up in the district. For the intensive rural and economic development of the district he is assisted by a district planning officer who heads a pooled office with several sections headed by officers of different departments.

In the changed circumstances when the concept of a welfare State has replaced the old idea of a police State, the role of the district officer has assumed new dimensions. He is now more concerned with the general welfare of the people he is called upon to serve.

The district officer has under him four subdivisional officers who perform revenue, executive, magisterial and miscellaneous duties.

For the convenience of revenue administration each of the four tahsils of Bijnor, Dhampur, Najibabad and Nagina is in the immediate charge of a resident tahsildar who acts as a magistrate in addition to being an assistant collector and presides at his tahsil office and court. His main duties include the collection of land revenue and other government dues, maintenance of land records and law and order, conducting of certain types of cases and public welfare. He is also called out when calamities occur to render relief, etc. Each tahsildar is also the sub-treasury officer incharge of the tahsil subtreasury.

Police Organisation

The police organisation which is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district (as in other districts), is headed by a superintendent of police who is in overall charge of the police force and is responsible for its efficiency, discipline and the proper performance of duties. He is assisted by five deputy superintendents of police and a large number of subordinate officers.

Judicial Organisation

The judicial organisation of the district is headed by the district judge with headquarters of Bijnor. He is the highest authority for the administration of justice in civil and criminal matters. He was also the district registrar but now the work has been entrusted to an additional district magistrate (finance and revenues) under the district magistrate. A subregistrar, whose function is to register documents relating to movable and immovable property, is stationed at the headquarters of each tahsil—one being stationed at Chandpur also.

OTHER DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICERS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

The designations of some of the important functionaries stationed at the district headquarters, who have the status of district-level officers, are listed below :

- District Planning Officer
- Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies
- District Harijan and Samaj Kalyan Adhikari
- District Agriculture Officer
- District Panchayat Raj Officer
- District Organizer, Small Savings

District Statistics Officer
 Assistant Engineer, Minor Irrigation
 Chief Medical Officer
 District Supply Officer
 District Industries Officer
 District Inspector of Schools
 Basic Shiksha Adhikari
 District Cane Officer
 District Employment Officer
 District Live-stock Officer
 Treasury Officer
 Soil Conservation Officer
 Superintendent of Jails
 Executive Engineer, Tube-wells
 Assistant Engineer, Public Works
 District Probation Officer

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Income-tax Department

For purposes of assessment, levy and collection of income tax, wealth tax, and gift tax the district has been made an independent circle under the charge of an income-tax officer stationed at Najibabad. Administratively the income-tax circle is directly under the control of the commissioner of income-tax, Lucknow.

Central Excise—An office headed by a deputy superintendent of excise is located at Bijnor. He is responsible for the collection of Central excise duties on such items as tobacco (unmanufactured), iron and steel products, cotton yarn, copper and alloys, power looms, gold and other items.

Indian Post and Telegraphs Department—The district is within the jurisdiction of the senior superintendent of post-offices, Moradabad Division, with headquarters at Moradabad. There is a head post-office in Bijnor city which is under the charge of a postmaster. An engineering supervisor (of the post and telegraph department) is also posted at Bijnor.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal History

Precise details about the land system and fiscal administration obtaining in ancient times before Mauryan rule are not available regarding the region covered by the present district of Bijnor. On the basis of literary and epigraphical evidence, it appears that free holdings created by earlier rulers and respected by subsequent governments did exist. Some sort of proof of the ownership of land in the Vedic period also seems exist—there was a sort of gradation of ownership, the rights of the ruling authority being superimposed on those of the people without much hindrance to their rights to till, sow and reap and to inherit or partition their land. This tract, which formed a part of the domains of the Panchalas, the Mauryas, the Guptas and Harshavardhan, was in all probability subjected to the usual system of revenue administration prescribed by the *Dharma Sutra* according to which it was the duty of the peasant to raise the crop and to pay a share of the produce direct to the ruler without the intervention of any intermediate agency but taxation was justified in return for the protection afforded by the ruler. According to the *Smritis*, the ruler's share varied from one-third to one-sixth of the produce. The *Arthashastra* of Kautilya prescribed one-quarter or even one-third for fertile lands in the proximity of towns. One-quarter was the share mostly levied in the reign of Asoka, the payment generally being made in kind.

In the Hindu period the village was the unit of existence. The village headman was called *gramini* and his office continued under the Muslims also. A bigger unit called *pargana*, which comprised a group of villages, was introduced with a chief headman designated *chaudhri*. The village accountant was known as *patwari*. Later, the village headman was renamed *mugaddam* or *mukhiya* instead of *gramadhipati* and the *pargana* accountant became *qanungo*.

It is difficult to ascertain when the Muslims applied their system of revenue administration to this tract. The rise of Muslim rule at Delhi dates from 1206 A.D. with Qutb-ud-din Aibek styling himself sultan and ascending the throne but it is doubtful if he had any sway over the area now covered by the district of Bijnor. The fiscal administration obtaining during the Hindu period generally continued during the Muslim regime but Arabic or Persian names were given to some institutions or posts.

Very few references to this tract are to be found in the early stages of Muslim rule in contemporary chronicles. Under Ala-ud-din Khalji some land reforms were effected. He classified land in the tract as *khalsa* (reserved land) and it was managed by his revenue ministry (through its officials) in direct relation with the cultivator, the revenue

demand being fixed at one-half of the produce assessed by measurement and collected wholly or partly in the form of grain. The next mediaeval king who is definitely known to have reorganised the revenue administration in this tract was Sher Shah who introduced the measurement of land by rope or chain. The normal yields of staple crops were calculated for three classes of land—good, middling and inferior and one-third of this average yield was fixed as the revenue assessment.

During Akbar's reign the area now covered by the district was included in the *sirkar* of Sambhal which lay in the subah of Delhi. The revenue demand of each pargana during Akbar's reign was as follows :

Akbari pargana	Cultivated area in bighas	Revenue demand (in dams)
Akbarabad	53,796	6,40,264
Islamabad	25,261	3,46,348
Bijnor	60,362	33,55,465
Chandpur	87,273	4,31,071
Jalalabad	49,393	14,70,072
Seoharah	52,400	9,58,769
Sherkot	19,870	49,21,051
Kiratpur	80,973	24,10,609
Gandaur	18,576	7,51,520
Mandawar	65,710	12,56,995
Nagina	99,233	26,47,242
Nihitaur	35,974	17,88,160
Jhala	26,795	2,87,809

The statistics of the *Ain-i-Akbari* point to developed agrarian conditions having prevailed in this tract although no specific details are available regarding the fiscal history of the district during the reigns of either Akbar or his successors except that the land was measured and the revenue was fixed at one-third of the produce.

During the anarchy which followed the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, the authority of the Sambhal governors was undermined. The Katchriya chiefs once again found themselves almost independent and though they withheld the tribute due to the imperial treasury, they quarrelled among themselves. Their disunity made it a favourable time for the Rohillas to rise rapidly to power and they took advantage of the general confusion and the jealousies and dissensions of the local chiefs. These rough Rohillas, who had a strong dash of the freebooter in their character, adopted a system of direct management and of the farming out of the revenue. The unstable conditions prevailing in the region allowed little scope for uniformity in the administration of revenue during these years and the ravages of the Marathas rendered agriculture a very precarious means of subsistence. The area came under the nawabs of Avadh towards the later half of the 18th century. With all the horrors that overwhelmed Rohilkhand during this time (famine, anarchy, the riding rough shod in the tract of the contending armies of the Rohillas, Sikhs, Marathas and the British) much of the land was thrown out of cultivation and many villages were deserted. The intermediaries began extorting as much as they could from the cultivator who gave up taking interest in the improvement of his land. The conditions being so chaotic, the area covered by the present district of Bijnor (with some other districts) was ceded by Saadat Ali, the nawab of Avadh, to the East India Company in 1801.

Land Revenue Settlements

The Company began to collect from the cultivators during the ensuing year the amount which had been realised by the nawab of Avadh but no records are in existence to show what the district then yielded. Steps were taken immediately by the British collector of Moradabad to introduce a new system of fiscal administration and at the close of 1802 a summary Settlement was effected for a term of three years. This was based on rough statements of village areas and former rentals prepared by the *kanungos* of each pargana. The right to collect rent and pay revenue was put up to auction and the Settlement was made with the highest bidder who could furnish the requisite security. In many cases the revenue was progressive, rising by annual increments, the maximum for the existing district being Rs 9,14,981. On the expiry of this Settlement a second one was made for a similar term from 1805-06 to 1807-08. This was merely a continuation of the arrangements already in force, the demand at its highest point being Rs 9,21,292, the addition to the former figure being presumably due to the resumption of lands hitherto held free of revenue. The third Settlement was made for four years—from 1808-09 to 1811-12. To obtain more accurate information regarding the capacity of the district, a survey of the crops in each village was conducted by the *tahsildars* and an estimate of the probable assets was then framed from the results of this inspection and the rentals of former years. But here again the process stopped short and the revenue was put up to auction as before which resulted in the demand rising to Rs 9,70,464.

A still higher amount was exacted at the fourth Settlement which was effected for a term of five years from 1812-13 to 1816-17. The demand was assessed on the same principles as before and reached the excessive figure of Rs 11,02,808 which resulted in the ruin of many money-lending landowners (*malguzars*) and the general impoverishment of the villagers and farmers. Nor could more than a portion of the revenue be collected so that eventually large balances had to be remitted altogether.

The fifth Settlement synchronised with the formation of the district of Bijnor, rather Nagina, which for seven years remained the headquarters station. The new demand, which was based on the same method as before, was lower, the highest total being Rs 10,89,188, which sum was collected for the five years' currency of the Settlement.

The sixth assessment was made for five years and lasted from 1822-23 to 1826-27. It was, to some extent, affected by Regulation VII of 1822 but no attempt was made to prepare the records of rights prescribed by this enactment. Thus the zamindari status of such landlords was recognised by law for the first time. The total demand was raised to Rs 11,33,351 and this amount was paid, except perhaps in the parganas of Kiratpur and Nagina.

Before the expiry of the sixth settlement, some endeavour was made to conduct the village survey required under Regulation VII but the cumbersome nature of the machinery provided for the purpose made progress impracticable and after a few villages had been dealt with at an immense loss of time and trouble, the work was abandoned. Under

the new Settlement which ran for five years—from 1827-28 to 1831-32—the bulk of the district was treated in the same summary manner as before. As the revenue amounted to Rs 11,34,486, in the absence of detailed statistics the expiring demand was left practically untouched (except for Nagina) and no balances were reported.

The eighth Settlement did not differ from the foregoing ones in so far as the principles of assessment were concerned and no further attention was paid to Regulation VII. The engagements were taken for periods ranging from seven to ten years in different parganas but commenced from 1832-33, the demand being Rs 11,35,286.

First Regular Settlement—The first regular Settlement in the district was undertaken according to Regulation IX of 1833 and remained in force from 1834-35 to 1839-40 at different dates in different parganas. The operation was based on compiled data, accompanied by a comprehensive record of rights, perhaps the most important innovation being the fixation of revenue for a term of twenty years. The demand of each village was determined by the classification and valuation of both soil and crops, two-thirds being fixed as government's share. As almost all the records were destroyed in 1857, little or nothing is known about the details of this Settlement but the total demand at the expiry of the Settlement is known to have been Rs 11,88,585. The demand had been heavily assessed with reference to the condition of its cultivation. The original term of twenty years was extended by Act VIII of 1846 and the end of June, 1866 was fixed as the date of termination throughout the district.

Second Regular Settlement—The operations of the second regular Settlement began in November, 1863, with the survey, measurement and classification of soils, the preparation of village maps and records being commenced in the following May. The survey was not completed till 1866 and that of the forest tracts lasted till 1872. With the aid of these returns and of personal inspection, the assessing officers proceeded to form circles based on the natural divisions of the soil and the situation of the land. The net result of the assessment was that government received a revenue of Rs 11,88,029. The new demand was introduced from 1867 in the Bijnor and Najibabad tahsils, from 1868 in Dhampur and Nagina (excepting pargana Nagina) and from 1872 or 1873 for the rest of the district.

Third Regular Settlement—As the second regular Settlement expired at greatly varying dates in different parganas, revisional operations could not be conducted at one and the same time. Consequently the parganas of Chandpur, Burhpur, Bashta and Nagina, together with certain forest villages of Najibabad, Barhapura and Afzalgarh, were excluded from the Settlement as originally undertaken and were dealt with at a later period. The district was declared under Settlement from the winter of 1893 and village maps and records were prepared in the first year, a fresh survey being undertaken only in the forest villages as the maps there were found to be useless. Circles were formed on topographical considerations and then standard rent rates were fixed which brought in a revenue of Rs 14,65,341, an increase of nearly 24 per cent on the preceding assessment.

Fourth Regular Settlement—Operations on the records began in 1925 under the collector as record officer, the Settlement commencing on the 14th August, 1929 but had to be closed on account of the fall in agricultural prices. The district demand at the opening of the Settlement operations was Rs 14,63,120 and remained in force till July, 1952, when the U.P. Zamindari and Land Reforms Act (1950) came into force in the district.

Relation between Landlord and Tenant

In ancient India the system of holding land was simple and conducive to agricultural production and did not pose any serious problems in the relation between landlord and tenant. Territorial aggrandisement by Muslim adventures and their attempt to settle down and consolidate their power, gave rise to numerous problems regarding land holdings, assessment, settlements of land and revenue and rights of the cultivating community. Rulers like Ala-ud-din Khalji, Sher Shah and Akbar did adopt measures to lay down a sound policy of land management but frequent periods of misrule which followed their reigns brought much misery to the peasantry.

Under the Mughals the zamindars became the ruler's agents for the collection of land revenue. To begin with their office was neither proprietary nor hereditary but after the fall of the Mughal empire and with the rise of the British power, they usurped both these rights.

On acquiring the territory of the present district on November 10, 1801, the East India Company followed the existing system. It expected the zamindars to bring more areas under the plough, enrich the soil, improve agriculture and augment the material wealth of the tract but as they were assessed to a very high revenue which had to be paid with unfailing punctuality without any claim for remission on account of drought, inundation or other calamities, the zamindars transferred their sufferings and burdens to the tenants who became the victims of oppressive and even tyrannical treatment at the hands of the landlords in collusion with the *patwaries* and the *kanungos*. To safeguard its revenue the government always came to the rescue of the zamindars whenever they were in trouble, not by reducing the revenue but by strengthening their powers to effect recovery and no principles of tenants' rights or tenancy laws were enacted till the national upsurge of 1857.

Act X of 1859 followed by Act XVIII of 1873 declared the tenants' rights of land occupation. The Land Improvement Act of 1883 and the Agricultural Loans Act of 1884, provided further relief to indigent cultivators who had fallen a prey to the avarice of the money-lender. Then came the Agra Tenancy Act of 1926, which ameliorated somewhat the miserable condition of the farmers. The U.P. Tenancy Act, 1939, brought a little more relief to the tenants, the law in respect of devolution being made elaborate and restrictions being imposed on ejectment. Tenants of *sir* had been given a certain tenure for five years during which they could not be ejected except for non-payment of rent. Other tenants

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They were given the right to make improvements on their land for which the consent of the landlord was not necessary. They could also erect buildings on their land for themselves and their cattle. The tenants' rights also became heritable and all tenants, except tenants of *sir* and sub-tenants, became hereditary tenants with rights of succession. The fear of enhancement, except at the time of the Settlement, was done away with. This Act was half-way measure because the tenancies were not transferable. The tenants were not benefited materially till the coming of Independence when the whole structure of the tenure system was changed and the body of persons interposed between the State and the cultivators was eliminated, a measure that came into being with the U.P. Agricultural Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Act, 1949, followed by the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 (U.P. Act No. 1 of 1951).

LAND REFORMS

Abolition of Zamindari

The U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, which was enforced in the district on July 1, 1952, brought to an end the system of intermediaries between the State and the cultivators and established a direct relationship between these two parties. The rights of zamindars in *abadi* land (inhabited sites), *parti* (fallow land), *banjar* (barren land), etc., were abolished and the rights of the actual tiller were enhanced. The Act reduced the multiplicity of tenures and secured the cultivators' ownership of the land and also made provision for incentives for improvement. Compensation was to be paid to the zamindars and ten times the annual rent was charged from the tenants in order to give them *bhumidhari* rights over their holdings. Those who did not pay the due amount could not get transferable proprietary rights over their land but they could only till and inherit it. Subletting, except in cases of disability as defined under the Act, was prohibited.

There are three types of cultivators in the district now (as elsewhere in the Country) : *bhumidhars*, *sirdars* and *asamis*. *Bhumidhars* have full proprietary rights. A *sirdar* can also acquire *bhumidhari* rights over his holding by paying to the government a sum equal to twenty times his annual rent. Public land vests in the *gaon samaj* and its committee, the *Bhumi Prabandhak Samiti* (the land management committee), lets out land on temporary leases for agricultural or horticultural uses or for other purposes. The tenants are known as *asamis* of the *gaon samaj*. The Act guaranteed compensation to all ex-zamindars and a rehabilitation grant to those whose land revenue did not exceed Rs 10,000. The total amount of compensation payable to the zamindars of the district amounted to Rs 2,18,22,974 of which a sum of Rs 2,18,09,539 had been paid in cash and bonds till the end of 1974. Those with comparatively smaller holdings were entitled to receive a rehabilitation grant as well. Up to March 31, 1974, a sum of Rs 1,49,15,542 in cash and bonds had been paid to the intermediaries against the assessed amount of Rs 1,49,15,581 by way of rehabilitation grant.

In 1974-75 the number of holdings under different tenures in the district were as follows :

Kind of tenure	Name of tahsil and area in hectares				Total no. of tenures in district
	Bijnor	Dhampur	Nagina	Najibabad	
Bhumidhar	47,840	40,732	27,890	23,687	5,80,312
Sirdar	50,586	53,988	49,541	35,489	8,01,988
Asami	1,412	614	1,794	688	17,842

Collection of Land Revenue—After the abolition of Zamindari, the system of direct collection by government from *bhumidhars*, *sirdars* and *asamis* was introduced through the agency of the collection *amins* whose work is supervised by *naib-tahsildars*, *tahsildars* and *subdivisional officers*. The ultimate responsibility for the collection of main dues is that of the collector of the district. For a certain period commencing from 1952 the government also appointed a district collection officer for doing this work but the post was abolished in 1958. On the eve of the abolition of Zamindari in 1951-52, the district demand of land revenue was Rs 15,82,907. The district demand of main dues in 1974-75 recovered as arrears of land revenue was as follows :

Main dues	Total demand (in Rs)
Land Revenue	45,51,089
Vikas Kar	58,57,121
Irrigation	19,30,502
Taqavi XII	64,191
Taqavi XIX	30,296

Bhoodan—The Bhoodan movement (of Acharya Vinoba Bhave) was initiated in Uttar Pradesh in 1951 with the object of obtaining land for the landless. By March, 1975, an area of 341 hectares was received in the district as gifts for landless persons of which 333 hectares were distributed among them.

Consolidation of Holdings

The U.P. Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1953, came into force in 1955 to prevent fragmentation of holdings and consequent loss to agricultural production, to consolidate holdings and to replan village holdings. Suitable places were reserved for works of public utility and *chak* roads.

was laid out to provide approaches to the holdings in the villages. The consolidation of holdings was taken up in 443 villages of tahsil Bijnor in November, 1955. The scheme was enforced in the Dhampur tahsil in August, 1959, with operations in 588 villages and in tahsils Najibabad and Nagina in June, 1962, with 398 villages and in October, 1964, with 891 villages respectively.

The tahsilwise area of holdings consolidated up to March, 1975, was as under :

Name of tahsil	Total number of villages	Area consolidated (in hectares)
Bijnor	725	28,298
Dhampur	776	21,018
Najibabad	485	16,898
Nagina	614	28,859

Urban—The abolition of Zamindari in respect of agricultural lands in the urban areas of the district was done after the enactment of the U.P. Urban Areas Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1956 (U.P. Act IX of 1957). Upto March, 1974, a sum of Rs 1,58,854 was assessed as compensation of which Rs 1,39,878 has been paid.

Imposition of Ceilings on Land Holdings

To effect a more even distribution of land, the U.P. Imposition of Ceilings on Land Holdings Act, 1960 (Act 1 of 1961) was enforced in the district on January 8, 1961. By an amendment brought into force on June 8, 1973, the maximum size of a holding of a tenant was fixed at 7.30 hectares of irrigated land and 10.95 hectares of unirrigated land, all the land declared surplus to vest in the State Government and compensation to be paid to the landholder concerned. The Act affected 1,799 landholders, an area of 10,056 hectares of land being declared surplus and, as a result, allotted to 642 persons. An amount of Rs 7,40,566 was assessed as compensation of which Rs 5,59,642 paid up to March 31, 1975.

Administration of Taxes other than Land Revenue

In this district, as elsewhere in the State, the sources of revenue include several Central and State taxes. The important ones are Central excise, income-tax and estate duty.

Central Excise—An assistant collector of the Central Excise (with headquarters at Moradabad) exercises jurisdiction over the district. The

excise revenue collected in the district from 1970-71 to 1972-73 was as under :

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1970-71	3,92,82,508
1971-72	5,87,02,001
1972-73	3,90,75,889

The revenue realised in 1973-74 from certain important commodities is stated below :

Commodity	Amount (in Rs)
V.P. Sugar	4,77,28,152
Khandsari	58,81,707
Tobacco	77,896
Glass and glassware	2,71,281

Income-tax—For the purpose of income-tax collection, the district is under the charge of an income tax officer who also deals with wealth tax and gift tax. The following amounts were collected in the district from 1970-71 to 1974-75 :

Year	Income-tax	Wealth Tax	Gift Tax
	Amount (in Rs)	Amount (in Rs)	Amount (in Rs)
1970-71	39,29,702	82,511	26,550
1971-72	52,71,119	1,14,645	32,741
1972-73	42,06,141	2,25,486	27,715
1973-74	53,97,712	2,64,547	—
1974-75	59,70,232	2,95,689	35,341

Estate Duty—For the purposes of duty levied under the Estate Duty Act, 1953, this district is included in the Lucknow region. Estate duty is levied on the property of a deceased person under the provisions

of the Act. An assistant controller is in charge of the Lucknow circle with jurisdiction over the estate duty cases of district Bijnor (and of a few other districts as well). The figures of collection of estate duty for the three years ended 1972-73 are as follows :

Year	Amount of tax (in Rs)
1970-71	19,329
1971-72	38,076
1972-73	7,142

Excise Duty—Excise has been one of the most important sources of State revenue in the district since the beginning of British times. It is chiefly realised from the sale of liquor. Administration of excise duty is in the charge of the collector and district magistrate assisted by the district excise officer. The district is divided into 2 excise circles, each in the charge of an excise inspector.

Liquor—The number of liquor shops in the district in 1975 was 83 for retail sale. There are 4 licenced dealers for Indian-made foreign liquor. The consumption of country liquor in the last 3 years was as follows :

Year	Quantity (in A.L.)
1972-73	1,26,089.4
1973-74	1,25,097.6
1974-75	1,43,069.04

Hemp Drugs—Hemp drugs (ganja and bhang) constituted important items of excise revenue in the past. The use of charas is abandoned now.

There are 8 bhang shops in the district and the consumption of bhang in the district was 588 and 659 kg in 1972-73 and 1973-74 respectively and 734 kg in 1974-75. Licences for the retail sale of bhang are granted by the collector and district magistrate through annual auctions. The income derived from these sources and the auctioning of country liquor shops from 1973-74 to 1974-75 was as follows :

Year	Country spirit (in Rs)	Bhang (in Rs)
1973-74	26,87,000	40,950
1974-75	34,36,00	52,5000

Sales Tax—Sales tax is levied under the U.P. Sales Tax Act, 1948, and the Central Sales Tax Act, 1957. For the purpose of the assessment and collection of this tax, the district is under a sales tax officer. The amount of sales tax realised in respect of important commodities like cloth, *kirana*, bricks, food-grains, kerosene oil, oil-seeds, timber, etc., during the three years ended 1973-74 was as follows :

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1971-72	42,35,892
1972-73	52,16,495
1973-74	61,20,770

Stamps and Registration—Stamp duty was introduced by the British to discourage the unusually large number of law suits taken to the courts and for earning revenue from civil litigants, the affixture of stamps being required in legal proceedings and in courts of law only. In the course of time the use of stamps was made obligatory for business transactions such as receipts, bills of exchange, bonds, etc. Similarly legal documents and sale deeds for the transfer of property also had to be on stamp paper.

Under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, stamps are classified as judicial and non-judicial, the former being used to pay court fees and the latter being affixed on bills of exchange in token of defraying the duty on documents and receipts, etc. The income from stamps includes fines and penalties imposed under the Indian Stamp Act of 1897 (Act 11 of 1899). The receipts during the five years ended 1974-75 were as follows :

Year	Receipts (in Rs) from stamps	
	Judicial	Non-judicial
1970-71	6,89,754	15,18,178
1971-72	7,95,288	19,85,384
1972-73	8,32,786	24,25,638
1973-74	9,13,023	26,25,676
1974-75	8,16,490	25,58,244

The figures of the income derived from registration between 1969 and 1978 are as follows :

Year	Income (in Rs)
1969	8,59,857
1970	4,82,651
1971	4,88,516
1972	4,45,608
1973	6,83,682

Taxes on Motor Vehicles—All motor vehicles are liable to taxation under the U.P. Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1935, and the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. The regional transport officer, Rohilkhand region (with headquarters at Bareilly), is in charge of this district, his jurisdiction also extending to the districts of Budaun, Bareilly, Moradabad, Pilibhit and Rampur. In 1963-64 the net collections in the whole region from this source amounted to Rs 49,35,309, of which Rs 45,18,017 was collected under the U.P. Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1935.

Entertainment and Betting Tax—This tax is imposed on paid public entertainments and betting. Cinema houses are the biggest sources of this tax. The following statement shows the amount collected between 1969-70 and 1978-74 :

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1969-70	6,65,197
1970-71	7,54,597
1971-72	7,94,692
1972-73	9,10,880
1973-74	10,38,645

CHAPTER XII LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Law and Order

During the time of the Mauryas, the Guptas and Harshvardhan, the responsibility of controlling and preventing crime and the maintenance of peace within a village was placed collectively on the inhabitants in this area (as elsewhere). 'Rakshaks' (protectors or guards) were appointed in each village to guard public property and in case they failed in their duty, they were held personally liable to make good the loss. With the growth of feudal institutions, the responsibility for maintaining peace devolved on the landlords but the institution of the 'rakshak' was retained. During Muslim rule, kotwals were appointed in the towns and were paid a monthly sum from which they were required to maintain their own staff of chowkidars and peons. In the 16th century it was the duty of the *faujdar* to maintain peace, keep the roads free of robbers and thieves and enforce the imperial regulations. To assist him *thanadars* were placed in charge of the thanas. It is not unlikely that this state of affairs also existed in the area then covered by the present district of Bijnor. From 1707 A.D. this area was in a state of permanent disorder for nearly a century on account of the Rohillas and Marathas. At that time there were a number of professional criminals and wandering tribes in this region, the latter comprising the Bhantus, Haburas, Nats and Sweepers. The commonest crimes were those against property. Dacoities, robberies and burglaries were also committed by the Banjaras, Haburas and Nats of the adjoining areas who after raided the herds grazing in the jungles and carried off several heads of cattle.

The British acquired this part of Rohilkhand in 1801 and a separate police force was raised for the specific purpose of maintaining law and order. Escorts and guards were supplied from the army, special patrols were maintained for road and river traffic and a small force for the detection of crimes was kept at police-stations. In the beginning police work was performed by the revenue officials, the magistrate and collector in the district becoming the chief of the police force. He had under him tahsildars who also looked after police matters in their own tahsils and a number of thanas were placed under their supervision. The combination of judicial, police and administrative powers in the magistrate and collector made him heavily overworked. The tahsildars, being mainly revenue officers often neglected their police duties. The duty for maintaining watch and ward was performed inefficiently by the village watchmen who were the servants of the landlords. There are no details to be had regarding the way in which law and order was maintained in the area then covered by the present district but it is likely that the same pattern was followed here as obtained elsewhere. The Police Act (Act V of 1861) which is still in operation with some modifications, was promulgated in 1860. A superintendent of police was appointed at the head of the district police force and the district was divided into a number of police circles which were further subdivided into thanas (police-stations).

Incidence of Crime

The number of cases relating to crimes like murder, dacoity, robbery, etc., in the years 1951, 1960, 1972 and 1978 were as given in the following statement :

Crime	1951	1960	1972	1978
Offence against public tranquillity	49	140	—	—
Murder	1	14	9	34
Culpable homicide	5	14	—	—
Dacoity	10	89	6	35
Robbery	2	2	25	24
Rape and unnatural offences	6 *	1	1	12
Theft	42	116	440	286
Against Excise laws	—	80	—	—
Riot	—	—	50	80
Housebreaking	—	—	155	97
Kidnapping	—	—	14	11

Organisation of Police

For police purposes the district is included in the northern range, which is under the charge of a deputy inspector general of police, with headquarters at Bareilly. The district police is divided into two broad divisions—the civil police and the armed police.

Civil Police—The police force stationed in the district is commanded by a superintendent of police who is assisted by 5 deputy superintendents, an inspector, 50 sub-inspectors, 76 head constables and 674 constables. For effective control the district has been divided into five circles, each placed under the charge of a deputy superintendent of police, known as circle officer.

The following statement indicates the territorial divisions of the civil police of the district :

Police circle	Police-station	Police out-post
1	2	3
Najibabad	Najibabad	Zabtaganj, Sarai
	Kiratpur	Kiratpur
	Nagal	—
	Shyampur	—
Nagina	Nagina	Rail, Thana Bishnoisara Kotwali

[Continued]

1	2	3
	Nihtaur *	Nihtaur
	Burhapur	—
Dhampur	Dhampur	Dhampur, Shivpuri,
	Sherkot	Sherkot
	Afzalgarh	—
	Kalagarh	—
	Rehar	—
Kotwali	Kotwali	Tahsil, Jatan, Aabkari, Ganj
	Mandawar	Mandawar
	Haldaur	Amhera, Jhalu
Noorpur	Noorpur	—
	Seohara	Seohara, Sahaspur
	Charidpur	Chandpur Bashata

Armed Police—In the district the armed police unit of the district is stationed at the reserve police lines as is the case in the rest of the State. In 1974 it comprised an inspector, a subinspector, 37 constables and 144 constables. The services of the armed police are utilised for escorting prisoners, guarding government property and treasuries, patrolling and combating dacoits.

