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GAZETTEER OF INDIA
UTTAR PRADESH

DISTRICT HAMIRPUR

UTTAR PRADESH DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

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HAMIRPUR

BALWANT SINGH
I. A. S.
State Editor

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PREFACE

This is the forty-first in the series of the revised district gazetteers of the State which are being published under a scheme sponsored by the Government of India. The first official document of this type relating to the area covered by the Hamirpur district was published in 1874 and known as the *Statistical, Descriptive and Historical Account of the North-Western Provinces*, Vol. I, Bundelkhand Division, a work compiled by E. T. Atkinson. In 1905 an account of the district appeared in the Imperial Gazetteer, United Provinces, Allahabad Division and in 1909 was published D. L. Drake-Brockman's *Hamirpur : A Gazetteer*, being volume XXII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces which was supplemented by volumes B, C and D in 1913, 1924 and 1934 respectively. The different sources utilised in the preparation of the present gazetteer have been indicated in the bibliography which appears at the end of the book.

The work on the Hamirpur District Gazetteer was started in the time of Smt. Madhuri Srivastava, State Editor. It was continued under the able guidance and supervision of successors S/Sri D. P. Varun, Mata Prasad, Om Prakash, and Dr P. N. Mishra. In this task they were throughout and ably assisted by the Editors and the Compilation Officers.

My grateful thanks are due to my predecessors in office whose admirable work has greatly facilitated my task. These are also due to all the Editors, the Compilation Officers and others without whose sincere co-operation and help I could not have given final shape to the work so easily.

I should like to place on record my sincere thanks to chairman and members of the State Advisory Board, Dr P. N. Chopra, Editor, Gazetteers, Central Gazetteer Unit, Government of India, New Delhi, and to all others, officials and non officials, who have helped in bring out this volume.

Lucknow :
April 24, 1980.

BALWANT SINGH

FOREWORD

The revised Gazetteer of district Hamirpur is in your hands. The delays between the writing, printing, and final publication of this Gazetteer are regrettable indeed. These were for many causes at various levels and are not excused for that account. Ordinarily, the delays could be explained away, or ignored, but such an attempt would only weaken our resolve and effectiveness in future. It will remain our concern to go deep into our lapses, hoping that our admissions would work towards better and timely results.

2. The Gazetteer could also have been up-dated with the figures of the Census of 1981 but this would hold up its publication by some more years. District Gazetteer department is presently short of hands and there is a sizable lag of work of other districts. It is hoped that problems of the department will also be soon sorted out, our aims clarified, budget increased so that the Supplements to all the present Gazetteers based on latest socio-economic data are published within the decade.

3. The volume presents a broad and reliable profile useful for public concerned with the general affairs of the district. The Gazetteers are also much sought after documents containing material widely acknowledged as primary source of information, on the geography, society and economy of the district.

4. Needless to say we will be obliged if suggestions for the improvement of the Gazetteer in the light of our common experience of forty years of nation's independence, are sent to the department.

18th April, 1988,
Jawahar Bhawan, Lucknow.

(D. S. RAWAT)
STATE EDITOR

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Origin of Name of District

The district is named after its headquarters town of Hamirpur, which was founded by one Hamira Deva, a Kalchuri Rajput, in the eleventh century. Having been driven out of Alwar by the Muslims he originally took refuge here with one Badna Ahir, whose name still survives in the neighbouring village of Badanpur, with its remains of an ancient *khera*. Hamira Deva later built the fort which is now in ruins.

Location, Boundaries, Area and Population

Location and Boundaries—The district lies between Lat. 25°7'N. and 26°7'N. and Long. 79°17'E. and 80°21'E. It is the central district of Jhansi Division and is bounded by districts of Jalaun, Kanpur and Fatehpur on the north, Banda on the east, the State of Madhya Pradesh on the south and districts of Jhansi and Jalaun on the west.

Area—According to the central statistical organisation the district covers 7,192 sq. km. and stands 11th in the State in respect of area.

Population—At the census of 1971 the district stood 43rd in the State with a population of 9,88,215 (females 4,62,100), the rural population being 8,90,259 (females 4,17,003) and the urban 97,956 (females 45,097).

History of District as Administrative Unit

In ancient days doubtless the area included in the district was largely covered with forest and was inhabited almost certainly by aborigines like Gonds, Kols and Bhils. There is reason to believe that during the first three centuries of the Christian era, Bundelkhand, including the Hamirpur district, was subject to the Gupta dynasty, but the tribes maintained their autonomy while owing allegiance to the paramount lords of northern India. The earliest traditions connected with the district relate that it formed part of the kingdom of emperor Harsh Vardhan, with the local kings being the Brahmana rulers of Jajhoti. On the former's death

probably, Gaharwar rulers of Bundelkhand seized power. They were succeeded by the Parihars of Nagod and later by the Chandels of Mahoba about the middle of the 9th century. In 1182 A. D. Parmal Deva, the famous ruler of the area along with his Banaphar heroes Alha-Udal, was defeated by Prithvi Raja, the Chauhan ruler of Delhi. About 20 years later the tract was conquered by Qutb-ud-din, the lieutenant of Shihab-ud-din Ghuri, and with occasional interruptions remained in the hands of the Muslims till the close of the 17th century.

During the reign of Akbar the tract comprising the present district was divided between two subahs. The eastern portion of the district was included in the *mahals* of Maudaha, Khandela and Mahoba within the sirkar of Kalinjar, and subah of Allahabad, and the remainder was distributed over the *mahals* of Rath, Khandaut, Kharela and Hamirpur in the sirkar of Kalpi, in the subah of Agra.

In 1660 A. D. the tract comprising the district came into the possession of Chhatra Sal, the great Bundela hero. Shortly before his death in 1731 he drew up a will, by which he bequeathed to his ally, the Peshwa Baji Rao, one-third of his territory in which Mahoba was included, on condition that his heirs and successors should be maintained by the Marathas in possession of the rest. The larger part of this district fell to his second son Jagat Raj. The region continued under the government of his descendants, till 1790 when a portion of it was annexed by the Maratha chieftain, Ali Bahadur, who was the grand son of Peshawa Baji Rao by a Muslim woman, called Mustani. He died while laying siege to the fort of Kalinjar in 1802.

The area conquered from Bundelkhand for the Marathas by Ali Bahadur, with an estimated revenue of Rs 36,16,000, was ceded to British by the Peshwa, under the agreement supplemental to the treaty of Bassein, in 1803. In 1804, after Nana Govind Rao's defeat at Kalpi and the settlement effected with the Nawab Shamsher Bahadur and Himmat Bahadur Gosain, the British occupation of Bundelkhand was confirmed, and most of the tract comprising the district may be said to have come into the possession of the British. The Nana's possessions however were, with the exception of the town and fort of Kalpi and some villages on either side of it along the bank of the Yamuna, restored in the following year, and they included the pargana of Mahoba in this district. The tract of country remaining in the hands of the British was formed into a single district with headquarters at Banda. A very large extent of territory included within the

boundaries of this tract was comprised in the jagir granted to Himmat Bahadur Gosain; this stretched practically along the whole length of the Yamuna from Kalpi to Allahabad. It lapsed after the death of the chieftain in 1804. By 1805, Bundelkhand had been constituted a regular district.

In 1812 pargana Jaitpur was separated from the district and handed over to Kesri Singh as its Raja. On the other hand the zila of Kunch, which had been wrung from Jaswant Rao Holkar in 1805, but the revenues of which were handed over as a life grant to his sister, Bhima Bai Sahiba, was added to the Bundelkhand district. In 1817 this tract was enriched by the *ilaga* of Khandeh "appertaining to the pargana of Mahoba" comprising 43 villages given up by the Wali of Jalaun in consideration of the British surrendering their claim to military or other services from him. In 1819 the tract was divided into two districts, the part including Hamirpur lying roughly to the west of the Ken river being called northern Bundelkhand or Kalpi, and that to the east of that stream southern Bundelkhand or Banda. The headquarters of the former was first established at Kalpi but in 1821 it was shifted to Hamirpur. A joint magistrate and deputy collector were, however, stationed at Kalpi, retaining separate charge, of the criminal and revenue departments respectively of parganas Kalpi, Kunch and Jalalpur. In 1849 the separate charge of Kalpi was abolished. In 1853 Mahoba, which lapsed with the Jalaun state in 1840, and the Jaitpur Raj, which lapsed in 1849 on the death of Raja Khet Singh, were transferred to Hamirpur from the newly formed district of Jalaun, which received in exchange parganas Kunch and Kalpi.

In 1822 the supervision of affairs in Bundelkhand had been transferred to the central board which had jurisdiction over the provinces of Bihar, Benares and Gorakhpur, and sat first at Patna but afterwards at Allahabad. In 1858, the district of Hamirpur was added to the newly formed Jhansi Division, but in 1863 it was incorporated in Allahabad Division. In 1911 it was again taken out from Allahabad Division and added to the new Jhansi Division.

The district underwent several subdivisional changes. Until 1842 pargana Rath and Jalalpur had two small tracts, attached to their respective borders known as pargana Kharks and pargana Kharela. The former of these two was originally carved out of pargana Muhammadabad, Orai, Khandaut and Rath and merely meant the poor high-land on the edges of certain rivers; it was absorbed in tahsil Rath. Pargana Jalalpur, which was in 1841 enlarged from Rath

was also increased by a large part of the small pargana of Kharela. On the other hand pargana Mahoba some years later received from Jalalpur and Kharela 22 villages. Of these it retained 15, the remaining were transferred in 1864 to Charkhari in exchange for other villages now in Madhya Pradesh. In 1867 the headquarters of tahsil Jalalpur, which till then had been at the town of the same name, were transferred to Muskira, and in like manner the tahsil of Panwari was removed in 1865 from Sungra to Kulpahar. Again in 1876 the two parganas Panwari and Jaitpur were combined into one. In 1894, the tahsil of Jalalpur was abolished. The western part, lying roughly to the west of the Barma river, was incorporated in Rath and the eastern portion, lying to the east of that stream, under the name of Muskira, was incorporated with tahsil Maudaha. At the same time the combined pargana of Panwari-Jaitpur was renamed as Kulpahar. Thus the district then comprised tahsils Hamirpur, Mahoba, Maudaha, Rath and Kulpahar. Tahsil Hamirpur contained the pargana of the same name. Tahsil Maudaha contained the parganas of Maudaha and Muskira and tahsil Rath was divided into the parganas of Rath and Jalalpur. Tahsil Kulpahar had the single pargana of Panwari-Jaitpur. As many as 40 villages of tahsil Banda, district Banda having an area of 94,310 acres (38,166 hectares), were transferred to this district in 1925. In the same year tahsil Kulpahar was abolished but was recreated in 1948. Under "the Provinces and States (Absorption of Enclaves) Order, 1950", the district lost 1.4 sq. miles (3.6 sq. km.) to Vindhya Pradesh (now Madhya Pradesh) while it gained 338.8 sq. miles (877.41 sq. km.) from the former states of Bilhat, Garrauli, Naigawan, Raigawan, Rabai Jagai, Sarila, Baoni, Beri and Charkhari. Tahsil Charkhari was created in the same year out of the state of Charkhari. In 1953 tahsil Kulpahar was again abolished. Part of it was amalgamated with tahsil Charkhari and part with tahsil Mahoba. In 1956, six villages of tahsil Rath with an area of 17.2 sq. km. were transferred to tahsil Kalpi of district Jalaun. In October 1976 tahsil Kulpahar was once again created out of 103 villages of tahsil Mahoba and 169 villages of tahsil Charkhari. In the same year six villages of tahsil Maudaha were transferred to tahsil Charkhari and three villages to Mahoba. Two villages of tahsil Mahoba were transferred to tahsil Maudaha.

Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas

The district is now divided into six tahsils, Rath, Hamirpur, Maudaha, Charkhari, Mahoba and Kulpahar.

The subdivision or tashil of Rath forming the north-western portion of the district is bounded by district Jalaun on the north

tahsil Maudaha on the east, tahsils Charkhari and Kulpahar on the south and district Jhansi on the west. The Dhasan river separates this tahsil from district Jhansi and the Betwa from district Jalaun. Rath, the largest subdivision and tahsil of the district, has a population of 2,23,902 (females 1,04,923) and an area of 1,673.4 sq. km., and contains 202 inhabited and 57 uninhabited villages and the town of Rath, which has a population of 23,061 (females 10,694) and an area of 2.4 sq. km.

The sub-division or tahsil of Hamirpur comprises the north-eastern part of the district, and is bounded on the north by the Yamuna which separates it from the districts of Kanpur and Fatehpur. On the east lies the district of Banda and on the south tahsils Maudaha and part of tahsil Rath, which is separated from the tahsil by the Dhasan river. On the west it is bounded by district Jalaun. The tahsil has a population of 1,64,417 (females 76,401) and an area of 1,091.2 sq. km. and contains 148 inhabited and 46 uninhabited villages and the town of Hamirpur which has an area of 3.34 sq. km. and the population 14,783 (females 6,780).

Tahsil Maudaha is bounded by tahsil Hamirpur on the north, district Banda on the east, tahsils Mahoba and Charkhari on the south and tahsil Rath on the west. It has a population of 2,07,482 (females 97,296) and an area of 1486.54 sq. km. and contains 166 inhabited and 32 uninhabited villages and the town of Maudaha which has a population of 14,639 (females 6,780) and an area of 1.04 sq. km.

Tahsil Charkhari is bounded by tahsils Rath and Maudaha on the north. On the east lies part of tahsil Maudaha and tahsil Mahoba which forms the southern boundary also. The western boundary is formed by tahsil Kulpahar. The tahsil has a population of 90,478 (females 42,422) and an area of 837.9 sq. km. and contains 85 inhabited and 31 uninhabited villages and the town of Charkhari which has a population of 15,776 (females 7,317) and an area of 7.8 sq. km.

Tahsil Mahoba is bounded on the north by tahsil Maudaha. On the east lies district Banda. The south-eastern and southern boundaries are formed by the State of Madhya Pradesh. On the west lie tahsils Charkhari and Kulpahar. The population of the tahsil is 1,36,803 (females 63,588) and the area 983.0 sq. km. It contains 104 inhabited and 8 uninhabited villages and the town of Mahoba which has a population of 29,707 (females 13,875) and an area of 8.2 sq. km.

Tahsil Kulpahar, comprising the south-western portion of the district is bounded by tahsil Rath on the north. On the east

lies tahsil Charkhari and on the south-east tahsil Mahoba. The southern and south-western boundaries are formed by the State of Madhya Pradesh which has two enclaves of this tahsil one comprising a single village and the other ten villages. On the west the Dhasan river separates it from district Jhansi. Its population is 1,65,133 (males 77,450) and the area 1211.4 sq. km. There are 225 inhabited and 47 uninhabited villages in the tahsil

Thanas—There are twenty Thanas (Police-Station) and 15 out posts in the district. The *thanas* of Kotwali, Mahoba and Kulpahar are included in the S. P. circle looked after by the superintendent of police. The Sadar circle comprises the *thanas* of Kurara, Bewar, Muskira, Rath, Panwari, Mahobkanth, Majhganwa, Jaria and Jalalpur, while the Sumerpur, Maudaha, Khanna, Kabrai, Srinagar, Ajnar, Charkhari and Kharela police-stations are located in the Mahoba circle.

TOPOGRAPHY

The district has distinct features of the Bundelkhand region. In the south numerous outcrops of gneiss rocks, tending to cluster into low ranges, surrounded by uneven broken tracts and covered for the most part with stunted jungle are succeeded by a more level tract in which the hills grow sparser. At the base of these hills lie the villages which they have partly helped to form and in many places, large and artificially formed lakes. From them stretches northward the alluvial plain as far as the Yamuna river, differing from the familiar doab aspect only in its treelessness, paucity of villages and predominance of waste land. The dividing line between these two tracts runs roughly east and west through the town of Rath, though in the latitude of that place but few hills are found. A few km. further south the hills become more frequent and the three southern tahsils Charkhari, Kulpahar and Mahoba may fairly be described as hilly tracts, though the rocky outcrops seldom exceed 100 or 130 m. above the land at their base. To the north of the town of Rath no hills are found and there is nothing to relieve the monotonous stretch of black cotton soil, which breaks up into barren ravines as it approaches the banks of the large rivers and into less infertile though no less unsightly *rakar* hillocks along the smaller streams.

Hills

The course of the hills may nearly always be traced running in narrow chains rather east of north and west of south, frequently

dipping under the soil and reappearing at intervals of 1.6 to 6 km. The most marked among these chains is that which runs from Nawgong to Mahoba, and there is another stretching from Ajnar to Kulpahar, the most conspicuous peak amongst them being the high hill rising over Salat in tahsil Charkhari. The summits of the higher rocks often contain a large admixture of felspar and exhibit a great variety of grain and colour, ranging from bluish grey to whitish pink. In the lower strata the felspar is less conspicuous and hornblende predominates, giving the rock a dull green colour, often almost black, from which it derives its well known name *tehiya* (greenstone).