Prosecution Staff—The prosecution staff working under the control of the district magistrate comprises a public prosecutor and 7 assistant public prosecutors. The main function of the prosecution unit in the district (as elsewhere) is to prepare State criminal cases and prosecute them in the subordinate courts of the district.

Village Police—There is no definite information for the coming regarding the institution of village chowkidars in the area then covered by the present district of Bijnor but the same system as obtained in the Country might well have been followed there also. In olden times there existed no regular police system but each village had its own watchman to assist the village headman in maintaining order and exercising vigilance. He was the servant of the village community and was remunerated by the cultivators with a share of their produce. Later he was placed under the control of the zamindars and was also paid by them, his duties remaining almost the same. At times he was given a piece of land by the zamindar in lieu of his services.

By the North-Western Provinces Villages and Road Police Act, 1973, the district magistrate became the appointing and dismissing authority of the village chowkidars, though the actual control and supervision over them rested with the superintendent of police, an arrangement that still continues. They are now attached to police-stations and are paid by the government. Their main duty is to report to the local police-station the occurrence of important crimes and other untoward or criminal incidents in their areas. They also act as process server of the *nyaya* panchayats, for which they are paid separately. The number of village chowkidars in the district is 641.

Village Defence Societies

There are 1,794 village defence societies in the district. Their functions are mainly night patrolling and putting up joint resistance against lawless and antisocial elements.

Pradeshik Vikas Dal

This is a voluntary organisation originally set up in the district in 1948 under the name of the Prantiya Rakshak Dal to mobilise rural man power, carry out youth welfare activities in the rural areas and organise villagers for self defence. The paid staff now consists of district organiser and 10 block organisers, the unpaid staff comprising 131 *halqa sardars* (circle leaders), 1,132 *dalpatis* (group leaders), 3,588 *toli nayaks* (section leaders) and 35,731 *rakshaks*.

Members of the organisation are sometimes assigned duties in fairs and in work relating to *shramdan* (voluntary contribution of labour), poultry farming, adult education, mass tree plantation, etc. They are called upon to guard and patrol vulnerable points during emergencies and to assist during fires, floods and other calamities.

Government Railway Police

The railway station in Bijnor district are governed by the Moradabad section of the Northern Railways. The main duty of the railway police is to maintain law and order and detect and investigate crime at railway stations and in trains and control passenger and vehicular traffic in the premises of the railway stations.

DISTRICT JAIL AND LOCK-UPS

District Jail—The institution of the jail as it exists in the district is of British origin and was a part of the judicial system introduced by them. The jail in this district has been in existence since 1852 and is now under a deputy chief medical officer designated superintendent. He is assisted by a jailor, a deputy jailor and an assistant jailor. The jail hospital is looked after by an assistant medical officer. The inspector general of prisons, Uttar Pradesh, is the administrative head of the jail.

The district jail has provision for accommodating 818 prisoners. The numbers of the prisoners in it from 1969 to 1978 are given in the following statement :

Year	Average number of daily prisoners	
	Convicts	Undertrial prisoners
1969	90	222
1970	108	227
1971	110	300
1972	74	275
1978	62	262

The main industries in which the inmates of the jail are gainfully employed are the making of *niwar*, durries (cotton carpets), bedsheets, towels, dusters, *dusooti* (a variety of cotton cloth) and *moonj* mats. The jail also has a small workshop where the prisoners spin cotton thread on the Ambar Charkha (a type of spinning wheel). The yarn is utilised in the jail by the prisoners in the manufacture of different kinds of cloth. The prisoners also work in the agricultural farm of the jail and the jail garden.

Welfare of Prisoners—There are two classes of prisoners, superior and ordinary, superior status being assigned by the district magistrate and the sessions judge in special cases subject to the approval of the government on the basis of the prisoner's status in public life and the type of offence, etc. All the prisoners are provided with two meals a day. They are given special food on the occasion of the main festivals. Sick or unhealthy persons are placed on a special diet as prescribed by the medical attendant. All prisoners are provided with bedding. Undertrials and civil prisoners, who are unable to supply themselves with sufficient clothing are provided with garments as necessary. The jail has facilities for the prisoners' washing and bathing and they are also given soap once a week for washing their clothes, etc. Reasonable facilities are given to them for communicating with their relatives, friends and legal advisers through correspondence. They can also prefer appeals or file petitions. All convicts sentenced to a term of three months and who are under 50 years of age, are given instruction in reading, writing and simple arithmetic. There is also a library for them and newspapers are supplied to them. Medical treatment is also available for sick prisoners.

Revising Board—For periodical reviews of cases of all convicts in the district jail sentenced to terms of imprisonment of three years or more, there is a revising board at Barcilly to recommend their premature release on reasonable grounds.

Official Visitors—The ex-officio visitors of the jail are the director of medical and health services, U.P., the commissioner of the division, the district and session judge and the district magistrate.

Non-official Visitors—The appointment of non-official visitors to the jail is made by the State Government on the recommendations made at the district committee of the Uttar Pradesh Apradh Nirodhak Samiti, received through the district magistrate, which selects these non-official visitors from among its members who come from every walk of life.

All the local members of the Central and State legislatures, members of the standing committee of the State legislature on jails, the chairman of the central committee of the U.P. Apradh Nirodhak Samiti, the chairman of the municipal board of the district and the Adhyaksh, Zila Parishad, are the ex-officio non-official visitors of the jail.

Lock-up—A lock-up is located in the premises of the sessions court for custody of the prisoners brought from the jail to the courts to attend the hearings of their cases and before they are sentenced to imprisonment by the court or taken to the district jail. It is supervised by a public prosecutor who is assisted by a constable. About 25 undertrials

at a time can be accommodated in the lock-up. The monthly average of undertrials housed is 220. There is also a lock-up in each police-station under the charge of the station-officer. There is, at the headquarters of each tahsil a revenue lock-up for the detention of persons arrested for non-payment of dues.

JUSTICE

At the beginning of the present century, there were benches of honorary magistrates for the municipal areas of Bijnor and Nagina and a court presided over by a single honorary magistrate at Chandpur. In addition there were honorary magistrates who exercised jurisdiction over the police-stations of Bashta, Noorpur Sohara, Dhampur and Sherkot. For criminal appellate and civil jurisdiction the district was under the jurisdiction of the Moradabad bench. There were two munsifs, one stationed at Nagina and one at Bijnor between whom the district was divided, the former exercising jurisdiction over the whole of the Nagina tahsil, the Dhampur tahsil (with the exception of pargana Burharpur) and the Najibabad pargana (in the tahsil of the same name) and the latter over the remaining parganas.

About that time village munsifs were appointed on an experimental basis in the parganas of Bijnor, Mandawar and Daranagar, which were divided into 29 circles but the system did not work adequately for want of qualified persons. A criminal court of a temporary civil and sessions judge heard civil and sessions cases every month at Bijnor, Moradabad and Budaun. In 1982 a temporary court of a civil and sessions judge was created exclusively for the Bijnor district, which was included in the Moradabad bench. With the increase of judicial work an additional court of a civil judge and that of an additional munsif were also established in this district. A separate bench was created for the district from August 1, 1956.

Civil Justice

The civil judiciary consists of the court of the district and sessions judge, a temporary civil and session judge, an additional civil judge, a judge of the small causes court, an insolvency judge and five munsifs.

The position of case work in the civil courts in the year 1978 was as under :

Cases	No. of suits
Pending at beginning of year	2,758
Instituted during year	1,888
Disposed of during year	1,057
Pending at end of year	3,479

In that year (1978) the number of suits involving immovable property was 798, the number of mortgage suits 4, those concerning matrimony 8, and those relating to any other important class 97.

The number of suits instituted in 1978 according to valuation was as follows :

Valuation	No. of suits
Not exceeding Rs 100	60
Exceeding Rs 100 but not Rs 1,000	653
Exceeding Rs 1,000 but not Rs 5,000	184
Exceeding Rs 5,000 but not Rs 10,000	134
Exceeding Rs 10,000 but not Rs 20,000	58
Exceeding Rs 20,000 but not Rs 5 lakhs	16

The total valuation of property in the suits so instituted was Rs 43,75,570.

Details of the modes of disposal of suits in the year 1978 were as follows :

Manner of disposal	No. of suits
Disposed of after trial	235
Dismissed for default	313
Otherwise decided without trial	61
Decreed ex-parte	216
On admission of claims	5
On compromise	225
On reference to arbitration	8
Total	1,057

The position of appeals instituted and disposed of in the year 1978 was as follows :

Nature of appeals	Instituted	Disposed
Regular civil appeals	233	122
Miscellaneous civil appeals	205	85
Miscellaneous rent appeals	48	3

BIJNOR DISTRICT

Criminal Justice—The district and sessions judge presides over the chief criminal court of the district. He is assisted by a sessions judge, an additional sessions judge, a temporary civil and sessions judge, an additional civil and sessions judge and five munsifs. There is also a court of a chief judicial magistrate in the district. The number of cases committed to and the number of persons sentenced by the lower courts and sessions courts during 1971-78 are given in the following statements :

Cases committed

Nature of offence	Year		
	1971	1972	1978
Affecting life	71	86	106
Kidnapping and forcible abduction	7	9	8
Hurt	4	3	16
Rape	6	7	11
Unnatural offence	1	1	4
Extortion	1	—	—
Robbery and dacoity	49	89	64
Other cases	28	80	58

Persons tried and sentenced

Persons tried/sentenced	Year		
	1971	1972	1978
Persons tried	12,872	17,003	16,680
Death	7	—	4
Life imprisonment	45	9	84
Rigorous imprisonment	439	269	1,117
Simple imprisonment	285	26	95
Fined	4,044	8,458	4,452

SEPARATION OF EXECUTIVE FROM JUDICIARY

On October 2, 1967, the judiciary was completely separated from the executive when the additional district magistrate (judicial) and two judicial officers, then working under the collector, were placed under the

control of the district judge, Bijnor. With this change, the judicial magistrates could be utilised for law and order duties by the district magistrate only in an emergency and only with the concurrence of the district and sessions judge. The new Code of Criminal Procedure which was enforced in the district on April 1, 1974, ensures an almost absolute separation. The executive magistrates have now been relieved of their judicial functions and perform only executive duties and try preventive cases essential for the maintenance of public peace, law and order. This includes the trial of cases under some of the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. The new Code has also removed the prosecuting unit from the control of the superintendent of police and has placed it under the direct superintendence and control of the district magistrate.

NYAYA PANCHAYATS

The panchayati *adalats* now called *nyaya* panchayats were established in the district in 1949 under the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, to provide quick and cheap justice for the people in the rural areas. The total number of such panchayats is 131.

The jurisdiction of a *nyaya* panchayat usually extends over an area of five to ten *gaon sabhas* depending on the population of the constituent villages. They can try cases under specific sections of the Indian Penal Code, Cattle Trespass Act, 1871, U.P. District Board Primary Education Act, 1926, Public Gambling Act, 1967, etc. They can also try civil and revenue cases.

The *panchs* of the *nyaya* panchayats are appointed by the district magistrate from among the members of the *gaon* panchayats as provided under the Act. The members of the *gaon sabha* can also be appointed as *panchs* in case the members of the *gaon* panchayats with the requisite qualifications are not forthcoming. In 1978 there were 181 *sarpanchs*, 131 *sahayak sarpanchs* and 2,490 *panchs* of the *nyaya* panchayats in the district.

The *panchs* are honorary workers and hold office for a period of 5 years. Their term can be extended by a year by the State Government. Cases are heard and disposed of by benches constituted by the *sarpanch* annually consisting of 5 *panchs* each. The presence of at least three *panchs* including a *sarpanch* at each hearing is essential.

The *nyaya* panchayats are empowered to try cases as specified below :

(a) All cases under the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947

(b) The following sections of the Indian Penal Code

140	269	290	352	403*	481	509
160	277	294	357	411*	447	510
172	283	323	358	426	448	
174	285	334	374	428	504	
179	289	341	379*	430	506	

*Involving property not exceeding Rs 50 in value.

- (c) Sections 24 and 26 of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871
- (d) Subsection 1 of Section 10 of the U.P. District Board Primary Education Act, 1926
- (e) Sections 3, 4, 7 and 13 of the Public Gambling Act, 1867.

The *nyaya* panchayats also have original jurisdiction to try civil suits up to a valuation of Rs 500 and to arrange settlement or compromise if the parties concerned agree in writing to such a course. They are not authorised to award a sentence of imprisonment and can impose fines up to Rs 100 only. Revision, applications against their decisions in criminal and civil cases lie respectively to the munsif and subdivisional officer concerned.

The number of cases instituted in the *nyaya* panchayats and disposed of by them from 1969-70 to 1973-74 was as follows :

Year	Cases pending at beginning of year	Cases instituted during year	Cases disposed
1969-70	57	455	500
1970-71	12	586	584
1971-72	64	577	569
1972-73	72	104	88
1973-74	143	65	101

Bar Association

The bar association, Bijnor, is a registered body and was founded on December 16, 1937, and had 140 members in 1974. The membership is open to qualified legal practitioners. The association maintains a library called the Narsingh Bar Library.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The government departments in the district concerned with general administration, revenue administration, law and order and justice have already been dealt with in chapters X, XI and XII respectively. The organisational set-up of other principal offices located in the district is dealt with below :

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The district is under the supervision of the deputy director of agriculture, Bareilly region, with headquarters at Bareilly.

In the district, the district agriculture officer, assisted by 3 additional district agriculture officers, is in the immediate charge of agricultural programmes, including the formulation and implementation of Five-year Plan schemes. He also looks after the work relating to plant protection, oil-seed extension, jute development and the like. Under him are 4 agriculture inspectors for the supervision of seed stores, distribution of fertilizers, recovery of agricultural dues and agriculture extension activities. There are 25 seed stores in the district, each under the care of an assistant agriculture inspector. There are 2 assistant inspectors to promote the cultivation of jute.

Plant Protection

The officer in charge of plant protection is stationed at Bijnor to disseminate knowledge and adopt plant protection measures. Spread over the district are a plant protection subcentre and 7 field units.

Soil Conservation

A soil conservation scheme is operating in the district under the supervision of the district soil conservation officer who is assisted by 5 inspectors, 25 assistant inspectors, 1 technical assistant and 2 overseers. He works under the guidance of the deputy director of soil conservation, Bareilly.

HORTICULTURE

The development of horticulture is undertaken by the superintendent, government gardens, Rampur, with the assistance of a senior horticulture inspector, a district horticulture inspector and 2 gardeners who are all posted in the district. The staff supervises the lay-out of orchards and the planting of fruit trees and offers technical guidance to horticulturists and vegetable growers.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The district falls within the jurisdiction of the deputy director animal husbandry, Bareilly region, with headquarters at Bareilly. The district live-stock officer is in charge of schemes for the development of

live-stock in the district. He has to ensure the implementation of plan schemes. He provides credit facilities for the purchase of improved cattle and also for poultry development. He is also responsible for proper functioning of artificial insemination centres in the district. He is assisted by a veterinary officer for artificial insemination work and 19 veterinary assistant surgeons for the control and cure of animal disease.

Co-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

This department deals with the organisation, registration, supervision and working of the various co-operative societies set-up in the district and attends to administrative and statutory functions.

An assistant registrar, with headquarters at Bijnor, assisted by 4 additional district co-operative officers, 7 circle officers and 8 assistant development officers (one in each block), carries out the functions of this department. The regional deputy registrar is stationed at Bareilly.

FOREST DEPARTMENT

The forests of the district are divided into four divisions—Rohilkhand, Bijnor, Kalagarh and Ramnagar, each under a deputy conservator of forests, with their respective headquarters at Bareilly, Kotdwara, Lansdowne and Naini Tal. Among the main objects of the department are attention to plantations (to meet the requirements of the local population for timber, firewood and grass), conservation and improvement of the erstwhile zamindari forests, afforestation of waste lands and planned exploitation of the forest wealth of the district. Preservation of wild life has also assumed significant importance.

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

For the survey and proper utilisation of industrial resources, a district industries officer is stationed at Bijnor and works under the overall control of the deputy director of industries, Rohilkhand region. He is the chief promoter of industrial activities in the district and is responsible for the development of both small-scale and large-scale industries. His duties include rendering assistance for the setting up of new industries and the expansion of those already in existence. He is assisted by two inspectors. The district has two industrial estates, one each at Nagina and Bijnor, each under the charges of an assistant manager.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Moradabad is the zonal headquarters of the department and is under the charge of a superintending engineer whose jurisdiction extends to the districts of Bijnor, Rampur, Budaun and Lansdowne (Garhwal). In the district he is assisted by an executive engineer, 5 assistant engineers and 22 junior engineers. The department is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, etc., and the buildings belonging to the State Government.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

The department is at the district level and the subjects it deals with (tube-wells, canals and minor irrigation) are described below:

Tube-wells

The district falls under the irrigation works circle, Moradabad, which is headed by a superintending engineer and covers the tube-well division, Bijnor, and the tube-well division II, Moradabad. The Bijnor division comprises an executive engineer who is in charge of the division, 3 assistant engineers and 13 junior engineers. The Moradabad division is also under an executive engineer assisted by 2 assistant engineers and 6 junior engineers. The division constructs and maintains the State tube-well.

Canals

For the supervision of flood control works, an assistant engineer is stationed at Nagina. He works under the guidance of the executive engineer, flood division, Moradabad.

Minor Irrigation

For the supervision of minor irrigation works an assistant engineer is posted at Bijnor. He is assisted by a senior mechanical inspector with headquarters at Bijnor and 9 junior engineers (mechanical).

CANE DEPARTMENT

This department is headed by a district cane officer who is responsible for the introduction of improved sugar-cane varieties and their cultivation, protection of crop from degeneration and the ravages of diseases and pests, improvement in yield per hectare and sugar recovery and for ensuring the full feed of superior quality of sugar-cane of factories. The supervisory staff under the district cane officer consists of 3 senior cane development inspectors and 9 cane development inspectors.

An assistant sugar-cane commissioner (*khandsari*) is also located in the district. He is assisted by 3 *khandsari* officers and 18 *khandsari* inspectors.

The regional office of the deputy sugar-cane commissioner is located at Bareilly.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

In ancient times villages enjoyed autonomy and were governed by panchayats which exercised administrative and judicial powers. These village bodies received a set back under Muslim rule and almost disappeared in their old form under the British, their concern becoming limited to the social life of the village community. The annexation of territory and overcentralisation of administration during the early British period brought about the extinction of the old traditional institutions of local self-government.

During the years that followed the upheaval of 1857, steps were taken to decentralise the administration and usher in local governments in the rural and urban areas, the first being the passing of the N.W.P. and Oudh Local Rates Act, 1871, followed by the Local Boards Act of 1888 which provided for the establishment of district and tahsil boards. The N.W.P. and Oudh Municipalities Act, 1883, expanded the autonomy and financial powers of the municipalities allowing them to contribute towards education from their own funds in addition to their functions (as before) relating to sanitation, drainage, lighting, public health and regulation of markets. The most outstanding feature of the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, was the introduction of the system of communal and minority representation in the municipal boards, separate seats being allotted to Muslims and the Scheduled Castes. But the control of the government over the municipal boards as also the power of dissolution and supersession remained intact. By an amendment made in the Act in 1949, communal representation in the municipal elections was abolished, leaving only two categories, namely the general and the Scheduled Castes, the method of election thus becoming somewhat democratised. Another amendment in 1953 changed the nomenclature of chairman of the board to president and provided for his direct election on an experimental basis. But after some time the indirect election of the president was reintroduced. The U.P. Nagar Mahapalika Adhiniyam, 1959, empowered the State Government to frame rules for the centralisation of any post in the *nagar mahapalikas* (municipal corporations) and municipal boards.

The municipal boards look after the work of vaccination, sanitation, water-supply, street lighting and public health in addition to the registration of births and deaths.

In 1974-75 there were 9 municipalities, 6 town areas, one notified area, 11 *kshettra samities*, 1,182 *gaon* panchayats and a Zila Parishad in the district.

MUNICIPAL BOARDS

Bijnor

This place was constituted a municipality under Act XXVI of 1850 on April 17, 1865. Later the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, was

made applicable to the board. In 1949, it was a third class municipality, its status being raised to second class in 1974. The area under the municipality is 3.65 sq. km., which had a population of 43,290 in 1971. It is divided into 14 single-member wards. The members, elected by residents of the municipal wards on the basis of adult franchise, elected the president. The board has been superseded since August 14, 1970, and is under the control of the district magistrate who acts as its administrator.

Finances—The income of the municipal board is derived mainly from sources like government grants and contributions, local rates and taxes, octroi, funds and fees imposed under special Acts, revenue from municipal property and licence fees on vehicles and slaughter-houses. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, collection of taxes, street lighting, water-supply and public health and sanitation. In the year 1972-73 the total income of the board was Rs 8,90,502 and its expenditure Rs 10,78,223.

Water-supply—The waterworks of the town was completed in 1964. Three tube-wells are operating and another is under construction. There is an overhead tank with a capacity of 45,459 litres for the storage of water. Two other overhead tanks are under construction with the capacity of 2,27,298 litres and 1,13,649 litres respectively. There were 80 public taps and 2,000 private connections in the town in 1973. Water is supplied for eight and a half hours every day, the average supply being 20 litres per head per day. The board employs a waterworks engineer and a technical staff for the maintenance of the waterworks. A sum of Rs 1,13,330 was spent by the board on this head during 1972-73.

Street Lighting—Electricity was made available in the year 1931. There is street lighting in the town and there are 1,500 street electric lamps. The total expenditure on this head was Rs 41,361 in 1972-73.

Public Health and Medical Services—The public health department of the board is looked after by the municipal medical officer of health. The board has a chief sanitary inspector, 5 sanitary inspectors, 15 *bhistis* (water carriers) and 135 sweepers to render sanitation and public health services in the town. A maternity centre under the charge of a midwife is also managed by the board. The board spent a sum of Rs 2,06,712 on this head during 1972-73.

Drainage—The length of pukka and kucha drains in the town is 50 km. and 10 km. respectively. The total length of drains flushed daily is about 20 km.

Other Activities—The board maintains a park which is adjacent to the Aijaz Ali Hall and a library was opened in the Hall on October 15, 1948.

Afzalgarh

This place has been administered as a town area since 1865 under the provisions of the Bengal Chaukidari Act (Act XX of 1856). On September 1, 1969, it was declared a municipality and is now adminis-

tered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, as amended from time to time. According to the census of 1971 the area under the municipality is 0.62 sq. km. and the population 10,765. The board consists of 10 elected members and a president. The term of office of the members and president is five years which can be enhanced by the State Government in special circumstances.

Finances—The income of the municipal board is mainly derived from such sources as government grants and contributions and local rates and taxes. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, public works and public health and sanitation. The total income of the board was Rs 2,22,775 and its expenditure Rs 2,33,851 in the year 1973-74.

Street Lighting—Formerly there were kerosene oil lamps for street lighting in the town. Electricity became available in 1964 when electrically lit street lamps were installed. There were 77 kerosene oil lamps and 97 electric lamps for street lighting in the town and a sum of Rs 7,441 was spent by the board in 1973-74 on this head.

Public Health and Medical Services—Public health and sanitation is the concern of the board and in 1973-74 it spent a sum of Rs 61,020 on this head.

Kiratpur

This place was administered as a town area from 1865 onwards under the Bengal Chaudhary (Act XX of 1856). On March 1, 1970, it was declared a municipality and is now administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916. According to the census of 1971 the area under the municipality is 4.45 sq. km. and the population is 25,147.

Finances—The income of the municipal board is derived mainly from sources like government grants and contributions, local taxes, octroi, revenue from municipal property and licence fees on vehicles, etc. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, collection of taxes, street lighting and public health and sanitation. In the year 1973-74 the total income of the board was Rs 4,69,140 and its expenditure Rs 4,12,975.

Street Lighting—Electricity was made available in the year 1931. There were 243 street electric lamps in the town. The expenditure on this head was Rs 12,260 in 1973-74.

Public Health and Medical Services—The board also employs a vaccinator and in 1973-74 about 6,206 vaccinations were done. The board spent a sum of Rs 91,269 on public health and medical services, in that year.

Other Activities—The board has allotted land to 44 Harijan families for their houses and it has also given land to 7 ex-service men (of the armed forces) for cultivation.

Chandpur

A committee was formed in 1855 which managed local affairs. It was concerned with the work of sanitation, road improvement, lighting and public health. Chandpur was constituted a municipality in April 1865, and later was reconstituted under the North Western Provinces Oudh Municipalities Act of 1883. Now it is administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916. According to the census of 1971 the area under the municipality is 1.53 sq. km. and the population 28,179. The Municipal area has been divided into 6 wards, 3 members each being elected from 4 wards and 2 each from the remaining 2 wards. The total number of members is 16. The members are elected by the residents of the municipal wards who, in their turn, elect the president. The term of office of the members and the president is 5 years.

Finances—The income of the municipal board is derived mainly from sources like government grants and contributions and local rates and taxes. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, public works, public health and sanitation. In the year 1973-74 the total income of the board was Rs 6,97,686 and expenditure Rs 6,81,288.

Water-supply—The waterworks of the town was completed in 1957. One tube-well is in operation and another is to be installed. There is an overhead tank with the capacity of 3,40,947 litres. There were 31 public taps and 796 private connections in the town. Water is supplied for about 18 hours every day, the supply per day being about 22 litres per head. In 1973-74 about 26,48,62,035 litres of water was supplied. The board employs a waterwork engineer and technical staff for the maintenance of the waterworks and spent a sum of Rs 62,977 during the year 1973-74 on maintaining the waterworks.

Street Lighting—Electricity was made available in the year 1932. There is street lighting in the town and there are 600 street electric lamps. The total expenditure on this head was Rs 50,660 in 1973-74.

Public Health and Medical Services—The sanitation of the town is supervised by a sanitary inspector. The other staff consists of a vaccinator, 85 sweepers, 4 *janadars* and 4 *bhistis*. A sum of Rs 1,87,111 was spent by the board on this head in the year 1973-74.

Drainage—The total length of drains in the town is 51.28 km. which is flushed daily. A drainage scheme is under preparation by the board.

Other Activities—The board maintains a library for which a building is to be constructed. The board is also preparing a scheme for the construction of shops.

Najibabad

The town has been administered as a municipality since 1865. The board then consisted of 11 members of whom 10 were elected. Now it is administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916. According to the census of 1971 the area under the municipality is 4.30 sq. km. and

the population 42,586. The board consists of 18 elected members and a president. The members are elected by the residents of the town and the president by the elected members. The town is divided into 8 wards, 2 members each being elected from 6 wards and 8 each from the remaining 2 wards. The members are elected for a term of 5 years as is the president.

Finances—The income of the board is derived mainly from sources like government grants and contributions, local rates and taxes, realisation under special Acts and revenue from municipal property. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, collection of taxes, street lighting and public health and sanitation. The total income of the board was Rs 9,54,526 and the expenditure Rs 9,39,582 in the year 1973-74.

Water-supply—The waterworks was completed in the year 1956-57. The source of the water-supply is tube-wells. There is a tank with a capacity of 4,50,000 litres. The board employs a waterworks engineer and a technical staff for the supervision of the waterworks. In 1973-74 there were 57 public taps and 2,275 private connections. Water is supplied for about 14 hours every day, the supply per day being about 60 litres per head. The total supply in 1973-74 was about 92,91,60,000 litres, when the board spent a sum of Rs 2,44,279 on this head.

Street Lighting—For street lighting in the town there are 718 electric lamps. The board spent a sum of Rs. 20,064 on this head during the year 1973-74.

Public Health and Medical Services—For public health and sanitation work the board employs a sanitary inspector, 2 vaccinators, 5 *jamadars* and 134 sweepers and a sum of Rs 8,61,945 was spent by the board on this head during 1973-74.

Seohara

This town was constituted into a municipality in 1974 under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, prior to which it was a notified area. It has an area of 27.20 sq. km. and a population of 22,821 and is divided into 5 wards, each ward electing 8 members to the board. The board has 15 elected members and a president, the term of office of the members and the president being 5 years.

Finances—The chief source of income of the board are government grants and contributions, municipal rates and taxes, realisation under special Acts and revenue derived from municipal property. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, street lighting, public health and sanitation. The total income of the board was Rs 2,19,494 and its expenditure Rs 2,10,276 in 1973-74.

Street Lighting—Electricity was made available to the town in 1989. For lighting the streets there are 56 electric lamps. The board spent a sum of 15,000 on street lighting in 1973-74.

Public Health and Medical Services—For the public health and sanitation of the town the board employs sweepers and *bhistis*. A sum of Rs 48,900 was spent under this head by the board during the year 1973-74.

Dhampur

This town is being administered as a municipality since 1836. It is administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916. According to the census of 1971 the area under the municipality was 1.94 sq. km. and the population 22,639. The board consists of 16 elected members and a president.

Finances—The income of the board is mainly derived from sources like government grants contributions, local rates and taxes, realisation under special Acts and revenue from municipal property. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, collection of taxes, street lighting, water-supply and public health and sanitation. The total income of the board was Rs 7,73,881 and its expenditure Rs 7,69,210 in the year 1973-74.

Water-supply—The waterworks was completed in the year 1964 and there were 40 taps in the town for public use. The board spent a sum of Rs 56,285 on this head in 1973-74.

Street Lighting—Electricity came to this town in 1932. For lighting the streets there were 444 electric lamps and the board spent a sum of Rs 88,292 in 1973-74 on street lighting in the town.

Nagina

This town is being administered as a municipality since 1866. It is now administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916. According to the census of 1971 the area under the municipality was 7.77 sq. km. and the population 37,066. The board consists of 18 members and a president. The members are elected by the residents of the municipality for 5 years and the president by the members also for a term of 5 years.