The rivers and streams constituting the natural drainage line of the district play an important role in fashioning the topography of the district. Their course, with the exception of the Urmel which forms the southern boundary of the district and the Yamuna, which forms the northern boundary, is from south to north-east. Owing to the steep slope, they carry off the surplus water quickly but as they advance they cut deeper beds and in every case cause considerable scouring. The Barma river practically divides the district into two equal parts; the western part is drained by the Parwaha and is much less broken than that to the east. East of the Barma the watershed lies close to that river and there is generally a steeper gradient which is reflected in the more easterly trend of the streams. Though they provide a ready means of escape for the rainfall, which is often heavy, in the tract, all these channels are destructive and tend to spread. By denuding the surface soil in the hilly tracts and by carrying off the organic matter and other soil constituents in the level plains, they are constantly and steadily impoverishing the soil, except where the land is protected by embankments.

The general slope and the steepness of the gradient may be clearly depicted by two lines of levels taken in the east and in the west of the district. The recorded levels of Ajnar in tahsil Mahoba is 222.50 m. above the sea level. This falls to 197.51 m. at Jaitpur, to 170.32 m. at Panwari a little to the west and at Rath to 160.32 m. and rapidly diminishes towards the north. At Gohand, north of Rath, the level is 151.18 m., at Jalalpur 129.84 m. and only 123.75 m. at Kurara in the tract between the Yamuna and the Betwa. The easterly portion is throughout lower. On the district boundary south of Srinagar in tahsil Mahoba, the recorded level is 221.80 m. some what less than at Ajnar which is further north. This falls to 195.98 m. at Mahoba, to 160.02 m. at Kabrai, and to 137.16 m. at Surha in the north of tahsil Mahoba. At Maudaha it

drops to 121.61 m. and at Sumerpur to 115.51 m. above the sea-level. The same characteristic is found in the district as that in the contiguous tracts; a steady slope from south to north is combined with one from west to east, and has deflected in the same direction all the drainage channels of the district.

RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

The main rivers of the district are the Yamuna and its tributaries, the Betwa, the Dhasan and the Ken. There are a number of minor streams which are for the most part mere torrents. They are swollen to considerable dimensions during the rains, but at other times quickly subside into narrow streams with a very small discharge. In the upper portion of their courses the smaller channels have low but abrupt sides occasionally covered with small scrub jungle, but as they advance they cut deeper beds much below the level of the surrounding country, the land in the immediate vicinity becoming more and more scoured and uneven. Their course is often tortuous and frequently brings considerable areas within the reach of its destructive action and as they approach the rivers they occasionally create varying strips of rich alluvial land along their beds. These streams generally follow the slope of the country flowing either into the Yamuna itself in a north-easterly direction or into one of its tributaries.

Rivers

Yamuna—The river first touches the district at the village of Haraulipur in tahsil Hamirpur, where it forms a sudden loop. Flowing thence due east to Jamrehi Tir, it curves abruptly south to Sikrohi and then continues south-east past Hamirpur to Baragaon where the Betwa joins it. From this point to the district boundary it follows an easterly course, arching to the north, its total length within the district being approximately 56 km. The stream is well below the level of the southern bank which with few exceptions forms an abrupt cliff in marked contrast to the shelving northern bank. Stretching inland from the cliff for varying distances are ravines carved out by the force of rain; only at Jamrehi Tir and below the town of Hamirpur there are good alluvial tracts. There are several *kankar* shoals in the bed of the river. The bed between Misripur and Jamrehi Tir is occupied by large stretches of sand, the channel shrinking in places to small dimension: but in the rains these are submerged and the river forms a fine stretch of water. For the rest of its course it generally sets well into the southern bank leaving no room for sand or alluvial deposits.

Betwa—This river flows along the north-western border of the district from the point where the Dhasan joins it to the village of Kuprat separating tahsil Rath from district Jalaun. It enters the district near the village of Beri and flows separating tahsils Rath and Maudaha from tahsil Hamirpur which it enters near the village of Parsani and traversing through the tahsil it joins the Yamuna some 10 km. east of Hamirpur. The distance from its junction with the Dhasan to the village of Bahdina (in tahsil Rath) in a straight line does not exceed 65 km.; but it is nearly doubled by the numerous loops the river forms in its tortuous course. From Bahdina to its junction with the Yamuna its channel curves gently from north then south. The banks, except at the end of its course in tahsil Hamirpur, are precipitous and very little alluvial soil is formed between the river and the cliffs. In the upper reaches rocks and boulders occur in a few places in its bed, but for the most part the bed is sandy. The banks except in the last few km. are usually scoured with ravines. Like other streams of Madhya Pradesh it brings down large volumes of water in the rains, which quickly subside when the rainfall that produces them is over, the river shrinking for the rest of the year to a narrow stream.

Dhasan—The river first touches the district at Lahchura Ghat and runs northward in a tortuous course separating this district from district Jhansi as far as its junction with the Betwa at the village of Chandwari. For some kilometres after leaving Lahchura Ghat its bed is rocky, but it soon becomes sandy and continues thus for the remainder of its course. Like the Betwa the banks are eroded by ravines, but these are less extensive on the Hamirpur than on the Jhansi side.

Barma—This stream, a tributary of the Betwa, rises in the hilly tract west of Jaitpur in tahsil Kulpahar. Receiving the Gunchi at Itaura in tahsil Kulpahar, it gradually gathers volume and becomes broader. Turning definitely north-east at Kaitha it is joined by a considerable affluent, the Arjun, 13 km. south-east of Rath, and continues in the same direction till it joins the Betwa at Kupra. In the latter portion of its course it separates pargana Jalalpur of tahsil Rath from pargana Muskira of tahsil Maudaha. The upper reaches are rocky and lie deep below the level of the surrounding tracts, but the watersheds terminate a few kilometres from the stream and little land suffers from the erosive action of its tributaries. After it leaves pargana Rath the tributaries become more frequent and form extensive ravines that invade the fertile plains of Muskira and Rath and hardly compensate for the deterioration they cause by depositing occasional patches of alluvial

silt. Throughout its course the Barma is extremely tortuous. It is a perennial stream.

Parwaha—It is a small torrent which flows through parts of parganas Jalalpur and Rath. It joins the Betwa some 8 km. west of Jalalpur. The stream is exceedingly destructive but completely dries up after the rains.

Ken—The only other large river that touches the district is the Ken which, flowing north-eastward for some 29 km., forms the boundary between tahsil Maudaha and district Banda. It is of little importance in district Hamirpur. There are no ravines along its bank, but it has exercised an important influence through its tributaries.

Chandrawal—The chief tributary of the Ken is the Chandrawal which rises in numerous tentacles north-west of Mahoba and running north-eastward through tahsils Charkhari and Maudaha seeks its way to the Ken river through tahsil Banda. Together with its winding affluents the Sihu and the Karonan on the left and the Shiam on the right bank, it has caused considerable deterioration along its course.

Urmel—In the extreme south of Mahoba tahsil the drainage finds its way into the Urmel. This stream which is a picturesque rocky torrent with low banks covered with jungle trees, flows from west to east forming the boundary between this district and the State of Madhya Pradesh and finally joining the Ken.

Lakes

The thoroughness of the natural drainage does not permit the formation of *jhils*. Nor is the bulk of the district naturally of such a character as to form lakes. But in tahsils Mahoba, Charkhari and Kulpahar the position of hills and the course of streams draining between two rocky outcrops has been utilized to form artificially those lakes for which Hamirpur is famous. The common feature in all of them is a massive embankment built of huge square blocks of stone thrown across the line of drainage between two hills. There are more than forty such lakes in the district. The fine sheet of water near Jaitpur, called the Bela Tal is the largest which when full is between 13 km. and 15 km. in circumference. Among other large lakes are the Bijaisagar, Madan Sagar and Kirat Sagar. Both tradition and historical research ascribe the construction of these noble lakes to Chandels, who flourished from 9th to the 12th century A. D., and few dynasties have left such splendid monuments of their rule. The

purpose for which they were intended is obscure. No traces of old sluices or canals have been discovered to suggest that the object with which they were built was irrigation; and though cultivators may have put their water occasionally to this use, it is probable that they were intended to be ornamental, and in part to supply water for the large game preserves which the old potentates delighted to maintain. The smaller lakes and tanks, though useful as reservoirs of water for cattle, were probably constructed as an adornment to the temple which is invariably found on their banks. The beauty of some of these lakes, especially in so parched a country as Bundelkhand must be seen to be appreciated, and few more effective scenes can be found in the plains of northern India than the broad sheet of water, with its massive embankment and background of thick foliage, which forms the lake of Bijaisagar.

GEOLOGY

The district forms part of the northern fringe of Peninsular India coming in contact with the Gangetic alluvium. It has an important place in the geology of the country owing to the presence of pre-cambrian rocks, probably the oldest ones in the Indian subcontinent to be found in a compact, linear east-west stretch.

During the last few years the geological survey of India has carried out regional geological mapping of most of the area its mineral appraisal through detailed mapping and geophysical and geochemical investigation where necessary, for identification of pyrophyllite, clays and base metals.

Minerals

Pyrophyllite and Diaspore—It is a moderately soft mineral, light pink, greyish, white, or brownish black in colour, and generally used in paints, as filler in paper industry, cosmetics, ceramics and as potstone. It is specially used in the manufacture of slate pencils and is sometimes called pencil stone. It is very useful in wall tile products because it increases maturing and firing range and reduces cracking due to thermal shock, moisture expansion, fire cracking shrinkage and hence warpage die wear.

In this area, it is often associated with diaspore occurring in the form of geode like bodies as shining crystals upto 3 to 3.5 cm. in length, used in high alumina refractory bricks, alone or banded with flint/plastic clay. The estimated deposits at Gorahri and Basela are 2,32,000 and 1,00,000 tonnes respectively. It also

occurs at Girwar, while Turra Gypsum is available in Surite, Puraini and Pardhi.

In the past, granite was quarried from every hill. There was a soapstone quarry near Gaurahri in Kulpahar, from which toys, vassels dishes and a variety of articles were made. Besides *kankar* and *gitti*, stone lime from Kalinjar and Chhatarpur used to be in much demand.

Seismicity

No earthquake of any consequence has been located in the district in the last 200 years. The district has, however, experienced on a few occasions earthquakes originating in the Himalayan boundary fault zone, Moradabad fault and Narmada Tapti fault zones. The prominent among these were the Dharchula earthquake of August 28, 1916, Rewa earthquake of June, 2, 1927, Bihar-Nepal earthquake of January 15, 1934, the Bulandshahr earthquake of October 10, 1956, the Kap Kote earthquake of December 28, 1958 and the Moradabad earthquake of August 15, 1966.

According to seismic zoning map of India the district has been shown in zone one which corresponds to a maximum intensity of V Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale (I-not felt and XII-total damage) of 1931.

FLORA

The flora of the district is characterised by northern tropical, dry, deciduous vegetative growth. The northern half of the district is not distinguished by tree growth of any sort-in fact it is singularly bare. On black soil the hardy babul grows spontaneously, and in the riverine tracts there is generally mixed jungle of small and stunted type. The babul is useful for the construction of ploughs and carts. The *khair* (*Acacia catechu*) is a common tree, and the other trees include the *hingol*; *karaunda* (*carisa opaca*) and *karil* (*caparia decidua*). The seed-pods and leaves of the *karaunda* are much appreciated by goats and form a useful fodder in famine years. In the south, in tahsils Charkhari, Kulpahar and Mahoba, the hills as well as considerable level stretches are covered with forests. The tree that grows in the great profusion in these forests is *tendu*. Other common species besides the *mahua* (*Mudhuca indica*) are the *semal* (*Salmalia malabarica*) *dudhi* (*Holarrhena antidyssentrica*), *dhawa* (*Anogeissus latifolia*) *gurja* (*Lanned coromandelica*), *dhak* (*Butea monosperma*), *rioni khair* and *kardhai* (*Anogeissus pendula*).

How far these forests extended to the north at the beginning of the 19th century is now hard to discover. But fully one-third of the district appears at that time to have been densely wooded. There are remains of enclosed preserves and hunting towers of an even older date. During the early years of British rule rapid strides were made in clearing the forest. The question of their conservancy was under discussion during the years from 1878 to 1880 and the tracts were inspected by a forest officer. The conclusion arrived at, as summed up by the government, was that the area of the forest land was insignificant and the growth scanty. The settlement officer Neale, at the same time, arranged that every portion of the forest should have 10 years' uninterrupted growth. The total area to which this arrangement was applied was 2,657 hectares. With the conclusion of the settlement of 1880 the conditional settlement of these hill jungles was also terminated. Mr. Carr, assistant conservator of forest, was instructed to examine and report on their condition and as a result of his report it was decided to protect the areas of forest land here alluded to together with other areas totalling in all 4,870 hectares. The forests lay mainly in tahsils Mahoba, Kulpahar and Charkhari. The question of preservation of babul forests was also taken up and it was decided to acquire certain areas of babul bearing tracts. Accordingly two blocks of land measuring 1,127 hectares and 672 hectares in tahsil Maudaha were acquired in 1912 and handed over to the forest department. In the following years these areas were gradually declared as reserved forests.

The area under forest in the district remained practically the same in the twenties of the present century and till 1931, it was 5,083 hectares. It had dwindled to 1,895 hectares by 1941 owing to reclamation of much of the forest tracts for agricultural purposes. In 1951, after the merger of the erstwhile states, the area under the forest increased to 3,786 hectares, which rose to 4,226 hectares in 1961.

Now the forests are being scientifically managed and worked up on the basis of the working plans which provide perpetual sustained yield of forest produce for years to come. For the development of barren and degraded forest tracts plantation and rehabilitation works are being taken up with species useful for fuelwood, furniturewood, etc. At present the area under forest is 38,127 hectares.

From I to IV five-year Plans plantations were raised in the different parts of the district. Fast growing species were planted

and the rehabilitation of degraded forest was also undertaken. Plantations of trees such as mango, mahua, jamun, (*Syzygium cumini*), sissoo (*Dalbergia sisso*), siris, amaltas (*Cassia fistula*), gulmohar (*Deelonix regia*), pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), arjuna (*Terminalia arjuna*), kanji (*Pongamia pinnata*), bargad (*Ficus bengalensis*) and neem (*Azadirachta indica*) were raised along the public works department roads under the roadside avenues scheme. A large number of trees are also being planted annually under the Van Mahotsava Programme.

FAUNA

The wild life of the district has decreased considerably. Of the larger animals, the tiger (*Pantera tigris*) has become virtually non-existent in the district owing to indiscriminate shooting in the past, felling of forest, fire havoc and human interference. The leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is occasionally found in the rocky hills and forests of tahsils Mahoba, Kulpahar and Charkhari. It is destructive to cattle and occasionally to man. The bear (*Melursus ursinus*) can be seen but occasionally, though there is reason to believe that in earlier times it was a regular denizen of the forests. Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*) are found in the hills and ravines throughout the district. Jackal (*Cains aureus*) and fox (*Bulpas bengalensis*) occur everywhere, but are less numerous than in the north of the Yamuna, while pig (*Sus cristatus indicus*) abound and play havoc with the crops throughout the district. The nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamalus*) still haunt the forest tract, and large herds of sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) frequent the wide cotton plains. The gazella (*Gazella gazella*, *Gazella bennatti*) is everywhere found among ravines and in the hills. The hare (*Lepus ruficandatus*) is common only in the south. The monkey (*Macaca rhesus*) is uncommon, but in Mahoba and some other places troops of langur (*Presbytis entellus*) are exceedingly troublesome.

Birds—Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*), grey-partridge (*Francolins pondicerianus*) and quail (*Coturnix coturnix*), the latter of the smaller variety called the button-quail, are found throughout the district. The painted partridge (*Francolinus pictus*) is common in the hilly tracts and the common sandgrouse, plovers, blue-rock (*Columba livia*) and green pigeon (*Crocopus phoenicopterus*) are found in most places. Of migratory waterfowl (*Anatidae*) various species of geese, duck, and teal visit the district in the cold season, and find sufficient congenial quarters on the larger lakes to induce them often to prolong their stay till a later date than is usual in the plains. In the same localities and in tanks the snipe (*Charadriidae*) is also common at the same season; while numerous varieties of cranes, storks and waders of all descriptions congre-

gate wherever water is found. The avifauna of the district include all the usual species of doves, shrikes, rollers, parrots and other passerine and non-passerine birds.

Reptiles—Snakes and scorpions are numerous; and every year a number of deaths are reported from snake-bite. The majority of snake species found in the district is non-poisonous. Among the venomous snakes found in the district the chief are the cobra (*Naja naja* or *Naja tripudian*), the krait (*Bungarus Caeruleus*) and the Russell's viper (*Vipera russellii*). The crocodile of both varieties, *gharial* and *magar*, are found in the Yamuna and all the larger and sometimes even the smaller streams while the former river abounds in turtles or *kachhua* (*Trionyx gangeticus*) and porpoises. The chameleon and house lizards are common everywhere, the monitor lizard being found in the hilly tracts.

Fish—The rivers and the tanks of the district abound in fish of the usual varieties common to the plains. The chief species found are the mahseer, (*Barbus Tor*), rohu (*Labeo rohita*), tengra or kantua (*Mystus seenghala*), parhin (*Wallagonia attu*), saul (*Opheocopholus sp*), kalabanu (*Labeo colbasa*) and nain (*Cirrhina mrigala*). Other species such as moi (*Notopterus notopterus*), bhakur (*Catla catla* and bam or eel (*Rhynchobdilla aculata*) are also caught. Oil is extracted for medicinal purposes from the *saracha* and *sus*.

Game-Laws—The game laws in the district are governed by the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 which imposes a total ban on the shooting of fast extinguishing species such as tigers, leopards, etc. Rules and regulations pertaining to hunting and shooting are periodically published and are compiled in forest manuals.

CLIMATE

The Climate of the district is characterised by an intensely hot summer, a pleasant cold season and general dryness especially in the north except during the monsoon season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The summer season from March to about middle of June is followed by the south-west monsoon season, from mid-June to the end of September. October and the first half of November constitute the post-monsoon or transition period. The cold season is from about the middle of November to February.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the district are available for 10 raingauge stations, Hamirpur, Rath, Maudaha, Kulpahar, Mahoba, Khannah, Sarila, Charkhari, Belathal and Bijanagar, for periods ranging from 54 to 97 years. The details of the rainfall

at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in a Statement at the end of the chapter which are based on all available data up to 1970. The normal or the average annual rainfall in the district is 850.7 mm. About 90 per cent of the annual rainfall in the district is received during the months from June to September, July and August being the rainiest months. The variation in the rainfall from year to year is appreciable. In the fifth-year period 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall amounting to 158 per cent of the normal occurred in 1919, while the lowest annual rainfall which was only 36 per cent of the normal was recorded in 1918. During the same period the rainfall in the district was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 10 years, two of them being consecutive. Considering the annual rainfall at the individual stations, however, two consecutive years of such low rainfall are fairly common, occurring thrice at Khannah, twice at four stations and once each at 3 out of the remaining stations. Three consecutive years of such low rainfall also occurred twice at Belathal in the same fifty year period. The following statement shows that the annual rainfall in the district was between 100 mm. and 1200 mm. in 36 years out of fifty.

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
301—400	2	901—1000	6
401—500	1	1001—1100	9
501—600	4	1101—1200	4
601—700	5	1201—1300	1
701—800	4	1301—1400	1
801—900	13		

On an average there are 42 rainy days (days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 36 at Khannah to 47 at Mahoba.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 334.0 mm. at Maudaha on September 30, 1923.

Temperature

There is no meteorological observatory in the district. The description which follows is based on the records of observatories in the adjoining district where similar climatic conditions prevail. From about the beginning of March temperatures begin to increase rapidly. May and the early part of June are generally the hottest part of the year. The mean daily maximum temperature in May is about 43° C. and the mean daily minimum about 28° C. The heat during the summer is intense, the maximum temperature on individual days sometimes reaching 45° C. or more. With the ad-

vance of the monsoon into the district by about the middle of June is an appreciable drop in temperature and the weather becomes more bearable. In September due to breaks in the south-west monsoon, day temperatures increase slightly. In October while days are as hot as in September nights become cooler. After October temperatures decrease steadily. In January which is usually the coldest month, the mean daily maximum temperature is about 24° C. and the mean daily minimum about 10° C. During the cold season, in association with the passing western disturbances, cold waves affect the district and the minimum temperature sometimes drops down to about 2 or 3° C.

Humidity

During the monsoon season the relative humidity is high, being over 70 per cent. Thereafter humidities decrease progressively and by summer, which is the driest part of the year, relative humidities in the afternoons go down to 25 per cent or less.

Cloudiness

During the monsoon season and for spells of a day or two, in association with passing western disturbances in the cold season, skies are generally heavily clouded or overcast. In the rest of the year the skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds

The winds are generally light with an increase in force in summer and the early part of the south-west monsoon season. During the period from November to April winds are mostly from the west or north-east. With the advent of April strong and scorching winds locally called *loo* continue to blow till it is replaced by the rain bearing winds in the south-west monsoon season. By May easterlies and north-easterlies also appear. In the south-west monsoon season winds are either from the south-west and west or from the north-east and east. By October easterlies and north-easterlies become less common.

Special Weather Phenomena

Storms and depressions from the Bay of Bengal during the monsoon months moving in westerly direction approach the neighbourhood of the district and cause widespread heavy rain and gusty winds. In the cold season western disturbances affect the weather at the district causing thunder-storms. Thunder-storm and dust-storms also occur during the summer. Rain during the monsoon season is often associated with thunder. Fog occurs on a few days during the cold season.

STATE
Rain

Station	No. of years of data	Normal rainfall							
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hamirpur	50a	14.2	20.1	9.7	6.3	6.3	60.5	268.0	291.3
	b	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.8	3.7	12.5	12.5
Rath	50a	15.2	13.7	9.7	5.1	8.1	81.3	297.7	288.8
	b	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.5	1.0	4.8	13.1	13.1
Maudaha	50a	16.0	14.5	7.1	3.8	7.4	68.8	252.0	277.1
	b	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.8	4.0	12.6	13.0
Kulpahar	50a	10.9	8.9	5.6	3.1	5.6	60.5	268.7	270.3
	b	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.6	3.6	12.0	11.8
Mahoba	50a	15.7	14.7	6.6	5.8	6.6	79.3	308.6	289.1
	b	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.8	4.8	14.1	13.2
Khannoh	44a	9.7	10.4	6.6	2.3	7.1	61.2	250.7	262.9
	b	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.5	3.1	10.5	11.5
Sarila	49a	12.7	14.5	7.1	5.1	7.1	78.5	262.6	257.8
	b	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.9	4.4	11.8	12.1
Charkhari (Maharajnagar)	50a	14.7	11.4	8.9	4.1	7.6	85.3	284.7	284.0
	b	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.8	4.5	13.3	13.1
Belathal	50a	12.9	8.9	4.8	3.6	2.3	60.7	297.9	296.9
	b	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	3.8	12.5	12.0
Bijanagar	50a	12.5	11.2	5.1	4.1	3.3	59.7	266.9	256.0
	b	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.3	3.8	12.4	12.2
Hamirpur (District)	a	13.5	12.8	7.1	4.3	6.1	69.6	275.8	277.4
	b	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.7	4.1	12.5	12.5

(a) Normal rainfall in mm.

(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more)

MENT—I
fall

Referenc Page No. 15

in m. m.					Extreme rainfall (in mm.)			
September	October	November	December	Annual	Highest annual rain-fall as percentage app. of normal year	Lowest annual rain-fall as percentage app. of normal year	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours	
							Amount (mm.)	Date
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
147.8	28.2	5.6	7.9	865.9	161 (1919)	31 (1905)	254.3	Aug. 7, 1943
7.3	1.3	0.4	0.6	43.3				
160.8	20.8	8.1	7.6	916.9	172 (1919)	40 (1918)	233.7	Sept. 8, 1891
7.4	1.1	0.5	0.7	45.8				
148.3	22.9	9	7.6	832.4	156 (1923)	31 (1918)	334.0	Sept. 30, 1923
7.3	1.4	0.6	0.6	44.2				
152.1	20.8	8.1	4.8	819.4	189 (1919)	29 (1918)	297.2	June 17, 1882
6.7	1.1	0.4	0.5	39.2				
149.9	31.0	11.2	8.0	927.6	152 (1919)	44 (1913)	287.0	June 17, 1882
7.4	1.3	0.7	0.6	46.9				
152.1	23.1	9.4	7.1	802.6	168 (1916)	38 (1918)	299.7	Sept. 24, 1916
6.1	0.9	0.5	0.5	36.3				
133.3	20.6	6.1	5.3	810.7	174 (1919)	26 (1918)	265.5	Aug. 26, 1916
7.0	1.2	0.4	0.5	41.8				
144.6	23.1	9.1	7.4	885.1	165 (1919)	36 (1918)	251.5	Sept. 12, 1906
6.8	1.2	0.6	0.7	44.8				
138.9	19.8	10.4	3.8	860.9	188 (1904)	32 (1905)	188.0	Aug. 17, 1945
6.5	1.5	0.4	0.4	39.6				
131.1	22.6	7.6	5.8	785.9	155 (1904)	35 (1905)	193.3	June 19, 1897
6.5	1.1	0.4	0.5	40.3				
145.9	23.5	8.3	6.6	850.7	158 (1919)	36 (1918)		
6.9	1.2	0.5	0.6	42.4				

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

ANCIENT PERIOD

The early history of the region covered by the present district of Hamirpur may be traced back to the Palaeolithic age as evidenced by the discovery of choppers, hand axes, and pebble cores made by chipping hard stones of convenient size and shape, at Lahchura. Polished stone celts of Neolithic age have also been excavated at Nakra¹. In primitive times the major part of the region was covered with forests and would have been inhabited by such forest tribes as the Gonds, Kols, Bhils, Kachhies, Kurmis, etc., whose existence is revealed through local traditions².

According to the Pauranic tradition the earliest known Aryan people who settled in this region, lying between the Yamuna and the Vindhya, were known as Chedis³. They were said to be an off-shoot of the Yadus (Yadavas) named after Yadu⁴, a descendant of Pururavas Aila, the progenitor of the lunar race⁵. They do not however, appear to have been an important people in the Rigvedic times as they are not mentioned as participants in the famous Dasharajna Yudha (battle of ten kings). However, their powerful king, Kasu, finds a mention in a *Danastuti* found at the end of a hymn in the Rigveda (VIII. 5. 37-38) making a gift of ten kings as slaves to his priest⁶.

After some time Sagara, the king of Ayodhya, subjugated the whole of northern India. After his death the second son of Vidarbha, a Yadava king, Kasika extended his power and became the king of Chedi, the land of Chedis¹ then comprising the tract between the Chambal and the Ken, which now corresponds to modern Bundelkhand², including Hamirpur district as well. It was due to the Chedis that the region was brought under the Aryan way of life. It also appears that considerable admixture took place between Chedis and the local non-Aryans³.

A few generations after the Chedi kingdom was conquered by Vasu, the eighth descendant from Kuru of Hastinapur, whence he obtained the epithet Chaidyoparichara (overcomer of Chaidyas)⁴. He founded a dynasty and was the foremost monarch of the day with the title of *chakravartin*. The controversy, whether to offer animals or only inanimate things in sacrifices, became active in his time. He was considered as an authority on *dharma* and he gave his decision that the practice of sacrificing animals was permissible⁵.

After his death Pratyagraha, one of his five sons, inherited the kingdom of Chedi⁶. It was king Subahu of Chedi, who gave refuge to Damayanti, the queen of the famous raja Nala of Nishadha, in her days of adversity⁷. A few generation later king Damaghosha of this line married Srutasarva, a Yadava princess⁸. A son born of this union was named Sisupala. He was invited by the Pandavas to attend the *rajsuya yajna* performed by Yudhisthir at Indraprastha⁹. As Krishna was given the first place of honour in the sacrifice by the Pandavas, Sisupala got enraged and heaped abuses on Krishna. Consequently Krishna killed him¹⁰. After Sisupala's death his son

1. *Indian Archaeology—1963-64-A Review*, Edited by A. Ghosh, (New Delhi, 1967), p. 45

2. Atkinson, E.T. : *Statistical, Descriptive And Historical Account of the North-Western Provinces of India, Vol. I, Bundelkhand Division*, P. 524

3. Raychaudhury, H. C. : *Political History of Ancient India*, p. 126; Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.) : *History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. I, p. 252

4. Rapson, E. J. (Ed.) : *The Cambridge History of India* Vol. I, p. 75; Macdonell, A. A. and Keith, A. B. : *Vedic Index of Names and Subjects*, Vol. II, p. 190

5. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 277-78

6. *Ibid.*, p. 252

1. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. I,

2. *Ibid.*, p. 252; Raichaudhuri, *op. cit.*, p. 129

3. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 318-19

4. *Ibid.*, p. 300—314

5. Pargiter, F. E. : *Ancient Indian Historical Tradition*, p. 118

6. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 300

7. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 301; *Mahabharata Adi-parva*, Ch. 186/25

8. *Ibid.*, *Vana-parva*, Ch. 65/43, 67-76; Ch. 66

9. *Ibid.*, *Sabha-parva*, Ch. 34/14, *Majumdar and Pusalker, op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 305

10. *Ibid.* pp. 303-305; *Mahabharata, Sabha-parva*, Ch. 43

Dristketu ascended the Chedi throne. He was, nevertheless, a friend of the Pandavas and went to see them in their exile¹, after losing the bet in gambling with the Kauravas, their cousin². He sided with the Pandavas against the Kauravas and was appointed one of the seven commanders of the army³ in the Mahabharata war which took place around 1,400 B.C.⁴.

The *Mahabharata* describes the Chedis as being blessed with knowledge of the eternal law of righteousness⁵. The Chedi kingdom was one of the principal Janapadas of those times⁶. It is said that its chivalrous Kshatriyas, acting on the advice of Krishana, humiliated their enemies by making them prisoners and gave joy to their friends⁷.

After the great Mahabharata war darkness descends upon the fortunes of this region and the district sinks into oblivion for a long period. The Chedis are not mentioned in the list, preserved in the *Puranas* of kingdomsthat flourished at the end of the Mahabharata war. They probably had come to an end with or shortly after the war⁸, their place being taken over either by the Haihayas or the Vitihotras⁹. But the Chedi kingdom is mentioned among the sixteen premier states (Mahajanpadas) of northern India, which flourished about 600 B. C. It roughly corresponded to modern Bundelkhand and adjacent tracts¹⁰, including this district, and was ruled probably by Vitihotras¹¹ whose power declined about the middle of the sixth century B. C.¹².

1. *Mahabharata*, Sabha Parva, Ch. 45/30

2. *Ibid.*, Vana-parva, Ch. 12/2, 51/17

3. *Ibid.*, Sabha-parva, Ch. 65

4. *Ibid.*, Udyoga-parva, Ch. 28/1

5. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 304

6. *Mahabharata*, Karna-parva; Raychaudhuri, *op. cit.*, p. 151

7. *Mahabharata*, Bhishama-parva, Ch. 9/40

8. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 323

9. *Ibid.*

10. Tripathi, R. S. : *History of Ancient India*, pp. 82-83

11. Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.) : *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. II, p. 9

12. Raychaudhuri, *op. cit.*, p. 141

Very little is known of the subsequent period, about the history of this region till the fourth century B. C. when Mahapadma Nanda who is described as the exterminator of the entire Kshatriya race¹ uprooted the Vitihotra dynasty and extended his own rule over this region including this district². After the Nandas were overthrown the district became the part of the Mauryan empire³. The Sungas succeeded the Mauryas but their rule was confined only to the central portion of the old Maurya empire including Bundelkhand⁴. During the rule of Pushyamitra Sunga (184-148 B. C.) Greek invasion took place probably under Menander⁵, whose coins have been found in abundance at Pachkhura in Hamirpur tahsil⁶. When the Sungas became weak, the Kanvas usurped the whole power in 72 B. C. and ruled like the Peshwas without uprooting the dynasty of their masters but reducing them to the character of nominal sovereigns⁷. Towards the end of the first century A. D. the district came under the domination of Kanishka (78-120 A. D.)⁸. After him the history of the district is shrouded in obscurity till about the middle of the third century A. D. when Vindhyaasakti (255-275 A. D.) rose to power near about eastern Malwa and occupied large tracts of what were till recently known as Madhya Pradesh and Berar⁹. Vindhyaasakti is probably not the personal name but the title of the founder of the Vakataka dynasty¹⁰. Vindhyaasakti's son and successor, Pravarasena I (275-335 A. D.) is the only ruler of the dynasty, who assumed the title of *Samrat* or emperor. He succeeded in extending the Vakataka hegemony and performed *Asvamedha Yajna*.¹¹ It seems that the district partly came under the Vakataka sway and partly under the Bharsivas, a branch of the Nagas, whose sphere of influence extended at that time from Gwalior and Mathura in the west to probably Varanasi and Mirzapur in the east¹².

1. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 32

2. Sastri, K. A. N. : *The Age of the Nandas and Mauryas*, p. 17

3. Majumdar, R. C. : *Ancient India*, p. 106

4. Majumdar, and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 95

5. Tripathi; *op. cit.*, p. 206; Puri, B. N. : *India in the time of Patanjali*, pp. 29-30

6. Drake-Brockman, D. L. : *Hamirpur : A Gazetteer*, p. 217

7. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 99

8. *Ibid.*, p. 114; Rapson, p. 588

9. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 217-18

10. Majumdar, R. C. and Atlekar, A. S. : *The Vakataka Gupta Age*, pp. 96-97

11. *Ibid.*, p. 98

12. *Ibid.*, pp. 25-28; 36-40; Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 169-171

About the middle of the fourth century A. D. the area falling in this district under the political domination of Samudragupta (321-375 A. D.) and continued to be a part of the Gupta empire still the beginning of the sixth century¹. In Budhagupta's reign (477-500 A. D.) the feudatory family of the Parivrajaka Maharaja in Bundelkhand rose to prominence under Hastin, whose records mention a general reference to Gupta sovereignty. The internal dissensions, that followed the death of Budhagupta, led to the partition of the empire. The Hunas also invaded India and occupied Central India and thus the country lying in this district now came into their clutches till Yashodharman of Mandasor inflicted a crushing defeat on the tyrannical Huna chief Mihirkula and thus the region passed into his domination². During the middle of the sixth century this region appears to have come under the sway of Tivara (563-80 A. D.), a Pundhava king of south Kosala³.