Finances—The chief sources of income of the board are government grants and contributions, municipal rates and taxes, realisation under special Acts and revenue derived from municipal property. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, street lighting, public health and sanitation and water-supply. The total income of the board was Rs 5,48,509 and expenditure Rs 5,70,173 in 1973-74.

Water-supply—The waterworks was completed in the year 1959. There were 845 water-tap connections in the town and the board spent Rs 48,090 on running the water-supply arrangements in the town in 1973-74.

Street Lighting—The town is electrified and for lighting the streets there were 500 electric lamps on which the board spent Rs 29,733 in 1973-74.

Nihaur

This town has been administered as a town area since 1865 under the Bengal Chaukidari Act, 1856 (Act XX of 1856). It was raised to the status of a municipality in 1972. It is administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916. It has an area of 5.83 sq. km. and a population of 20,286 according to the census of 1971. The board consists of 11 members and a president.

Finances—The board derives its income from government grants and contributions, municipal rates and taxes, realisation under special Acts and from municipal property. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, street lighting, public health and sanitation and supplying water. Its total income was Rs 3,46,342 and its expenditure Rs 3,98,655 during the year 1973-74.

Street Lighting—Electricity was brought to the town in 1936. For lighting the streets there were 300 electricity lamps in the town. The board incurred an expenditure of Rs 80,652 on this head in 1973-74.

The receipts and expenditure of these municipal boards for the last ten years have been appended in Tables I to IX at the end of the chapter.

TOWN AREAS

There are 6 town areas in the district which are administered under the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914 (Act II of 1914) by committees, each consisting of a chairman and a number of members, all directly elected by the residents of the town on the basis of adult franchise for a term of 4 years. The number of members of each committee depends on the population of the town. The committees are empowered to levy house tax, property tax, tax on agricultural land situated within the limits of the town area, etc. Other sources of income are sale proceeds of manure, licence fees, fines, water tax, loans and grants given by the government and rents of Nazul (land which is government property but does not belong to any particular department) land if any. The main head under which these local bodies spend their funds are general administration, collection charges, water-supply, public health and sanitation, maintenance of public streets and drains and street lighting.

Jhalu

This town has been administered under the Bengal Chaukidari Act, 1856, since August 27, 1872. Now it is governed by the U.P. Town Areas Act of 1914. It had an area of 1.12 sq. km. and a population of 9,106 in 1971. It is administered by a town area committee consisting of 11 members and a chairman, all elected by the people of the town for a term of 4 years. This term can be shortened or extended by the government in special cases. The total income and expenditure of the committee was Rs 27,285 and Rs 29,725 respectively in 1973-74.

Haldaur

The town is administered under the U.P. Town Areas Act of 1914. According to the census of 1971 it had an area of 6.9 sq. km. and a population of 9,345. It is administered by the town area committee which consists of 10 members and a chairman, all elected by the people of the town for a term of 4 years. This period can be curtailed or extended by the government in special cases. The total income and expenditure of the committee was Rs 1,09,214 and Rs 98,316 respectively in 1973-74.

Mandawar

This town was administered as a town since 1865 under the Bengal Chaukidari Act, 1856 (Act XX of 1956). Now it is administered under the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914. According to the census of 1971 it had an area of 1.45 sq. km. and a population of 9,648. The administration is looked after by a committee consisting of 11 members and a chairman, all elected by the people of the town for a term of 4 years. In 1973-74 the total income of the committee was Rs 67,647 and its expenditure Rs 76,293.

Badhapur

The town of Badhapur was constituted a town area in the year 1968 under the U.P. Town Areas Act of 1914. It has an area of 1.58 sq. km. and a population of 9,208 according to the census of 1971. It is administered by the town area committee which consists of 11 members and a chairman, all elected by the people of the town for a normal term of 4 years. Its income was Rs 19,623 and expenditure Rs 26,183 in the year 1973-74.

Sahanpur

Sahanpur was declared a town area on February 5, 1951, under the U.P. Town Areas Act of 1914. The town had an area of 3.08 sq. km. and a population of 8,682 in 1971. It is administered by a committee consisting of 11 members including a chairman, all elected by the people of the town for a period of 4 years. The total income and expenditure of the committee amounted to Rs 79,865 and Rs 84,365 respectively in 1973-74. There is a water works for supplying water to the town. There were 209 water-tap connections in the town in 1973. The total length of pipe-lines in the town was about 5,014 metres. Electricity was brought to this place in 1963 and there were 49 electric lamps and 46 kerosene oil lamps in the town for lighting the streets in 1973-74 when a sum of Rs 3,767 was spent on street lighting by the committee.

Sahaspur

Sahaspur was constituted a town area in the year 1971 under the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914. According to the census of 1971 it then had an area of 3.13 sq. km. and a population of 10,567. Pending the constitution of an elected town area committee, the administration of the town area is in the hands of the district magistrate. Its income from various sources was Rs 23,300 and its expenditure on different activities Rs 8,682 during the year 1973-74.

The receipts and expenditure of these town areas for the last ten years have been appended in Table X to XV at the end of the chapter.

NOTIFIED AREA

Sherkot

This town was constituted a notified area in February, 1970, under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916.

The notified area covered an area of about 5.36 sq. km. and had a population of 24,504 according to the census of 1971. The committee which administered it consists of 15 members including the president. The total income of the committee from various sources was Rs 2,49,281 and its expenditure on general administration Rs 3,38,260 in 1973-74.

The receipts and expenditure of this notified area for the last ten years have been appended in Table XVI at the end of the chapter.

PANCHAYATI RAJ

In ancient times the village panchayat, which was a body of elders, had administrative and judicial powers and exercised full control over the villages. During British rule these panchayats lost their power though they continued to survive and to control the social life of the village community. The U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, was passed after Independence. It reorganised the ancient system on the pattern of elected *gaon* panchayats and delegated to them adequate powers for the administration of the villages.

The community development blocks scheme which began in 1952 with the launching of the planning and development programme, created block development committees for each block but they had only an advisory role in helping and advising the staff posted in the blocks for the successful and speedy implementation of the Five-year Plan schemes. The U.P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam, 1961, enforced in the district in 1963, gave statutory recognition and wider executive and financial powers to these institutions. The government also reorganised the local self-governing bodies at the district level under the same enactment, replacing and reconstituting the erstwhile district board which became the Zila Parishad. Under this Act a three-tier organisation—the *gaon* panchayat at the base, the Kshettra Samiti in the middle and the Zila Parishad at the apex was introduced.

Zila Parishad

In early days there were several district committees which were entrusted with the administration of the various local funds, such as the road and school rates and the district *dak* cess. These were amalgamated into a single body known as the district committee which came into existence in 1871 and continued till the formation of the district board which had widely enhanced functions and powers under Act XIV of 1888. Local or tahsil boards were also created and functioned as subdistrict boards. The system continued till the introduction of the

Act of 1906, by which the tahsil boards were abolished and a certain number of members of the district board were elected. The board also consisted of a few nominated members.

The U.P. District Boards Act, 1922, which came into force in February, 1923, made some changes in the constitution of the board. The number of members was fixed at 51, a reservation of 11 seats being made for Muslims and of 6 for the Scheduled Castes. In 1958, the U.P. Antarim Zila Parishads Act, 1958, came into force, the term Antarim Zila Parishad being adopted instead of district board. In 1963, in accordance with the U.P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam, 1961, the word Antarim was dropped and the local body came to be known as Zila Parishad.

The total membership of the Zila Parishad is 38 which includes *pramukhs* and representatives of Kshettra Samitis, the presidents of the municipal boards, representatives of the co-operative banks and other co-operative institutions, local members of the Lok Sabha, members of the Vidhan Sabha and the members of the Vidhan Parishad. Some members are nominated by the government and seats are also reserved for women and Scheduled Castes members. The normal term of the Zila Parishad and its members is 5 years but this may be shortened or extended by the government in special circumstances. The members of the Zila Parishad elect an *adhyaksh* and an *up-adhyaksh* for 5 years and one year respectively. The functions of the Zila Parishad are comprehensive and include all those of the former district board and of the district planning committee or Antarim Zila Parishad as well as the co-ordination of the activities of the development blocks, implementation of the inter-block schemes and utilisation of the funds allotted by the government for purposes of agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, co-operative institutions, village and cottage industries, medical and public health services, cultural activities and welfare of children, the youth and women. The major sources of income of the Zila Parishad are government grants, taxes, levied by it and fees from cattle pounds. The main items of its expenditure are public works and medical and public health services. Its total income was Rs 25,46,434 and its expenditure Rs 34,41,734 during the year 1973-74. The receipts and expenditure of the Zila Parishad for the last ten years have been given in Table XVII at the end of the chapter.

Medical and Public Health Services—There are 7 dispensaries (6 allopathic and one homoeopathic) under the management of the Zila Parishad. Nearly 41,869 patients were treated in these dispensaries in 1973-74. It spent a sum of Rs 1,64,300 in that year on this head.

Public Works—The Zila Parishad maintains about 14 km. of metalled and 850 km. of unmetalled roads in the district. A sum of Rs 26,90,446 was spent by the Parishad on public works during the year 1973-74.

Kshettra Samitis

There were 11 Kshettra Samitis, one for each development block, in the district in 1973-74. With the enforcement in 1963, of the U.P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam, 1961, the functions of

the erstwhile block development committees devolved upon the newly-established Kshettra Samitis. Each comprises all *pradhans* of the constituent *gaon* sabhas, the presiding officers of the town area committees and notified area committees lying within the block area, representatives of co-operative institutions of the block and members of the Zila Parishad who represent block. All members of the Lower Houses of the Central and State Legislatures whose constituencies may fall in any part of the block and all members of the Upper Houses of the Central and State Legislatures who have their place of residence in the block and all members of the Central and State Legislatures whose place of residence is in the block and who have chosen to represent the block, are *ex-officio* members of the Kshettra Samitis whose members may also co-opt a certain number of women and persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and persons interested in planning and development. The term of the Kshettra Samitis is 5 years. Its members elect the *pramukh* (the presiding officer) from the voters' list for the Legislative Assembly from the area included in the block and a senior *up-pramukh* and a junior *up-pramukh* from among themselves, all for a five-year term. The block development officer acts as the executive officer of the Kshettra Samiti which is responsible for the formulation and execution of the schemes of the development block. The main activities of this body are in the spheres of agriculture, live-stock and fisheries, construction of minor irrigation works, opening of health, maternity and child welfare centres, prevention and control of epidemics, promotion of cottage and village industries and co-operative institutions. Briefly, the Kshettra Samiti acts as a co-ordinating agency for all the *gaon sabhas* functioning within its jurisdiction to implement their village projects.

Gaon Panchayats

The villages in India were administered since ancient times by panchayats which exercised administrative and judicial powers. In 1949, when the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, was enforced in the district there were 1,090 *gaon* panchayats, their number increasing to 1,182 in 1973-74.

A *gaon sabha* is constituted for a village or group of villages with a minimum population of 250 persons and consists of all the adults of the village. The *gaon* panchayat, which is the executive limb of the *gaon sabha*, has a *pradhan* (president) and an *up-pradhan* (vice-president), the former and the members of the *gaon* panchayat being elected initially by the elders of the *gaon sabha* for a term of 5 years, extendable by the government. The *up-pradhan* is elected by the members of the *gaon* panchayat for a term of one year. The number of members of the *gaon* panchayat is determined in proportion to the population of the *gaon sabha* and generally ranges from 15 to 30.

The *gaon sabha* is intended to constitute the basis of an active and conscious peasant democracy which should initiate and integrate all rural development policies and programmes. The functions of the panchayat include (among others) construction, repairs, cleaning and

lighting of streets, sanitation, prevention of epidemics, upkeep and supervision of forests, waste lands, pastures, buildings, land or any other property of the *gaon sabha*, registration of births, deaths and marriages, regulation of markets and fairs, establishment of primary schools, provision of drinking water facilities and welfare of children, the youth and women.

The main sources of income of a *gaon* panchayat are government grants, taxes, collected by it and voluntary contributions by the local people. The total income of the *gaon* panchayats was Rs 8,04,682 during 1973-74. The panchayats incurred an expenditure of Rs 5,64,991 during that year on construction and development works.

Details of the work done by the panchayats of the district are given below :

Work done	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
No. of panchayat <i>ghars</i> constructed.	2	3	—	2	3
No. of compost pits filled	600	3,360	811	60	914
Metalled road constructed (in km.)	112.285	4.115	11.660	0.167	55.875
No. of culverts constructed	15	16	12	—	3
No. of culverts repaired	4	5	7	9	21
No. of wells constructed	1	8	1	27	15
No. of hand-pumps installed	61	29	64	93	101
No. of public latrines constructed	2	—	2	80	499
No. of school buildings constructed	2	4	1	—	8
No. of School buildings repaired	4	4	2	7	5

TABLE I-(a)

Reference Page No. 190

Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Bijnor

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under special Acts	Revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from Taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	1,63,235	5,400	39,745	1,33,646	56,486	2,391	4,00,853
1965-66	1,53,129	4,942	46,020	1,06,421	56,518	1,64,006	5,31,036
1966-67	1,87,686	4,809	76,711	94,066	49,883	3,810	4,16,965
1967-68	2,11,870	5,546	66,255	1,11,326	57,819	1,687	4,53,503
1968-69	4,10,877	5,887	86,454	1,19,826	54,394	4,404	6,81,142
1969-70	3,64,967	4,208	68,945	3,37,197	59,623	3,204	8,38,144
1970-71	4,20,046	8,079	68,241	1,50,195	55,818	3,119	7,05,494
1971-72	4,51,229	12,004	1,22,464	1,67,914	64,047	2,04,882	1,02,990
1972-73	5,49,048	9,928	1,18,058	76,423	1,32,788	4,272	8,90,502
1973-74	4,24,855	8,445	1,81,028	62,800	1,85,150	1,06,856	11,28,645

TABLE I-(b)

Reference Page No. 190

Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Bijnor

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health	Public instructions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	74,416	28,837	1,57,097	99,437	37,687	3,959	3,96,433
1965-66	74,512	27,905	2,88,646	1,18,296	21,813	1,153	5,32,325
1966-67	81,217	28,582	1,37,164	1,42,924	26,421	2,577	4,18,885
1967-68	70,806	41,975	1,80,691	1,38,145	22,846	1,388	4,55,301
1968-69	68,739	55,820	4,07,738	1,48,336	21,240	2,599	6,99,528
1969-70	90,918	54,672	3,79,140	1,84,148	36,289	3,851	7,49,718
1970-71	91,015	50,730	3,28,718	2,15,450	44,836	1,315	7,32,059
1971-72	87,584	69,901	3,27,124	2,15,631	84,600	1,35,288	8,70,128
1972-73	1,02,256	41,861	7,17,039	1,50,399	27,771	89,397	10,78,228
1973-74	1,51,854	55,985	5,98,402	32,335	46,527	17,606	8,97,719

TABLE II-(a)

Reference Page No. 190

Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Afzalgarh

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1964-65	44,157	4,073	14,962	16,538	—	79,780
1965-66	38,611	7,429	33,648	5,294	—	84,982
1966-67	15,545 ³	9,590	20,730	12,720	—	58,585
1967-68	14,865	8,007	16,466	8,423	—	47,761
1968-69	15,873	9,175	5,760	9,785	—	40,593
1969-70	95,610	12,308	2,333	5,790	—	1,16,036
1970-71	1,64,172	9,414	14,703	1,105	14,436	2,08,830
1971-72	1,87,231	2,461	17,204	840	12,185	2,19,921
1972-73	1,59,654	1,664	10,515	652	66,154	2,38,639
1973-74	1,83,053	518	13,457	493	25,254	2,27,765

TABLE II-(b)

Reference Page No. 190

Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Afzalgarh

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and convenience	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	14,753	17,257	20,922	—	27,039	6,632	86,653
1965-66	18,076	14,653	30,959	—	5,270	2,969	67,527
1966-67	18,222	18,055	1,169	—	25,253	2,713	60,412
1967-68	14,746	20,791	15,129	—	6,644	6,409	63,719
1968-69	12,242	16,126	10,837	—	1,239	3,932	44,376
1969-70	19,578	30,643	14,050	—	8,776	2,287	75,334
1970-71	30,129	36,633	13,231	2,356	13,900	45,082	1,41,381
1971-72	39,934	42,067	1,00,301	—	15,115	47,880	2,45,297
1972-73	49,645	61,292	1,45,452	—	24,788	6,045	2,87,222
1973-74	84,082	68,460	64,895	—	10,872	4,942	2,33,851

TABLE III-(a)

Reference Page No. 190

Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Kiratpur

Year	Revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of other heads	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6
1964-65	69,290	88,384	12,908	—	1,20,577
1965-66	76,830	26,304	17,591	—	1,20,725
1966-67	80,776	26,078	18,626	—	1,25,478
1967-68	72,545	78,258	11,928	—	1,57,731
1968-69	75,998	68,089	19,786	—	1,58,768
1969-70	99,191	40,095	25,683	—	1,64,919
1970-71	1,19,499	67,445	29,861	—	2,16,805
1971-72	1,22,104	19,509	28,468	2,20,000	8,90,081
1972-73	1,61,840	86,513	28,492	2,00,000	4,26,895
1973-74	1,92,016	82,405	28,219	2,16,500	4,69,140

TABLE III-(b)

Reference Page No. 190

Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Kiratpur

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and convenience	Public instructions and Public works	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1964-65	24,950	7,000	26,749	28,197	—	6,880	—	98,776
1965-66	29,757	8,000	35,065	89,671	—	18,157	—	1,30,650
1966-67	38,250	8,500	41,126	25,685	600	17,467	—	1,31,578
1967-68	41,405	9,640	87,176	15,847	100	11,324	—	1,15,492
1968-69	45,741	10,450	50,606	53,912	250	13,126	—	1,74,085
1969-70	58,525	11,500	61,970	49,998	100	400	—	1,86,094
1970-71	40,452	9,848	59,161	89,688	—	19,084	2,20,000	4,38,783
1971-72	47,948	14,156	52,728	48,901	600	19,587	2,00,000	8,83,800
1972-73	57,741	14,527	75,778	67,804	1,800	26,800	2,02,060	4,46,510
1973-74	68,268	12,260	97,270	41,055	800	24,262	1,74,060	4,12,975

TABLE IV-(a)

Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Chandpur

Reference Page No. 190

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under special Acts	Revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation	Grants and contribution	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	1,74,507	559	86,303	1,16,365	86,200	1,00,372	5,14,806
1965-66	1,72,852	635	49,348	1,30,032	1,51,982	1,20,301	6,25,150
1966-67	1,86,840	611	57,153	1,06,753	1,23,921	1,05,279	5,80,557
1967-68	2,23,321	1,130	59,089	1,46,124	1,41,024	19,091	5,89,779
1968-69	2,73,262	466	66,313	1,76,166	2,82,239	8,879	7,59,825
1969-70	2,70,808	532	76,344	2,65,347	2,29,939	7,729	8,59,699
1970-71	2,99,462	1,217	94,845	2,06,815	2,08,259	17,848	8,28,446
1971-72	3,09,258	998	77,026	2,50,488	2,30,267	9,685	8,77,717
1972-73	3,14,814	1,158	86,109	95,542	2,05,442	9,573	7,12,638
1973-74	3,26,342	1,205	1,17,803	49,394	2,01,798	1,139	6,97,686

TABLE IV-(b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Chandpur

Year	Reference Page No. 190							
	General admin- istration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and conveni- ence	Public instr- uctions	Contrib- utions	Miscellane- ous	Total of all other heads	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1964-65	67,121	19,708	1,50,906	1,22,179	15,306	15,279	1,55,055	5,45,549
1965-66	84,117	18,941	1,81,046	1,39,479	14,433	19,497	1,65,884	6,28,347
1966-67	98,598	32,310	1,25,297	1,51,842	13,995	17,307	1,51,341	5,85,690
1967-68	1,08,213	49,704	1,99,880	1,74,911	13,536	20,140	30,231	5,96,615
1968-69	1,18,889	84,060	3,95,348	1,87,083	13,054	27,432	12,906	7,88,222
1969-70	1,36,368	26,397	3,05,161	2,04,100	11,221	24,986	51,751	7,59,984
1970-71	1,25,061	26,543	3,92,922	2,02,074	12,019	33,219	60,310	8,52,148
1971-72	1,41,374	72,226	4,34,200	2,05,036	9,130	27,890	14,502	9,94,418
1972-73	1,36,779	73,467	4,52,707	88,393	9,875	23,986	20,723	8,05,980
1973-74	1,85,928	50,660	3,69,211	708	4,606	37,895	32,275	6,81,288

BLJNOR DISTRICT

TABLE V-(a)
Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Najibabad

Year	Reference Page No. 190						
	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under special Acts	Revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	3,27,977	1,921	66,626	1,25,904	4,686	3,340	5,30,454
1965-66	3,62,270	6,773	79,670	1,50,615	6,099	1,859	6,02,286
1966-67	3,64,203	2,578	91,947	1,65,692	23,112	1,436	6,48,968
1967-68	3,82,955	2,126	92,889	1,64,321	22,191	4,094	6,68,576
1968-69	3,85,819	1,774	78,811	1,68,526	16,416	1,09,961	7,61,307
1969-70	4,72,755	2,461	80,675	2,87,351	20,619	9,919	8,28,780
1970-71	4,18,891	2,220	94,756	3,50,307	17,235	6,719	8,87,908
1971-72	4,52,123	2,901	1,05,983	2,89,678	19,755	4,04,290	12,71,800
1972-73	5,39,275	3,041	95,151	2,48,750	10,296	4,86,253	18,79,725
1973-74	5,43,784	2,379	87,888	1,46,641	28,646	1,45,188	9,54,526

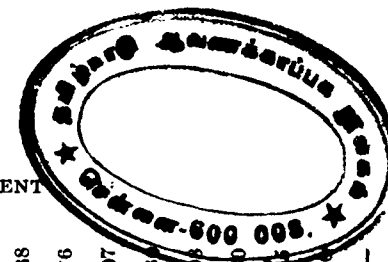


TABLE V-(b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Najibabad

Year	Reference Page No. 190						
	General Admi- nistration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and conveni- ence	Public instruc- tions	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	39,341	18,570	1,38,754	86,993	1,70,811	47,963	—
1965-66	48,652	30,643	1,86,234	1,24,389	1,64,446	84,767	—
1966-67	53,287	14,448	2,12,061	1,35,501	1,81,480	80,991	—
1967-68	56,660	20,968	2,91,123	1,84,342	1,18,613	58,329	—
1968-69	57,033	32,291	3,22,092	1,11,726	1,93,995	3,373	—
1969-70	52,396	23,027	3,75,209	1,18,257	2,10,246	37,022	—
1970-71	55,546	26,153	3,81,400	1,55,146	2,40,966	55,818	—
1971-72	93,318	30,709	6,34,079	2,31,166	25,088	26,043	—
1972-73	1,16,227	28,237	11,83,041	1,50,766	94,299	19,930	—
1973-74	1,32,370	20,064	6,71,944	21,998	33,230	32,122	27,855
							9,39,582

BIJNOR DISTRICT

TABLE VI-(a)
Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Seohara

Reference Page No. 190						
Year	Realisation under special Acts	Revenue derived from Municipal property and power apart from taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1964-65	45,895	—	5,695	5,365	2,806	59,261
1965-66	55,223	—	15,400	3,420	50	74,093
1966-67	47,894	85	8,208	5,463	369	62,019
1967-68	55,575	160	15,361	3,376	11,878	86,350
1968-69	62,676	162	13,991	5,137	—	81,966
1969-70	57,722	82	16,186	4,727	—	78,667
1970-71	73,336	826	24,944	5,239	39	1,03,884
1971-72	75,778	176	53,745	6,025	—	1,36,322
1972-73	1,16,852	175	27,776	12,796	89,000	1,96,619
1973-74	1,58,480	825	18,781	8,908	33,000	2,19,494

TABLE VI-(b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Seohara

Year	Reference Page No. 190						
	General adminis- tration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and conveni- ence	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	16,816	10,589	11,156	784	1,183	15,210	55,788
1965-66	16,335	28,460	12,385	2,186	3,102	50	62,518
1966-67	31,572	47,286	14,183	400	255	—	98,696
1967-68	21,838	25,016	12,568	205	1,979	—	61,606
1968-69	23,298	684	12,445	75	1,464	59,188	43,954
1969-70	21,811	5,816	12,749	—	3,836	1,121	45,324
1970-71	22,269	65,587	29,269	10,000	6,074	—	1,33,149
1971-72	25,911	50,102	84,204	—	8,502	—	1,18,719
1972-73	86,193	54,629	45,591	—	8,357	40,865	1,85,185
1973-74	48,902	45,128	63,882	8,000	21,364	83,000	2,10,276

TABLE VII-(a)
Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Dhampur

Reference Page No. 190						
Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under special Acts	Revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1964-65	3,34,652	917	60,580	1,80,747	1,52,784	6,79,680
1965-66	3,83,498	462	61,562	1,10,432	18,696	5,69,350
1966-67	3,89,589	290	55,689	1,04,917	8,574	5,59,059
1967-68	2,98,348	427	70,191	89,450	5,368	4,58,784
1968-69	2,99,438	372	95,667	99,055	4,612	4,99,144
1969-70	3,32,274	22	1,32,888	1,12,763	4,686	5,82,578
1970-71	3,70,262	10	1,36,140	1,54,126	3,108	6,83,646
1971-72	3,98,012	10	2,27,985	1,26,430	14,182	7,66,519
1972-73	4,69,993	260	2,13,369	99,796	8,591	7,92,009
1973-74	5,67,086	194	1,42,414	61,235	2,952	7,73,881

TABLE VII-(b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Dhampur

Year	Reference Page No. 190						
	General adminis- tration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and convenience charges	Public instructions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	1,39,633	25,385	8,44,809	69,292	23,580	1,994	6,04,643
1965-66	1,52,419	33,903	2,05,916	86,129	29,650	54,705	5,62,722
1966-67	1,85,190	26,804	2,12,158	1,04,434	35,582	56,086	6,20,254
1967-68	84,204	16,791	1,98,187	1,05,066	31,941	37,877	4,74,066
1968-69	89,881	20,905	2,09,205	1,26,640	28,056	4,233	4,78,920
1969-70	93,886	23,315	2,62,790	1,50,188	34,030	4,643	5,78,852
1970-71	90,798	23,708	2,82,759	1,67,346	46,776	17,491	6,28,878
1971-72	1,12,003	18,747	2,77,042	1,58,255	42,469	75,415	6,83,886
1972-73	1,33,489	48,819	4,12,010	1,10,771	89,843	9,082	8,03,964
1973-74	2,03,531	33,232	3,97,580	8,262	84,236	92,269	7,69,210

TABLE VIII-(a)
Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Nagina

Year	Reference Page No. 190						
	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under special Acts	Revenue derived from Municipal property and power apart from taxation	Grants and Contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	1,43,291	1,133	60,018	1,51,680	11,273	15,161	3,83,256
1965-66	1,60,377	1,019	68,279	1,76,632	10,953	10,038	4,27,292
1966-67	1,78,755	390	72,461	2,00,901	5,621	7,442	4,65,580
1967-68	1,95,647	67	82,329	1,71,881	3,509	2,397	4,55,830
1968-69	2,18,264	77	40,133	1,66,938	9,042	—	4,34,454
1969-70	2,49,292	370	45,281	2,37,157	26,716	560	5,59,376
1970-71	2,73,043	1,014	49,248	1,75,499	17,339	11,906	5,28,049
1971-72	3,11,750	1,467	56,181	1,89,532	27,926	31,124	6,17,989
1972-73	3,26,811	1,451	60,645	1,70,463	35,214	16,935	6,17,519
1973-74	3,55,971	1,082	63,595	1,23,126	4,124	661	5,48,509

TABLE VIII-(b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Nagina

Year	General adminis- tration and collection charges				Public health and convenience	Public instructions	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Total Expenditure
	1	2	3	4					
1964-65		52,244	17,082	1,40,409		2,20,827	15,938	17,680	4,64,180
1965-66		48,261	5,687	1,25,051		2,17,386	17,960	12,621	4,86,966
1966-67		50,827	15,519	1,23,506		2,25,440	21,042	10,700	4,47,084
1967-68		53,186	19,711	1,26,797		2,40,994	20,438	2,645	4,68,771
1968-69		58,361	24,641	1,57,542		1,86,408	21,203	2,948	4,00,498
1969-70		61,542	29,258	1,53,443		1,50,020	28,493	947	4,23,703
1970-71		74,384	35,095	3,38,149		1,64,601	20,206	6,400	6,38,835
1971-72		78,112	19,918	2,04,207		1,85,115	20,380	1,301	5,10,088
1972-73		87,171	25,134	8,15,558		1,21,494	32,705	46,890	6,38,952
1973-74		95,770	29,733	4,07,009		8,530	24,531	4,600	5,70,173

TABLE IX-(a)
Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Nihaur

Year	Municipal rates and taxes			Realisation under special Acts	Revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total Receipts
	1	2	3						
1964-65		1,05,721	243		8,698	10,187	2,976	1,508	1,29,833
1965-66		1,08,964	739		10,455	66,021	2,608	1,375	1,90,162
1966-67		83,197	774		10,618	29,949	32,768	5,325	1,62,631
1967-68		65,119	828		18,768	28,319	8,587	143	1,16,764
1968-69		72,984	827		22,220	19,280	2,018	—	1,17,279
1969-70		1,15,586	1,125		21,336	12,405	2,832	854	1,54,188
1970-71		1,74,172	897		17,338	13,991	5,288	4,530	2,16,216
1971-72		2,32,626	876		22,590	63,119	8,680	55,759	8,83,650
1972-73		2,11,006	924		28,502	36,512	8,789	11,302	2,97,125
1973-74		2,38,498	1,070		31,104	51,792	23,577	801	3,46,842