The next reference about the history of this district is gathered from the description of Huiien Tsang, who visited Bundelkhand in 641-42. He mentions the tract of which this district formed part as Chi-Chi-To⁴, which was about 4,000 li in circuit. Its capital was about 15 li in circuit lay more than 1,000 li to the north-east of Ujjain and more than 900 li to the south of Mahsavarapura. The pilgrim has stated that the region was fertile and yielded good crops. The country was ruled by a Brahmana king, who was a firm believer in Buddhism. The existence of only two Buddhist monasteries in this region indicates that Buddhist influence was on the wane. There were more than ten Deva temples. The king patronised men of merit and a number of learned scholars from other kingdoms adorned his court⁵.

The history of the district is again enveloped in darkness for about half a century after Harsha's death. During this period of political instability, a branch of the Gahirawara, descendants of raja Nala, might have come to settle at Mahoba and its immediate neighbourhood. The massive embankment of the Vijai Sagar (lake) and the construction of the lake itself in addition to lakes at Bilki

and Pawa in Mahoba pargana are assigned to the Gahirawaras¹. The construction of Kandaure Tal situated in the townships of Thana and Paswara, is credited to one Kandaure Singh, an officer under the Gahirawara raja. In addition to these some other lakes and tanks in the district are also ascribed to Gahirawara rulers. The antique origin of these lakes is attested by the rudeness of their construction². The other parts of the district were occupied by Gonds, Kols, Bhils, etc.³. A part of the district was held by the Bhars⁴.

During the first half of the eighth century Yashoverman, the vigorous ruler of Kannauj, who is credited with great expeditions and conquest, brought the district under his sway⁵. After the death of Yashovarman mist again gathers over the history of this district and is not lifted till the rise of the Pratiharas in the last quarter of the eighth century. The Pratihara ruler Vatsaraja established his supremacy over a large part of the northern India⁶. Bundelkhand including this district seems to have come under his sway⁷. The other important ruler of this dynasty was Nagbhatta II, who extended his kingdom far and wide. His most notable achievement was the defeat of Dharmapala, king of Bengal, and the expulsion of his protegee Chakrayudha from Kannauj, which was made capital by Nagbhatta II of his flourishing empire. But he himself sustained defeats about 809 at the hands of Govinda III, the Rashtrakuta king⁸. During these troublous days, a new power known as Chandel emerged in Bundelkhand region under Nannuka, who established an independent chiefship. The Khajuraho inscriptions, mentioning him as *pripa* and *mahipati*, confirm this fact⁹. Nannuka was very brave as verse 15 of the Khajuraho inscription number 4 refers to him as one whose skill in the use of bows and arrow reminded people of the great epic hero, Arjuna¹⁰. The traditional accounts, preserved in folk-ballads and stories, mentioned

1. Majumdar, *op. cit.*, p. 281; Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.): *History and Culture of the Indian People*. Vol. III, p. 64

2. *Ibid.*, p. 37

3. Majumdar and Altkar, *op. cit.*, p. 90

4. Cunningham, A.: *Ancient Geography of India*, pp. 405-606; Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. 112

5. Walters, T.: *On Yuan Chawang's Travel in India*, Vol. II, p. 25; Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.): *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. IV, pp. 12-13

1. Atkinson, *op. cit.*, p. 524

2. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, pp. 124-25

3. *Ibid.*, p. 127

4. Bone, N. S.: *History of the Chandellas of Hjabhukti*, pp. 5, 8

5. Tripathi, R. S.: *History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, pp. 194-95; 200

6. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 23

7. Puri, B. N.: *The History of the Gurjara Pratiharas*, p. 55

8. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, pp. 25, 26, 27; Tripathi, R. S.: *History of Kanauj upto Moslem Conquest*, p. 286

9. Mitra, S. K.: *The Early Rulers of Khajuraho*, pp. 27-29

10. *Ibid.*, p. 27

Chandravarman as the founder of the Chandel dynasty but Chandravarman might simply be "biruda" a term of praise of Nannuka¹. It is said that Mahoba was brought by Nannuka under his control by driving away the Pratiharas who had themselves gained their sway over Mahoba after overthrowing the Gahirawara². As the Chandels could not directly oppose the powerful Pratiharas of Kannauj, it is possible they wrested Mahoba from only a minor branches of the Pratiharas ruling there at that time³. Some other branches of the Pratiharas are said to have occupied the other parts of the district as well⁴. Like Panwari, which was originally named Paharpur is known to have been founded by a Pratihara Rajput. The construction of the fort at Ramgarh is ascribed to Raja Ram Parihar⁵.

After Nagbhatta II the next important ruler was Mihir Bhoja (836-885 A. D.) in whose reign Kannauj attained imperial greatness and who re-established the supremacy of his family over Bundelkhand region⁶. By accepting the suzerainty of the Pratiharas, the Chandels under Jayasakti, also known as Jejjaka or Jeja, who may have flourished in the third quarter of the ninth century, achieved a recognised political status even though a feudatory. The country ruled by the Chandels, was organised into a bhukti (province), called Jejakhukti after his name⁷. Jejakhukti coincides with modern Bundelkhand comprising this district⁸.

His nephew Rahila, as mentioned in Khajuraho records, was a great warrior and undertook works of public interest. The village Rahila, about three kms. south-west of Mahoba and an old lake with a granite temple on its bank, near Mahoba called Rahilasagar are ascribed to him⁹.

1. Mitra, S. K.; *op. cit.*, pp. 28-29

2. *Ibid.*, p. 29

3. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 16

4. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, pp. 125, 219

5. *Ibid.*, p. 207

6. Tripathi, R. S. : *History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, p. 236

7. Mitra, *op. cit.*, pp. 4, 32; Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 82

8. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 2

9. *Ibid.*, p. 33; Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, pp. 82-83

After the death of Rahila, his son Harsha, who succeeded to the throne and ruled approximately from 900 to 925, began to enhance his political power¹ by entering into matrimonial alliances with other contemporary powers². He is said to have helped Ksitipala identified with Mahipala³, the Pratihara monarch, who was still his nominal suzerain, to recover his throne of Kannauj from the Rastrakutas⁴. This valuable military service rendered by Harsha won for his family a high political status⁵.

The reign of Harsha's son Yashovarman who also marked with significant political developments⁶. According to Khajuraho inscription he was 'a scorching fire' to the Pratiharas and gave a great blow to their prestige⁷. The Kalachuris were also subdued and decline had set in the power of the Rashtrakutas. He made the Chandels virtually independent and made them one of the strongest power in northern India⁸ in the second quarter of the tenth century⁹.

Yashovarman was succeeded by his son Dhanga (950-1008 A. D.) who was one of the greatest ruler of his time and the Chandel kingdom achieved great prosperity under him¹⁰. The most important event of his reign was the final severance of all connections with the Pratiharas¹¹. He attained supreme leadership after inflicting a defeat over the king of Kanyakubja¹². Undoubtedly the mantle of imperialism fell from the Pratiharas upon the shoulders of Dhanga¹³.

1. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 83

2. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 33

3. Tripathi, R. S. : *History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, p. 250

4. *Ibid.*, p. 261

5. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, pp. 13, 35, 36, 83; Bose, *op. cit.*, pp. 22-26

6. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 54

7. Tripathi, R. S. : *The History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, p. 271; Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 83

8. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 38

9. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 54

10. Tripathi, R. S. : *History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, p. 277

11. Ray, H. C. : *The Dynastic History of Northern India*, Vol. I, p. 593; Bose, *op. cit.*, pp. 40-47, 50

12. Tripathi, R. S. : *The History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, p. 277

13. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 50

The boundaries of the Chandel kingdom under Dhanga extended upto the Chedi country on one side, and Bhilsa on the other. To the east, he retained his hold on the Ganga-Yamuna doab upto Prayaga where he ended his life when he attained the age of one hundred years by drowning himself in the sacred waters of the confluence of the Ganga and the Yamuna¹.

Firishta mentions that he was one of those few kings of northern India who responded to the call of Jayapala Sahi, ruler of the Punjab, to defend the country against the attack of Subuktgin of Ghazni. The combined army faced the invader near Lamghan about 989 but was defeated due to a snow storm². In 1008 Mahmud, son of Subuktgin, invaded India and Dhanga went to fight with Mahmud in support of Anandapala, successor of Jayapala³.

He was not only the builder of an empire but he also had the welfare of his people at heart. In order to dispense proper justice to his subjects he granted revenue free lands to learned Brahmanas so that they might settle into his kingdom and their services might be utilised by the king⁴.

Dhanga was succeeded by his son Ganda (1008-1017-A.D.). There is no epigraphic record or any other contemporary account of his short reign⁵. He was succeeded by Vidyadhara, who was undoubtedly one of the greatest rulers of this dynasty. His greatness is not based on conquests but on the heroic part he took in the defence of the country against the Muslim invasions, a fact praised even by the Muslim historians⁶. In 1017 Rajyapala, a Pratihara king of Kannauj, was defeated in an encounter with Mahmud of Ghazni and forced to make a humiliating treaty. The Pratihara king's submission to a foreign invader irritated Vidyadhara, who attacked Kannauj and killed Rajyapala. It resulted in Mahmud's invasion on the Chandel kingdom in 1019⁷. Realising the gravity of the situation Vidyadhara had already formed an alliance of the rulers of India to face the invaders⁸. A fierce though indecisive battle was fought between the armies before Vidyadhara made a

1. Mitra, *op. cit.*, pp. 60-61; Bose, *op. cit.*, pp. 45-46

2. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 85; Majumdar R. C., Ray-Chaudhuri, H. C. and Datta, K. : *An Advanced History of India*, p. 183

3. Mitra, *op. cit.*, pp. 66-67

4. Mitra, *op. cit.*, pp. 68-69

5. *Ibid.*, p. 71

6. *Ibid.*, p. 74

7. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 17; Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 56

8. Mitra, *op. cit.*, pp. 76-77

strategic retreat¹. Mahmud again came back with a large force to launch an all out offensive.

This time Vidyadhara, preferring strategy to war, adopted a 'scorched earth' policy and retreated before the Muslim army without engaging in any big fight, and Mahmud being afraid of penetrating much into the interior, had to return to Ghazni without much gain. Thus Vidyadhara happened to be the only Indian ruler of those times who distinguished himself by containing Mahmud's triumphant career and saving his kingdom from unprovoked destruction by the ruthless invader². Though the Muslim invasions undermined the position and prestige of the chandels and damaged the integrity of their organisation, but in the lifetime of Vidyadhara the strbility of the Chandel Kingdom was maintained. After his death the rot set in, his successors lacking the ability of their illustrious predecessors³. The Kalachuris thereupon defeated the Chandels in the reign of Devavarman (1050-1060 A.D.) and made them their feudateries⁴.

In the eleventh century the town of Hamirpur, which gave its name of the district, was founded by one Hamira Deva, a Kalachuri Rajput⁵, who came there from Alwar and took shelter with one Bunda, an Ahir. Bunda's name still survives in the neighbouring village of Budanpur, where remains of an ancient *khera* are found⁶. Having no male issue, Hamira Deva adopted his daughter's son Ram Singh, who the married with the daughter of a Rajput of Amlar in Banda district. He was offered, in marriage, the eastern portion of pargana Maudaha as dowry⁷. The remains of the fort built by Hamira Deva are still found in Hamirpur⁸.

The Chandels did not remain under the subjugation of the Kalachuris for long as Kirtivarman (1060-1100 A. D.), the brother and successor of Devavarman revived the fortunes of his dynasty, defeating the Kalachuri king, Karna Dev several times with the assistance of his own chief of the vassals, Gopala⁹. Lavish praise has been bestowed on his victories. An inscription found at Mahoba mentions, "just as Purosottama (Vishnu), having produced

1. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 65; Ray, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 691

2. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 62

3. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 89

4. Bose, *op. cit.*, pp. 69-70

5. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 171

6. *Ibid.*

7. *Ibid.*

8. *Ibid.*

9. Bose, *op. cit.*, pp. 74-75, 77

the nector by churning with the mountain (Mandara) the rolling (milk) ocean, whose high waves had swallowed many mountains, obtained (the goddess) Lakshmi together with the elephants (of the eight regions), Kirtivarman having acquired fame by crushing with his strong arm the haughty Laksmikarna, whose armies had destroyed many princes, obtained splendour in this world together with elephants"¹.

Besides being a military genius Kirtivarman paid close attention to public works. In addition to other constructions in various parts of his kingdom, he is credited with constructing the Kirat Sagar (lake) to the west of Mahoba. He was also a great patron of arts and letters. A highly philosophical drama like, the '*Prabodhacandrodayam*', was composed under his patronage. His reign is marked with the beginning of the series of Chandel coins³.

Kirtivarman was succeeded by his son Sallaksanavarman (1100-1115 A.D.) also mentioned as Hallaksanavarman in the coins issued by him⁴. He is reputed to have gained success over the Parmaras and the Kalachuris. He also successfully opposed the aggression of the Gahadvals, then ruling at Kamaunj⁵, and maintained the integrity of the Chandel kingdom⁶. Not only was he able to establish peace and order in the state but he also improved the standard of living of the people and raised the reserves of the royal treasury⁷. His successor Jayavarman (1115-1120 A.D.) having lost a portion of his territory to the Gahadvala ruler Govindchandra naturally felt distressed and disgraced and abdicated the throne in favour of his uncle⁸. Prithvivarman (1120-1129 A.D.) who did not succeed in restoring the lost glories of the Chandels⁹.

Prithvivarman's son Madanavarman (1129-1162 A.D.) pursued a vigorous policy, from the very beginning of his reign, in reviving the strength and organisation of the Chandel power¹⁰. He not only

1. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 75
2. Mitra, *op. cit.*, pp. 102-03
3. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 70
4. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 105
5. Bose, *op. cit.*, pp. 81-82
6. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 107
7. *Ibid.*, p. 105
8. Bose, *op. cit.*, pp. 83-84; Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 58
9. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 84
10. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 112

restored the lost possessions of his kingdom but even expanded his territories as far as the Yamuna in the north, the Betwa in the south-west, the Narmada in the south and Rewa in the east¹. Besides being a great warrior, he also patronised art and architecture. He is credited with constructing a lake at Mahoba which bears his name and probably the great Bela Tal also was built during his reign and under his order². The site of Madanapura, founded by Madanavarman, is now marked by a large mound covered with broken bricks and sculptures³. During the brief spell of his son Yashovarman's reign however nothing remarkable appears to have been achieved⁴.

His son and successor Parmardideva (1165-1202 A.D.), popularly known as Parmala⁵, was the last great king of the Chandel dynasty. He succeeded in keeping intact for a long period an extensive and sometime unconnected parts of the vast kingdom including Hamirpur district, which he had inherited⁶.

It was a widely held belief that so long as the three vows--to add Varman to the name of the kings, not to drink wine and not to kill a Brahmana--were upheld, the dynasty would enjoy divine protection. But Parmardideva, allegedly in possession of *paras* (the philosopher's stone) considered himself to be equal to gods, disdained to add Varman to his name and violated the other two restraints as well⁷. The legend goes that Parmardideva, in his young age had begotten a daughter from a concubine, and sent away both mother and daughter far from his kingdom. Twenty years later, the daughter returned but being unaware of her parentage, was introduced to the king's palace. At midnight the king, being thirsty asked for some water. A Brahmana servant, mistaking wine for water in a goblet left half empty by the girl, gave it to the king. The king, upon tasting the contents, was wild with anger with the servant and killed him. All three conditions having thus been broken, the dynastic moon-god proffered to mitigate the offence if the king gave a big feast to the Brahmanas and constructed nine pillars with obscene sculptures⁸.

1. Bose, *op. cit.*, pp. 85-90; Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. V., p. 59
2. Drake Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 131
3. Further, A. : *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh*, p. 173
4. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 118
5. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 93
6. *Ibid.*, p. 91
7. Atkinson, *op. cit.*, pp. 525-26
8. *Ibid.*, p. 526

The most important event of this king's reign was his conflict with Prithviraja III, the famous Chauhan king of Delhi. The latter's attempt to extend his territories led to a serious and sustained conflict between the armies of the two. The other reason attributed to this conflict is said to be that Brahmjit, son of Parmardideva, married the daughter of Prithviraja III against her father's will. This strained the relations between the two dynasties¹. But the bardic accounts—the *Prithviraj Raso* by Chand Bardai, the *Mahoba Khand* and the *Alha Raso*—on which reliance has to be placed in the absence of epigraphic evidence over this issue, have given slightly different origin of this conflict. According to Chand Bardai some of the soldiers of Prithviraja, while returning after the marriage of their king with Padmasen's daughter, were attacked and wounded by the Turks and had taken shelter in the royal garden at Mahoba. They were killed by the Chandel². To avenge the death of his soldiers Prithviraja advanced towards Mahoba³ with a large force. He stationed another large force at Hamirpur⁴. Tradition has it that Prithviraja destroyed the power of the Gands at Supa and held his camp there⁵. His next halt was near Sirsawagarh, on the bank of the river Pahuj, held by Malkhan, a valiant samanta, of Parmardideva. A bloody battle ensued for eight days in which Malkhan, after killing eight generals of Prithviraja, met a heroic death, whereupon Prithviraja himself took the command⁶. It is said that the fall of Sirsawagarh was due to the treachery of Mahil Parihar, the brother-in-law and samanta of Parmardideva⁷. Mahil nourished a secret feeling of revenge against the Chandels and hence he sided with Prithviraja. He was also responsible for Alha and Udal, the two Banaphar chiefs and the best warriors of the day, to have left Mahoba earlier to seek refuge in the court of Jaichand, ruler of Kannauj⁸. A number of localities are associated with the names of the champion brothers and their fame has travelled far beyond the limits of Bundelkhand⁹.

1. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 93

2. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 121; Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 93

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 93-94; Atkinson, *op. cit.*, pp. 526-27

4. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, pp. 170-72

5. *Ibid.*, p. 233

6. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 122

7. Atkinson, *op. cit.*, p. 527

8. Mitra, *op. cit.*, pp. 121-122; Sharma, D. : *Early Chauhan Dynasties*, p. 75

9. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 132

After the fall of Sirsawagarh, Prithviraja marched towards Mahoba and camped on the banks of the Betwa. Realising the gravity of the situation Parmardideva and his ministers, on the advice of queen Malhan Devi, decided to seek a temporary truce, and in the meantime summoned the two Banaphar chiefs from Kannauj¹. Prithviraja agreed to the proposal of having a truce for a few months, but he remained camping on the banks of the river, practically besieging the town².

As the two Banaphar chiefs had not been given a fair treatment by the Chandel ruler they were unwilling to come back at first after receiving the message. But Jagnak³, who had gone there as a messenger tried to persuade the chieftains to return by addressing them thus :

"The Chauhan is encamped on the plains of Mahoba; Nar Singh and Bir Singh have fallen, Sirswa is given to the flames and the kingdom of Parmal laid waste by the Chauhan. For one month a truce has been obtained : while to you I am sent for aid in his griefs. Listen, O sons of Banaphar : sad have been the days of Malundevi (Parmal's queen) since you left Mahoba ! Oft she looks towards Kannauj ; and while she recalls you to mind, tears gush from her eyes and she exclaims : 'The fame of the Chandels is departing' ; but when gone, O sons of Jasraj, great will be your self-accusing sorrow : yet think of Mahoba"⁴.

When the Banaphar heroes did not pay heed to his words the messenger appealed to their mother, who prevailed upon them that it was their duty to serve their motherland and persuaded her sons to return and defend Mahoba⁵. Jaichand, the ruler of kannauj, who was a bitter enemy of Prithviraja, sent some of his best generals including two of his sons also with a strong force with the Banaphar chiefs to help Parmardideva⁶. The Chandels were greatly encouraged on the arrival of the Banaphar chiefs as the head

1. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 122

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 122-23

4. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 133

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 133-34; Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 122-23

6. *Ibid.*, p. 123; Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 94

of the Kannauj army at Mahoba and preparations were made for the final encounter. Such a fierce battle ensued that it made even Parmardideva nervous. He left for Kalinjar with some of his troops, but his son Brahmajit alongwith the Banaphar heroes, Alha and Udal, continued the fight. The Chandels put up a strong resistance but they suffered in the battle serious losses and numerous casualties including Brahmajit, Udal, the sons of Jaichand and almost all the brave Chandel generals. Alha too was wounded. Thus Mahoba, the capital of Chandel kingdom was occupied by Prithviraja in 1182 A. D. He appointed Pajjun Rai, one of his generals, as its governor¹. Besides traditional accounts, the conflict between the Chandels and Chauhans and the defeat of Parmardideva are also proved by inscriptions discovered in Siva temples situated in Madanpura village. In one of these the names of Prithviraja and Parmardideva are given together while another mentions the conquest of Jejakhukti Mandala by Prithviraja in 1182 A. D.²

Prithviraja, however, does not appear to have been able to keep this part of the territory of the Chandels under his control for long³. Parmardideva repaired the damages caused by the enemy, and established his hold over Mahoba within a short time⁴.

The other parts of his territories were also recovered by him while Prithviraja was engaged in fighting with Shihab-ud-din Ghuri in 1191-92 and the death of Prithviraja in the battlefield gave Parmardideva an opportunity of further recovering his position⁵. But the Chandel power could never fully recover the shock of the defeat at the hands of the Chauhans and Mahoba appears to have been abandoned as seat of government which was henceforth at Kalinjar. Here Parmardideva had to face a greater enemy in 1202 in the shape of the Muslims under Qutb-ud-din Aibak who had penetrated into his kingdom. After a⁶ desperate battle in the field Parmardideva retired to the fact and agreed to surrender, but he died a natural death before he could

1. Mitra, *op. cit.*, pp. 123-24, Atkinson, *op. cit.*, p. 527; Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 94

2. *Ibid.*

3. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 94

4. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 126

5. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 97

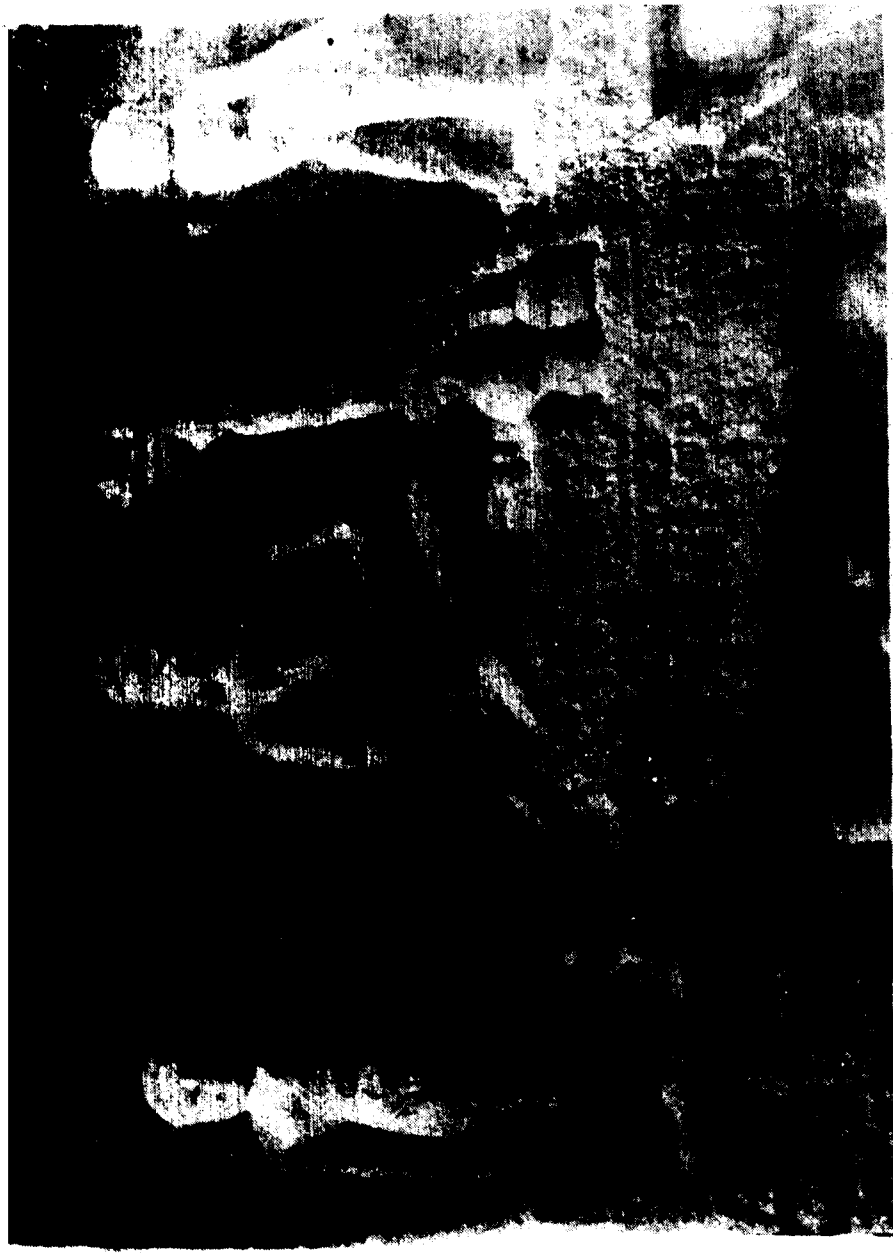
6. *Ibid.*



Siva Temple (12th Century), Madanpura village.



Runie of Chandai East (Olla miamae) Mahaka



Panel of Jain Tirthankaras (12th Century), Mahoba

do so. His minister Ajai Dev however resolved to hold out without coming to terms and he put up a gallant resistance against the invaders¹, but he was compelled to capitulate due to a failure of water supply². The history of Chandel dynasty as one of the powers to be reckoned with in northern India ended thus in 1203 A. D.³.

The Chandel kings were remarkable as great patrons of art and architecture. A number of architectural remains exist to this day in the district, mostly in and around Mahoba. In Mahoba, which possesses ruins belonging to the Chandel period, one has found Parmardi's *baithak*⁴ or summer house, and remains of a palace whose pillars are of massive granite over two feet square and twelve feet in height, and are richly decorated with deep mouldings built by him on the top of a hill bearing an inscription dated 1183 A. D.⁵. In 1908, while excavations were being made for construction of a well in the house of a resident of the town, a rare and rich find, apparently of Buddhist statues, all in sitting posture in a well preserved state was made. They had been placed carefully in the ground, face downwards and covered over with large stone slabs to protect them from injury. They consist of some life-size statues of black basalt highly polished on the surface and a number of smaller white marble statues⁶. A number of broken Jain statues lying about the site indicate that there must have been a number of Jain temples too in this place. One hill adjoining the south-east bank of the Madan Sagar has 24 rock-hewn images of the Tirthankars⁷. The discovery of a pedestal inscribed with the Buddhist creed formula in characters of twelfth century also prove that both of these religions existed in Mahoba at that late period⁸.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

With the capture of Kalinjar by the Turks, in 1203, the history of Chandel dynasty as one of the major powers of northern India

1. Ray, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 722
2. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 127; Haig, W. (Ed): The Cambridge History of India, Vol. III, p. 47
3. Bose, *op. cit.*, p. 97
4. Fuhrer, *op. cit.*, p. 173; Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 199
5. Fuhrer, *op. cit.*, p. 174, 176-77
6. Mitra, *op. cit.*, p. 218
7. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 201
8. *Ibid.*

virtually came to an end¹. But the power of the Chandels was not totally suppressed and within a couple of years they had already regained the possession of Kalinjar under Trailokyavarman, the son and successor of parmardideva². This Chandel chief expelled the Muslim garrisons from Kalinjar and the adjoining country and once again asserted Chandel authority over this region. It was due to Trailokyavarman's superb organising power that the Chandel strongholds were recovered and Chandel authority re-established from the Betwa in the west to the Son in the east and from Banda and Hamirpur districts in the north to Panna in the south³.

Trailokyavarman remained in effective possession of Kalinjar till 1231 and inspite of repeated attacks this celebrated fort continued to remain in the hands of Chandels till the 16th century⁴.

A local tradition says that Shihab-ud-din Ghuri wrested Mahoba from Samarjit, a son of Parmardi, and granted it to Taur Suba who reigned for fifty years. His government not being successful, the sultan granted Mahoba to his allies, the Mewatis, who held the place for forty years. Mahoba was then attacked and plundered by Gonds from Mandla and held by them for fourteen years. After this one Manmath Gaharwar of Banares, a descendant of the family who ruled Mahoba prior to Chandels, recovered possession and the Gaharwars ruled for one hundred years. Then Mahoba is said to have been occupied by Raja Bhar of Ujjain. He is stated to have despised Muslims, suppressing and driving them out of the city⁵.

The Charkhari plate of V. S. 1346, (1289 A. D.) records that Hammirvarman (1289-1308 A. D.), the last known ruler of the Chandel family, was in possession of Mahoba region now in this district⁶. The Mahoba tradition says that sultan Ala-ud-din Khalji

(1294-1316), made over this region to the Khangar rulers of Garha Kurar (27 km. north-east of Jhansi)¹. Again the erection of a mosque by sultan Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq at Mahoba in 1322 testifies to the fact that this region had come into Muslim possession during that period². The rule of Khangars over the region covered by the present district could not have lasted for long, for it was ended by the treachery of Arjunpal or Sohanpal Bundela about 1340³. During this period the new Rajput settlers came to this district, notably Mauhars, Bais and Gaurs as well as the Lodhis in the south-western portion of the district⁴.

In 1376-77, sultan Firuz Shah Tughlaq (1351-1388) conferred Mahoba and the adjoining parts on Malik-ul-Shark Mardan Daulat, a noble, who received the title of Nasir-ul-Mulk (prince of the East⁵). Nasir-ul-Mulk was soon summoned from this place and was sent to Multan, in order to put down the disturbance created by the Mughals⁶. But Mahoba was again bestowed upon his son Malik-ul-Shark Malik Shams-uddin Sulaiman⁷. A few years later, or about 1383, Dariya Khan, son of Zafar Khan, who held the charge of the province of Gujarat, was Amir of Mahoba⁸; and this indicates that Mahoba as previously, ceased to be governed from Karra at this time⁹.

With the collapse of the political citadel at Delhi as a result of Timur's invasion in 1398-99, the administration of the provinces of the sultanate was affected to a considerable extent. Consequently, the governors of the provinces assumed an independent status, retaining their hold over the territories. Thus the fiefs of Mahoba and Kalpi passed into the hands of Mahmud Khan, son of Malikzada, the governor of Kalpi¹⁰. From this time onwards

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1. Drake-Brockman, D. L., *op. cit.*, pp. 136-137
 2. *Ibid.*
 3. *Ibid.*
 4. *Ibid.*
 5. Sirhindi, Yahya bin Ahmad bin Abdullah : *Tarikh-Mubarak Shahi*, Eng. trans. by K. K. Basu (Bafods 1932). P. 140
 6. *Ibid.*
 7. *Ibid.*, Elliot and Dowson : *The History of India as Told by Its Own Historians*, Vol. IV. PP. 13-14.
 8. *Ibid.*, p. 15; Sirhindi, *op. cit.*, p. 143
 9. Drake-Brockman, D. L., *op. cit.*, p. 137
 10. Sirhindi, *op. cit.*, p. 174; Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 137

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1. Mitra, S. K. : *The Early Rulers of Khajuraho*, (Calcutta), p. 127; Bose, N. S. : *History of the Chandellas*, (Calcutta), p. 98; Habibulla, A. B. M. : *The Foundation of Muslim Rule in India*, (Allahabad, 1961) p. 69.
 2. Bose, N. S., *op. cit.*, 98
 3. Mitra, S. K., *op. cit.*, p. 133
 4. *Ibid.*, p. 134
 5. Drake-Brockman, D. L. : *Hamirpur : A Gazetteer*, (Allahabad 1909), p. 136
 6. Mitra, S. K. *op. cit.*, pp. 139-140

Mahoba appears to have become a mere dependency of Kalpi and ceased to be the political centre of Bundelkhand¹.

The history of the district remained almost a blank till the end of the fifteenth century. The only exception is provided by Sikandar Lodi who is said to have gained possession of this part of the country in 1488 and to him may probably be attributed the destruction of the Chandel temples².

By the beginning of the 16th century, the power of the Chandels was declining and as successive aspirants to the Delhi throne fought with one another, the Bundelas were quietly utilising the time in extending their power over the country to which they subsequently gave their name³. In 1507, Rudra Pratap, the seventh in descent from Sohanpal, succeeded his father Malkhan, and is said to have made himself master of a tract of country yielding a revenue of 1.25 crore of rupees. The actual extent of the Bundela power at this time is not known, but either during the lifetime of Rudra Pratap or soon after, his third son Udaijit is said to have occupied Mahoba, as a result of which the southern portion of the district presumably fell under Bundela rule. The subsequent battles fought between the Mughal forces and the Bundelas appear to have been all west of the Betwa and Dhasan rivers. But with the surrender of the fortress of Kalinjar by Raja Ram Chand Baghel in 1560, it is probable that the whole of the present district of Hamirpur became an integral part of the imperial dominions⁴.

During Akbar's reign (1556-1605), the district of Hamirpur was divided between two subahs. The parganas of Mahoba, Mulkira, Maudaha and Sumerpur and considerable portion of other territory were comprised in the three *mahals* (revenue paying pargana) of Maudaha, Khandela and Mahoba within the sirkar of Kalinjar and subah of Allahabad⁵. The remainder of the district was distributed over the *mahals* of Rath, Khandaut, Kharela and Hamirpur and belonged to the sirkar of Kalpi in the subah of Agra⁶.

1. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 137

2. Atkinson, E. T. : *Statistical and Descriptive Account of the North-Western provinces, Bundelkhand*, (1874), Vol. I, p. 528

3. *Ibid.*, p. 138

4. *Ibid.*

5. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 139

6. *Ibid.*

Even after its submission to the Mughal authority, some parts of the district seem to have remained under the Bundelas¹. Mahoba, which formed a part of the imperial dominions, is said to have been in the possession of Udaijit, third son of Rudra Pratap. Udaijit and his son and successor, Premchand, are said to have neighbours. But these inroads were evidently of minor importance Mahoba their headquarters in forays against the Mughals and their neighbours. But these inroads were evidently of minor importance and were not inconsistent with a nominal allegiance to the Delhi court².