TABLE IX-(b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Nittaur

Year	Reference Page No. 192						
	General adminis- tration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and conven- ience	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	24,845	1,500	28,215	25,000	1,842	57,509	1,38,911
1965-66	36,432	1,200	31,828	5,000	4,493	64,717	1,43,670
1966-67	38,821	1,550	48,669	75	6,178	87,784	1,83,377
1967-68	44,993	7,790	42,669	3,000	8,208	41,742	1,48,492
1968-69	41,947	8,709	44,570	—	603	15,984	1,11,823
1969-70	48,791	4,056	48,805	6,400	6,891	16,987	1,31,930
1970-71	48,457	18,129	56,935	—	8,625	66,097	1,98,248
1971-72	63,923	18,609	65,813	1,500	10,966	72,070	2,32,881
1972-73	76,449	29,798	87,569	1,300	12,325	1,49,186	3,56,627
1973-74	81,860	30,653	93,072	2,400	6,205	1,84,965	3,98,655

BIJNOR DISTRICT

TABLE X
Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Jhalu

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)					Expenditure (in Rupees)				
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Miscell- aneous	Total receipts	General adminis- tration	Public health	Public works	Other expendi- ture	Total expendi- ture	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1964-65	5,348	6,652	3,657	15,657	1,410	6,692	2,120	750	10,972	
1965-66	5,348	5,806	4,069	15,223	2,389	7,678	9,151	150	19,368	
1966-67	20,348	7,000	3,666	31,014	1,862	7,050	639	30	9,581	
1967-68	5,406	6,084	4,279	15,769	1,915	6,244	18,417	—	26,576	
1968-69	35,348	6,044	3,838	45,230	1,958	7,192	13,510	168	23,828	
1969-70	21,299	6,097	5,993	33,389	2,163	6,927	36,666	410	46,166	
1970-71	17,945	9,575	6,756	34,276	2,437	7,169	31,461	175	41,242	
1971-72	29,274	8,216	6,151	43,641	2,524	12,952	23,125	900	39,501	
1972-73	2,085	6,760	4,966	13,811	1,523	11,696	—	587	13,806	
1973-74	4,501	11,015	11,769	27,285	2,840	13,681	13,204	—	29,725	

TABLE XI
Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Haldwar

Reference Page No. 192

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)				Expenditure (in Rupees)					
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1964-65	5,000	23,109	2,332	30,441	12,591	6,927	3,042	1,934	25,494	
1965-66	5,000	27,142	9,342	41,484	15,212	7,009	4,316	3,339	29,876	
1966-67	5,000	27,167	1,784	33,951	14,999	7,417	8,200	4,824	35,440	
1967-68	17,000	33,332	2,022	52,354	14,884	14,151	7,849	4,775	41,659	
1968-69	35,000	34,232	2,348	71,580	18,882	10,297*	30,316	21,404	80,899	
1969-70	30,000	33,585	4,824	68,409	19,278	10,021	32,837	2,123	64,259	
1970-71	10,000	43,202	4,913	58,115	24,972	22,114	63,228	2,249	1,12,563	
1971-72	21,000	50,933	27,209	99,202	30,315	19,976	8,220	11,556	70,067	
1972-73	11,200	69,086	5,375	85,661	35,302	21,029	54,914	3,652	1,14,897	
1973-74	30,000	74,943	4,271	1,09,214	33,284	17,761	23,986	23,285	98,316	

TABLE XII
Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Mandawar

Reference Page No. 192

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)				Expenditure (in Rupees)					
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other sources	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Miscellaneous	Total expenditure	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1964-65	5,521	5,710	4,601	15,832	843	2,583	6,918	84	10,428	
1965-66	5,648	6,771	495	12,914	1,948	4,354	9,366	1,122	16,788	
1966-67	664	7,198	5,023	12,885	2,022	3,657	1,261	1,291	8,231	
1967-68	—	6,840	5,634	12,474	5,120	4,772	200	996	11,088	
1968-69	—	5,809	2,603	8,411	1,736	1,139	4,000	—	6,875	
1969-70	140	17,192	2,744	20,076	4,276	6,090	10,439	76	20,890	
1970-71	18,099	12,321	1,709	32,129	2,741	4,212	2,436	249	9,638	
1971-72	31,117	1,820	1,015	33,952	2,871	8,421	20,876	1,000	28,168	
1972-73	143	13,436	2,643	16,223	21,495	11,960	11,148	2,805	47,408	
1973-74	10,000	56,001	1,616	67,617	24,030	6,508	26,100	8,753	76,293	

TABLE XIII
Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Badhapur Reference Page No. 192

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)			Expenditure (in Rupees)					
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1968-69	5,000	—	—	5,000	—	—	—	—	—
1969-70	—	—	—	—	—	5,000	—	—	5,000
1970-71	17,500	—	4,815	22,315	—	—	2,187	—	2,187
1971-72	86,000	4,069	3,804	43,873	476	4,974	7,789	899	14,138
1972-73	18,000	11,444	12,681	42,125	5,877	8,702	40,800	13,661	69,040
1973-74	10,000	765	8,858	19,623	4,971	9,397	11,765	110	26,183

BIJNOR DISTRICT

CH. XIV—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

TABLE XIV
Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Sahapur Reference Page No. 192

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)			Expenditure (in Rupees)					
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1964-65	5,000	7,500	4,965	17,465	2,200	4,149	5,466	6,275	18,090
1965-66	30,000	9,478	10,044	49,522	2,554	4,449	12,065	1,053	20,121
1966-67	20,000	6,924	16,041	42,965	3,089	5,611	35,618	9,350	53,668
1967-68	45,000	8,788	16,433	70,171	3,377	6,118	39,961	1,542	50,998
1968-69	47,500	10,226	16,423	74,149	3,444	5,945	57,888	31,884	99,111
1969-70	96,000	7,788	84,339	1,38,127	3,422	8,154	25,303	1,05,081	1,41,960
1970-71	60,055	24,424	26,872	1,11,351	9,750	10,383	28,196	62,189	1,10,518
1971-72	11,000	24,793	29,000	64,793	19,177	13,048	29,021	4,290	65,536
1972-73	19,200	38,935	30,370	88,505	28,718	16,042	26,063	14,762	85,585
1973-74	10,000	36,958	32,907	79,865	30,813	21,526	20,476	11,550	84,365

TABLE XV
Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Sahaspur Reference Page No. 192

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)				Expenditure (in Rupees)					
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1971-72	2,100	—	300	21,300	—	—	—	—	—	—
1972-73	11,200	10	11,259	22,469	1,599	2,700	23,056	1,570	28,925	
1973-74	10,000	3,655	9,645	23,300	2,464	1,931	2,671	1,616	8,682	

TABLE XVI
Receipts and Expenditure, Notified Area, Sherkot Reference Page No. 192

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)				Expenditure (in Rupees)					
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1964-65	5,000	17,713	9,142	31,855	2,898	9,094	8,584	11,152	31,728	
1965-66	1,74,795	10,719	65,059	1,50,573	3,404	12,444	13,541	1,71,674	2,00,463	
1966-67	1,54,450	15,335	55,010	2,24,795	3,533	9,726	4,087	62,634	79,920	
1967-68	42,027	28,837	7,491	78,355	12,295	10,519	9,437	2,05,542	2,37,793	
1968-69	8,793	43,182	7,824	59,799	19,004	16,430	41,984	10,886	88,313	
1969-70	10,487	51,986	6,062	69,135	22,806	14,092	19,558	7,122	63,578	
1970-71	30,738	94,903	15,823	1,41,464	25,421	28,278	37,413	20,293	1,11,405	
1971-72	29,539	97,985	94,122	2,21,646	44,383	35,396	41,600	89,410	2,10,789	
1972-73	48,718	1,47,117	1,01,971	2,97,806	57,792	52,739	43,372	91,333	2,48,236	
1973-74	40,311	1,54,060	54,910	2,49,281	17,960	53,376	1,30,702	1,36,222	3,38,260	

TABLE XVII-(a)
Receipts (in Rupees), Zila Parishad, Bijnor Reference Page No. 193

Year	Government grants	Education including industrial and technical	Medical and public health	Cattle pounds	Fair and exhibition	Other sources	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	22,52,690	85,091	591	50,359	20,333	2,41,574	26,50,638
1965-66	27,13,414	87,415	458	48,182	18,177	99,343	29,66,989
1966-67	30,84,336	85,451	2,636	49,195	20,912	2,46,621	34,89,151
1967-68	33,12,092	78,114	4,474	50,110	30,517	6,59,390	41,34,697
1968-69	36,90,499	1,02,199	4,873	78,421	36,413	4,55,455	43,67,860
1969-70	44,98,459	86,796	5,191	81,348	43,941	5,98,799	58,14,534
1970-71	46,44,031	83,966	6,247	74,189	45,277	5,49,849	54,08,559
1971-72	93,64,592	76,724	6,983	59,408	36,132	6,18,895	1,06,62,734
1972-73	34,81,612	82,113	8,899	68,445	47,981	8,12,219	44,46,269
1973-74	15,90,251	147	4,397	72,812	52,949	8,25,878	25,46,434

BIJNOR DISTRICT

TABLE XVII-(b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Zila Parishad, Bijnor Reference Page No. 193

Year	General administration and collection charges	Education including industrial and technical	Medical and public health	Cattle pound	Fair and exhibition	Miscellaneous	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964-65	74,213	20,07,670	94,602	1,38,270	19,841	1,94,449	25,29,045
1965-66	85,016	25,83,140	74,510	93,743	19,893	1,09,835	29,66,137
1966-67	93,867	29,16,920	90,994	1,32,305	22,297	2,07,609	34,63,992
1967-68	95,672	30,29,828	1,02,669	1,56,664	34,012	3,30,729	37,49,574
1968-69	1,01,905	31,47,614	1,16,247	2,10,274	36,879	3,32,227	39,45,146
1969-70	1,08,528	39,38,313	1,53,609	5,52,430	37,725	3,80,739	51,71,394
1970-71	91,603	40,85,844	1,54,589	5,07,587	36,789	4,65,108	52,91,515
1971-72	93,859	47,57,453	1,43,539	18,88,867	42,333	3,98,536	68,24,587
1972-73	1,00,153	28,97,865	1,22,010	42,06,985	47,358	3,62,300	77,36,671
1973-74	98,585	—	1,21,601	26,94,559	53,998	5,72,996	34,41,734

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

There were generally three types of educational institutions in ancient times—the home of the teacher as school (*gurukula*), debating circles and *parishads* (academics) and conferences. Although there is no evidence that these institutions existed in this district, the mention of the *Panchala Parishad*¹ as one of the leading academics of northern India goes to show that the region of Bijnor had considerable importance as a centre of learning. It is evident that in the post-*Mahabharata* years, considerable encouragement was given in the Panchala kingdom to philosophical readings as is revealed in the *Brihadaranyaka* and *Chhandogya Upanishads*². It is also said that the language of this region was very well developed and the Panchalas with the Kurus gave final shape to the *Samhitas* and the *Brahmanas*³. The names of many scholars such as Panchala Chanda, Pravahana Jaivali, Shilak Shalavatya, Chaikitayan Dalbhya and Galava are mentioned in the various *Vedic* texts and all of them are attributed to having been active in this region.

According to local traditions there were many other seats of learning in this region, a brief account of some being given below:

Bharadwaj Ashrama—The sage Bharadwaj had an *ashrama* near Gangadwar (identified as modern Hardwar) where his son, Drona, and Prince Draupad of Panchala received their education.

Drona School of Military Education—The vivid account of military training (which appears in the *Mahabharata*) as given to the Kauravas and the Pandavas by their guru, Dronacharya, makes it clear that military art had reached its culminating point.

There were many such institutions in India in ancient times of which Dronacharya's school was supposed to be the best. There exists in this district a village named Sandwar at about two km. from Chandpur. According to local tradition this word (Sandwar) is a corrupt form of 'Sainyadwar' meaning gateway of a military career. There is a pond named *Dronasagar* at Sandwar where Dronacharya is believed to have established a school for military science. The place is very near to Hastinapur (the capital of the Pandavas), now in Meerut district.

Kanva Ashrama—The site of this *ashrama* is believed to be at Rawli, a village about 11 km. from Bijnor. Some legends have it that Shakuntala, the heroine of *Abhijyan Shakuntalam* (the famous play composed by Kalidasa) was brought up in this *ashrama* which is said to date about 80 generations back from the *Mahabharata* period. It was perhaps the oldest institutions of learning in India. According to the *Puranas*, ten

thousand *rishis* lived in the *ashrama*, who performed their religious and teaching duties under the guidance of Maharishi Kanva who acted as the *Kulpati*.

There were several centres of education also in the period of the Guptas and Harshavardhana. According to Hiuen Tsang's account of his travels in this region, Matipur (modern Mandawar) was in existence at that time and the people of this country esteemed useful learning and were well-versed in the magical arts.¹ There were nearly ten monasteries with above 800 brethren (mostly adherents of the Sarvastivadin school of the Hinayana sect of Buddhism). There were also fifty Deva temples and adherents of different sects lived there together.² After visiting Sakala, Srughna and other centres of Buddhist learning, Hiuen Tsang stayed at Matipur with Mitrasena, a disciple of Gunaprabha, studying the *Vibhashas* and *Gunaprabha's, Tattvasandesa Sastra*³. These references of Hiuen Tsang show that Bijnor, with some of its adjoining areas, was once a big centre of learning and a seat of Buddhist culture.

The system of *ashramas* and monastic education flourished down to the advent of the Muslims in this region, a vivid account of which is to be found in the description of Ahichhatra (the principal city of north Panchala). Education in these monasteries was imparted by monks but was not confined to sacred learning, the curriculum including secular learning as well.⁴ Hiuen Tsang recorded the presence of a number of Buddhist, Jain and Hindu temples and monasteries when he visited Ahichhatra (which was in this region in the seventh century A. D.)⁵

Subsequent to the establishment of Muslim rule at Delhi, a Muslim garrison was settled at Sambhal (then comprising the major portion of the present district of Bijnor) and the officer in charge of this area was also required to build mosques to which *maktabs* were usually attached for the education of Muslim boys. The course of studies particularly included Islamic theology. Mosques were usually situated in most of the towns, villages and *muhallas*. Primary education, therefore, began in the *maktabs*. This type of education was given further impetus when Sikandar Lodi and Humayun were in charge of this region before becoming emperors.

As regards higher education, it was conducted in the *madrasas* which were established in towns where the Muslim population was in the majority. Generally all the big towns had one or two *madrasas*. Any town would grow into a famous educational centre by virtue of being the capital seat of a Muslim ruler, the residence of some chief or *subedar* or which possessed some religious importance. In this district Bashta (Azampur), was the birth place of Abul Fazl and Abul Faizi, (the two famous and

1. Watters, Thomas : *On Yuan Chwang's Travels in India*, p. 322

2. *Ibid*

3. Majumdar, R.C., Pusalkar, A.D., Majumdar, A.K.: *The History and Culture of the Indian People. The Classical Age*, p. 895

4. Mookerji, R. K. : *Ancient Indian Education*, p. 394

5. *Ibid*, p. 513

1. Mookerjee, R. K. : *Ancient Indian Education*, pp. 188-184

2. Bajpai, K. D. : *Ahichhatra* (Hindi), pp. 6-7

3. *Ibid*, p. 5

learned courtiers of Akbar, and so grew into a famous seat of learning. The ruins of the *madrasa* here still invite the attention of educationists. Kiratpur, Najibabad, Mandawar and Sherkot were also famous for their *madrasas*.

With the decline of the Mughul empire in the eighteenth century the district (then lying in the region of Katehr) and its surrounding areas provided a sanctuary for men of learning and gained importance as a seat of Muslim culture. During the regency of Nawab Hafiz Rahmat Khan (the Rohilla chieftain who held sway towards the middle of the eighteenth century) eminent scholars like Mulla Abdul Ali 'Baharul-ulloom' and others migrated to Katehr and engaged themselves in imparting education to Muslim students in mosques and *madrasas* which were set up specifically for them, the student being given scholarships and provided with food by the government¹.

Rohilkhand was ceded to the East India Company in 1801 and Bijnor also passed into the hands of the British. But nothing concrete in the educational sphere was achieved during the next three decades or so. The first practical step towards the development of education (and English education) came into being with the Circular of 1845 which directed district officers to ascertain the state of affairs in the matter of vernacular education. Teachers received a small, fixed salary which was supplemented and in some cases replaced by allowances of food and other perquisites. The Persian schools imparted more or less literary education and in some 55 religious instruction was given. In the Hindu schools not much more than reading, writing and a knowledge of accounts was aimed at. The Arabic and Sanskrit schools imparted only religious education. There were then 278 schools attended by 2,801 pupils, of which 174 were Persian, 89 Hindi, 14 Arabic and one Sanskrit. The Sanskrit school at Nihaur was of a purely religious character and was one of the oldest existing in the district. Among the Muslim educational institutions, Madrasa Qasimia Arabia is oldest in the district having been established in 1875. The course of studies being taught there is as prescribed by the education department, U. P., for elementary classes of Arabic and Persian and for Munshi Kamil, Maulvi, Alim, etc. The collector was directed to utilise the best of these indigenous institutions but the initial steps were of a very modest nature. Tahsili or pargana schools were started in 1856 at the five tahsil headquarters and at Nihaur. At the beginning of 1857 they had on roll 451 pupils. Other schools numbering 247 had 2,386 students on roll at that time and they continued to be privately managed. The struggle for freedom in 1857 caused a set back to education, especially in Bijnor. In 1859 the five tahsili schools had a strength of 285 pupils and 3,375 children were attending the other 402 schools. Finances were obtained from tuition fees and a Government grant. In 1860 the first Anglo-Vernacular school was opened at Bijnor by the American Mission as also one at Najibabad. In 1868 a Government vernacular school came into existence at Bijnor and in 1865 private middle schools were established at Sherkot and Tajpur by the *zamindars* which came to be known as "subscription schools". Two schools for girls were started by government at Bijnor and Chandpur and the Mission school at Najibabad was raised to the status of a middle school, operations being extended to Nagina in 1866.

1. Mohd. Saadat Yar Khan : *Gul-i-Rahmat*, Rampur M.S. Folio 88 B.M. G. p. 270

So far there was but little attempt at co-ordination or at effective supervision of the aided and private schools but in 1867 and the following year certain reforms were initiated. The old tahsili school at Bijnor (which became classed as an Anglo-vernacular subscription school) was converted into a Zila school (inferior grade) and a school cess of one per cent on the revenue was imposed from the proceeds of which *halqabandi* or government village schools were opened. This measure was first applied to the Bijnor and Najibabad tahsils in 1868 and was extended to the Chandpur tahsil in 1872. The tahsili schools remained the same as before, the institutions of a higher class being the three Mission schools and the subscription schools at Sherkot, Tajpur, Kiratpur, Dhampur, Rehar and Puraini. The Zila school at Bijnor was up-graded to a junior high school in 1882, to a high school in 1910 and became a government intermediate college in 1950. In 1896-97 there were 202 schools and colleges attended by 6,108 students (5,905 male and 198 female), 10 Secondary schools with 1,182 males and 57 females and 191 primary schools with 4,816 pupils (4,675 males and 141 females). By 1906 the number of primary schools had risen to 221 (including 14 for girls) with about 8,700 students. By 1907 there was a high school in the district and some 250 other schools as well. There were 2 aided and 4 unaided schools in which English was taught, one of the former being the girls Mission boarding school at Bijnor. There were 8 vernacular secondary schools (under the district board). There were 179 unaided schools (with about 2,570 pupils, 40 being girls) mainly for teaching Sanskrit and Arabic in an elementary form. There were 60 Mission schools with an average daily attendance of 430 pupils, 24 of which (with 200 pupils) were for girls. By 1907-08 the number of schools and colleges had risen to 226 with 8,058 males and 981 females, the number of Secondary schools came down (by one) to 9 with an attendance of 1,632 males and no females and the primary schools went up to 217 with 7,407 pupils on roll (6,426 males and 981 females). Many schools owed their origin to local enterprise, a notable example being the girls' schools at Nihaur. In 1908-09 the total number of schools was 253 but in subsequent years the number of schools decreased because of lack of finances. From 1919-20 the number of schools started increasing being in that year 291, with 13,295 students on roll. In 1921-22 the number of schools was 302 (with 13,442 students) and 10 years later (in 1931-32) it rose to 389 (with 19,086 pupils on roll). The main feature was the increase of primary schools and the increase in girl pupils.

In 1964-65, there were 835 Junior Basic schools for boys and girls and 72 senior Basic schools for boys and girls in the district. Their number in 1973-74 rose to 906 and 147 respectively. (Table I).

Education up to the high school standard was imparted in the government high school, Bijnor and Bullock high school, Najibabad and the Hindu intermediate college, Nagina, till 1948 when recognition or intermediate classes was also granted to two institutions the Hindu intermediate college, Chandpur, and Hindu intermediate college Nagina. In the post-Independence period the government granted recognition liberally to schools and the number of higher secondary schools for boys rose to 57 in 1973-74 and those recognised up to the intermediate stage numbered 82. Higher secondary education for girls also made progress in this period and there were nearly a dozen schools which imparted high school or intermediate level education to girls in the district in that year.

GROWTH OF LITERACY

According to the census of 1872, the number of persons (only .75 per cent of the population) who were able to read and write was 5,556. Female education was then unknown and literacy was confined to males only, the proportion being 1.4 per cent. In 1881 only 3.5 per cent of the male and .09 per cent of the female inhabitants of the district were literate. In 1891 only 3.8 and .12 per cent respectively were literate and ten years later 8.9 per cent of the male population and .15 per cent of the female, the combined average being 2.11 per cent. Literacy was more common among Hindus than among Muslims. In the case of the male population alone the proportion of literate persons in 1901 was 8.82 and 8.44 per cent respectively. As Urdu is almost universally spoken in the district, the Persian character was more generally known than the Deva Nagri, about 48 per cent of literate persons being acquainted with the former script and 41 per cent with the latter, the remainder either knowing both or being literate in other languages. English education made very little headway and the language was known only to one person in a thousand, this being but half the average proportion for the province. The government gave grants to ten new schools which were opened in 1912. It also gave grants to municipalities in the district in 1913 for the extension of primary education and schemes for extension and development of literacy were drawn up. The inspecting staff was strengthened by the appointment of subdeputy inspectors. The most important private educational institution in the district was the well-known Gurukul at Kangri (Najibabad tahsil) established by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha with the object of imparting education on ancient lines. There were other private institutions and societies in the district like the Arya Samaj, Nagri Pracharini Samiti and other missionary foundations which contributed to the growth of literacy. The figures of the census of 1911 show that 47 males per thousand were literate as against 89 in 1901. Among both Hindus and Muslims, the proportion of female literates was the same. In 1921 an increase in literacy was noticed as the number of students attending schools as well as the number of schools started increasing. Training schools for teachers were also started in five places. Many private institutions were also opened. The number of literates had risen to 28,940 in 1921 from 22,488 in 1911. Literacy among Hindus improved during the decade among whom 0.51 per cent were literate as against 0.48 per cent among the Muslims. The percentage of female literacy among Hindus was .66 per cent as against .68 per cent among Muslims. The education of the Depressed Classes was taken up in 6 special schools opened for them under a scheme of the Government scholarships being given to boys and girls of these groups. In the decade 1921-31 vernacular middle schools increased by two in the district and English classes were added in four schools. Urdu-Persian schools and *maktabs* also increased. In 1951 the percentage of literacy in the total population was 9.7 per cent of which the percentage among men was 15.4 per cent as compared to 4.0 per cent among females. In the first 12 years of Independence (about 1961) the number of educational institutions in Bijnor rose to more than 664 the number of literates in the district being 1,85,998. The male literates in that year numbered 1,08,267 and the female 82,726. In the three decades since 1881 the number of literates rose more than three times. The percentage of literacy in the total population was 17.7 per cent. The literacy percentage among males was 26.1 per cent and that among females 8.0. In 1971 the percentage of

literacy in the district recorded a further growth of 2.02 per cent, the literacy percentage among males being 28.3 as compared to that among females which was 10.5. The total number of literate persons in 1971 rose to 3,00,603, male literates numbering 2,28,054 and female literates 72,549.

GENERAL EDUCATION

General education now includes education from the pre-junior Basic or nursery stage up to the university stage. In 1973-74, the number of recognised pre-junior Basic schools was 5, of unrecognised pre-junior Basic schools 3 and of junior Basic schools 906. The total number of senior Basic schools was 147. The number of higher secondary schools for boys was 57 and that for girls 12. Of these 40 were intermediate colleges (38 for boys and 2 for girls).

The statement below gives figures of enrolment in the various types of institutions during the years 1951-52 and 1960-61 :

Institutions	Years			
	1951-52		1960-61	
	No. of schools	No. of pupils	No. of schools	No. of pupils
Junior High Schools	55	5,803	60	7,828
Intermediate or Higher Secondary Colleges	24	8,325	34	16,248
Degree Colleges	—	—	2	472

Pre-junior Basic Stage

Pre-junior education is imparted to children up to six years of age. These institutions are managed by registered or unregistered private bodies of the district, the numbers on roll (given below) being for 1973-74: the Bal Sadan Montessori School, Najibabad, was founded in 1949 with an enrolment of 231; the Dayawati Veera Nursery School, Bijnor, was founded in 1960 which had 104 pupils; the Chacha Nehru Montessori School, Dhampur, was established in 1962 with a strength of 81 students; Shikhar Shishu Sadan, Dhampur (established 1964), is a Montessori School with 358 pupils; the Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Dhampur, was founded by the Bal Kalyan Samiti, Dhampur, in 1970 and had an enrolment of 182; the Bal Mandir Meortidevi Saraswati Vidyalaya, Najibabad, a Montessori School (founded in 1969) had an enrolment of 200; the Harnam Singh Bal Vihar Montessori School, Najibabad, was founded in 1973 by the Bal Vihar Society, Najibabad, (in memory of Harnam Singh, a leading wrestler of Bijnor) and had 202 students on roll; the Krishna Pyari Maheshwari Vidya Mandir, Najibabad, was founded in memory of the mother of a leading citizen of the town and had 250 students on roll.

Junior and Senior Basic Stage

Basic education, according to the Wardha Scheme introduced by Mahatma Gandhi, was adopted by the State education department in 1939 with certain modifications. The Basic educational system in this district (as elsewhere in the State) prescribes a course of study extending over eight years of the junior Basic school covering classes I to V and the senior Basic school from VI to VIII.

Under the scheme provision of free and compulsory education is made for eight years with the child's mother tongue as the medium of instruction. The process of education centres round some useful trades which the child can find helpful in becoming self-reliant. It also enables the child to produce something (saleable at times) simultaneously with his education and training in school thus envisaging the becoming self-supporting of every such school.

In order to ensure academic and administrative efficiency Basic education has been provincialised since July, 1972, through the Basic Shiksha Adhiniyam. The management of Basic schools has accordingly been transferred from the local bodies to the board of Basic education headed by a State-level director. Control at the State level is vested in the Basic Shiksha Parishad, at the district level in the Zila Shiksha Samiti and at the Village level in the Gaon Shiksha Samiti. In 1973-74 the number of municipal junior Basic schools was 69 for boys and 22 girls with 7,667 boys and 8,826 girls on roll; under the Zila Parishad the number of such schools was 569 for boys and 225 for girls with 1,16,659 boys and 27,719 girls on roll; and under the Zila Parishad there were 36 senior Basic schools for boys and 36 for girls. A view of the progress can be had from Table I, given at the end of the chapter.

Re-orientation Scheme

In implementation of the Wardha Scheme of Education which correlated the curriculum with the environment and strove to bring about an all-round development of the child, the U.P. government started a scheme in 1954, called the Re-orientation Scheme of Education under which agriculture, rural economics and veterinary science of a local craft has been made the centre of studies and every re-orientated school which has a farm of at least 2 hectares is provided with an instructor called the extension teacher who is a multipurpose worker and whose duties include the teaching of agriculture from Class VI to Class VIII, the maintaining of an agricultural model farm, the education of farmers in new and better methods of agriculture, encouraging them to adopt such improved methods and the establishing of youth clubs and recreation centres in the villages.

This scheme is in force in 12 junior high schools and 22 higher secondary schools of this district. The land under cultivation under this scheme is nearly 96.5 hectares. More than 75 per cent of the land was reclaimed by the extension teachers with the assistance of the students. The number of youth clubs running in the district is 10. The total income of these schools amounted to Rs. 78,408 in 1973-74. This scheme is intended to infuse a sense of dignity of labour in the students.

Secondary Education

With the establishment of the board of high school and intermediate education, U. P., in 1921, the high school examination is held after class X and the intermediate examination after class XII. Secondary education now covers schooling from the end of the junior Basic stage to the end of class XII. In the district (as else where in the State) it is supervised by a district inspector of schools and his subordinate staff.

The district had 54 higher secondary schools for boys and 12 for girls. Except the few run by the government, these institutions are managed by private bodies receiving financial aid from the government. To encourage female education, the State Government has made girls' education free up to the high school (class X) since January, 1965. There is also a women's education society in Bijnor to encourage female education. Table II at the end of the chapter give details of higher secondary institutions in the district.

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

To impart education to members of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, the State Government has provided various incentives such as stipends, scholarships, financial assistance, provision of free books and stationery and exemption from tuition fees. Other facilities made available to them are free boarding and lodging and relaxation of the upper age limit for admission to certain educational institutions and courses of study.

The number of such students receiving assistance in different categories of schools in 1971-72 is given in the following table:

Schools	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Junior Basic	24,428	6,138	355	50
Senior Basic	3,896	977	80	10
Higher secondary up to Class X	898	19	618	9
Higher secondary up to Class XII	209	3	190	2

Higher Education

The district had 6 degree and post-graduate colleges in 1973-74 which had 3,291 students on roll. The Vardhaman College, Bijnor, was started as a degree college in 1960 with B.A., B.Sc. and B.T. classes and was upgraded to a post-graduate college in 1961 with facilities for higher studies in English, History, Economics, Hindi, Sanskrit and Commerce. In July, 1963, post-graduate classes in Botany, Zoology and Statistics were opened. Further upgrading came in 1964 when M. Com. classes

were opened and M. A. classes in Geography and M. Sc. in Physics and Mathematics were added. The college is affiliated to the Agra University. There were 1,400 students on roll with 68 men and 5 women teachers in 1973-74.

The Sahu Jain College, Najibabad, was founded in 1966 by the Sahu Jain Charitable Society. It was started as a degree college with the faculties of Arts, Science and Commerce and was upgraded to a post-graduate institution in 1969 with M. Sc. classes in Chemistry and Mathematics, post-graduate classes in Hindi and Sociology being started in 1971. The expenditure is met through government grants, student's fee and donations from the Sahu Jain Trust and the Sahu Jain Charitable Society. In 1973-74 there were 700 students on roll with 32 members on the teaching staff (2 being women). It has a graduation course in instrumental music as well. The Gulab Singh Hindu Degree College, Chandpur, was established in 1962, in memory of Gulab Singh (of village Siau) when his widow donated all the property (worth several lakhs) for this purpose. The main sources of finance are fees from students, government aid, donations from the municipal board, Chandpur the Gram Panchayat, Siau, and the co-operative cane development society, Chandpur. In 1973-74 there were 11 men teachers and one women teacher on the staff, the number of students on roll being 378. The College is affiliated to the Agra University. The R. S. M. Degree College, Dhampur, was founded as a school in 1948 by Rani Phulkumari, the owner of Sherkot estate, Dhampur. It was raised to high school and intermediate standards in subsequent years and upgraded to a degree college in 1958. In 1973-74 it had 82 teachers the number of students being 586. The S. B. D. Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Dhampur, was established in 1969 and was granted recognition by the Agra University in 1973 for opening B. Ed. classes. There were 13 teachers on the staff and 157 students on roll in 1973-74. The Rani Bhagyawati Mahila Degree College, Bijnor, was established in 1971. The college is managed by the Vira Charitable Society. It had 7 teachers and 70 students in 1973-74. The college is affiliated to the Agra University. Table III at the end of the chapter gives an idea of the progress of higher education in the district.

Professional and Technical Education

Professional and technical education mostly for teachers, auxiliary nurses, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors, mechanics and technicians is provided by a few institutions in the district.

The Vardhaman College, Bijnor, and the girl's college at Dhampur prepare students for the B. Ed. degree of Agra University, a one-year course. There were 192 and 150 student trainees respectively in these two colleges in 1973-74. The government normal school, Bijnor, which started functioning in 1946, prepares students for the Basic Teacher's Certificate, a one-year course. The number of students in 1973-74 was 98 and the teaching staff numbered 11. The girls' government normal school, Bijnor, was started in 1962. In 1973-74 there were 100 students on roll and 12 instructors. There are also a government B. T. C. college in Siau in Chandpur and a government normal school at Nagina which were started in 1965 and 1960 respectively with 100 students each on roll with 12 and 11 teachers respectively in 1973-74. The A. N. M. training centre, Bijnor, was started by the U. P. government in 1973 to train auxiliary nurses and midwives. After their training, which

is for 2 years, the successful trainees are awarded A. N. M. certificates. In 1973-74 there were 54 trainees and 6 women instructors in the institution. The Rashtriya Ayurvedic college, Dhampur-Sunagpur, was established in 1972 as a private institution for instruction in the Ayurvedic system of medicine. There were 150 students on roll in 1973-74 with 6 teachers. The duration of the course is 5 years and the successful candidates are awarded the degree of Ayurvedacharya.

The Homoeopathic college, Tigri-Mankawania, was established in 1971. The candidates receive instruction in Homoeopathy for four years and are awarded the degree of B. M. S. the number of candidates on roll was 160 in 1973-74 and the number of teachers was 11. The industrial training institute, Bijnor, was started in 1964 by the State Government under its scheme of training and employment. The number of apprentices was 258 in 1973-74. In this institute the apprentices are given specialised training for one to two years in various industrial trades such as electrical work, the use of lathe machines, making of spare parts and accessories by hand tools, electrical and gas welding, etc.

Oriental Education

In 1973-74 there were two Arabic *madrasas* and two Sanskrit *pathshalas* in the district, the relevant particulars of which are given below:

Name of institution	Year of on found- ation	Founder	Arabic/ Persian/ Sanskrit	No. of teach- ers	No. of stud- ents	Examination
Madrasa Qasmia Arabia, Nagina	1875	Maulvi Mohammad Fazil and Fazrat Maulana Muhammad Qasim Nanautvi.	Arabic, Persian	7	236	Course of study of education department of U. P. for elementary classes of Arabic and Persian and for Munshi, Kamil Maulvi, Alim, etc.
Miftah-ul-Uloom or M. M. School, Chandpur	1937	—	Arabic, Persian, Urdu	5	277	Basic education, Maktab Islamiya, Darsh Nizamiya (Urdu, Persian, Arabic).
Bihari, Sanskrit Pathshala, Chandpur	1920	—	Sanskrit	2	36	Shastri, Sanskrit literature, etc., of the Sanskrit University, Varanasi.
Nigamagam Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Daranagar, Bijnor	1930	—	Sanskrit	2	17	Ditto

FINE ARTS

Art and Architecture

The ancient ruins of the district have yielded artistic remains which point to a rich heritage of art and architecture. Mandawar (in the Bijnor tahsil), a place of great antiquity, was identified by Cunningham as Matipura and was mentioned by Hiuen Tsang. Here there are numerous mounds around which there are ruins of ancient Hindu temples. This Chinese pilgrim described the place as having many Buddhist *stupas* and shrines but no significant ruins of these have been found. In Matipura there stands the Jami Masjid, said to have been built on the site of an old Hindu temple, the large sandstone blocks of which have been used in the construction of the Masjid. In Jahanabad, nearly 12 km. from Bijnor stands the tomb of Shujaat Khan. In Najibabad are to be found some remains of Pathan memorials. The town was founded by Najib-ud-daula (the Rohilla chief) and there still exists a tomb of his name which is exquisite in its design and famous for its carving. About a mile from the town stands the dismantled castle of Patthargarh, built by the same chief. At each of the angles of the castle (which is square in shape) there are bastions. The old palace of the Nawab is now in ruins but the entrance gateway shows some fine carving. There are also several ruined Jain and Buddhist shrines in the district which express the artistic taste of the people of those times.

Folk Music and Dance

The western dialect, Kaurvi, which is allied to Hindi and is commonly spoken in the district, possesses a rich variety of folk literature. Old legends and tales and sacred stories form the bulk of its prose which is embellished with local proverbs. Poetry consists of ballads, psalms, hymns and lyrics. Panwadas, which were originally composed to extol the heroic deeds of the Panwar Kshatriyas, particularly Jagdeo, are now sung in honour of Mana Gujri Raghubir Singh Rajwala and Ajit Singh as well. Some popular songs are in the Barahmasa, Chaupai, Dhola, Holi, Jhoola, Jhanjhi, Malhar, Nihal Dey and Tesu modes. Jogis (itinerant minstrels) sing hymns like Bandahai, Rikhiyahlo, Gopichand Bhartahari and Narsi-Bhagat and recount specially during the rainy season, episodes from the poignant conjugal life of Jahar and Bachhal (two local legendary figures). The Bhands, who are generally Urdu speaking, occasionally chant vulgarities when there is a family gathering to celebrate a birth or marriage, etc.

Sometimes the recitation of verses is accompanied with dancing to instrumental music and the Jhalooka is an example of this sort of performance. Another musical dance performed only by women is the patka' the participants moving in a circle and striking each other's palms in a rhythmic order.

Public Libraries and Reading Rooms

The Saraswati Pustakalaya, Najibabad, is one of the oldest libraries in the district. It was founded in 1918 and has its own building, is managed by a committee and contains 16,457 books, 11,933 in Hindi, 2,535 in English and 1,989 in Urdu. Nearly 40 Hindi, 10 English and 14 Urdu



Tomb of Shujaat Khan, Jahanabad, Tahsil Bijnor

periodicals are subscribed for. The yearly income of the library is Rs 13,000, the expenditure being the same. The Prem Pustakalaya, Nagina, was founded in 1932, has 12,900 Hindi, 3,425 English and 2,800 Urdu books and takes 3 Hindi, 2 English and 2 Urdu magazines and 8 Hindi, 4 English and 5 Urdu newspapers. The expenditure of the library is on the maintenance and purchase of new books and payments to the staff. It has its own building. The Vira Public Library, Shambha Bazar, Bijnor, was established about half a century ago with the active support of the Jain Samaj. It is managed by an executive committee. It has 5,573 books on its shelves of which 4,223 are Hindi, 1,348 English and 2 Urdu. The library subscribes for 5 periodicals and some magazines.

The Bapu Pustakalaya, Balawali, was established in 1962 by Ramnand, a social worker, educationist, author and a former Member of Parliament. It is accommodated in a rented building and gets aid from the State Government and has about 1,283 books. The library purchases dailies, weeklies and monthlies and newspapers and magazines—6 in Hindi, 2 in English and one in Urdu. Schools, colleges and about 24 reading rooms in the district also have libraries which have been running for a long time. Those well known are the Amba Prasad Library at Gohawar and the Arya Samaj and Sewa Samiti libraries. These two bodies have libraries in nearly all the towns of the district.

MEN OF LETTERS

The district has made a considerable contribution in the field of literature and produced many literatures in Urdu, Hindi and Sanskrit. Nothing is known about most of them but some details regarding a few of them are given below.

Urdu, Arabic and Persian

Abul Fazl and Abul Faizi, the famous brothers of Akbar's court, were born at Azampur Bashta, (a village near Chandpur) and flourished in the sixteenth century. They had a profound knowledge of Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit. Abul Faizi was a poet and Abul Fazl a chronicler. The latter's most famous works are the *Ain-e-Akbari* and *Akbarnama* which give an account of the reign of Akbar and his *Anwar-i-Suheli* (a translation of the *Panchatantra* into Persian). Abul Faizi translated into Persian the famous Sanskrit work on Mathematics, *Lilawati*, and the story of Nala and Damayanti.

Syed Ahmad Khan (born 1817), a literary figure who for some time was connected with the cultural and literary life of Bijnor, was appointed subjudge of Bijnor in 1855. He had witnessed the freedom struggle of 1857-58 and wrote many books including a history of Bijnor and an account of the freedom movement. His most famous works are *Sarkashi-i-Bijnor*, *Tarikh-i-Bijnor* and *Asbab-e-Baghawat* (the last named being translated into English in 1873 by Auckland Colvin and Graham). For his services and literary achievements he was awarded a 'khilat' (robe of honour), a pearl necklace and a sword by the British government who also knighted him and granted him a life honorarium of Rs 200 per month which, after his death his son continued to receive.

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Maulvi Nazir Ahmad, another notable man of letters who embellished the literary life of this district, was born in 1886 in the village of Rehar. He received his early education at home and his higher education in the Delhi college but straitened financial circumstances put an end of his studies. He took up a job in Gujarat but gave it up and ultimately became tahsildar at Kanpur, a post to which he was appointed in consideration of his excellent translation, *Taxiraat-i-Hind*, of the Indian Penal Code from English in to Urdu. He retired as deputy collector. The government gave him the title of Shams-ul-Ulema for his literary works which also earned him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the Edinburgh University. Among his other notable works are novels such as *Mirat-ul-Urus*, *Ibu-ul-Waqt* and works on grammar like *Muntakhab-ul-Hirayat*, *Qawaid* and *Rasm-ul-Khat*.

Hindi

Padam Singh Sharma was born in 1871 in Nayak Nagla, a village situated on the Bijnor-Nurpur road near Pujanya. His father, Umrao Singh, was also an eminent scholar of Urdu, Persian and Sanskrit. Padam Singh Sharma was a teacher in the Gurukul Kangri at Hardwar. In 1922 he was given the Mangla Prasad Award for his contribution to the cause of literature. He wrote an explanatory commentary of 121 couplets of *Behari Satsai*, the famous Hindi work in the Brajbhasha dialect. His other famous works are *Padam Parag* and *Lekhmala* (a collection of essays). He was also editor of the *Satyavadi* and the *Paropkari*. He died in 1982.

Subodh Sharma 'Nutan' was born in 1906 at Sosona village in Chandpur. His father, Hira Singh 'Hira', was also a scholar of Hindi and Sanskrit. A poet, essayist and prose writer, Subodh Sharma made a poetic translation of the *Shrimad Bhagwat Gita*. His essays were published in well known periodicals like *Bharatodaya*, *Vishal Bharat* and *Madhuvar*. The *Nutan Nibandh Mala* is a collection of his essays. His book, *Samasya Purti*, contains poems on current problems of farmers, poverty and bribery etc. He was awarded the title of 'Kavya Suri', by the Sanskrit Karyalaya, Ayodhya. He died in 1970.

TABLE—I
General Education

Reference Page No. 226

Year	Junior Basic education			Senior Basic education			Higher Secondary education		
	No. of	No. of	Students	No. of	No. of	Students	No. of	No. of	Students
	Schools	Boys		Schools	Boys		Schools	Boys	
1964-65	885	62,489	46,652	72	8,154	2,768	42	22,208	4,223
1965-66	840	68,001	46,913	75	10,186	2,849	48	23,856	4,865
1966-67	846	89,269	47,148	80	11,436	3,213	49	27,448	4,254
1967-68	856	1,00,823	53,147	90	14,439	5,884	50	34,518	6,900
1968-69	866	99,074	52,236	103	19,095	4,872	51	33,987	8,898
1969-70	884	1,10,415	56,435	106	19,110	5,135	54	42,670	9,125
1970-71	884	1,47,985	63,295	109	19,135	5,630	58	44,062	10,507
1971-72	884	1,15,726	61,047	109	17,763	5,419	60	31,809	8,345
1972-73	887	1,20,107	69,008	113	20,739	5,397	65	31,925	8,449
1973-74	906	1,23,015	70,010	147	27,537	7,316	69	34,352	9,749

TABLE—II
Higher Secondary Institutions

Reference Page No. 227

Name and location	Year of Establishment	Founder	Year of upgrading	No. of teachers	No. of pupils
1	2	3	4	5	6
Govt. Inter. College, Bijnor	1870	U. P. Govt.	H.S.—1910 Inter—1950	34	925
Girls Inter. College, Najibabad	1892	U. P. Govt.	H.S.—1919 Inter—1964	32	749
Arya Kanya, Inter. College, Najibabad	1900	Arya Samaj, Najibabad	H.S.—1954 Inter.—1953	28	420
V. K. P. Inter. College, Nagina	1902	Arya Samaj, Nagina	H.S.—1953 Inter.—1965	37	1,126
C. D. Inter. College, Haldaur	1911	1. Lala Thakurdas 2. Sri Bhawani Prasad	H.S.—1950 Inter.—1954	39	1,080
Hindu Inter. College, Nagina	1912	Sri Basheshwar Nath	H.S.—1928 Inter—1948	37	1,076
K. M. Inter. College, Dhampur	1916	Smt. Gando Devi	H.S.—1942 Inter—1954	41	1,261
Girls Inter. College, Chandpur	1916	Sri Gauri Lal	H.S.—1937 Inter—1947 Jr.—1918	47	1,284

[Contd.]

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1	2	3	4	5	6
S. N. Inter. College, Gohawar	1918	Fateh Singh	H.S.—1950 Inter.—1952	19	547
M. Q. Inter. College, Seohara	1919	Quadrat-Ullah	H.S.—1940 Inter.—1953	40	1,073
M.D. Kanya Pathshala Inter. College, Najibabad	1926	Khattry Sabha, Bijnor	H.S.—1948 Inter.—1952	40	1,150
H. M. Inter. College, Nihtaur	1928	Syed Zameer Haider	H.S.—1948 Inter.—1955	25	535
Bijnor Inter. College Bijnor	1931	Local Committee of Muslims	H.S.—1939 Inter.—1950	34	844
V. K. P. Inter. College, Chandpur	1931	Women Education Society, Chandpur	H.S.—1951 Inter.—1965	29	919
M. M. Inter. College, Nagina	1936	Muslim Education Society	H.S.—1947 Inter.—1949	20	1,000
M. M. I. Inter. College, Chandpur	1937	Late Mirza Rashid Beg	H.S.—1952 Inter.—1964	28	830
S. N. S. M. Inter. College, Nihtaur	1938	Sri Prakash Narain Singh.	H.S.—1944 Inter.—1951	22	687
R. J. P. A. Inter College, Bijnor	1941	Arya-Vidya Sabha	H.S.—1946 Inter.—1950	36	990
S. K. Inter College, Mahu	1942	Ch. Jagdish Singh	H.S.—1954 Inter.—1969	17	526
R.S.M. Inter College, Dhampur	1943	Smt. Rani Phool Kumari	H.S.—1946 Inter.—1950	52	1,600
Govt. Girl's Inter College, Bijnor	1944	U. P. Govt.	H.S.—1944 Inter.—1956	41	1,101
M.D.S. Inter College, Najibabad	1944	Sri Bhagwati Prasad	H.S.—1949 Inter.—1951	49	1,037
Kanya Inter College, Dhampur	1946	Pt. Chandi Prasad Mathur	H.S.—1948 Inter.—1952	30	1,100
Hindu Inter College, Kiratpur	1946	Hindu Community	H.S.—1947 Inter.—1957	26	856
M.G.M. M. P. M. Inter College, Kiratpur	1946	Quazi Sahid Hussan	Jr.—1949 H.S.—1951 Inter.—1953	27	782
J. V. M. Inter College, Nihtaur	1947	Jain Society	H.S.—1948 Inter.—1952	30	745
R.S.P. Inter College, Seohara	1948	Rani Jai Jai Wati	H.S.—1949 Inter.—1951	40	944
M.G.M. Inter College, Najibabad	1949	Municipal Board	H.S.—1949 Inter.—1969	21	622

[Contd.]

CH. XV—EDUCATION AND CULTURE

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1	2	3	4	5	6
Gandhi Inter College, Basta	1950	Gandhi Education Committee	H.S.—1965 Inter.—1969	24	513
Kisan High School, Mahmoodpur	1950	Sri Harbans Singh	H.S.—1967	12	350
Gandhi High School, Mankuwa	1951	Sri Lakhan Singh	H.S.—1972	08	277
Janta High School, Mukarpuri	1951	Gram-Sabha	H.S.—1973	9	298
M.G. Inter College, Mandawar	1951	Sri Govind Sahai and Kes-hav Saran	H.S.—1953 Inter.—1968	33	1,271
R.B. S. Inter College, Nangal	1952	Raja Chatar Singh	H. S.—1952 Inter.—1964	27	750
S.A. Inter College, Pheona	1952	Vidya Sabha	H.S.—1962	31	1,072
R. High School, Haldaur	1952	Rani B.B. Kunwar.	H.S.—1967	22	474
A.G. Inter College, Chandok	1952	Sri Kundan Singh	H.S.—1958 Inter.—1972	28	950
P. J. M. High School, Sherkot	1952	Raj Behari Lal	H.S.—1953	16	417
Dayanand High School, Heempur Deepa	1952	Ghet Ram	H. S.—1969	13	402
Janta High School, Bagar-pur	1953	Harkesh Singh	H.S.—1963	10	259
D. A. V. Inter College, Bijnor	1955	Ishwar Dayal Arya	H.S.—1962 Inter.—1970	19	473
Adarsh Inter College, Afzalgarh	1955	Sri Raj Nath Singh	H.S.—1965 Inter.—1969	19	410
R.C. Singh High School, Sahanpur	1955	Raj Kumar Giri Raj Singh	H.S.—1961	16	481
Birla Kanya Inter College, Seohara	1956	U. P. G. S. M., Seohara	H.S.—1959 Inter.—1969	19	450
N. R. Inter College, Rehar	1957	Kr. Nav Ratan Singh	H.S.—1965 Inter.—1967	25	635
H.C.M. Inter College, Kasimpur Garhi	1957	Smt. Chandra Kanta.	H.S.—1961 Inter.—1963	18	412
Khalsa Inter College, Noorpur	1958	Local Sikh Society	H.S.—1965 Inter.—1969	17	556
B. S. A. Inter College, Kadrabad	1959	Local Committee	H.S.—1964 Inter.—1967	31	667
R. G. N. P. High School, Tajpur	1959	Smt. Rani Bhawani Devi	H.S.—1964	24	736

[Contd.]

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1	2	3	4	5	6
Gandhi High School, Harganpur	1959	Rampal Singh	H.S.—1968	18	402
Arya Kanya Inter College, Bijnor	1960	Arya Samaj, Bijnor	H.S.—1965 Inter.—1973	19	531
Najibudolla Kanya Pathshala, Najibabad	1960	Khalil-ur-Rahman	H.S.—1973	18	286
Janta High School, Mahua	1960	Local Committee	H.S.—1971	14	426
H.S. High School, Jhalloo	1961	Sri Hirdynand Sharma	H.S.—1967	12	267
G. G. H. C. Inter College, Nihtaur	1961	Kalyan Singh Tyagi	H.S.—1965	11	166
Daksh High School, Sherkot	1963	Daksh Committee	H.S.—1969	21	441
Sri Vidur Guru High School, Girh Daranagar Ganj	1963	Vidur Sewa Ashram, Daranagar	H.S.—1965	8	190
Devta High School, Morna	1963	Gram-Sabha	H. S.—1972	8	288
Adarsh Janta High School, Shahpur Jamal	1964	Local Committee	H.S.—1970	12	360
Janta High School, Umri	1964	Hari Singh	H.S.—1970	17	462
R. U. M. High School, Sherkot	1964	Khan Abdul Majeed Ansari	H.S.—1969	8	225
Baldeo Singh High School, Bamnauli	1967	Shiv Sahai Singh	H.S.—1972	10	219
Krishak High School, Mahamdabad	1967	Murari Singh	H.S.—1972	10	262
P. High School, Sahaspur	1968	Sri Habibur Rahman	H.S.—1972	07	150
Shakuntla High School, Chandpur	1970	Sri Lalta Prasad Mittal	H.S.—1972	11	370
Fakir Chand High School, Badhapur	1970	Sri Chetan Swaroop	H.S.—1971	10	290

TABLE—III
Higher Education (Bachelor's and Master's Degrees)

Reference Page No. 228

Year	Bachelor's Degree				Master's Degree			
	No. of colleges		No. of students		No. of colleges		No. of students	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1964-65	8	—	750	87	1	—	62	19
1965-66	4	—	907	124	1	—	120	21
1966-67	4	—	1,010	191	1	—	120	2*
1967-68	4	—	1,169	238	1	—	161	35
1968-69	4	—	1,489	289	1	—	231	54
1969-70	4	1	1,519	321	2	—	263	58
1970-71	4	3	1,709	316	2	—	301	76
1971-72	4	2	1,795	320	2	—	387	84
1972-73	4	2	2,133	477	2	—	425	106
1973-74	4	2	2,102	487	2	—	471	88

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICAL FACILITIES IN EARLY TIMES

In the distant past here in this district as elsewhere in the country, diseases were generally attributed to one's misdeeds and invoked the attention equally of the physician and the sorcerer.

Ayurveda, which is perhaps the oldest system of medicine known to people, was practised by persons called *vaid*s who specialised in diagnosing diseases by observing the symptoms revealed by cough, bile and wind, the medical knowledge about which they acquired by feeling and studying the patient's pulse.

These practitioners attended the sick without charging any fees. Facilities for indoor patients, in respect of nursing, pathology tests and child birth, etc., were not available in the past. These physicians usually prescribed drugs which were easily available locally in the form of herbs and medicinal plants. Occasionally some inorganic chemicals were also used which were manufactured by the physicians themselves. Surgical operations were avoided as far as possible and the use of the poultice was common. They prescribed tonics made from vegetables and minerals and their medicines (which were at times very complicated) included a large number of valuable ingredients like gold, pearl and silver Bhasma. Their number was small because training in this system was passed down only from father to son or imparted by those who were well versed in this knowledge, only to deserving pupils.

The *Shastras* enjoined the observance of personal hygiene such as taking a daily bath, washing of hands and feet before eating and cleaning the teeth and mouth before and after meals.

Contacts with people of other countries, particularly the Greeks and Arabs, led to the introduction of the Unani system of medicine, the propagators of which were known as *hakims*. In mediæval times both the Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine flourished side by side. Surgery of a rough and ready type was practised by *jarrahs* who were generally of the barber class.

The British introduced the allopathy (the western system of medicine) in the district which gradually became popular with the opening of allopathic dispensaries and hospitals under the patronage of the government.

The first government allopathic dispensary at Bijnor came into existence some years before 1857, those at Nagina, Najibabad and Sherkot being opened between 1860 and 1870. The Chandpur dispensary was established in 1880 for providing medical facilities to the residents of the south-western part of the district. In 1905, hospitals for women were

opened at Bijnor and Nagina. Some leading landowners of Tajpur and Dhampur came forward to run private dispensaries in their towns. The number of patients in 1905, at the five district board dispensaries at Bijnor, Nagina, Najibabad, Sherkot and Chandpur and the female dispensaries at Bijnor and Nagina, totalled 5,802.

VITAL STATISTICS

The registration of deaths and births was attempted for the first in 1865, but the results obtained were not reliable because of certain flaws in the process of recording. An improved method was adopted in 1872. Between 1871 and 1880, the average death-rate was 80.63 per thousand which rose to 85.15 in the second half of the decade. This high figure can be accounted for by the large number of casualties reported during the famine year of 1878. The period was one of normal rainfall but was beset by a few epidemics and fever alone was responsible for 55 per cent of the recorded deaths. Throughout this period smallpox brought havoc in the district and there were serious outbreaks of cholera as well. From 1881 to 1890 the average death-rate per thousand of the population was 32.5 which was attributed to the severe outbreak of smallpox in 1883 which caused 3,500 deaths, the birth-rate being 41.36 per thousand for the same period. In 1890, a serious outbreak of smallpox took the heavy toll of 1,570 lives. During the next ten years the death-rate was 35.84, largely due to the ravages of fever in 1894 which alone took 33,538 lives. Smallpox claimed 4,222 lives in 1897.

The following statement shows the decennial registered birth and death-rates per thousand of the population of the district for the period 1901 to 1930 and from 1951 to 1960:

Decade	Birth-rate	Death-rate
1901—1910	39.54	45.65
1911—1920	49.09	49.87
1921—1930	42.03	32.09
1931—1940	41.03	30.07
1941—1950	32.04	22.07
1951—1960	22.46	21.58

During the first decade, fever and cholera accounted for a large number of deaths. People dying of cholera numbered 606 annually, the worst years of the epidemic being 1906 and 1908. Plague also visited the district in 1906 and 1907, killing 4,263 and 12,733 persons respectively. In the next decade, the average number of deaths from cholera rose from 606 to 629 per annum, the years 1914, 1916 and 1921 being particularly destructive. In 1913 and 1914 smallpox was virulent when 520 and 703 deaths took place respectively. In 1918, influenza raged like an epidemic. During the third decade (from 1921 to 1930) plague claimed about 4,000 and 2,000 victims in 1928 and 1930 respectively. In 1932, more than a thousand persons perished through smallpox, the locality worst hit being

Chandpur and its neighbourhood. The following statement gives the number of births and deaths in the urban areas of the district from 1969 to 1978 :

Year	Number of births	Number of deaths
1969	4,499	1,486
1970	4,282	1,193
1971	4,064	1,107
1972	4,187	1,260
1978	4,004	994

The following statement gives the birth and death-rates per thousand in the district during the years from 1961 to 1967 :

Year	Birth-rate	Death-rate
1961	21.34	—
1962	19.23	—
1963	20.13	9.73
1964	19.15	9.90
1965	17.33	8.32
1966	16.21	7.91
1967	15.17	7.53

Infant Mortality

The mortality among children below one year of age was high in the past mainly due to lack of adequate maternity and child welfare services.

The following statement gives the number of deaths of infants below one year of age in the district from 1966 to 1978 :

Year	Number of deaths	(Below one year of age)
1966	1,605	—
1967	1,768	—
1968	1,529	—
1969	241	Urban areas only
1970	131	Do
1971	143	Do
1972	170	Do
1973	107	Do

Epidemics

Adopting measures for the prevention and control of epidemics is the direct responsibility of the medical officer of health in municipal areas and the deputy chief medical officer in the remaining part of the district. Till the establishment of the *gaon* panchayats, it was the duty of the village chowkidar to inform the nearest police-station about the outbreak of an epidemic but now this responsibility has devolved upon the *pradhan* of the *gaon sabha*. In order to combat epidemics effectively the district magistrate has been equipped with powers under the Epidemic Diseases Act (Act III of 1897) for the segregation or removal of patients to hospitals, disinfection of affected areas, evacuation of infected houses and localities and the closure of schools and colleges, etc.

In the past, epidemics of plague, cholera and smallpox usually accounted for a high incidence of deaths in the district.

Plague—This was the most dreaded disease in the district until recently but it has now almost disappeared. It made its first appearance in the district in 1902, when only one person died of it. In 1903 seven deaths took place. In the following years it raged with varying intensity. It occurred during the summer months of 1904 when 1,200 casualties were recorded. It reappeared in 1905, with a fury which surpassed that of 1904, causing 7,394 deaths. During the decade 1901—1910 the average number of deaths per year was 1,622, the worst year being 1907 when 12,733 lives were lost. During the second decade of the present century the average number of deaths from plague per year was 756. The highest mortality was observed in 1911. No death was reported in 1920. In the period from 1921 to 1930, the highest number of deaths was reported in 1928. It was under control during the first three years of this decade, the average number of deaths being 832 per year.

The following statement gives the number of mean decennial deaths caused on account of plague during four decades 1901 to 1930 and 1941 to 1950 :

Decade	Average number of deaths
1901—1910	1,622
1911—1920	756
1921—1930	832
1941—1950	162

In 1951, only 5 cases were reported in the district and since then no death has occurred due to this disease.

Smallpox In former days this disease took a heavy toll of life but of late mortality on its account has declined, though periodical epidemics of great intensity have continued to visit the district.

The following statement gives the average decennial number of deaths in the district due to smallpox during the decades from 1901 to 1930 and 1941 to 1950 :

Decade	Average mortality
1901—1910	308
1911—1920	142
1921—1930	314
1941—1950	186

There was a severe outbreak of smallpox in 1908 which was responsible for 1,359 deaths. In 1929 the district was ravaged by smallpox again, when 1,061 persons died.