Premchand, who held the fief of Mahoba, had three sons; Kaur Sen, the founder of Simroha; Man Shah, who dwelt at Shahpur and Bhagwant Rai, who is said to have remained at Mahoba. The last prince was celebrated for his virtues and feared for his valour. He left a son, named Kulanandan who became renowned for his piety and charity and was the father of famous Champat Rai, in whose person the Bundela race became a power in India³. Owing to his natural qualities, he soon obtained the sole direction of affairs at Mahoba. On the accession of Shah Jahan in 1627, he and Bir Singh of Orchha and the other chiefs of Bundelkhand threw off their allegiance to the Delhi court; and notwithstanding that Baki Khan, an experienced general, and some say the emperor himself, marched in person against Orchha, the Bundelas successfully resisted all attempts to reduce them to submission⁴. Champat Rai had at this time three sons, of whom Sarbahan the eldest, was shortly afterwards surprised by Baki Khan and slain, and while Champat Rai mourned for his son, he is said to have been consoled in a dream by the promise of another son, who should eclipse all others by his warlike deeds and render the name of Bundela for ever illustrious. This son was Chhatra Sal, in whom Sarbahan was considered to have become incarnate⁵.

In the meantime, Shah Jahan, enraged at the preparations of the Bundelas, who blocked up the route to the Deccan, sent three separate forces into Bundelkhand—one under Mahabat Khan from Agra, a second under Khan Jahan Lodi, from the south and a third under Abdullah, from Allahabad. These forces soon reduced the country to tranquillity and punished severely all who had

1. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, P. 141

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*

4. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 22

5. *Ibid.* p. 23

shown any opposition to the imperial authority. Champat Rai, however, was not disposed to submit, and held out in the rugged tracts bordering on the Betwa, where by the celerity of his movements he defied the attempts of the Mughals to capture him. When the principal portion of the imperial troops had retired, he issued forth from his hiding-places, and rapidly assembling a number of adherents, began to make reprisals by driving in the outposts, cutting off supplies, and continually harassing small garrisons by night attacks, until, emboldened by his success, he met the imperial generals in the field and totally routed them near Orchha with great slaughter. Shahbaz Khan, Baki Khan, Fateh Khan, and other Mughal leaders were among the slain. On receiving intelligence of this event, the emperor organised a second expedition of Bundelkhand, and gave the command to Muhammad Subah, Wali Bahadur Khan, Abdullah Khan, Nausher Khan and other experienced generals, who again proceeded to Orchha, but were so little successful that they agreed to compromise, by which one Pahar Singh became the acknowledged Raja of Orchha, while Champat Rai contented himself with seeking possessions elsewhere (1940)¹.

Champat Rai seems then to have lived the life of partisan leader, and to have entered the service of the emperor, by whom he was commissioned to undertake the reduction of the fort of Kumhargarh. Subsequently, he rose further into favour and obtained the pargana of Konch in Jalaun, subject to a revenue of three lakhs of rupees. Pahar Singh, who owed his fortune and position in great measure to Champat Rai, was jealous of the high reputation enjoyed by his benefactor. He tried to poison the latter who was saved by his brother². Pahar Singh sought by other means to undermine his influence by offering 9 lakhs of rupees for the Konch pargana, and his offer was accepted by prince Dara who refused to confirm the grant to Champat Rai. This drove Champat Rai to Aurangzeb's side when the war of succession began among Shah Jahan's sons. After his victory over Dara at Samugarh, Aurangzeb gave Champat Rai a command of 12,000 men, and a jagir free from revenue extending from Orchha to Molkanar, and thence to Yamuna. This command he very soon resigned on being called to account for not attending the emperor in his march against Shah Shuja. Champat Rai then retired to the fort of Jairuchh, and there planned further schemes by which to rid his country of the Muslims³.

1. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, p. 22

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*, p. 24

One Subkaran was now entrusted with the task of reducing him to subjection and he, with a large force, entered Bundelkhand of which he had been made the subahdar. After great difficulties he was able to drive Champat Rai from one fortress to another, but he was obliged to confess his inability to accomplish the object for which he had been despatched. The emperor on learning the state of affairs, recalled Subkaran and took the field in person. On this Champat Rai was obliged to retreat and throw himself on the protection of those with whom he was connected by ties of policy or relationship, but he found these ties disregarded when danger threatened, and the Mughals joined by the Rani of Orchha's troops, attacked his camp near Orchha. Thence he fled to Jaitwar and afterwards to Sahra where its raja turned hostile to him and entrusted his safety to his sister's husband Jiwan Sah, at whose hands he met with still worse treatment and on his departure was assassinated with his wife by the followers of his sister¹.

Champat Rai's son Ratan Shah remained in virtual possession of Mahoba², but his son Augad Rai and Chhatra Sal entered the Mughal army under Jai Singh, the commander-in-chief of emperor Aurangzeb³. Chhatra Sal distinguished himself in the Purandar campaign and the invasion of Deogarh in 1667, but by nature he preferred a life of adventure and independence and, therefore, subsequently he proved to be the most persistent and successful opponent of the Mughal empire. He sought to unite the princes of Malwa and Bundelkhand against Aurangzeb who was destroying Hindu temples in that region, as elsewhere⁴. Chhatra Sal became successful in his mission to a considerable extent. He induced his brother Ratan Shah, at Mahoba, to join him; but that cautious person, having lively remembrance of the reverses of his father, refused to join in an undertaking which in his judgement had little chance of success. Thereupon, Chhatra Sal as principal leader of the Bundelas, commenced operations in 1671⁵. Seizing the opportunity of Aurangzeb's long absence in the Deccan, Chhatra Sal extended his power over the whole of the country east of the Dhasan, river, known by the name of Dangaia, completing his conquest with the capture of the celebrated fortress of

1. Atkinson, E. T., *op. cit.*, P. 22

2. *Ibid.* Atkinson, *op. cit.*, P. 22

3. *Ibid.*, P. 25; Haig, W. and Burn, R.: *The Cambridge History of India.*, Vol. IV. PP. 200-201

4. Atkinson, *op. cit.*, p. 25

5. *Ibid.*

Kalinjar about 1680¹. His forces overran the tract now comprising the present districts of Banda, Hamirpur and Jhansi. To establish his authority he had to sack Jalalpur-Muskira and Maudaha against the zamindars of Mahoba, who had instigated the inhabitants of nearly twenty villages to rise in arms against him. The action was fought near Darira and resulted in the death of hundreds of the ill-armed villagers and the plunder of Muskira in this district. When news of these disasters reached Aurangzeb, he at once sent Abdus Samad with a large force to bring Bundelkhand under control. He was met by the Bundelas under Chhatra Sal and after a fiercely contested battle the imperial forces were completely routed. Chhatra Sal, who was wounded in the battle, retired to Panna, whence, as soon as his wounds were healed, he took field against Bahlol Khan, the governor, and defeated him. Bahlol Khan, chagrined at his defeat committed suicide².

Soon after the death of Bahlol Khan, Chhatra Sal again took the field and reduced Kotra (in Charkhari tahsil), Jasu, and Gai-ghat, and proceeding to Mahoba, organised an expedition against Murad Khan of Sahuda, the representative of Dalil Khan, who had long refused to pay tributes to him. Murad Khan and a great number of his followers were killed in the action that took place, and Dalil Khan came to terms, by which he promised regular payment of tribute in future. The victor's forces then plundered Kotra and Jalalpur in this district, and defeated Asmad Khan, the successor of Bahlol Khan, the late governor, at Kirpur³. Shah Kuli Khan was sent to relieve Asmad Khan, but met with a similar fate at Mau. The Bundelas had become masters of the whole country to the west of Chambal and the Yamuna⁴.

MODERN PERIOD

On the accession of Bahadur Shah (1707-1712 A. D.) Chhatra Sal was invited to the Mughal court through the good offices of the Khan Khanan and confirmed in all acquisitions he had made in Bundelkhand. These were said to have yielded him a revenue of nearly one million sterling, and apparently included most of this district⁵.

When Farrukhsiyar ascended the throne of Delhi in 1713, in return for services in the emperor's cause, an extensive tract comprising the parganas of Erachh, Bhandar, Kalpi, Konch, Sihonda, Maudaha, Jalaun and Sipri, was granted to Muhammad Khan Bangash, better known as Nawab of Farrukhabad, for the support of his troops¹. One Daler Khan, a Bundela Rajput who had been converted to Islam by the Nawab, was deputed to manage on his behalf Konch, Sihonda and Maudaha, and fought various actions with the Bundelas within and beyond the boundaries of this district².

In 1721, Muhammad Khan Bangash was appointed governor of Allahabad, but neither as *subedar* nor as *jagirdar* was he allowed to retain easy possession of the territory assigned to him. Just about this time Daler Khan lost his life in a fierce action fought near Maudaha against Chhatra Sal's overwhelming forces. But it was not till 1725, owing to his being employed in military duties in Malwa by the Mughal emperor, that Muhammad Khan Bangash was able to take the field in person in his subah. In the course of six month's fighting he had overrun the country from Kalpi to Sihonda, when he received orders from Delhi to proceed to Gwalior to repel the Marathas. Reluctantly the Nawab was compelled to forgo the advantages he had secured, and after establishing his *thanas*, and binding the Bundelas by the most solemn oaths not to re-enter his jagirs, marched away. Taking advantage of his absence the Bundelas broke their oaths, set aside the treaty and prevented the collection of any revenue. All Bundelkhand was immediately overrun, and disturbances occurred even in the neighbourhood of Allahabad.

Two years later the Nawab received orders from imperial court directing him to proceed to his subah and restore order. Fighting obstinate engagements with the entrenched Bundelas and facing continuous harassment at their hands, with considerable loss of men and equipment, it was not until the end of 1728 that the whole of Hamirpur district had come into the Nawab's possession, and was virtually being reduced to complete order, when in March 1729, the sudden advent of the Marathas into this region turned Muhammad Khan's course of victory into defeat³.

1. Haig, W., *op. cit.*, p. 314; Atkinson, *op. cit.*, p. 26

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*, p. 27

4. *Ibid.*; Haig, *op. cit.*, p. 314

5. Drake-Brockman, D. L., *op. cit.*, P. 142

1. Drake-Brockman, D. L., *op. cit.*, P. 142

2. *Ibid.*, p. 143

3. Sardesai, G. S.; *New History of the Marathas*, (Bombay, 1948), Vol. II, PP 105-106

Muhammad Khan Bangash was eventually humbled at Jaitpur and "allowed to return safe to his headquarters upon his giving a written undertaking that he would never again return to Bundelkhand or embarrass Chhatra Sal in any way." Thus was Bundelkhand lost to the Mughal empire. The defeat and disgrace of Muhammad Khan Bangash, the bravest and most spirited of the Mughal nobles of his time, was complete. The emperor deprived him of his governorship of Allahabad and appointed Sarbuland Khan to that office¹.

Raja Chhatra Sal, restored to his possessions, by Maratha aid and realising that without their assistance and protection his power would be lost as it had been acquired, decided to make the Marathas interested in its preservation. Shortly before his death², he drew up a will, by which he bequeathed one-third of his dominions to the Peshwa Baji Rao, on the condition that his heirs and successors should be maintained by the Marathas in possession of the rest³. The country bequeathed to the Peshwa consisted of Kalpi; Hatta, Sagar, Jhansi, Sironj, Guna, Garkakota, Hardi Nagar, and, in this district, the large pargana of Mahoba. The headquarters of a Maratha subedar were subsequently fixed at Jalaun and Gobind Rao, along with his brother Bala Rao, was appointed its first governor. The remainder of Chhatra Sal's dominions was divided into two separate states; the Panna Raj, comprising Kalinjar, Mohan, Erachh and other places going to his eldest son, Hardi Sah; and the Jaitpur Raj, which comprised most of this district with parts of Banda, Ajaigarh, Charkhari and other territory, was given to his second son, Jagat Raj.

During the reign of Jagat Rai, his eldest son, Diwan Kirat Singh obtained a substantial tract of country round Sihonda in jagir and predeceased his father. On Jagat Raj's death in 1758, after 27 years of peaceful rule, there began one of those family quarrels which were the bane of the Bundela rule and the chief cause of the calamities that befell it. Pahar Singh, second son of Jagat Raj, proclaimed himself raja to the exclusion of Guman Singh.

Guman Singh and Khuman Singh, who were sons of Kirat Singh (Pahar Singh's brother), who inherited their father's jagir,

were able with promptitude to strike a blow for their rights. But Pahar Singh eventually defeated their armies at Supa and drove them to the Yamuna; and later, when they had obtained the assistance of Najaf Khan, he once more defeated them at Kharela. The struggle, however, seems to have been for the Raj of Jaitpur and the brothers do not seem to have been driven from their father's jagir; and in 1765, shortly before his death, Pahar Singh agreed to admit his nephews to a very substantial share of the dominions of their grandfather. As a result of this division of territory Guman Singh became raja of Banda, and Khuman Singh raja of Charkhari; and on Pahar Singh's death, his own son, Gaj Singh, succeeded his father on the gaddi of Jaitpur, while another son by name of Man Singh, obtained the jagir of Sarila. These states between them comprised the whole of present Hamirpur district, with the exception of pargana Mahoba.

Meanwhile in December, 1762, the nawab vizir of Avadh, Shuja-ud-daulah dispatched a force, under the joint command of Karamat Khan and Raja Himmat Bahadur, to conquer Bundelkhand conceiving that it was defenceless and would soon yield to the power and vigour of his arms¹. In a pitched battle at Tindwari, 23 km. north of Banda, Karamat Khan was totally defeated and driven, with great loss, across the Yamuna. The episode is an important one, for in the invading army was Gosain Himmat Bahadur, who fifteen years later was destined to carve for himself a considerable principality out of the country from which he was now driven in ignominious flight.

Raja Guman Singh died in 1781 leaving a minor son, Madhukar Singh, and a nephew, Bakht Bali; these in succession were raised to the throne under the guardianship of Noni Arjun Singh commander-in-chief of Guman Singh's army. This restless and ambitious leader was not long in involving his masters in complications. A sudden attack was first made on Raja Khuman Singh. This was followed immediately by a pitched battle at the village Pandori or Pahori, on the Chandrawal river, in which Raja Khuman Singh lost his life. The Charkhari state was annexed to that of Banda and Khuman Singh's son, Bijai Bahadur, fled to the court of Daulat Rao Scindia, while Noni Arjun Singh proceeded to take part in the war of Panna succession, the theatre of which lay outside the district².

1. Sardesai, G. S., *op. cit.*,

2. *Ibid.*, p. 108

3. Drake-Brockman, D. L., *op. cit.*, p. 147

1. Srivastava, A. L. : *Shuja-ud-Daula*, (Agra, 1961), Vol. I, p. 132

3. Drake-Brockman, D. L., *op. cit.*, P. 147

Incessant internecine warfare, besides weakening the Bundela states, rendered impossible the union which had offered a few years, before so stout a resistance to shuja-ud-daulah; and this tract, impoverished and exhausted, had become an easy prey to the first bold leader who should invade it. The invaders were not long in appearing in the persons of Himmat Bahadur and Ali Bahadur. The former of these was the *chela* and representative of Raja Indergir Gosain, a soldier of fortune who at one time conquered a considerable tract of country in the Jhansi district from which, however, he was driven by the Marathas. Himmat Bahadur had, as we have seen, shared in the defeat of Karamat Khan and Tindwari. He subsequently accompanied the Avadh army to Buxar, and during 1778 and 1779 led his Gosains to more successful warfare under the Marathas in Meerut and other northern districts. Nawab Ali Bahadur was the grandson of the Peshwa, Baji Rao, by a Muslim woman, called Mustani, presented to him by Chhatra Sal at the time of siege of Jaitpur. Nawab Ali Bahadur and his cousin Ghani Bahadur served with the Maratha army to the north of Delhi, the nawab commanding a division. It was probably in this direction that the Gosain soldier of fortune and the Muslim descendant of the Peshwa became acquainted with one another. It is generally believed, and it is also probable, that Himmat Bahadur invaded Bundelkhand independently and had established himself some time before Ali Bahadur's arrival. Whether he came in pursuance of the designs of Nana Farnavis or invaded Bundelkhand on his own account, afterwards, inviting Ali Bahadur for help in the task cannot with certainty be determined; but the advance of the Marathas was probably connected with Bijai Bahadur's appeal for assistance at Gwalior¹. Meanwhile the Gosain leader had already occupied several of the northern parganas along the Yamuna before Ali Bahadur joined him.

The arrival of the Maratha force brought up the numbers of the allies to 40,000 men, and the first action was fought with Noni Arjun Singh (the Banda leader), who was defeated and slain between Nowganj and Ajaigarh. This battle, which appears to have been fought in 1791 A. D., put an end forever to the kingdom of Banda, and the struggle with Bundela chiefs thereafter resolved itself into a series of small actions and guerilla warfare. A small force under Himmat Bahadur proceeded to Charkhari and after a minor engagement in which Bir Singh Deo, raja of Bijawar and

cousin of Khuman Singh was slain (at Charkhari) and defeat of some forces under Kunwar Soni Sah, son of raja of Chhatarpur at Maudaha, all the territory was taken possession of by the Marathas, who assigned Bijai Bahadur lands yielding a revenue of Rs. 4,00,000 on his executing engagements of fidelity and allegiance. With the exception of this and similar grants, the bulk of this district seems to have been equally divided between Himmat Bahadur and Ali Bahadur. But though the conquest of the district was rapid, it was certainly not thorough and Ajaigarh and Kalinjar, the two great fortresses of Bundela power, were not even attacked for some years. Meanwhile the Bundelas broke out on all sides and it was not till close of the century that Ali Bahadur attacked and took Ajaigarh and reoccupied Jaitpur, thus giving his descendants the title of the Nawabs of Banda¹. Encouraged by these successes he proceeded to the siege of Kalinjar; but the great fortress was destined a second time to look upon the death of its assailant, and before it was captured Ali Bahadur fell and died in 1802. Before his death Ali Bahadur had concluded an agreement with the court of Pune (Poona) by virtue of which "the sovereign and paramount right of the Peshwa over all the conquests of Ali Bahadur in Bundelkhand was declared and acknowledged."