The following statement gives the number of deaths in the district on account of smallpox from 1966 to 1974 :

Year	Number of deaths
1966	10
1967	7
1968	450
1969	Nil (Urban areas only)
1970	39 Do
1971	1 Do
1972	1 Do
1973	111 Do
1974	185 Do

Cholera—In the past the district was never free from cholera. The water-level is generally so high in the wells that they are easily contaminated as is the case in all submontane districts. The proximity of Hardwar is another source of danger, as the spread of the disease has frequently been traced to the gathering of religious concourses at that place and the resulting insanitary conditions. Whenever an outbreak occurs at these fairs, cholera spreads over the adjacent areas rapidly. The statistical history of the disease is interesting. In 1890, a serious outbreak occurred when the mortality was 1,570. There was a wide-spread epidemic in 1892, when 1,767 deaths were registered but apart from this there were no years of exceptional mortality, though the disease was always more or less prevalent in the district. From 1901 to 1910 the average annual number of deaths from this cause was 308,

maximum deaths occurring in 1906 when the mortality was 2,096. In the next decade the number of average annual deaths was 446, the only years of visitation by the disease in epidemic form being 1914 and 1916 when it took the lives of 1,270 and 1,759 persons respectively.

For the next ten years (ended, 1930) cholera accounted for 292 deaths annually and on only one occasion was the number more than one thousand. During the period, 1931 to 1940 the average annual number of deaths was 184. The maximum number of deaths occurred in 1940 when 496 persons died of the disease.

The following statement gives the number of deaths caused by cholera from 1966 to 1971:

Year	Number of deaths
1966	Nil
1967	13
1968	63
1969	1 (Urban areas only)
1970	20 Do
1971	2 Do

Diarrhoea and Dysentery—Bowel disorders in the form of diarrhoea and dysentery usually cause a large number of deaths.

The following statement gives the annual average deaths due to bowel complaints for four decades—from 1901 to 1930 and from 1941 to 1950 :

Decade	Annual average deaths
1901—1910	517
1911—1920	420
1921—1930	316
1941—1950	63

During the period of five years from 1956 to 1960 these bowed diseases once again accounted for a heavy toll of lives when 890 persons died annually. The worst-affected year was 1960 when 1,578 deaths occurred due to these disorders.

The following statement gives the number dying due to bowel disorders from 1966 to 1974 :

Year	Number of deaths	
1966	572	
1967	576	
1968	570	
1969	88	
1970	168	
1971	67 (Urban areas only)	
1972	1	Do
1973]	Nil	Do
1974]	Nil.	Do

Respiratory Diseases—Such diseases were included in the category of fever before 1941. Diseases of the respiratory organs are not an immediate cause of death but they often lead to premature death. During the five years from 1956 to 1960 the annual average mortality from them was 1,619. In 1960, the district was worst affected and 2,095 persons died.

The following statement gives the number dying due to respiratory diseases from 1966 to 1978 :

Year	Number of deaths	
1966	2,154	
1967	2,411	
1968	2,080	
1969	829 (urban areas only)	
1970	227	Do
1971	291	Do
1972	198	Do
1978	229	Do

Fever—Fever is a symptom rather than a disease. It is a very comprehensive term denoting the rise in the temperature of the body. Some types of fevers affecting the people in the district are typhus-fever

relapsing fever and enteric fever (typhoid fever). This term also includes such diseases as malaria, typhoid and those unidentified and undiagnosed diseases which are usually accompanied by fever.

The following statement gives the annual average number of deaths per year on account of fever for the decades from 1901 to 1930 and from 1941 to 1950 :

Decade	Number of deaths
1901—1910	27,199
1911—1920	23,419
1921—1930	20,038
1941—1950	15,193

During the period of five years from 1956 to 1960 the average mortality from fever was 6,994 per year.

The following statement gives the number of deaths caused by fever from 1966 to 1978 :

Year	Number of deaths	
1966	5,891	
1967	5,312	
1968	5,134	
1969	566 (urban areas only).	
1970	411	Do
1971	304	Do
1972	392	Do
1973	296	Do

Other Diseases—Among other diseases prevalent in the district, afflictions of the eye, specially trachoma and its sequelae are common throughout the district and may be traced to various causes, of which the most important is smallpox. A large number of cases of goitre were reported from the villages which lie north and west of the Afzalgarh pargana in the Nagina tahsil. The other common diseases are tuberculosis, cancer, bronchitis, enlarged spleen, gastro-enteritis, pneumonia and influenza.

ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP

Prior to 1948 there were separate departments for medical and public health activities but were amalgamated in that year under a directorate for better cohesion and control over the allopathic, Ayurvedic and the Unani institutions and services. In July, 1961, a separate directorate was established at Lucknow for the development and effective

supervision of Ayurvedic and Unani institutions and services. Local administrations of these institutions, however, remained in the charge of the district medical officer of health, now designated deputy chief medical officer (Health).

Formerly the civil surgeon and the district medical officer of health respectively headed the medical and public health organisations in the district. In July, 1973, the departments of medical and public health were again reorganised in the State, abolishing the posts of the civil surgeon and the district medical officer of health. In the district from the same year, under the new set-up, a chief medical officer has been appointed who heads the entire medical, public health, and family planning set-ups in the district. He is assisted by three deputy chief medical officers, in urban circle at the district headquarters superintendent of the District Hospital (Male) and the Women Hospital are controlling body of medical health and family planning activities in their respective institutions. The whole supervisory type of health and family planning activities are under the control of chief medical officer.

At the district headquarters the municipal medical officer of health is responsible for public health activities. The rural area has been divided amongst the three deputy chief medical officers for all medical, health and family planning work.

The public health centres in the rural areas are equally distributed to the deputy chief medical officers. The rural State dispensaries fall under the primary health centres and are also under the deputy chief medical officer concerned.

At the level of primary health centre, a medical officer is in over-all a charge of the medical, health and family planning activities. The medical officer is usually assisted by another medical officer in family planning and maternity and child welfare centres.

Hospitals

The following statement gives relevant details about the hospitals in the district :

Name	Staff		Number of beds		Number of patients treated	
	Doctor	Others	Male	Female	Indoor	Outdoor
District Hospital, Bijnor	7	54	80	20	2,002	46,687
Women's Hospital, Bijnor	4	19	—	80	1,331	7,786
Male Hospital, Nagina	1	11	12	4	245	11,024
Women's Hospital, Nagina	1	6	—	8	667	8,832
Dam Hospital, Kalagarh	4	80	18	8	1,410	50,183
Women's Hospital, Najibabad	1	4	—	8	471	5,728
Women's Hospital, Dhampur	1	4	—	8	408	5,409
Women's Hospital, Haldaur	1	5	—	8	70	2,996
Women's Hospital, Chandpur	1	6	—	8	109	8,969
Zila Parishad Hospital, Chandpur	1	6	6	2	245	16,669
Police Hospital, Bijnor	1	6	10	—	97	1,993
Jail Hospital, Bijnor	1	1	—	—	—	—
Eye Hospital, Dhampur	1	—	—	5	479	7,731
Eye Hospital, Najibabad	1	1	11	10	208	18,484
T. B. Clinic, Bijnor	1	4	—	—	—	697

Dispensaries

Allopathic—The following table gives some details about the allopathic dispensaries in the district in the year 1973 :

Name	Staff		No. of beds		Patients treated		Maintained by
	Doctor's	Other	Male	Female	Indoor	Outdoor	
Manpur Scopuri dispensary	1	3	2	2	—	2,398	State Government
Suawaha	1	3	2	2	24	5,181	Do
Quadrabad Dispensary	1	3	2	2	108	1,716	Do
Nihtaur dispensary	1	3	2	2	284	11,435	Do
Nagal dispensary	1	3	2	2	7	8,331	Do
Dharam Nagri dispensary	1	3	2	2	14	8,407	Do
Jalilpur dispensary	1	1	2	2	2	5,351	Do
Kotwali dispensary	1	1	2	2	24	8,672	Do
Quazimpur Garhi dispensary	1	1	2	2	12	5,776	Do
Suaheri dispensary	1	3	2	2	—	1,174	Do
Shyampur dispensary	1	4	2	2	—	3,467	Do
Seohara dispensary	1	4	2	2	24	9,160	Zila Parishad
Sherkot dispensary	1	5	2	2	39	7,533	Do
Mandawar dispensary	1	4	2	2	22	5,078	Do
Afzalgarh dispensary	1	4	2	2	9	5,310	Do
Railway dispensary	2	7	—	—	—	12,026	Central Government
Shah Hardeo Sahai Charitable dispensary, Nagina	1	3	2	2	8	11,823	Private

There were 7 Ayurvedic, 2 Unani and homocopathic dispensaries functioning in the district in 1973. All are maintained by the government except the last named which is under the control of the zila parishad.

Primary Health Centre

There are 12 primary health centres in the district, each having a dispensary and a maternity centre (with 3 subcentres). The sanctioned staff for each centre consists of a medical officer, a compounder, a health

and 4 midwives (one for the headquarters and one each for a sub-centre). All the primary health centres are under the administrative control of the deputy chief medical officer.

The following statement gives some relevant particulars about the primary health centres functioning in the district :

Primary Health Centres

Name	Year of Opening	Staff		No. of beds	Patients treated		Name of Block
		Doct- or	Oth- ers		In- door	Out door	
Barhapur	1974	1	4	4	—	—	Kotwali
Chandok	1967	2	3	4	—	3,814	Madhopur
Dhampur	1963	2	3	4	89	10,243	Dhampur
Haldaur	1970	2	3	4	—	3,547	Khari-Jhalu
Jalilpur	1957	1	3	4	2	5,351	Jalilpur
Kotwali	1957	2	3	4	24	8,672	Kotwali
Kiratpur	1970	2	3	4	10	8,196	Kiratpur
Najibabad	1974	2	6	8	84	10,166	Najibabad
Nihaur	1970	2	3	4	3	9,550	Akoo
Noorpur	1957	1	3	4	4	4,875	Noorpur
Quasimpur Garhi	1960	1	3	4	12	52,715	Afzalgarh
Seohara	1959	1	3	4	—	2,773	Burhanpur

Maternity and Child Welfare

The maternity and child health centres were established to reduce the high rate of mortality among women during the ante- and post-natal periods and among infants. In the past the maternity services in the district were rendered by the Red Cross Society but now they are provided by the primary health centres. Each primary health centre has a maternity and child welfare centre at its headquarters and 3 subcentres at other places. There are 11 maternity centres and 33 subcentres functioning in the district. Each maternity centre is usually staffed with an auxiliary nurse (midwife) and a *dai* but there are a medical officer and a health visitor in addition at the primary health centres of the block. This trained staff offers advice and aid at the centres and also pays domiciliary visit.

The following statement gives some particulars about the maternity centres and subcentres in the district :

Name	Subcentres
Burhanpur	Seohara, Sahaspur, Bishanpur
Chandok	Khuruhiri, Dharanagar, Mandawar
Dhampur	Sherkot, Basera, Manpur, Shivpuri
Haldaur	Jhalu, Sisona, Ganj
Jalilpur	Bashla, Ismailpur, Rawti
Kotwali	Barhapur, Harganpur, Puraini
Kiratpur	Padla, Begumpur, Bhojpur
Najibabad	Nagal, Hussainpur, Fuzalpur
Nihaur	Fatehpur, Narain, Mandawar
Noorpur	Morna, Paania, Phina
Quasimpur Garhi	Quadirabad, Afzalgarh, Sunwala

Family Welfare Planning

In order to drive home the concept of a small family commensurate with the ideal of planned parenthood, a family planning unit was established in the district in 1956-57. Now there is a family planning centre attached to every primary health centre. The family planning centres are supervised by the medical officer in charge of the primary health centre. The facility of a mobile team, functioning under the care of a man doctor who performs vasectomy and a woman doctor who instructs women in the use of contraceptive devices and does tubectomy work, also exists in the district.

The following statement gives an idea of the achievements made in this direction in the district :

Year	No. of sterili- zations	No. of loops inserted	No. of contra- ceptives distri- buted
1971-72	980	2,658	6,584
1972-73	1,910	1,890	4,472
1973-74	158	1,899	5,904
1974-75	448	2,187	5,442

Vaccination

In early times the rate of mortality from smallpox was high in the district as people were averse to vaccination but gradually they began to realise the benefits it conferred. Vaccination through government agency was not introduced till after the freedom struggle of 1857 and for the first time was resorted to in 1871 but with little response from the people. Now vaccination is compulsory within the municipal limits. Mothers are invariably advised to have their children vaccinated within six months of their birth.

There are 29 government and 11 zila parishad vaccinators to carry out the work of vaccination in rural areas and a team of 5 vaccinators with two public health assistants and one assistant superintendent of vaccination at the district level for carrying out this work. The deputy chief medical officer (health) is the overall head of the vaccination programme.

The following statement gives the number of persons vaccinated in the district from 1970 to 1974 :

Year	Total no. of persons vaccinated	No. of primary vacci- nations (successful)	No. of re-vaccina- tions (successful)
1970	1,74,094	75,481	98,658
1971	1,99,595	75,302	1,24,293
1972	1,78,283	60,118	1,18,165
1973	2,46,400	67,972	1,78,422
1974	3,88,409	1,21,476	2,66,933

Malaria Eradication Programme

The national malaria eradication programme was launched in the year 1958-59. The district was grouped in two areas; the hyper-endemic and the hypo-endemic; the former was estimated to cover 75 per cent of the district population and was carried out by the N.M.E.P., Najibabad, and the latter by the subunit in Moradabad (North), in 1959-60.

The following statement shows the number of staff members sanctioned at the time of the establishment of the work under the programme:

Name of post	N. M. E. P. unit Najibabad	N. M. E. P. subunit Moradabad (North)
Anti-malaria officer	1	—
Senior malaria inspector	4	1
Malaria inspector	4	1
Laboratory technician	2	—
Superior field worker	4	1
Field worker	10	2
Superior field worker (for 5 months)	44	—
Superior field worker (for 3 months)	—	3
Field worker (for 5 months)	230	—
Field worker (for 3 months)	—	40

Under the national malaria eradication programme, each unit has to pass through four phases—preparatory, attack, consolidation and maintenance. In the first phase, arrangements are made for housing the unit, recruitment and training and storing of material and equipment. In the second, D. D. T. spray operations are carried out twice a year in all human dwellings and cattle sheds. In the third, surveillance work is carried out under which a unit is divided into 100 surveillance units each placed under a house visitor who visits his area in search of cases of fever and collects blood slides of such cases, when presumptive treatment is provided. Since 1965-66 the programme has entered into the maintenance phase and it has become part of the district's general health scheme and is carried out under the overall charge of the chief medical officer.

The following statement gives the number of blood slides of patients suspected of having malaria and the number of positive cases found in the district for the period from 1970 to 1974 :

Year	Number of blood slides examined	Number of positive cases
1970	1,20,975	107
1971	1,26,067	101
1972	1,25,867	55
1973	1,15,891	164
1974	1,35,044	382

Prevention of Food and Drug Adulteration

The deputy chief medical officer (health) is the licensing authority for food vending and drug distribution in the rural areas. The municipal officer of health is responsible for doing this work in the municipal areas.

The following statement gives the number of samples collected, those found adulterated and the number of cases prosecuted from 1972 to 1974 :

Year	No. of samples collected	No. of samples found adulterated	No. of cases prosecuted
1972	584	101	43
1973	440	37	44
1974	324	61	22

There is a sanitary inspector in each tahsil who exercises vigilance in eradicating food adulteration and looks after environmental sanitation.

Diet and Nutrition

The main cereals generally consumed almost daily in the district are wheat and rice in almost equal quantity. People generally eat mixed cereals. The consumption of rice (parboiled and plain) is common in the district. The method of rinsing rice several times with water which deprives it of Vitamin B (the water not being utilised in cooking it but being thrown away) is adopted in the district. Wheat is now commonly milled in the district by mechanically driven flour mills, about 40 gm. of bran in each kg. of flour being wasted during milling and sieving.

The pulses mostly consumed in the district in order of preference are urd, arhar, moong and masur. Mixed pulses are also eaten. Soyabean dishes have not become popular.

The vegetables consumed in the district are brinjal, pumpkin, tomato, ladies finger, potato, radish, carrot, cabbage, cauliflower and gourd. Among leafy vegetables palak (spinach), sarson (mustard leaf), chaulai (amaranthus) and podina (mint) are commonly used. Bhasinda (Tripus bispinosa) and singhara (trapanataus) grown in the lakes and ponds of the district are also eaten. The fruits commonly eaten by the people are papaya, guava, banana, mango, aonla and watermelon but musk-melon, apples, custard apples, oranges, grapes and dry fruits which are costlier, are also favoured by those who can afford them.

Ground-nut, mustard oil and vanaspati ghee (dehydrogenated oil) are the cooking mediums used by the people.

The average daily consumption of milk is more than 10 ounces per capita. The number of milch cattle is fairly large and the yield is also high.

The consumption of meat and fish is about 14.5 gm. per day per head. Women eat less animal food than men. The consumption of eggs is increasing on the whole. In the rural areas people use *gur* (jaggery) and *khandsari* as the sweetening medium, refined or crystallised sugar being used mostly by the urban population.

The nutritional level of the people is comparatively low. A dietary survey reveals that people consumed 80 to 40 gm. of vegetable proteins and 20 gm. of fat per capita per day.

CHAPTER XVII OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

For the enforcement of labour laws and the implementation of labour welfare schemes, the district of Bijnor falls in the Bareilly region. The labour administration in the district is controlled by an assistant labour commissioner who is assisted by an additional regional conciliation officer. The three labour inspectors attached to the Bijnor and Dhampur labour offices, supervise the operation of labour enactments in order to check their infringement, carry out regular inspections, make active efforts to prevent strikes and lock-outs, hold enquiries into complaints and prosecute those employers who infringe the law.

An inspector is also stationed in the district to inspect industrial establishments under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948. Payment of Wages Act, 1936, etc., and to take suitable action in regard to breaches of law which come to his notice. Another inspector performs similar duties in respect of the operation of 60 boilers installed at various places in the district.

The regional conciliation officer's work is to prevent disputes from taking place but if they do, he tries to seek a settlement through negotiations and conciliation. He can also make recommendations if cases are fit for adjudication unless the parties agree to arbitration.

The assistant labour commissioner is the prescribed authority under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, and as such he has to exercise the powers of a court in the case of claims due or delayed for payment. He is also the workmen compensation commissioner under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Both the State and Central Governments have enacted a number of laws for the benefit of labourers and their families, the legislations being the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, Uttar Pradesh (Industrial Establishment National Holidays) Act, 1961, U. P. Dookan Aur Vanijya Adhishthan Adhiniyam, 1962, and Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

In 1973 as many as 2,116 contraventions of the provisions of various Acts were detected and prosecutions were launched in 116 cases. A summary regarding these contraventions is given below :

Name of Act	No. of contraven- tions	No. of prose- cutions
U. P. Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 1962	1,416	81
U. P. Industrial Establishment (National Holidays) Act, 1961	11	8
Sthal Adesh Adhiniyam	81	—
Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961	2	—
Minium Wages Act, 1948	526	82
Payment of Bonus Act, 1965	126	—
Payment of Wages Act, 1936	1	—
Total	2,113	116

The amount of compensation distributed annually, from 1970 to 1974 to workmen or their dependants on account of injury or death caused during the course of employment, is given below :

Year	Fatal cases		Disablement cases	
	Number	Compensation paid (in Rs)	Number	Compensation paid (in Rs)
1970	—	—	9	11,968
1971	1	7,000	2	1,004
1972	4	22,325	8	4,088
1973	7	51,000	8	4,180
1974	14	1,01,000	8	10,528

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

This scheme was enforced in the district with the establishment of two employees' State insurance dispensaries on March 28, 1965 and March 28, 1975 at Balawali and Najibabad respectively. Members of the families of labourers are provided with the benefits of free medical attendance at the employees' State insurance dispensaries in respect of pre and post-natal prophylactic treatment etc. In 1974-75 there were 1,950 workers enjoying these facilities in these two dispensaries.

Trade Unions

The trade unions are corporate bodies which work for the welfare of their members and aim at furthering harmonious relations between employers and employees. As welfare bodies they try to improve the economic, moral and social conditions of the labourers, ensure payment of fair wages to them and strive for the establishment of healthy living and working conditions for them and proper medical and educational facilities for their children. On December 30, 1974, there were 12 registered trade unions in the district under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1920, some particulars regarding which are given below:

Name of Trade Union	Date of registration	No. of members
Dhampur Chini Mill Mazdoor Sangh, Dhampur	29-10-1947	668
Municipal Shiksha Karamchhari Association, Chandpur	28-8-1950	857
Ganga Glass Works Union, Balawali	27-8-1951	204
Municipal Shiksha Karamchhari Association, Nagina	31-10-1953	67
Bijnor Sugar Mill Works Union	16-2-1954	710
Lakshmi Kattha Factory Mazdoor Union, Najibabad	2-6-1961	159
Sugar Mill Labour Union, Dhampur	11-1-1962	253
Seohara Distillery Works, Ganga Union	9-8-1962	50
Ramganga Pariyojana Mazdoor Sangh, Kalagarh	29-5-1965	4,026
Cardboard Mazdoor Sangh, Dhampur	30-10-1970	111
Seohara Chini Mill Mazdoor Sangh, Seohara	20-4-1970	486
Shram Kalyan Samaj, S.B. Sugar Mill, Bijnor	26-8-1971	644

Labour Welfare Centres

A labour welfare centre was established in 1974 at Dhampur and is under the charge of a whole-time welfare superintendent. It runs an Ayurvedic dispensary, a women's and children's section, a sewing class, a sports-cum-recreation corner, a gymnasium, a reading-room and a library. Medical aid is rendered by a whole-time medical officer assisted by a pharmacist. The women's and children's section provides free maternity service including pre and post-natal care to working-class women through a midwife and a *dai*. Milk is distributed free of cost to children, expectant mothers and patients under the advice of the medical officer of the centre.

The sewing section has a whole-time instructor who trains working-class women in tailoring, lace making, knitting and embroidery, etc.

Free open air cinema shows are arranged occasionally by the labour department.

OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME

The old age pension scheme was introduced in the district in 1957 to provide subsistence to persons aged 70 years or more, who were without means of livelihood and had no relatives bound by custom or usage to support them. Its scope was liberalised in February, 1962, when the definition of the term 'destitute' was extended to included persons with a monthly income of only Rs 10 and the age of eligibility was reduced to 65 years. In 1965, the rules were relaxed further so that those with a monthly income of Rs 15 could be covered and widows, the crippled or the physically infirm who were rendered incapable of earning a living and had attained the age of 60 years could be included among the recipients, the amount of the pension being raised from Rs 15 to Rs 20 per month.

The scheme was revised again in January, 1972, when the rate of the pension was fixed at Rs 30 per month. The benefits of this scheme are not available to beggars, mendicants and inmates of poor-houses.

The pension is sanctioned by the labour commissioner after the verification of the particulars of the applicant and on the recommendation of the district officer.

The tahsilwise number of beneficiaries in the year 1974-75 is given below :

Tahsil	Persons	Male	Female
Bijnor	194	101	90
Dhampur	81	35	46
Najibabad	110	56	54
Nagina	196	95	101
Total	581	290	291

PROHIBITION

In pursuance of the State government's policy to discourage the use of intoxicants by the people, a prohibition publicity and social uplift organization was set-up in the district in 1947. A prohibition and uplift committee, headed by the district magistrate and consisting of officials, legislators, lawyers and social workers, meets periodically to consider proposals for introducing temperance. A prohibition organiser and a *pracharak* have been posted for extension work under the aegis of the district committee. Wide publicity regarding the hazards of drinking and use of intoxicants is undertaken through meetings, distribution of leaflets, and film shows.

The district has not been declared a dry area but liquor and bhang shops remain closed on Tuesdays and other important holidays and the vending of *ganja* and opium is strictly prohibited.

ADVANCEMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

The State Harijan Sahayak department was set in 1950 to formulate and implement schemes for the welfare of the members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Criminal Tribes (later known as Denotified Tribes). In 1957 a district Harijan welfare officer was posted in the district his designation being changed to Harijan and social welfare officer in 1961, when the Harijan Sahayak and Social Welfare departments were integrated. His main functions are to promote the welfare of these groups and to implement the schemes formulated by the government for their welfare and amelioration.

Members of the Scheduled Castes who were considered to belong to the Depressed Classes during British rule, have been mostly the outcasts of local society. Social workers have striven to better their lot but the alien government took very little interest in their welfare. A half-hearted beginning was made in 1930 when a scheme was formulated for the award of stipends to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes. It was only with the advent of Independence that effective steps were taken for the amelioration of their lot and it was in 1947, with the passing of the U. P. Removal of Social Disabilities Act, that a beginning was made to remove the social stigma from the members of these groups, to rehabilitate them and to afford them the same social and religious liberties as the rest of the people. The Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, has rendered the practice of untouchability and allied offences punishable under the Act. It repealed the corresponding State Act of 1947. The State government also threw open all avenues of employment to members of these groups and major steps were taken for their adequate representation in government services and in the Legislature. In 1944, the upper age limit for recruitment of such candidates to civic posts was relaxed up to 3 years beyond the prescribed limit. In 1953, the reservation for Scheduled Castes in government service was further raised from 10 to 18 per cent. In 1955, the upper age limit for such candidates was raised by 5 years for gazetted (as already done for non-gazetted) posts in 1952. Government keeps a watch over the progress in recruitment of Scheduled Castes candidates to various posts and have emphasised that the prescribed percentage for filling up the posts by such candidates had to be achieved.

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A quota has also been fixed in regard to their promotions. Such candidates are given concessions in application and examination fees when applying for a post.

The government also grants advances and loans to the people belonging to these Castes for agriculture, industries, construction of houses, sinking or boring of wells for drinking purposes, etc.

In 1973-74 a sum of Rs 1,14,500 was spent by the State Government on the construction of houses, Rs 1,40,400 for the development of cottage industries, Rs 1,05,220 for the purchase of farm animals and agricultural inputs (such as seeds, manures, etc.) and Rs 1,463 for the digging of wells and the provision of drinking water facilities to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes.

Financial assistance has also been provided by the Central Government to the Denotified Tribes in the district as part of an uplift programme for which a sum of Rs 1,48,600 was sanctioned in 1973-74.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

The 4 trusts and endowments in the district duly registered with the treasurer charitable endowments Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad, under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890, function mainly for charitable and philanthropic purposes. The following statement gives a brief account of these endowments :

Name of trust/endowment	Year of registration	Annual income (in Rs)	Amount invested (in Rs)	Objects
School and Dispensary Endowment, Sherkot	2-11-1892	532	18,100	To aid hospitals and dispensaries
Rai Bahadur Chowdhury Singh Endowment for King Edward coronation scholarship	26-9-1930	235	8,000	To award scholarships to meritorious students
High School Endowment Trust	29-6-1911	294	10,000	—
Sri Pyare Lal Gupta Scholarship Endowment Trust, Najibabad	18-11-1969	83	2,000	To award scholarships to meritorious students

MUSLIM TRUSTS

There are 12 Shia and 3 Sunni *waqfs* in the district registered with the Shia Central Board of *Waqfs*, U.P., and the Sunni Central Board of

BIJNOR DISTRICT

U.P., created mainly for religious, educational and charitable purposes. A brief account of these *waqfs* is given below :

Name of <i>waqf</i>	Date of foundation	Founder	Annual income (in Rs)	Objects
Shia <i>Waqfs</i>				
Waqf Atiya Shahi Village Dhakia Nagla, Tahsil Sadar	Old <i>Waqf</i> (1211 Hijri, 1797 A.D.)	Nawab Asif-ud-daula Bahadur	1,350	For religious and charitable purposes
Waqf Shahi, Shampur-Khora, Tahsil Najibabad	—	Do	100	do
Waqf Nawab Asif-ud-daula Bahadur Pitamheri, Bijnor	—	Do	700	For the maintenance of Imambara for Azadari during Mohurrum
Waqf Nawab Asif-ud-daula Bahadur Village Jhangirabad, Bijnor	—	Do	100	For Azadari of Hazrat Imam during Mohurrum
Waqf Atiya Shahi Qasba Jhalu, Bijnor	—	Do	160	For Azadari of Hazrat Imam Husain and maintenance of Imambara
Waqf Najaf-e-Hind, Jogipura	—	Syed Raza	25,000	For religious and charitable purpose
Waqf Syed Nisar Ali Sahab	3-3-1926	Syed Nisar Ali	300	Do
Waqf Allah-Bachace	23-2-1918	Allah Bachace	—	For Azadari of Hazrat Imam Husain
Waqf Musammat Aftabunnissa	11-12-1905	Musammat Aftabunnissa	—	For Azadari of Hazrat Imam Husain
Waqf Masjid dramian Qabristan Village Maliman Sadat	1863 A.D.	<i>Waqf</i> by user since time immemorial	—	For maintenance of mosque and Imambara
Waqf Syed Tauqeer Husain Maiman Sadaat	18-3-1938	Syed Tauqeer Husain	300	For Azadari of Hazrat Imam Husain and maintenance of mosque
Sunni <i>Waqfs</i>				
Waqf No. 266	1918	Muslims of Bijnor	3,000	For Charitable of purposes
Waqf No. 250	23-3-1933	Mukhtar Ahmad Khan and Mazhar Husain Khan	2,000	Do
Muhammad Fatch Shah Khan (1307 A.H.)	23-4-1932	Mohammad Fatch Shah	2,000	Do

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WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN

For the welfare of ex-servicemen of the defence services, a district soldiers, sailors' and airmen's board is functioning in the district since April 26, 1970.

It works under the control and supervision of the director, soldier's welfare, U. P. The district unit is supervised by a secretary who is a paid employee and an ex-serviceman. The board here (as elsewhere) assists in their rehabilitation and provides various facilities to ex-service men and their families which include scholarships, relief grants, employment, medical treatment, settlement of accounts and pensions in arrears, permits for controlled commodities, etc.