Ali Bahadur's eldest son, Shamsheer Bahadur was at Pune (Poona) the time of his father's death, and his cousin Ghani Bahadur put his younger son Zulfikar Ali, on the *masnad*, Shamsheer Bahadur hurried to the camp of Kalinjar on hearing of his father's death, seized his relative Ghani Bahadur, and confined him in the fort of Ajaigarh, where he was afterwards poisoned, and himself took his father's place at the head of the united Maratha and Gosain forces.

Most of the tract covered by the present district was ceded to the East India Company by the treaty of Bassein signed on December 31st, 1802². By another treaty, a year afterwards, the Peshwa ceded in perpetuity to the East India Company from the province of Bundelkhand, territory yielding an estimated revenue of 36 lakhs. It may easily be imagined that the terms of this treaty would seriously affect the position of Shamsheer Bahadur and drive him into the confederacy for opposing the British government, formed by Daulat Rao Scindia, the raja of Berar and Jaswant

1. Drake-Brockman, D. L., *op. cit.*, p. 149

1. Misra, A. S. : *Nana Saheb Peshwa and The Fight for Freedom*, (Lucknow, 1961), p. 372
2. Dharma Bhanu, : *History and Administration of the North Western Provinces.*, (Agra, 1955), p. 83

Rao Holkar. In the plan concerted by those chiefs, Shamsher Bahadur was assigned the important part, viz., of leading the invading force into the districts of Mirzapur and Varanasi. Himmat Bahadur (Gosain) however, was no party to these schemes and indeed had little to gain from the success of the Marathas. He decided to make overtures to the British with the utmost secrecy and in this district received in jagir parganas Panwari, Rath, Maudaha and Sumerpur as a result of an agreement with the British concluded at Shahpur 64 km. west of Allahabad. In pursuance of the treaty, the British prepared to occupy and administer the territory ceded by the Peshwa and a large force crossed the Yamuna at Rajapur and proceeded to Karwi where it was joined by a large contingent of Himmat Bahadur. To oppose the invading army Shamsher Bahadur left Kalinjar and took up his position on the west bank of Kin opposite Kanwara 3.5 km. from Banda, but was quickly driven out and completely defeated at Kapsa, 15 km. south-west of Banda by the combined forces of the British and Himmat Bahadur while he was on his way to Kalpi to join Nana Govind Rao by the British. He reached Kalpi in safety, but he gave himself up in return for Rs. 4 lakhs assigned to him in perpetuity for support. The capture of Kalpi by the British the same year effectually confirmed the British occupation of Bundelkhand. Hamirpur was then included in the newly formed district of Bundelkhand, and remained a part of it till March, 1819, when two districts were formed; one including Hamirpur to the north was called northern Bundelkhand or Kalpi, and that to the south Banda. In 1821 the headquarters of the former from Kalpi shifted to Hamirpur. The town of Mahoba itself, with the surrounding country, remained in the state of Jalaun, until, on the death of the last representative of the ruling house (Pandits) in 1840, it lapsed to the British. The pargana known as Jaitpur was ruled by the descendants of Chhatra Sal until 1849. The later history of the district upto 1857 is chiefly concerned with the difficulties of fiscal administration¹.

During 1857 the freedom struggle was preceded by widespread civil disorder². The desire to break loose from the foreign yoke itself, provided the main motive force for overthrowing the alien and oppressive regime. The land revenue settlements had slowly created a class of dispossessed nobles and landlords and the dissolution of the kingdom of Avadh had given a rude shock to the Indian soldiers in the Bengal army who were recruited

mostly from that area. Thus sepoys became the spearheads, the instrument and means of the underlying upsurge for freedom in the hearts of people all over the country. The chiefs of Hamirpur were fighting for their kingdoms, the dispossessed landed classes for their estates, the masses for freedom and the Muslims in particular for the restoration of their former sway.

On the eve of the outbreak of 1857, the district was in the charge of T.K. Lloyd; while in the Civil Lines the military force consisted of a detachment of the 56th Native Infantry whose headquarters were at Kanpur.

As daily news of the disturbances at other places came pouring in from all sides, Lloyd (the collector) endeavoured to enlist the aid of the more influential landholders in preserving order, but his efforts met with little success.

Early in June, 1857 the villagers of Ramari manifested a yearning for freedom before the actual struggle of the outbreak on the 13th of June 1857¹. On that day the guard at the treasury revolted and made for the house of the collector, while some freedom fighters released the prisoners at the jail. The Europeans who could, escaped while others were killed. Lloyd (collector) and Grant (joint magistrate) hid themselves in some castor-oil fields and swam down with the current of the river to the junction of the Betwa and the Yamuna, 5 km. below the town of Hamirpur. Here they remained five days concealed in swamps during the day and coming ashore during the night. On the evening of June 18 some Alhirs discovered Lloyd's place of concealment and reported it to the freedom fighters. A detachment of the sepoys accordingly went down, captured Lloyd and Grant and escorted them back to the cutcherry compound, where they were shot².

After the killing of the Europeans the town was plundered and in the villages, the state of affair was far from normal. People rose on all sides and directed their attacks against the bankers, the money lenders and specially the auction purchasers who had gained possession of half the estates in the district.

On the 21st June, the freedom fighters departed to Kanpur³. The Indian deputy collector Wahid-uz-Zaman, then tried to restore

1. Chaudhuri, S. B. : *Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutinies 1857-1859*, (Calcutta, 1957), p. 211

2. Drake-Brockman, D. L. : *op. cit.*, pp. 155-156

3. *Ibid.* P. 157

1. *Imperial Gazetteer, Allahabad Division*, (Allahabad, 1905), p. 58

2. Drake-Brockman, D. L., *op. cit.*, P. 155

some sort of order, but a few days later an order came from the Nana to him ordering him to manage affairs in his name. On July 1 the Peshwa's rule was proclaimed and Nana's flag was hoisted in most villages. Meanwhile the British forces reoccupied Kanpur. Learning that Kanpur had been retaken, Wahid-uz-Zaman absconded.

Meanwhile Carne, the officer-in-charge stationed at Mahoba, fled to Charkhari, where he was hospitably received by the raja¹. By personal influence he induced that chieftain to undertake the management of pargana Rath, Jaitpur and Panwari. Pargana Hamirpur had been handed over to the charge of the raja of Baoni; Maudaha was in the hands of the Nawab of Banda; and the raja of Gursarai, who was trying to make good his claims to the old Jalaun state, took possession of pargana Mahoba. The Marathas seized pargana Jalalpur, and all parties seem to have united in plundering Sumerpur. The widow of Parichhat, formerly raja of Jaitpur, who was in receipt of pension of Rs. 1,200 per mensem from the British government, set herself up at Jaitpur and appropriated all the money in tahsil treasury.

The raja of Charkhari was ultimately induced through the personal influence of Carne to declare himself on the side of the British. It was on this account that, towards the end of January, 1858 the Nana sent Tantia Tope to attack him. Tantia Tope accordingly advanced on Charkhari, where he was joined by Despat, Daulat Singh and the rajas of Banpur and Shahgarh with large number of troops, and together surrounded the raja in his fortress. Meanwhile Whitlock's column had reached Damoh on March 5 and Hugh Rose was rapidly approaching Jhansi. Both officers received orders to march at once to the raja's assistance².

Whitlock in compliance with his orders left Damoh on March 22nd, 1858; but having received intelligence of the fall of Charkhari he turned towards Banda. Meanwhile the Nawab of Banda had pushed forward an assorted force of troops as far as Mahoba to oppose the British column. As Whitlock approached these were withdrawn and set for an ambush at Kabrai. Whitlock reached Kabrai on April 17th, 1858, totally unaware of their presence. The Nawab's force unexpectedly attacked his men, but were beaten off. On the 19th, he fought a pitched battle with the main body

1. Drake-Brockman, D. L., *op. cit.*, p. 158

2. Majumdar R. C. : *The Sepoy Mutiny and Revolt of 1857*, (Calcutta, 1957) p. 85

of the Nawab's troops at Goera Mughli, a few kilometres from Banda, and occupied that town¹ after defeating them. The Nawab made good his escape².

With the defeat and flight of the Nawab the struggle for freedom, as far as this district is concerned, may be said to have come to an end. Administration was carried on for a short time by Carne from Banda. On May 10, Hamirpur was added to the Jhansi division and after the fall of Kalpi on May 24, 1858 the British reoccupied the district headquarters. The chief freedom fighters were arrested and awarded sentences of imprisonment. Their properties and estates were forfeited to government. The south of the district, however, continued in a much disturbed condition and roving bands of freedom fighters under Despat and later Chhatar Singh from Jhansi, continued to raid and plunder and kill local government officials. Even after protracted pacifying sorties and actions, bands of brave people took refuge in the jungles, and fought from there till their leader Raghunath was not killed 1869.

In Hamirpur, as elsewhere, several new features appeared after 1858. Trade and commerce began to grow owing to the construction of the rail road. The railways also helped a great deal in fighting famines by facilitating quick transport of food from surplus area. The introduction of English education brought to Hamirpur political ideas of the west along with the knowledge of modern sciences. After some time a sizeable educated middle class had appeared on the scene which spoke in favour of western education and had a common stock of western liberal ideas. Towards the close of the 19th century the activities of the Arya Samaj, although limited up to the district headquarters and some big towns, with its doctrines of worships through *havans*, *sandhyas*, uplift of untouchables, women's education, *shudhi* and the like were responsible for a great social change as they induced a sense of self respect among the large masses of backward local populace.

The 20th century began with the growth of nationalism in the whole of India and Hamirpur was no exception. The youth of the district were restless. Discontentment broke out and events moved rapidly. During the anti-partition agitation of 1905, the district did not lag behind in holding public meetings, organizing strikes and protests and in creating heightened awareness among

1. Drake-Brockman, D. L. : *op. cit.*, p. 159

2. Rizvi, S. A. A. (Ed.) : *Freedom Struggle in Uttar Pradesh*, Vol. IV, (Lucknow, 1959), p. 836

the people of the ruthlessness of foreign oppressions. Simultaneously the movement for boycotting foreign goods also took root. Even in the interiors of the district the Swadeshi movement spread rapidly and people took oath to boycott foreign articles and to deal in Swadeshi goods only. However, in between the Swadeshi era and the advent of Gandhiji on the Indian political scene, there was no remarkable political development in the district. As a part of the State the district was automatically drawn into the First World War. There was in the first place a marked willingness to help the government and to stand by her in the hour of need. Soldiers were recruited in Hamirpur and a generous sum of money was contributed to the war fund.

In the post war year the Rowlatt Bills and subsequent Jallianwalla incident in Amritsar stirred up a new spirit of nationalism throughout the country. A notable feature of the political life of the district during this period was the sustained agitation carried on by many leaders of the local populace.

The non-co-operation movement too started in August, 1920 spread in the district rapidly. This was an attempt to widen the Swadeshi movement from a mere boycott of British goods to a boycott of every thing British. A campaign was launched in the district for using indigenous goods, especially khadi or homespun cloth. The people were exhorted to leave government services, boycott the courts, and even children were asked not to go to English and government schools. For the first time students, peasants and workers were drawn in large number into the fold of national movement when they boycotted the shops selling foreign cloths. The distribution of the well-known pamphlets *Bundelkhand Keshri and Pukar* in the district marked a turning point as they created a revolutionary stir among the masses. The local populace was attracted not only by the printing of these papers but more by new note of strong nationalism preached by them. The district administration imposed a ban on the sale of khaddar, but foreign cloth worth thousand of rupees was almost daily reduced to ashes at public places and inside district court's compound. Meetings were arranged in all big towns. As the movement was gaining momentum in the district, as everywhere else, an outburst of violence took place in February, 1922 at Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur district. The movement was immediately called off by Gandhiji. It came to standstill in the district also and no event worth note took place till 1928.

Gandhiji who was on a hurricane tour of the whole of northern India, in order to gather support for the newly launched civil dis-

obedience movement after the failure of Simon Commission, reached Mahoba in the evening of November 21, 1929 and was greeted by a crowd of 4,000 persons. Addresses were presented on behalf of the district board, students of Mahoba, the residents of Sumerpor and notified area Mahoba, with a purse of Rs. 2,603. From there he went to Kulpahar and Rath. At the former place he spoke to a gathering of 6,000 persons and received a purse of Rs. 1,574 and spent the night at Gandhi Ashram.

In 1930, civil disobedience movement was started in Hamirpur along with the rest of the country. The first phase of the movement called for 'satyagraha' against the Salt Act. Congress volunteers and other people of the district responded by manufacturing contraband salt at several places, a gesture that led to the conviction of 372 persons.

In 1932, Gandhiji revived the agitation after his release from jail. Other political detainees had also been released under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931. A civil disobedience movement was again launched in which people from most walks of life participated whole-heartedly. Protest meetings and anti-government demonstrations were organized and processions were taken out everywhere. A very large number of peasants joined, and women also took prominent part in it. The district authorities banned public meetings but the orders were disregarded and the Congress workers gladly courted arrest and distributed anti-government leaflets. The movement continued unabated till May, 1934, when it was once again withdrawn by Gandhiji.

The district participated in the elections of 1937 which were conducted under the Government of India Act of 1935. In order to organize various activities of the Congress in the district Jawaharlal Nehru and Abul Kalam Azad visited Maudaha in 1937. With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, however, the Congress ministries resigned on the issue of India's forced participation in it.

In order to boost the war efforts, the authorities required the people in general, and the rich, affluent and the landlords in particular, to liberally contribute towards war fund and supply recruits for the armed forces, a quota of recruits being fixed in case of the last named in accordance with the assessment of land revenue on their estates. The people however, started a campaign against collection of war fund and recruitment of personnel for the armed forces. By 1941, a large number of Congress workers had participated in individual satyagraha in this behalf and courted arrest.

On August 8, 1942 the Congress passed a resolution calling upon the British to relinquish power and to "quit India". With the launching of 'Quit India Movement', 41 local Congress leaders were arrested. The movement was adopted by different parties and groups in their own respective ways; by some in the shape of uprooting rail roads, pulling down telephone wires and street electric posts. In no time it became a mass movement. Schools and colleges were closed for indefinite period, anti-government literature was circulated and people from rural areas too joined the movement. After victory of the Allies in the war the Congress leaders were released in 1946 and in general elections for the provincial legislature the Congress was again voted and it formed the government.

On August 15, 1947, the country, and with it, the district was liberated finally from alien rule and declared independent. This day in August has since been declared as one of the three National Days of the country. The district celebrates the Independence Day every year in a befitting manner. The national flag is hoisted on the collectorate and on all private and government buildings. The country was free, but before the people could fully enjoy the sense of liberation and victory, they woke up to find that a great tragedy had accompanied freedom. Congress as well as the Muslim League had accepted the country's partition. The partition of the country was followed by a holocaust entailing great loss of life and suffering to people uprooted from their homes and cast away to seek their future in lands unknown. About 267 displaced persons from Pakistan came down to the district and were duly rehabilitated.

The news of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination (on January 30, 1948), plunged the whole district into deep mourning. The markets, offices and all educational institutions were closed, people openly bewailed the irreparable loss and several processions were taken up and meetings held to mourn the tragic end of the Father of the Nation. A martyr to the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity, Mahatma Gandhi lives fresh in the memory of the people for ever and is specially remembered on October 2, which is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti Day, in the district as in other parts of the State. On this occasion meetings, discussions and discourses are organised all over the district to eulogise Mahatma Gandhi's role in securing the end of the alien rule. The people also renew their pledge to serve the nation and follow his teachings.

With the enactment and adoption of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, India became a Sovereign Democratic Re-

public. That day was also celebrated in the district by taking out processions, holding meetings and illumination on houses, shops and government buildings. The Republic Day continues to be observed with enthusiasm every year all over the district, with special parades and functions at headquarters.

The nation always venerated those who had participated in the freedom struggle. On the occasion of celebration of Silver Jubilee year of Independence in 1973, 323 persons of district, who had taken part in India's freedom struggle or their dependents, were granted *tamra patras* (copperplates) placing on record the part played by them or their forbears in the country's freedom struggle.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

GROWTH OF POPULATION

The first estimate of the population of the district, drawn up in 1842, was 2,26,245 persons which gave a density of 118 per square mile. But this did not include Mahoba and Kulpahar (former Jaitpur). At the census of 1853 these areas were still included in the Jalaun district. By the time of the next census, which was taken in 1865, both these parganas, had been handed over to Hamirpur, and the total population was then 5,20,941 persons, giving a density of 228 per square mile.