An idea of the extent of assistance rendered to ex-servicemen in the district during the period 1970-71 to 1974-75, may be had from the following statement :

Nature of help	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	Total
Allotment of land	62	77	171	353	585	1,248
Discharge	...	5	3	...	8	16
Pay/Gratuity/Financial assistance	...	4	3	2	4	13
Scholarship	...	8	16	...	10	34
Allotment of vehicle/tractor	2	...	...	...	...	2
Other help	28	39	114	83	168	502

National awards for outstanding gallantry were given to the following three persons of the district :

Name of person (with rank)	Village and tahsil	Award in cash	Year of award
		Rs	Rs
Raj Kumar, Lt. (posthumous)	Seohara/Dhampur	1,000	27-12-71
Zafar Ali, Captain	Sahaspur/Dhampur	2,000	22-1-73
Saran Singh, Naik (posthumous)	Khanpur/Bijnor	1,000	7-2-74

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Public Life

In pre-British times, during the regime of the rajas and nawabs, public life in this district (as elsewhere) was neither active nor well organised. The rulers generally adopted a despotic attitude towards their subjects and hardly did anything constructive to encourage public participation in the affairs of the State. Efforts at mobilising public opinion by a citizen or an institution were not countenanced. Even during British times those who tried to raise their voice against the policy of the State regarding political matters were crushed ruthlessly. The people were largely ignorant of such matters and took hardly any interest in them nor had they any initiative in moulding public opinion. Sometimes a big zamindar or rai would establish a school or orphanage (usually to please his English masters) through a minor act of philanthropy and gain popularity in this way or some award from the government.

The popular rising of 1857, the partition of Bengal in 1905, the Swadeshi movement launched in 1906, the Home rule and Swarajya movement furthered by dedicated leaders and devoted workers in succeeding years, aroused public opinion in no weak measure. Among other things, the growing consciousness in the Indian people of political freedom in other parts of the world, brought home by the spread of education, interest in foreign affairs, fast and easy means of communication and other mass media, paved the way for the achievement of Independence in 1947.

Political Parties

The district has branches of several political organisation of all-India or State level. It is not possible to assess the numerical strength of their members which keeps fluctuating. The main political parties active in the district in 1974 were the Indian National Congress, the Bhartiya Jan Sangh, the Communist Party of India and the Bhartiya Kranti Dal. In 1969-70, the Indian National Congress party was split into two rival groups at the Central level the Congress (Ruling) and the Congress (Organisation). Each group established its own branch office in this district also. The Congress and the Bhartiya Jan Sangh are the only two political parties which have contested all the general elections in the district. The parties contesting once only have been the Muslim League, the Mazdoor Parishad and the Loktantrik Sangh.

REPRESENTATION OF DISTRICT IN STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES

Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly)

For the general elections to the Vidhan Sabha in 1952, the district was divided into six constituencies, namely—Najibabad (North)-cum-Nagina (North), Bijnor (North)-cum-Najibabad (West), Bijnor (Central),

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Bijnor (South)-cum-Dhampur (South-West), Nagina (South-West)-cum-Dhampur (North-West) and Dhampur (North-West)-cum-Nagina (East). The last named had to return two members, one of whom had to be member of the Scheduled Castes. There were 5,22,200 electors, 66 per cent of whom exercised the right of franchise, 8.8 per cent of the votes polled were found to be invalid.

The following statement gives a profile of these elections :

Party/Independent	No. of contestants	Seats won	Votes polled	Percentage	Average votes per candidate
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	3	—	17,231	5.17	5,760
Indian National Congress	7	7	1,67,871	50.12	23,981
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	8	—	13,268	3.97	4,428
Socialist Party of India	7	—	46,935	14.01	6,705
Independents	20	—	89,525	26.78	4,477
Total	40	7	3,34,830	100.00	—

At the general elections of 1957, the number of constituencies remained unaltered but their names and composition underwent certain changes. There were five single-member constituencies, namely Najibabad, Afzalgarh, Bijnor, Chandpur, Nagina and one double-member constituency that of Dhampur, one of the seats being reserved for a member of the Scheduled Castes. The total number of electors was 5,54,765, of which 77.4 per cent participated in the poll, 1.3 per cent of the votes being declared invalid.

The following statement gives the number of contestants, seats won and votes secured by each party :

Party/Independent	No. of contestants	Seats won	Votes polled	Percentage	Average votes per candidate
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	5	—	88,555	20.88	17,311
Communist Party of India	3	—	36,346	8.57	12,115
Indian National Congress	7	5	1,93,664	45.74	27,666
Praja Socialist Party	2	—	15,012	3.54	7,506
Independents	10	2	90,176	21.27	9,018
Total	27	7	4,23,754	100.00	—

For the general elections of 1962 to the Vidhan Sabha, the constituencies were delimited afresh and the district was divided into seven constituencies, namely Afzalgarh, Najibabad, Bijnor, Chandpur, Nagina, Dhampur and Boodpur, the last being double-seated, with one seat reserved for a member of the Scheduled Castes. There were 5,70,464 electors but only 65 per cent of them took part in the poll.

The following statement gives details about the numbers of candidates, seats won, votes secured by each party, total percentage and average number of votes per candidate :

Party/Independent	No. of contestants	Seats won	Votes polled	Percentage	Average votes per candidate
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	3	2	70,415	28.07	11,345
Communist Party of India	1	—	10,982	3.19	10,982
Hindu Maha Sabha	3	—	4,174	1.92	1,391
Indian National Congress	7	4	1,32,936	38.62	18,991
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	1,480	0.42	1,480
Republican Party of India	2	—	8,552	2.48	4,266
Socialist Party of India	2	—	14,647	4.26	7,333
Swatantra Party	3	—	19,459	5.65	6,486
Independents	26	1	72,610	...	...
Total	52	7	3,44,255	100.00	—

For the general elections of 1967 to the Legislative Assembly, there were six single-member constituencies—those of Noorpur, Dhampur, Nagina, Najibabad, Bilnor, Chandpur and the double-member constituency of Afzalgarh which had one seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes. There were 6,76,341 electors and 65.8 per cent votes were polled of which 8.1 per cent were found to be invalid.

The following table gives certain relevant details about these elections :

Party/Independent	No. of contestants	Seats won	Votes polled	Percentage	Average votes per candidate
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	7	—	67,383	21.35	1,248
Communist Party of India	1	—	2,239	0.54	2,239
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	2	—	8,781	2.14	4,390
Indian National Congress	7	5	1,57,712	38.57	22,530
Republican Party of India	3	—	18,960	4.64	6,320
Samyukta Socialist Party	4	—	9,961	2.44	2,490
Swatantra Party	7	—	27,076	6.62	3,867
Independents	27	2	96,921	23.69	3,589
Total	58	7	3,88,963	100.00	—

Following the imposition of President's rule in the State, on February 25, 1968, a mid-term poll was held in February, 1969. The position of constituencies remained the same as at the 1967 general elections. There were 7,11,948 electors, and 65.66 per cent votes were polled of which 3.6 per cent were declared to be invalid.

The following statement gives the number of candidates, seats won and votes secured by each contesting party at the elections :

Party/Independent	No. of candidates	Seats won	Votes polled	Percentage	Average votes per candidate
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	4	—	1,57,712	1.40	4,000
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	6	3	1,57,712	26.17	50,567
Communist Party of India	2	—	1,57,712	2.55	5,296
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	2	—	1,57,712	0.13	1,642
Indian National Congress	7	2	1,57,712	57.10	2,10,063
Mazdoor Kishad	2	—	1,57,712	0.27	1,32
Samyukta Socialist Party	1	—	2,101	0.16	2,101
Swatantra Party	1	—	825	0.24	825
Independents	17	—	49,703	10.96	2,929
Total	45	7	4,52,395	100.00	—

On October 1, 1970 President's rule was again imposed in the State as the then Chief minister of the Bhartiya Kram Dal-Congress coalition refused to resign when the Congress withdrew its support. The President's rule was revoked on October 18, and the Samyukta Vidhayak Dal ministry was sworn in on October 18, 1970. This government did not last long and in the wake its collapse on April 8, 1971 the Congress government came to power. Two years later, the chief minister, though commanding a comfortable majority in the Assembly, submitted the resignation of his council of ministers to the Governor on June 12, 1973, clearing the way for President's rule in the State again for the third time since the Independence which ended in November, 1973, with Congress government taking the office.

The same government returned to power again through the general elections held in February, 1974. The district was divided into seven constituencies namely Afzalgarh, Dhampur, Najibabad, Bilnor, Chandpur, Sohara and Nagina of which Sohara and Nagina were double-member constituencies with one seat each reserved for a member of the Scheduled Castes. The number of electors was 8,03,333 but only 61.8 per cent voted, 2.7 per cent of the ballot papers being found to be invalid.

The following table gives relevant details of the elections :

Party/Independent	No. of candidates	Seats won	Votes polled	percentage	Average votes per candidate
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	7	—	26,094	4.75	2,143
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	7	2	1,28,978	26.48	18,291
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1	—	11,135	2.33	11,138
Congress (O)	6	—	60,549	12.32	1,079
Congress (R)	7	5	1,55,353	32.12	22,193
Loktantrik Sangh	5	—	14,495	2.90	4,802
Muslim League	1	—	8,794	1.82	8,794
Republican Party of India	5	—	4,365	0.88	853
Socialist Party of India	3	—	1,387	0.28	462
Swatantra Party	2	—	5,499	0.72	1,749
Independents	36	—	73,056	15.11	229
*Total	78	7	4,82,435	100.00	—

Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council)

For the Vidhan Parishad the district forms part of three constituencies, namely the Uttarakhand-cum-Kumaon teachers, Uttarakhand-cum-Kumaon graduates and Garo-Wal-cum-Bijnor local authorities. One resident of this district is a member of the Vidhan Parishad.

UNION LEGISLATURE

Lok Sabha (House of the People)

In the first general election to the Lok Sabha (House of the People) which were held in 1952, the district formed a single constituency. There were 5 contestants, one each belonging to the Indian National Congress, the Socialist Party of India, the Bhartiya Jan Sangh and two Independents. The seat was won by the Congress candidate, 1,92,886 votes being polled and 2,217 being declared to be invalid.

At the general election of 1957, the district of Bijnor formed a single constituency of the same name. There were 3 candidates, one each belonging to the Indian National Congress, the Praja Socialist Party and Bhartiya Jan Sangh. The Congress candidate won the seat. There were 8,96,807 electors. The number of valid votes polled was 2,36,817 of which 168 were invalid.

For the general election of 1962, the district again formed a single constituency. There were 6 contestants, 3 were Independents and one each was set up by the Indian National Congress, Bhartiya Jan Sangh and Republican Party of India. The seat went to an Independent candidate. The number of electors was 4,09,418. The valid votes polled numbered 2,54,070 and the invalid, 15,861.

At the general election of 1967, Bijnor once again formed a single constituency. There were 8 candidates in the field, one each set up by the Indian National Congress, Bhartiya Jan Sangh, Swatantra Party, and Republican Party of India, 4 contested as Independents. The seat was captured by the Congress Party. The number of electors was 4,85,212. The total number of valid votes polled was 3,23,835 of which 23,058 were declared invalid.

In the fifth general election in 1971, the district formed a single constituency. The number of contestants was 4, one each set up by the Congress (R), the Congress (O), the Swatantra Party of India and the Bhartiya Kranti Dal. The seat went to the Congress (R) candidate. The total number of votes polled was 2,23,152 of which 5,838 were found to be invalid. There were 5,18,152 electors in the district.

The following table gives relevant information regarding the various elections held for representation to the Lok Sabha :

	1952				1957				1962				1967				1974			
	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Contestants	Seats won	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	—	12,052	1	—	29,463	1	—	1	—	26,182	1	—	71,093	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40,900*	—	—	—
Congress (O)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25,548	—	—	—
Congress (R)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,44,728	—	—	—
Indian National Congress	1	1	75,018	1	1	1,23,181	1	—	1	—	76,584	1	—	1,03,874	—	—	—	—	—	—
Praja Socialist Party	—	—	—	1	—	84,173	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Republican Party of India	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	5,877	1	—	13,006	—	—	—	—	—	—
Socialist Party of India	1	—	31,961	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swatantra Party of India	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19,797	1	—	6,148
Independents	2	—	71,638	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	1,45,427	4	—	93,012	—	—	—	—	—	—

NEWS PAPERS AND PERIODICALS

In 1906, a weekly, the *Tohfa-i-Hind* (edited by Jairaj Singh) was published at the Tohfa-i-Hind Press. The press was handed over to Jagan Nath Saran in 1930, who renamed it the Rishi Press and brought out in that year a weekly called *Rishi* in Urdu. In 1912, a bi-weekly, *Madina*, in Urdu, was published from the Madina Press, Bijnor. The *District Gazette* in Urdu was published by the Tejarti Press, Bijnor, which was established in 1919. Another Press known as the Alwa-Hind was started at Bijnor in 1931 and published three weeklies *Alwahed*, *Aftaw Gharile*, all in Urdu. It also brought out two monthlies *Hasrat* and *Ansari*. The periodicals *Garibi* and *Ansari* were issued from Nihtaur. The *Prakash* (a weekly) was the first Hindi periodical which was published in 1942 by the Prakash Press, Bijnor. In 1950, the Veer Press was opened at Najibabad. It started the publication of a Hindi monthly, *Munsubey*. It also published a number of other periodicals some of which were the *Jyotish Mauji* (Hindi and Urdu), *Jan Nari*, *Aj-ka-chi-kitsak* and *Naya Rasta* (all in Hindi). The *Krishi Sansar*, a Hindi monthly and *Swadesh*, fortnightly, were published by the Bharti Press. In 1955, the Surendra Printing Press was started at Najibabad which brought out a Hindi weekly, *Chaitan*. Another Press at Najibabad called the Kala Garhwali Press was established in 1957 and brought out a weekly, *Aryasthan*. A monthly magazine called the *Zamindar-wakashikar* was brought out by Muhammad-ur-Rahman of Mandawar and dealt with agricultural topics. The *Upkar*, published at Nagina, appeared at intervals and was distributed free of charge.

The following table gives some details about the newspapers and periodicals published in the district in 1972 :

Name of newspaper/ periodical	Address of publication	Year of Commence- ment	Periodicity	Language	Copies of Circulation	Nature
<i>Adhikar Bharat</i>	Soti Printing Press, Bijnor	1969	Weekly	Hindi	—	News and current affairs
<i>Airawat</i>	Jan Sangh Karyalaya, Bijnor	1967	Do	Do	500	Do
<i>Antar Jwala</i>	Nalini Prakashan, Najibabad	1964	Do	Do	1,800	Do
<i>Bijnor Khabar</i>	Jatan Street, Bijnor	1969	Do	Do	730	Do
<i>Bijnor Times</i>	Bijnor Press, Cinema Road, Bijnor	1963	Daily	Do	—	Do
<i>Chingari</i>	Civil Lines, Bijnor	1950	Weekly	Do	2,000	Do
<i>Guncha</i>	Madina Manzil, Bijnor	1922	Do	Urdu	1,626	For Children
<i>Jagriti</i>	Chahshiri, Bijnor	1950	Do	Hindi	—	News and current affairs
<i>Khizar-e-Hayat</i>	Pathanpur, Najibabad	1966	Do	Urdu	450	Do
<i>Khandar</i>	Nasarak, Dhampur	1967	Do	Hindi	1,450	Do
<i>Lok-Mat</i>	Civil Lines, Bijnor	1963	Daily	Do	—	Do
<i>Madina</i>	Madina Manzil, Mirdagan Street, Seohara	1912	Bi-weekly	Urdu	1,967	Do
<i>Mudesh Personality</i>	Mudesh office, Near Thakur Mandi, Seohara Personality Formation Centre, Govindpur, P.O. Jhalu, Bijnor	1966 1968	Monthly Fortnightly	Hindi English and Hindi	381 204	Literary and cultural News and current affairs
<i>Rakta Vir</i>	Bazar Kalan, Dhampur, Bijnor	1969	Monthly	Hindi	—	Literary and cul- tural
<i>Saaf Baat</i>	Rama Electricity Press, Bijnor	1960	Weekly	Hindi and English	500	News and Current affairs
<i>Rishi</i>	Rishi Karyalay, Bijnor	1930	Do	Urdu	—	Religion and phi- losophy
<i>Sanyukta Dhara</i>	Nai Sarak, Dhampur	1967	Do	Hindi	—	News and current affairs
<i>Seohara Times</i>	Seohara Times, Bijnor	1969	Daily	Do	523	Do
<i>Swadantira Awaz</i>	Sotain Street, Bijnor	1969	Do	Do	1,850	Do
<i>Uttar Bharat Times</i>	Bhatan Street, Bijnor	1969	Weekly	Do	—	Do
<i>Yash Shakti</i>	Padli Barera, Bijnor	1968	Monthly	Do	—	Current affairs

Other Periodicals

The popular dailies, weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies published out side the district but widely circulated in the district are named below :

Daily	Weekly
1	2
Hindi	
Aaj	
Hindustan	Dharam Yug, Saptahik Hindustan
Bharat, Tarun Bharat, Nav Jeevan, Nav Bharat Times, Swatantra Bharat	
English	
The Statesman, Times of India, Hindustan Times, Indian Express, Northern India Patrika, The Pioneer, National Herald	Blitz, Citizen, Current, Link, Screen, Sports and Pastime, Indian Witness, The Observer, The Illus- trated Weekly of India
Urdu	
Milap, Pratap, Quami Awaz	Tej, Aj Kal
Fortnightly	Monthly
3	4
Sarita, Mukta	Maya, Chandamama
	Niharika, Kalyan, Kadambini, Madhuri, Parag, Lot Pot
Filmfare, Star and Style Caravan	Imprint, Current Events, Mirror, Modern Economist, Picturepost, Time
Chirag-e-Haran Deoband Times Meequat, Yaad	Beeswi Sadi, Shama

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

There are a number of voluntary social service organisations in the district which look after the economic and social interests of the people. In the past such institutions depended mainly on the philanthropy and missionary zeal of the people. The urge of the people to start such organisations has found greater scope after Independence due to the awakening of the people and State encouragement. In 1956-57 an assistant social welfare officer, now designated district Harijan and social welfare officer, was posted in the district under the auspices of the social and Harijan welfare department of the State. The subjects dealt with by the department are education of the members of the Scheduled Castes and schemes for their welfare, administration of ex-criminal tribes' settlements and colonies, administration of the Untouchability (Offence) Act, 1955, grants to non-official bodies and social workers for maintenance of institutions, committees devoted to the cause of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, women's welfare schemes, uplift of fallen and destitute women and children, orphanages, poor-houses, widow's houses, suppression of immoral traffic, religious and charitable endowments and trusts, youth welfare scheme, grants to *sewa samitis*, grants to the YMCA and YWCA, institutions for the deaf, dumb and blind, education for physically handicapped children work-houses for beggars and moral and social hygiene.

Though voluntary welfare organisations are free to undertake any welfare schemes, government see that these activities are in harmony with its own schemes and policies. This is achieved through the system of grants given to such institutions and periodic checks to see that the grants are utilized properly and approved by government for specific purposes.

The district has a number of such voluntary institutions which are serving the people in a variety of ways. The following paragraphs describe some of the important voluntary social service organisations functioning in the district.

Joshi Sewa Samiti

The Joshi Sewa Samiti was founded on April 9, 1922. Its headquarters is at Jhalu. It has branches at Daranagar, Nagina, Dhampur, Selavar Gari and Haldaur. Its aims are to serve the people on the occasions of fairs and other social gatherings. It also assists the poor sections of the people of the district in various ways. The Samiti provides shelter and guidance to visitors coming from outside.

Sewa Samiti, Nagina

This Samiti was established in 1909 and registered on September 22, 1951. Its headquarters and jurisdiction are within the Nagina tahsil. It supplies medicines to poor patients free of cost and helps the poor on certain occasions such as weddings, funerals, etc. It also assists the people at the time of the Ganga and Ramlila fairs. The Samiti has 68 members.

Adarsh Mahatma Gandhi Leper Asylum

The Adarsh Mahatma Gandhi Kusht Ashrama, Seohara, Bijnor, was started in 1930. It has on its staff a compounder, a nurse, a dresser and 2 non-medical employees. It has 25 beds of which 10 are for men, 10 for women and 5 for children. 200 out-door and 150 in-door patients were treated here in 1974 in which year the expenditure was about Rs 12,000.

Leprosy Service Society

The Leprosy Service Society was formed in 1965 at Nagina by (Acharya) R.N. Kela. It is served by a compounder who runs the clinic. The patients are examined occasionally at the civil hospital, Najibabad. It has accommodation for 29 beds of which 19 are for men and 10 for women. It has a vegetable and fruit garden and a poultry farm. It has Rs 5,000 in fixed deposit which helps to meet some of its expenses.

CHAPTER XIX PLACES OF INTEREST*

Afzalgarh (pargana Afzalgarh, tahsil Nagina)

Administered as a municipality, Afzalgarh stands in Lat. 29° 24' N. and Long. 78° 41' E., at a distance of 24 km. south-east of Nagina and about 55 km. to the east of the district headquarters. The town is built on either side of the kutchha road from Nagina to Rehar and Kashi-pur at its junction with another metalled road from Sherkot to Kalagarh. The neighbourhood is lowlying and resembles the Nuni Tal *tarai*, water being found 4 m. below the surface.

The place appears to have had no history of its own except that it derives its name and origin from one Afzal Khan, a Ro'hilla chief and brother of Zabita Kaan, who founded the town between 1748 and 1774. He also built a brick fort, the ruins of which are to be seen in the northern outskirts. The town has an area of 0.62 sq. km. and a population of 10,765.

The place had attained considerable repute for its excellent cloth industry, particularly *garha* and *gazi*, some specimens of which obtained a prize at the Agra Exhibition of 1867. The local Julahas still engage in the manufacture of cloth but the quality has deteriorated. Timber and bamboo are other products of commerce and trade.

Afzalgarh became a development block on October 26, 1954, with headquarters at Maniwala. It had a population of 1,01,536 spread over an area of 505 hectares with 70 *gaon sabhas* and 8 *nyaya* panchayats. Markets are held twice a week and a small fair takes place at Salabatnagar (on the south-west of the town) during March in honour of Bale Salar and another is held in August at Ajabnagar (to the north-east). Afzalgarh has an intermediate college, a police-station, a dispensary of the Zila Parishad, a branch of the Punjab National Bank and an inspection house under the management of the public works department.

Under the Afzalgarh colonisation scheme, which began in 1951-52, so far 11 colonies have been set up with facilities of communications, irrigation, electricity, a hospital, a consumers store, marketing and credit societies and the Kadrabad Sainik School for the children of the colonies.

Bashta (pargana Bashta, tahsil Bijnor)

The agricultural village of Bashta lies in Lat. 29° 4' N. and Long. 79° 13' E., some 8 km. north of the Moradabad border, about 10 km. south-west from Chandpur and about 40 km. to the south of Bijnor. It has a population of 4,159 and an area of 112 ha.

*Figures of population and area in this chapter are based on census of 1971

The place has no history except that tradition associates the name of Abul Fazl and Abul Faizi (the famous literati of Akbar's court) with it. It is said that visitors from all over the district used to remove a brick each as a souvenir out of a structure located here which was presumed to represent the Madarsa where these learned brothers acquired their education. Akbar had established a big police post here which was responsible for maintaining law and order in 60 adjoining villages.

It has an intermediate college, a post-office and a market which is held once a week. A small fair takes place in August in honour of Zahir Diwan a Muslim *pir* (saint). It is an out-post under the Chandpur police-station.

Bijnor (pargana and tahsil Bijnor)

This ancient town stands in Lat. $29^{\circ}22'N.$ and Long. $78^{\circ}8'E.$, at a height of about 237.7 m. above sea-level to the left of the Ganga on its old high bank, at a distance of 200 km. from Bareilly and 67 km. from Meerut. It is situated on a branch line of the Northern Railway running between Gajraula and Muazzampur Narain. It is also connected by metalled roads with Dhampur, Nagina, Najibabad (which are headquarters of tahsils of the same names) and Chandpur via Ganj and Gajraula. Its population is 43,290 and area 36.5 sq. km.

The early history of the place is very scanty but a tradition assigns its foundation to the mythical raja known as Chakarvarti Ben or Ven who became a legend throughout Rohilkhand. The local legend has it that the raja did not tax his subjects, raised part of the revenue by the sale of *bijna* (fans) made by himself and it was from this word that the place obtained its name. But it is possible that the word Bijnor is a corruption of Vijayanagar or Bajanagar. The site on the north of the city is still called raja Ben-ka-Khera after this legendary raja, which testifies to its antiquity. Old remains of a very early period are still to be found on the west near the Ganga and stretch over an area of about 8 km. The place appears to have remained a stronghold of the Jats for a long time. Tradition has it that years of warfare between the Jat Chaudhris and the Muslim Kalals ended in the complete annihilation of the former with only a woman remaining as the sole survivor. In due time she bore a son, Dasanand Singh, who overthrew his enemies in 1605 with the help of the local Mughal governor and the Jats reoccupied their lost estate and enjoyed it undisturbed for a long time. Bijnor gave its name to a *mahal* in Akbar's days but was of not much importance and did not rise to prominence till 1824, when it was made the headquarters of the district by the British in place of Nagina.

The town is fairly compact. The principal bazar is known as Palmerganj (after the magistrate who designed it). To the north of the town is the railway station. The buildings of the S.B. Sugar mills with a giant chimney rising to a height of about 20 m. stand in front of the railway station. The establishment of the railway station promoted the fortunes of the town more specially as it became linked with Dehra Dun and Delhi. The main city lies at a distance of about 2 km. from the railway station but buildings have come up on both sides of the road to meet the growing needs of an expanding town.

Bijnor is electrified, has a regular water supply and a regular market, shops, cinema houses and a number of restaurants. There are 6 intermediate colleges, 3 Basic primary schools, 3 senior Basic schools, a post-graduate college and girls' degree college. It has a bus station, a municipal library, an old Idgah, a historically famous mosque known as Chah Shirin Masjid (believed to have been built by Emperor Shah Jahan), several temples and other places of worship, a big Hall and the Aijaz Ali park. It has a district hospital, a women's hospital, a police hospital, and a T.B. clinic. It also has a branch each of the State Bank of India, The Punjab National Bank, the District Co-operative Bank and the Land Development Bank. Industrially it is not well developed as it has only an industrial estate and a sugar-mill which is not adequate enough to absorb all sugar-cane supply of the region. It is also the site of a huge fair held annually on the occasion of Chaitra Badi Asthami, which is attended by over 5,000 people.

Among the public buildings the main are the collectorate buildings, which are built in the modern style, the building housing the court of the district judge, a munsif's court, the tahsil buildings and (in the heart of the city) the beautiful building of the Kotwali which is in the Indo-Saracenic style.

There are 2 inspection houses belonging to the public works department and tube-well department of the State and 2 rest houses as well which are run by the *zila parishad*.

Chandpur (pargana Chandpur, tahsil Bijnor)

Chandpur lies in Lat. $29^{\circ}8'N.$ and Long. $78^{\circ}16'E.$, at a distance of about 40 km. south-east of Bijnor with which it is connected with a metalled road. It is also a junction of many metalled roads leading from Haldaur on the north, Nihtaur on the north-east, Anroha on the south-east, Bashta on the south-west and Nurpur on the east. The town, which is being administered as a municipality since 1866, has a population of 28,179 and an area of 1.58 sq. km.

Historically speaking Chandpur is of very little importance except that a legend associates its name with one Chand Khan who is supposed to have founded it in pre-Mughal days, an old sand-stone tomb standing in the neighbourhood of the town supposed by being his tomb. The place appears to have risen in considerable importance during Akbar's days when it became the capital of a pargana and a *dastur* in the sirkar of Sambhal. In the early days of British rule it was made the headquarters of a tahsil and remained as such till the reconstitution of the subdivision in 1894. The old tahsil building houses the police-station. In 1805 it was occupied by the Pindaris and again by Muslim freedom fighters in 1857. The dilapidated and ruined houses of the noble Saiyid families of this place are a reminder of the heroic fight which they offered against the British during the freedom struggle of 1857.

Lying at an elevation of some 143.25 m. above sea-level, the town is irregular in shape and is surrounded by a number of ponds and depressions.

The only historical buildings are a handsome mosque and a tomb, both of considerable antiquity. The town is divided into 6 wards. It has a regulated market dealing mainly in grains, sugar, cattle, oil-seeds and tobacco. It appears to have been a flourishing business centre during the early part of the present century. Earthenware, ipe-bowls, water bottles and coarse cotton cloths known as *garha* and *chauthai* were the special manufactures. The town has 2 sugar factories, an ice factory and a unit dealing with handloom products. There is also a big industrial undertaking there—the Indian Engineering Industry which manufactures machines for the sugar industry.

The public buildings of this place include a police-station, 2 hospitals (one each for men and women), a degree college, 3 intermediate colleges (2 for boys and one for girls), and a branch each of the Punjab National Bank and the District Co-operative Bank. It also has its own waterworks. There also are an inspection house and a *dharamsala* in the town.

Daranagar (pargana Daranagar, tahsil Bijnor)

The small town of Daranagar stands in Lat. $29^{\circ} 17' N.$ and Long. $78^{\circ} 7' E.$, on the high, left bank of the Ganga about 10 km. south of the district headquarters and the metalled road from Chandpur to Bijnor passes through it. Another road, which runs due east connecting it with the metalled road going from Mezzam nagar to Moradabad, connects it with Haldaur and Nihtaur. The place has a population of 1,757 and an area of 457 ha.

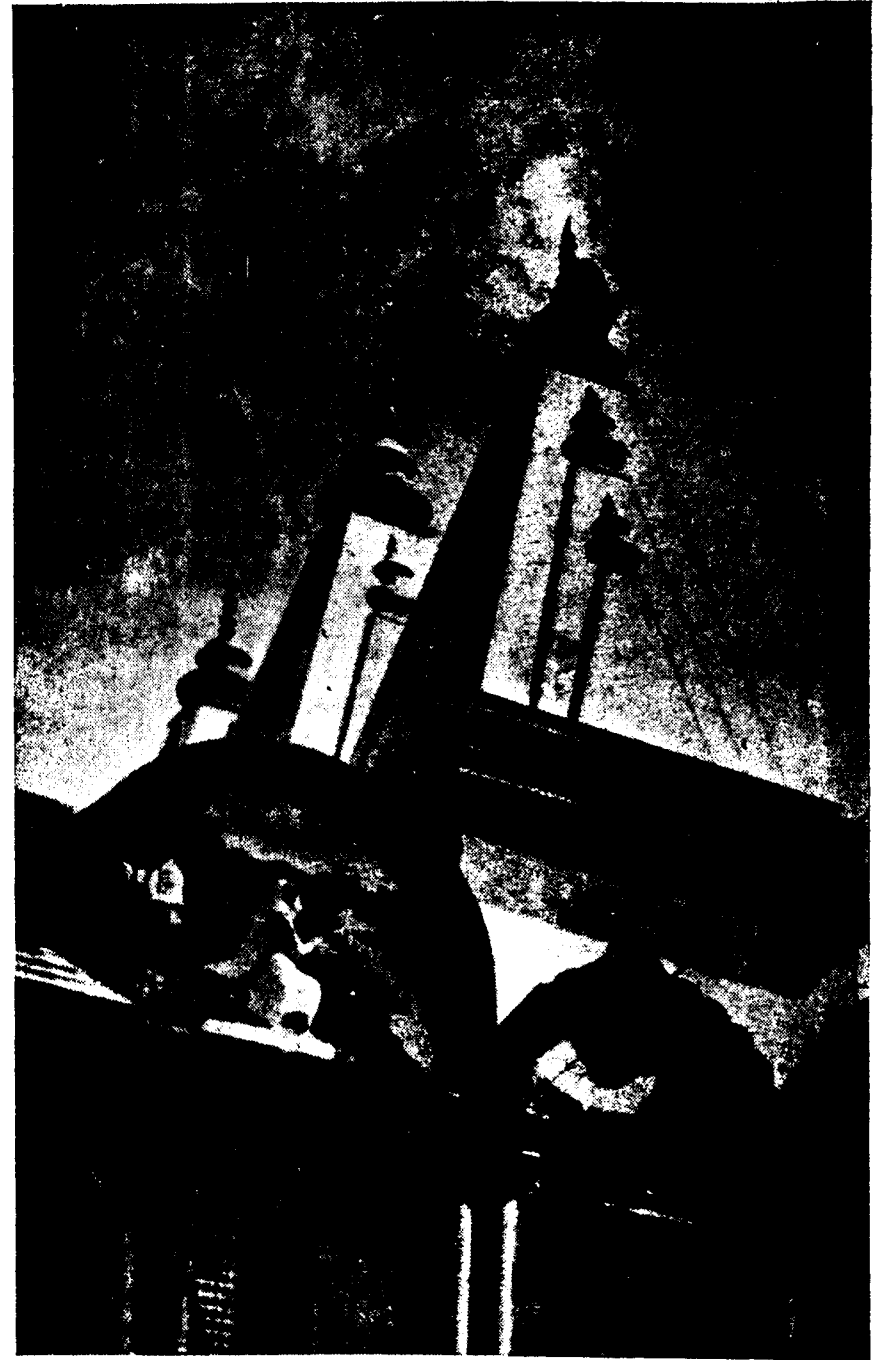
Daranagar is believed to have assumed its name from the word '*dara*' which in Sanskrit means 'Women' because legend has it that Vidur, a great saint of Mahabharata fame, gave shelter to the widows of both the Kauravas and the Pandavas after the great war of Mahabharata and rehabilitated them around his *ashram* by virtue of which the place became to be known as Daranagar i.e. the town for women. Daranagar is noted for bathing fairs that take place after the opening of the rains and in the cold weather. The largest is that in the month of Kartika when the moon is full and is attended by about 1,00,000 people and lasting for about 5 days. The fair provides occasion for much trade, dealers coming from all the surrounding districts. Another gathering is held in honour of Zahir Diwan which is much smaller.

Vidurkuti—The place is adjacent to Daranagar and is traditionally supposed to be the place where Vidur had his *ashram* and is situated on the eastern bank of the river Ganga, some 12 km. to the north of the district headquarters and 80 km. to the south from Hardwar, on the Bijnor-Gajraula metalled road.

The place is of great historical importance as it is believed to have been founded by the great saint Vidur, one of the noblest characters of the '*Mahabharata*' who was also a great scholar and statesman. It is said he could foretell future happenings. He had access to the two contending parties, the Kauravas and the Pandavas and both Dhritrashtra and Yudhishtira consulted him on major issues. The first President of India (Rajendra Prasad) visited the place in 1960 and unveiled the statue of the saint. A year later, on November 22, 1961, the



Statue of Mahatma Vidur in Vidur Kuti,
Daranagar, Tahsil Bijnor



• Vidur Kuti, Daranagar, Tahsil Bijnor

then vice-president of India (Radhakrishnan) laid the foundation stone of the Bharat Mata Temple at the Kuti consisting of a big hall and a library, the former being a venue for religious discourses and gatherings.

In 1950, when the ravages of the Ganga began eroding the mound, a *bundh* was constructed to save the shrine. There is a hospital here and an institute known as Vidur Arogya Kutir where Yogic exercises are taught, the foundation stone of which was laid on November 2, 1960, by the then State Minister for power and irrigation (Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim). There also are in the place Ayurvedic, allopathic and homeopathic charitable dispensaries built by Modi Enterprises Meerut, which has also built a guest house and 2 dharamsalas. On the occasion of Kartika Purnima, a big fair is held here every year attracting about 10,000 people who take a dip in the Ganga. An educational institution here, Guru Grih Vidyalaya, imparts among other studies ethical and moral knowledge. It has a hostel for its students.

Dhampur (pargana and tahsil Dhampur)

Dhampur, the headquarters of the pargana and the tahsil to which it gives its name, stands in Lat. 29° 18' N. and Long. 78° 31' E., at a height of 232.56 m. above sea-level on the right bank of the river Khoh, at a distance of about 55 km. south-east of Bijnor with which it is connected by a metalled road. Other metalled roads go from Dhampur to Nihtaur in the west and Sherkot in the south-east. A main line of the Northern Railway passes through it and goes on to Saharanpur. The town has a population of 22,639 and an area of 1.94 km.

Dhampur marks the historic site where the Mughal forces under Qutb-ud-din Khan suffered a crushing defeat in the middle of the 18th century at the hands of Dande Khan, the Rohilla chief. Subsequently it was devastated by Amir Khan (a Pindari chief) during the early years of the 19th century. In 1844 it supplanted Sherkot as the headquarters of the pargana and tahsil, the change being made on account of its more central position and greater accessibility. In 1929 the people of Dhampur accorded a warm welcome to Mahatma Gandhi who addressed a large gathering appealing to the people to join the civil disobedience movement.

In former days Dhampur was famous for its gunsmiths and a local workman obtained a prize for matchlocks at the Paris Exhibition of 1867. The local manufactures of repute are locks, brass candlestands, carriage ornaments and domestic utensils of brass and copper. *Kattha* (catechu), *gur* and *khandsari* are also manufactured here.

Dhampur has been administered as a municipality since 1866 and is divided into 6 wards. To the north of the town stand the tahsil buildings and to the south-east an old serai.

The place is electrified and possesses a branch of the State Bank of India, an eye hospital, 2 dispensaries, a primary health centre, an Ayurvedic college, a police-station, a sugar-mill, a Montessori school, a nursery school, 3 intermediate colleges, a degree college for boys and another for girls. It also has 3 inspection houses, one each maintained by the public works and irrigation departments and the municipal board, a dharmshala and a seed farm to provide good quality seeds to local farmers.

Dhampur also gives its name to a development block, inaugurated on April 1, 1957, which has its headquarters at Allahpur.

Haldaur (pargana Daranagar, tahsil Bijnor)

Haldaur is administered as a town area and lies in Lat. $29^{\circ}17'N$. and Long. $78^{\circ}17'E$., on the road running across the breadth of the district between Muzaffarnagar and Moradabad, about 18 km. south-east of the district headquarters. Another road runs due west joining it with Daranagar. The town is also connected with Bijnor on the north-west and Chandpur on the south by a railway line. The town has a population of 9,845 and an area 6.9 sq. km.

The town is believed to have been founded by one Halda Singh, an ancestor of the famous Chauhan family of Haldaur.

It has a regular market which is held twice a week and the trade is mostly in agricultural produce. It also has a primary school, a junior high school and a high school, an intermediate college, two dharmshalas, a branch of the Punjab National Bank, a police-station, a primary health centre and a women's hospital. A huge gathering assembles on the 8th day of the first half of the month of Chaitra when a fair is held here.

Jhala (pargana Daranagar, tahsil Bijnor)

Jhala is administered as a town area. It lies in Lat. $29^{\circ}20'N$. and Long. $78^{\circ}14'E$., on the road from Bijnor to Nihtaur, about 11 km. to the south-east of the district headquarters. Another road which is under construction will join it with Haldaur to the west. The Najibabad-Gajraula branch line of the northern railway links it with Bijnor in the north-west and Haldaur in the south-east. It is situated on a level plain, some 289 m. above sea-level. Formerly the place had mostly mud houses but now pukka houses may be seen in plenty. The town has a population of 9,106 and an area of 1.12 sq. km.

This town is of considerable antiquity and gave its name to a pargana as early as the days of Akbar. It has been a market town for a long time, markets being held once a week on Fridays the main commodities being gur, khandasari, wheat and rice.

The town is electrified and possesses a higher secondary school, 2 junior high schools and 2 primary schools.



Jama Masjid, Mandawar, Tahsil Bijnor

Mandawar (pargana Mandawar, tahsil Bijnor)

The ancient town of Mandawar lies in Lat. 29° 29' N. and Long. 78° 8' E., in the valley of the river Malin about 14 km. to the north of Bijnor. It is connected with Bijnor by a metalled road which crosses the Malin at Janderpur. This road runs onward to Nagal and is crossed by a road leading from Kiratpur on the east to Raoli across the Ganga on the south-west. The town has a population of 9,648 and an area of 1.45 sq. km.

Mandawar has great archaeological interest and its site, which has remained a subject of much speculation, has never been properly explored. From its ancient remains (large bricks, mounds, etc.) and the accounts written about it, it is believed to have been the site where Kanva established his *ashrama* and brought up Shakuntala, the daughter of Vishwamitra.

St Martin and Cunningham have indentified the place with Mo-ti-pu-lo of the Chinese traveller, Hieun Tsang, who visited this place in the seventh century and found that it was the capital of a Sudra kingdom. The town was famous for having the monastery of the Buddhist teacher Sungabhadra (who flourished here during the early days of the Christian era). His pupil, Vimal Mitra, was buried here in a mango grove close by on the western bank of the Malin. The *samadhi* still exists. The place was a stronghold of the Hinayana or •Lesser Vehicle sect of Buddhism.

Of the oldest existing structures is a raised mound to the south-east about 800 m. square. In the middle of this mound is a ruined fort some 90 m. square and rising to a height of nearly 2 metres above ground level. In the south-east corner of the fort stands the Jama Masjid built of large blocks of grey sandstone, probably the materials of an earlier Hindu temple. It is believed that the town was reinhabited in the 12th century after a considerable period of decay, by people from Meerut whose descendants still inhabit the place. Tradition has it that it was included in the dominions of Prithvi Raj of Delhi and it was only in 1193 that Shahab-ud-din G'ori captured it. It was visited by Timur during his march to Delhi in 1398, was sacked by Amir Khan, the Pindari freebooter and, during the upheaval of 1857, suffered a great deal at the hands of the Jat marauders of the neighbourhood.

A market is held twice a week in the principal bazar where agricultural produce and other essential commodities are brought from neighbouring places. In earlier days it was a flourishing mart for small articles of papier mache (such as boxes, pen trays and paper knives) and earthenware which were locally manufactured and were of some artistic merit but now the old art has vanished except for the manufacture of knives.

The place possesses an intermediate college, a dharmshala, a primary health centre, a police-station, a cattle pound, a higher secondary school and a junior high school. Fairs are held here in honour of Devi and Bale Salar in Chaitra and of Zahir Diwan in Bhadon.

Dharm Vira (a retired member of the Indian Civil Service) who has won appreciation at the hands of the Government of India for his administrative abilities, belongs to this place. He held the governorships of the States of Punjab, West Bengal and Karnataka (Mysore). Jwala Prasad, his father was also a very accomplished engineer and was the first Indian chief engineer in the irrigation department of the United Provinces in the early years of the present century. His engineering merits earned for him the title of raja from the British government.

Nagina (pargana and tahsil Nagina)

Though no longer the headquarters of the district, Nagina is still one of its principal towns. It lies in Lat. 29° 26' N. and Long. 78° 26' E., on the metalled road from Moradabad to Najibabad, about 30 km. to the east of Bijnor, while other roads radiate from it in various directions leading to Kiratpur, Nihtaur, Sherkot, Alzargarh, Kashipur and Darhapura. The main line of the northern railway passed through the town on the west, the railway station being about a km. from the main town to the south-west and approached by a metalled feeder road. The town has a population of 37,066 and an area of 7.77 sq. km.

Nothing is known about the origin or the foundation of the town but it appears that it remained for the most part a Muslim area as the very name 'Nagina' is a Persian word, meaning jewel. It also appears to have had very little share in history till about the days of Akbar, when it gave its name to a pargana. It loomed into prominence during the Rohilla supremacy when its old fort and several of the elegant though small mosques were built. In 1805 it was sacked by the Pindaris under Amir Khan. The Jama Masjid, which is a conspicuous building on an elevated and well chosen site, was built about 1867. Nagina has been the headquarters of a tahsil since the beginning of British rule and in 1817 became the seat of the collector of northern Moradabad, the change to Bijnor taking place in 1824, one of the reasons being that the drainage of Nagina was somewhat deficient and malaria as an epidemic was recurrent. Several fierce conflicts took place here during the struggle of 1857.

The chief public buildings of Nagina comprise the old Pathan fort, in which the tahsil and registration offices are housed, the dispensary, a fine brick structure standing on a raised and open site in the south-eastern outskirts of the town, a police-station and a cattle pound. To the east of the town, between the main site and the railway station, flows the Nagina canal, close to which there is an inspection house.

The town is electrified and is a municipality (constituted in 1866) for civic administration. The streets are for the most part paved with brick and the principal bazar has shops on either side. It has 3 intermediate colleges.

The place is the chief commercial centre in the district and a large trade is carried on in sugar, rice, cotton and other articles. It has long been celebrated for its iron work and in former days the matchlocks produced here had a wide reputation. Wood-carving in ebony, manufacture of glass phials (used by pilgrims from all parts of India to carry the sacred water of the Ganga from Hardwar) are the special industries

of this place. The glass used is of greenish brown colour and is itself made from an amalgam of *reh* and saltpetre. *Garha* and *gazi* are the two varieties of cloth manufactured here. Sunnhemp bags and ropes, as well as lacquered and painted goods are also produced in small quantities.

Najibabad (pargana and tahsil Najibabad)

Najibabad, which has been administered as a municipality since 1866, lies in Lat. 29° 37' N. and Long. 78° 21' E., at a distance of about 50 km. north-east from the district headquarters. It is situated at the junction of the metalled roads running from Bijnor on the south-west, Nihtaur on the south, Nagina on the south-east, Kot Qadir on the east, Kotdwara on the north-east and Hardwar on the north-west. The main line of the Northern Railway passes to the south of the town and from this point a branch line also runs to Kotdwara. The town has a population of 42,586 and an area of 4.30 sq. km.

Along the north-eastern outskirts flows the Malin river. The town is well above the flood level and is well drained by the ravines leading down to the Malin. There is a fair proportion of brick buildings in the town. The main bazar stands at the junction of the Bijnor and Nagina roads. The place is of considerable commercial importance, being a sort of trade centre between the upper doab and the hills. The principal articles of commerce are cloth, salt, sugar-cane, grain, sugar, timber and other forest produce. The articles which are mostly exported to the hills, include vessels of all kinds and metals, iron, copper and brass. Cotton cloth (both *garha* and *gazi*), blankets, shoes, other articles of domestic use and baskets woven from split bamboo (such as the *kanvars* in which pilgrims carry the Ganga water from Hardwar) are manufactured here. The sweetmeats of Najibabad are well known as are its carts and in former days it was celebrated for the excellence of its matchlocks.

The town was founded in the days of the Rohilla occupation and derives its name from Nijib-ud-daula, who made it the headquarters of the pargana instead of Jalalabad. In 1755 he built the great fort of Pathargarh or Najafgarh, which stands about 2 km. to the east and which is now in ruins. It was constructed of brick and stone, the latter having been taken, it is said, from the more ancient castle of Mordh waj. It was a square building and was surrounded by an embattled wall, with bastions at each angle and gateways on each side, the chief being that opening towards the town. The tomb of Nijib-ud-daula stands to the south of the town and to the north is that of his brother, Jahangir Khan, which was constructed in 1806. The name of Najib-ud-daula's son, Zabita Khan, is preserved in the name of the Zabitganj ward, comprises the eastern portion of the town. There are several other old buildings there, the chief being the palace of the nawabs in the north-eastern quarter which is used for government offices but little remains of the former structure except the fine carved entrance and a small portion of the frontage. Opposite the gateway are the remains of the nawab's *naubatkhana*. A spacious building known as Kotbi Mubarak Bunyad (so called because a son was born to Jalal-ud-din on the day he started its construction) stands to the north-east. In the Nawab-tola there is an old *baradari*, which is now in ruins. The

town was sacked by the Marathas in 1772 and in 1774 it passed into the hands of Shuja-ud-daula (the nawab vizir of Avadh) after which its importance declined. Nawab Muin-ud-din Khan took up his residence here. His son, Mahmud Khan, took a very active part in the 1857 freedom struggle and the town passed out of British hands. It was reoccupied by the British a year later, the palace of the nawab was destroyed and the town was plundered.

After the advent of British rule the only schools were *maktabs* and *pathshalas*. The first institution started on western lines was the Bullock school which was founded in July, 1892, Najibabad now has a degree college, 3 intermediate colleges for boys and another 3 for girls, 2 junior schools (one each for boys and girls) and 4 primary schools.

The place is electrified. The public buildings comprise the tahsil buildings, the police-station, the office of the income-tax officer and the registration office. Medical facilities are provided at a women hospital, a railway dispensary and an eye hospital. There is also a veterinary hospital in the town. There is a branch each of the State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bares State Bank and District Co-operative Bank. The place has been making rapid strides towards industrial development and has 2 aluminium factories, a sulphur plant, a blanket factory, an ice factory and numerous units of small-scale industries. In Jogirampur (about 5 km. to the south-east of Najibabad) stands the famous shrine (popularly known as Najaf-i-Hind as it represents a rough model of Hazrat Ali's mausoleum at Najaf-Ashraf in Iraq) of Saiyid Raju who was a distinguished Diwan to whom the Emperor Shah Jahan had presented the jagir of Jogirampur where the *dargah* was built during Aurangzeb's reign. This emperor greatly distrusted the confidants of his son, Shah Jahan, whom he had deposed and incarcerated. Saiyid Raju had retired to the *dargah* as he feared repression at Aurangzeb's hands.

The *dargah* was rebuilt by one Sheikh Ali Bakhsh and thereafter Nawab Raza Ali Khan of Rampur had it renovated.

The *dargah* is one of the holiest places for Shia Muslims in India, although it attracts a large number of people from other religions also (and from every corner of India) in the last week of May every year, when religious discourses (*majlises*) are organised in the hall of the shrine. The gathering often swells to forty or fifty thousand. It is also believed that the water from the fountain near the shrine cures many ailments, particularly those of the stomach and the skin.

Nihtaur (pargana Nihtaur, tahsil Dhampur)

The place, which gives its name to pargana Nihtaur, is a big town, standing in Lat. 29° 20' N. and Long. 78° 24' E., near the right bank of the river Ganga at a height of about 238 m. above sea-level, on a metalled road about 18 km. west of the tahsil headquarters and about 26 km. east of the district headquarters. The town has a population of 20,286 and an area of 5.88 sq. km.

It appears to have gained considerable importance during the reign of Akbar when it became the headquarters of a pargana. It has an old mosque with three fluted domes.

In 1856 it was given the status of a town area and it was only after nearly a century that it was raised to the status of a municipality (in 1972).

Nihtaur, which is the headquarters of a development block, possesses a high school, a higher secondary school, 3 intermediate colleges, a primary health centre and a branch of the Punjab National Bank.

Sahaspur (pargana Seohara, tahsil Dhampur)

The town of Sahaspur is situated in Lat. 29° 7' N and Long. 78° 37' E., in the south of pargana Seohara, adjoining the Moradabad, border at a distance of about 26 km. south from Dhampur and about 64 km. from the district headquarters. It lies to the east of the Moradabad and Nagina road and from this a metalled feeder road leads to the railway station about 1 km. to the west. The town has a population of 10,567 and an area of 3.06 sq. km.

It is situated on high ground overlooking the Ramganga lowlands and is well drained by numerous ravines and channels which run pastward. In the eighties of the nineteenth century a Muslim resident of the place built a fine *serai* for the benefit of pilgrims journeying to and from Hardwar. This building, which stands by the road on the north-western outskirts of the town, has a handsome frontage and a courtyard. In 1971, Sahaspur was made a town area.

The local trade is carried on in cotton cloth which is manufactured here. The main market is a large open square containing shops. To the east of the town, in honour of Arif Ali Ashah, a Muslim saint, a large fair is held annually in village Ghauspur. The town has a high school, a post-office and a telegraph office.

Seohara (pargana Seohara tahsil Dhampur)

The town is situated in Lat. 29° 12' N and Long. 78° 35' E., on the metalled road leading from Muzaffarnagar to Moradabad, some 15 km. south-east of Dhampur and about 55 km. south-east of the district headquarters. Another metalled road from Moradabad to Najibabad also passes through it joining it with Dhampur and Nagina. Another metalled road runs due south-west joining it with Nurpur, the main line of the northern railway which runs between Moradabad and Saharanpur also passing through Seohara. The town has a population of 22,821 and an area of 27.20 sq. km.

Seohara is an old settlement of the Tagas. In 1856 it was made a town area and in 1974 it was raised to the status of a municipality.

It has a police-station, a sugar-mill, a dispensary, a primary health centre, 2 intermediate colleges, a branch of the State Bank of India and 2 inspection houses, each under the public works and the irrigation departments. A large fair attended by over 10,000 persons takes place here on the occasion of Dasahra.

Sherkot (pargana and tahsil Dhampur)

The town is situated on the road from the Muzaffarnagar-Kalagarh State highway, on the high left bank of the Khoh river in Lat. $29^{\circ} 16'$ N. and Long. $78^{\circ} 34'$ E., at a distance of about 6 km. north-east from the tahsil headquarters and about 45 km. to the east of Bijnor. The town has a population of 24,504 and an area of 5.37 sq. km.

Sherkot derives its name from Sher Shah and it remained the headquarters of a pargana during his reign as well as during the reign of Akbar. The history of the place remained almost obscure till 1805, when it was besieged and sacked by Amir Khan Pindari. Subsequently it lost much of its importance as in 1844 the pargana and tahsil headquarters were removed to Dhampur.

This is an old settlement of the family of Chauhan Rajputs whose palatial house, with two temples attached, stands just outside the town to the north-west. Part of the town is known as Qazi Sarai and derives its name from a well known family of Sheikhs, who held the office of *qazi* under the Mughals.

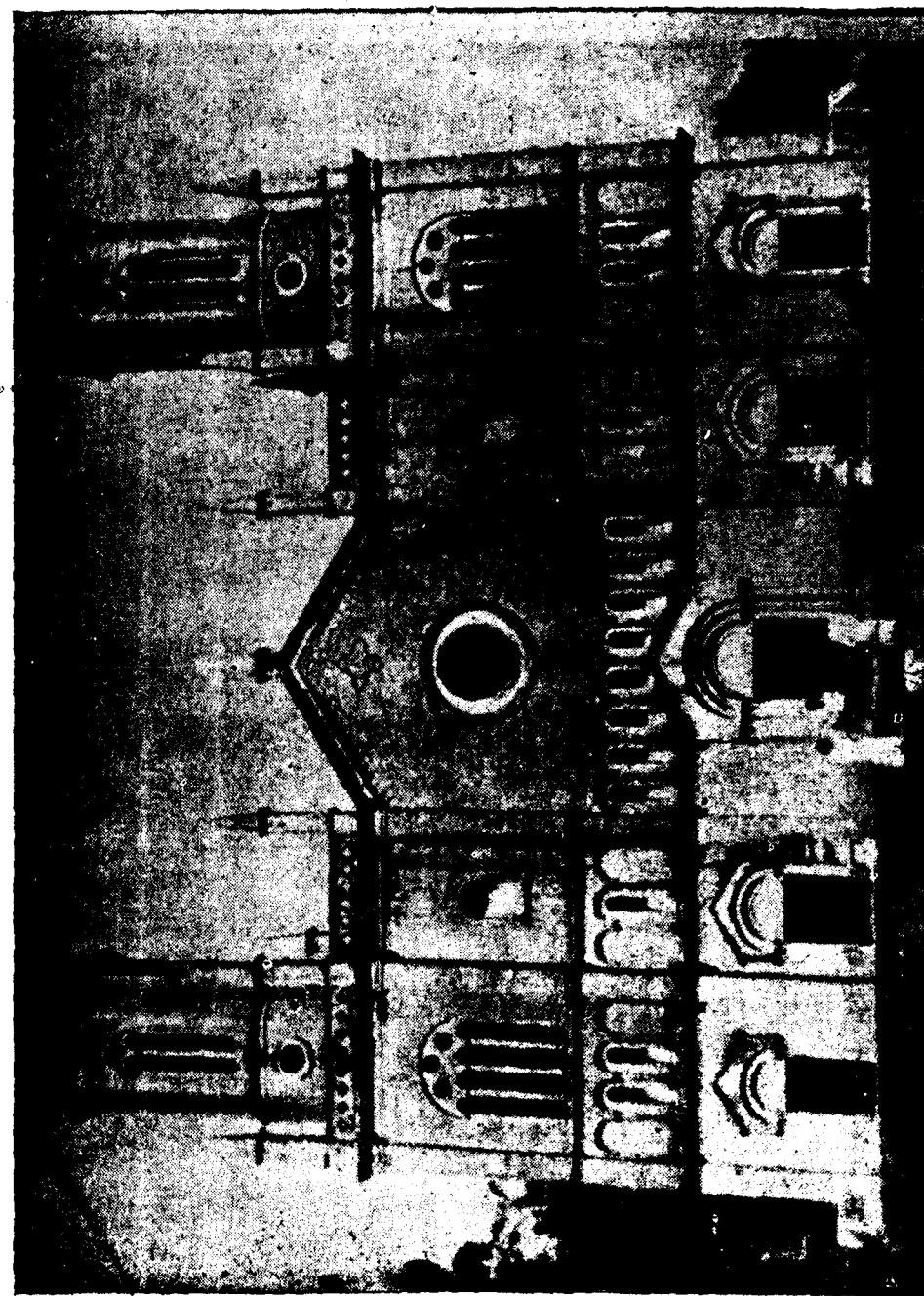
The place provides an encouraging industrial potential specialising in the brush industry which is famous all over the country. Wood sawing is another industry of the town. There is a post-office, a police-station, a co-operative credit society, 3 high schools, 3 primary schools and a government hospital. It is electrified and has a good drainage system, pukka roads and flourishing export trade in textiles, brushes, hides and skins.

Tajpur (pargana, Seohara, tahsil Dhampur)

Tajpur lies in Lat. $29^{\circ} 10'$ N and Long. $78^{\circ} 29'$ E., on the metalled road from Seohara to Nurpur, about 11 km. south-west from the former and 45 km. from Bijnor. A branch road runs northward to join the one from Nurpur to Dhampur, the distance from the tahsil headquarters being about 17 km. Its population is 7,275 and area 635 ha.

About the beginning of the 18th century, Balram Singh of the Taga family acquired large estates in the Azampur portion of pargana Bashta. His descendant, Jagat Singh, was given the title of raja by the British. He died in 1885 and his brother, Sham Singh, embraced Christianity and married an English woman on whose death he built a beautiful church in this place on the Seohara-Nurpur road in her memory. In its beauty and grandeur the Tajpur church (which is a Roman Catholic church) is believed to be second only to the one at Sardhana (in district Meerut). It is so situated that at the time of sunset when the sun's rays fall on it the statue of Christ in the church looks as if it is made of gold. There is a school attached to the church which provides education to the local children as are an orphanage and a small hospital.

The town is electrified and possesses a post-office, a primary school for boys and one for girls and a high school. It also has a government dispensary, a family planning centre and a small market, the main commodities changing hands being sugar-cane, wheat, paddy and printed cloth.



Roman Catholic Church, Tajpur, Tahsil Dhampur

CONVERSION FACTORS

Money

1 pie = 0.52 naye paise
1 pice = 1.56 naye 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 = 0.886 square metre
1 square mile = 2.59 square kilometres

• • 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) = 0.987 litre

Measure of Weight

1 tola = 11.66 grams
1 chhatak = 58.82 grams
1 seer* = 988.10 grams
1 maund* = 37.82 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 Weight Act, 1989

BIJNOR DISTRICT

Stupa	: A Buddhist building for keeping relics
Sutli	: A thin string made of sun-hemp
Suba	: A province in the Mughal period
Subahdar	: An official incharge of the administrative division of an empire
Tattvasandesa sastra:	A subject of study in Ancient India
Taxia	: Imitation of tomb of Hasan, generally made of coloured paper and bamboo
Thanas	: Police-stations
Thanadar	: Incharge of police-station
Tirthankara	: In Jainism, expounder of religion, deified hero or saint
Up-adhyaksh	: Deputy presiding officer
Upnayana ceremony	: Thread or initiation ceremony among Hindus
Up-pradhan	: Vice president
Up-pramukh	: Vice chairman
Urs	: Commemoration of death anniversary of Muslim saint at his tomb
Vaid	: Practitioner of Ayurvedic system of medicine
Vibhashas	: A subject of study in Ancient India
Waqfs	: Trusts
Yojana	: A unit of measurement of length (1 yojana = 8 miles)

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