The first regular census was held in 1872 which gave the number of inhabitants as 5,29,137 and the density 231 per square mile. The next census was undertaken in 1881 when the population of the district was reduced to 5,07,337. This low figure is attributed to emigration. At the census of 1891, the population of the district

The decennial growth of population and its variation in the district, during the period 1901—1971 was as follows :

Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation
1901	5,45,040	—	—
1911	5,55,951	+ 10,911	+ 2.00
1921	5,32,553	— 23,398	— 4.21
1931	5,68,702	+ 36,149	+ 6.79
1941	6,47,122	+ 78,420	+ 13.79
1951	6,64,416	+ 17,294	+ 2.67
1961	7,94,449	+ 1,30,033	+ 19.57
1971	9,88,215	+ 1,93,766	+ 24.39

Except when the population recorded a fall during the decade 1911-1921, due to epidemics and famine, the lowest increase of 2.00 per cent was registered in the decade of 1901—1911 and the highest 24.39 per cent in the decade of 1961—1971.

On July 1, 1971, the district, with an area of 7,192 sq. km. and 9,88,215 people, occupied the 11th and the 43rd positions respectively in regard to size and population in the State. Some more details of area and population of the district in 1961 and 1971 are given in Statement I at the end of the chapter.

According to census of 1961 and 1971 the density of population of rural and urban areas of the district, as compared to 1951 figures, is given below :

District / tahsil	1951	1961	1971
District			
Total	239	286	137
Rural	219	263	124
Urban	934	7,330	4,311
Rath			
Total	236	283	134
Rural	219	257	120
Urban	1,154	18,730	9,569
Hamirpur			
Total	263	314	151
Rural	236	290	138
Urban	938	5,461	4,426
Maudaha			
Total	240	289	139
Rural	227	—	129
Urban	990	—	14,066
Charkhari			
Total	210	256	124
Rural	149	233	113
Urban	969	4,445	2,030
Mahoba			
Total	254	294	136
Rural	206	251	116
Urban	1,749	7,898	3,647

Note : 1. Density of the State was 300

2. A new tahsil, Kulpahar, was created in 1976

In 1971 the most densely populated tahsil was Hamirpur with 151 persons per sq. km., followed by Mahoba and Maudaha with 139, Kulpahar with 136, Rath with 134 and Charkhari with 108. In the whole district the average rural density was 124 and the urban

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HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

4,311. The highest rural density was 138 persons per sq. km. in tahsil Hamirpur and the highest 14,451 persons per sq. km. in the urban area of tahsil Maudaha.

The decennial figures compiled for different sexes in the district from 1901 to 1971, are as follows :

Years	Persons	Males	Females	Females per 1,000 males
1901	5,45,040	2,73,614	2,71,426	992
1911	5,55,951	2,80,511	2,75,440	982
1921	5,32,553	2,71,246	2,61,307	963
1931	5,68,702	2,90,609	2,78,093	957
1941	6,47,122	3,30,580	3,16,542	958
1951	6,64,416	3,41,477	3,22,939	946
1961	7,94,449	4,12,917	3,81,532	925
1971	9,88,215	5,26,115	4,62,100	878

In 1961, the rural sex-ratio was 928 and urban 877. The rural sex-ratio was 941 in tahsil Rath, 937 in tahsil Charkhari, 929 in tahsil Maudaha, 923 in tahsil Mahoba and 906 in tahsil Hamirpur. The corresponding figures for the urban areas were 900 for Mahoba, 889 for Rath, 883 for Charkhari and 804 for Hamirpur Municipal Board. In 1971, the rural and urban sex-ratio of the district was 881 and 853 respectively.

Population by Tahsil and Towns

At the census of 1971, the district had five tahsils namely Rath, Hamirpur, Maudaha, Charkhari, and Mahoba and five municipal boards of Rath, Hamirpur, Maudaha, Charkhari and Mahoba. A new tahsil named Kulpahar was created on October 10, 1976. The tahsilwise distribution of people and the number of villages and towns as per district records of 1976 are given below :

Tahsil	Villages		Towns	Population		
	Uninha- bited	Inhabi- ted		Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rath tahsil						
Total	57	202	1	2,23,902	1,18,979	1,04,923
Rural	57	202		2,00,841	1,06,612	94,229

[Contd]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Urban	—	—	—	1	23,061	12,367	10,694
Hamirpur tahsil							
Total	46	148	1	1,64,417	88,016	76,401	
Rural	46	148	—	1,49,634	79,664	69,970	
Urban	—	—	—	1	14,783	8,352	6,431
Maudaha tahsil							
Total	32	166	1	2,07,482	1,10,186	97,296	
Rural	32	166	—	1,92,853	1,02,337	90,516	
Urban	—	—	—	1	14,629	7,849	6,780
Charkhari tahsil							
Total	31	85	1	90,478	48,036	42,442	
Rural	31	85	—	74,702	39,577	35,125	
Urban	—	—	—	1	15,776	8,459	7,317
Mahoba tahsil							
Total	8	104	1	1,36,803	73,215	63,588	
Rural	8	104	—	1,07,096	57,383	49,713	
Urban	—	—	—	29,707	15,832	13,875	
Kulpahar tahsil							
Total	47	225	—	1,65,133	87,683	77,450	
Rural	47	225	—	1,65,133	87,683	77,450	

Immigration and Emigration

According to 1961 census report, about 91.6 per cent of the residents were born in the district, 4.9 per cent in other districts of the State, 3.2 per cent in other parts of India and 0.03 per cent in other countries. Among those born outside India, 173 were born in Pakistan, 25 in Nepal and 6 in the U. S. A. The immigrants from Pakistan are mostly displaced persons. The duration of residence of 60.0 per cent of the total immigrants is over 10 years. Of the total immigrants 90.3 per cent were returned from rural areas and 9.7 per cent from the urban. Among them 16.5 per cent are males and 83.5 per cent females. The large percentage of females is explained by marriage migration. Of the immigrants from the neighbouring States, 24,472 persons (males 3,441, females 21,031) came

from Madhya Pradesh, 360 persons (males 238, females 122) from Punjab, 268 persons (males 198, females 70) from Rajasthan, 112 persons (males 46, females 66) from Bihar, 37 persons (males 21, females 16) from Delhi and one person (male 1) from Himachal Pradesh. The number of immigrants from the other districts of the State is 39,252 (males 9,954, females 29,298).

Some people must have gone out of the district to other parts of the State or country or abroad for education, employment, trade or commerce. Brides, generally have to leave their homes and often the district after marriage. Their number is not known. Higher rate of females immigration may similarly be largely due to men contracting marriages with women living outside the district.

Displaced Persons

Of 267 displaced persons from Pakistan, who arrived in the district in 1947-48, 237 settled down in the urban and 30 in the rural parts. By 1961, however their number came down to 173 as some of them left the district to settle elsewhere.

Distribution of Population

The distribution of rural population in 1971, among villages of different sizes was as under :

Range of Population	No. of villages	Persons	Males	Females	Percentage of the rural population of the district
Less than 200	152	14,594	7,815	6,779	1.64
" 200- 449	204	70,747	37,972	32,775	7.95
" 500- 999	257	1,85,562	98,356	87,206	20.84
" 1,000-1,999	227	3,15,028	1,67,213	1,47,815	35.39
" 2,000-4,999	78	2,20,454	1,16,968	1,03,486	24.76
" 5,000-9,999	10	63,390	33,949	29,441	7.12
" 10,000 and above	2	20,484	10,983	9,501	2.30
Total ...	930	8,90,259	4,73,256	4,17,003	100.00

LANGUAGE

In 1971, about eighteen languages were spoken by the inhabitants of the district, the Hindi speaking people being the most nume-

rous viz. 96.24 per cent. Urdu was spoken by 3.37 per cent and the remaining .39 per cent were found speaking Punjabi, Bengali and other languages. A detailed list of languages is given in Statement II at the end of the chapter.

The language spoken by the majority of the inhabitants is the *Bundeli* or *Bundelkhandi*, a variety of Hindi. There are, however, some other dialects also in use. Along the banks of the Yamuna, as in the neighbouring districts of Banda, Jalaun and Fatehpur, the dialect is known as *Tirhari* or "the border speech", but whereas in Jalaun this is hardly distinguishable from pure *Bundeli*, in Hamirpur it is *Bagheli*, more affected than in Banda by *Bundeli*. Thus not only are the *Bagheli* verbal past tenses found with the case of the agent with *ne* preceding as the subject, but in such cases instances of the true past tenses of the *Bundeli* verb also occur. In fact the verb takes the *Bagheli* or the *Bundeli* form at the caprice of the speaker. In the south-east of the district, where Banaphar Rajputs reside, the dialect spoken is *Banaphari* or *Banpari*. It is a form of eastern Hindi, resembling the dialect of Banda, but showing far more traces of *Bundeli*.

In the western portion of the district the peculiar speech known as the *Lodhiyon ki boli* prevails. In the whole district the language is mainly *Bundeli* mixed with *Bagheli*. As instance of the *Bagheli* form is *chhut-kawa-ne-kahis*, "the younger one said". On the other hand, we have *Bundeli* forms like *wah-ne-bat-din*, he divided "and *Jih-ne pathao*, "he who sent."

Script

The main scripts in use are the Devanagri for Hindi and allied languages and the Persian for Urdu.

RELIGION AND CASTE

The 1971 census reported the following religionwise distribution of population :

Religion	Total	Males	Females
Hinduism	9,21,257	4,89,619	4,31,638
Islam	65,604	35,804	29,800
Christianity	728	358	370
Sikhism	401	211	190
Jainism	216	115	101
Buddhism	9	8	1
Total ...	9,88,215	5,26,115	4,62,100

Statement III given at the end of the chapter shows the rural and urban distribution of followers of each religion from 1951 to 1971.

Principal Communities

Hindus—Of the total population of the district, about 93.2 per cent are Hindus. The pattern of society among the Hindus of this district, as elsewhere, is based on the traditional four-fold caste system, the four principal castes being the Brahmana, the Kshatriya, the Vaish and the Shudra, each being subdivided into a number of sub-castes. There are some other groups which have acquired the status of independent castes, such as the Kayastha, the Khattri etc., and they, too, are again subdivided into sub-castes.

The traditional distribution of occupations, which constituted the *raison d'être* for the four principal castes, must be regarded to have been greatly altered with time. In this respect, it may be stated that the *varnasramadharma* has yielded place to the *yugadharma*. The Brahmana has no more a monopoly of learning than the Vaish of trade, the Kshatriya of governance or the Shudra of menial service. In all the communities there is a yearning for education and white-collar jobs and gaining positions of power in public life. Nevertheless, even now certain castes or groups with specific occupations can broadly be indentified. The Vaish of the district are, for example, largely engaged in trade and money-lending. The Yadavas, and Lodhs, distributed all over the district, constitute the principal cultivating castes. Koris, Chamars and Doms, who have been designated as Harijans, are largely labourers, both agricultural and non-agricultural. Some of them hold land as tenants. Many are engaged in traditional crafts of their castes like leather tanning, shoemaking etc.

The principal castes among the Hindus of the district are Brahmanas, Rajputs (Bais, Parihar, Gautam, Panwar, Dikhit, Kachhwaha, Sengar, Chandel, Bundela etc.) and Lodhis, Chamars, Ahirs, Kachhis and Koris.

There are also certain other groups associated with distinct professions or trades. For instance, the Yadavas, are often graziers and cowherds and have a distinctly agricultural background. The Gadarias follow their traditional avocation of herding sheep and goats, though many have taken to cultivation. The other occupational castes are goldsmiths, blacksmiths, coppersmith, brass-smith, carpenters, fishermen, watermen, barbers, potters and earth diggers and stone cutters.

In this district, as elsewhere in the State, the Harijans have comprised in the past the lowest strata of society. They are still socially, economically and educationally backward. To enable rapid development, a large number of their groups and subgroups have been classified as Scheduled Castes and special facilities are accorded to them by government. They form 25.95 per cent of the total population. Their distribution as per district records of 1976, is given below :

Tahsil	Persons	Men	Women
Rath	62,674	32,830	29,844
Hamirpur	37,434	19,789	17,645
Maudaha	45,620	23,785	21,835
Charkhari	23,629	12,392	11,237
Mahoba	34,874	18,314	16,560
Kulpahar	48,279	25,300	22,979
Total	2,52,510	1,32,410	1,20,100

Muslims—At the 1971 census 65,604 persons (35,804 males, 29,800 females) or about 6.6 per cent were found professing the Islamic faith. They are numerically next to the Hindus. The Muslims chiefly reside at Rath, Maudaha and Mahoba. The Muslims villages around Maudaha are inhabited chiefly by converts, the majority of whom were formerly Rajputs, but occasionally converts from other castes are also found, for example at Umania near Rath, where the ancestors of the generation were Lodhis. The majority of Muslims, however, belong to the Sunni sect. The important groups among Muslims are the Sheikhs, Pathans, Behnas and Saiyids. The Sheikhs outnumber the others. Some of the important occupational castes among the Muslims are Behnas or Dhunnas, who are properly speaking cotton-carders, Julahas or weavers, telis, Qassabs or butchers, Lohars or blacksmiths.

Christians—There were 728 Christians in 1971, 358 males and 370 females. They belong either to Roman Catholic or the Protestant sect. Most of them are in government services. They are most numerous in Mahoba, Rath and Maudaha.

Sikhs—The Sikhs numbered 401 including 190 women in 1971. They are mostly immigrants from Pakistan. Most of them are found in urban areas and are engaged in various types of trades and commerce, and a few of them are also in government services.

Jains—In 1971, there were 216 Jains in the district, out of whom 101 were women. They are chiefly grain merchants.

Buddhists—In 1971, the number of Buddhists in the district was 9 including one female.

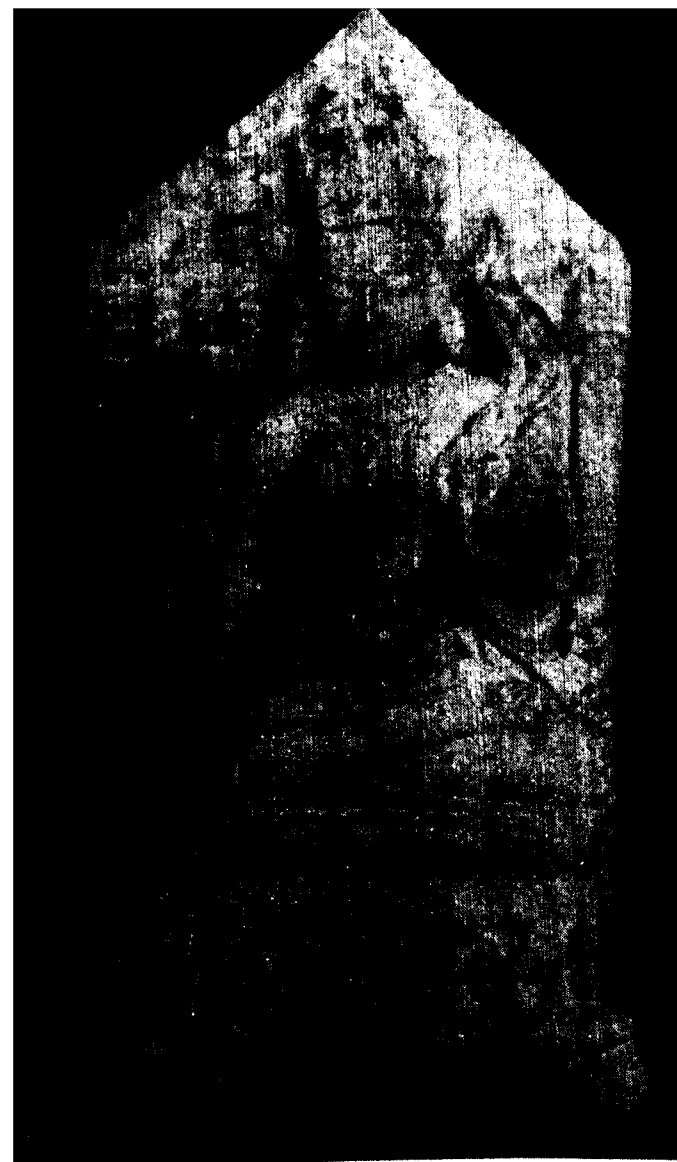
Religious Beliefs and Practices

Of Hindus—The term Hinduism is elastic and covers a multitude of sects and cults, many of them allied and yet different in several important respects, Hinduism is indeed more of a culture of civilization than a religious creed. Nearly all Hindus revere the Brahmans and venerate the cow and accept the authority of the Vedas and the other ancient scriptures. Hinduism has passed through many phases, retaining something of each phase up to modern times. It is this peculiarity which makes a definition of Hinduism so difficult. Hindus also worship their rivers, among which the Ganga holds the first place. The pantheon of the Hindu gods is most variegated and includes a large number of local deities in addition to the main divinities held in veneration all over the country.

The Arya Samaj is a protestant and reforming movement within the Hindu religion which was founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1869. It is monothiestic and professes to be a reversion to the religion of the Vedas. The Arya Samaj condemns idolatry. Shradha and early marriage and is opposed to the caste system.

There are a large number of Hindu temples in the district, the most famous being the Kakra Marh temple of Siva, the Majhari temple dedicated to Vishnu, the shrine of Maniya Devi (all in Mahoba town), the temples of Sri Gobardhan Nathji and Gumanbehariji at Charkhari, the Dhanusa temple at Jaitpur, the ancient temple at Jhalokhar dedicated to Deoji Bhanya Rani, the Chakariya Dai temple at Kabrai, the Bhairon Nath temple and Sri Ram Chandraji temple at Srinagar and a fine temple in village Bihuni Tola. There are Jain and Buddhist statues also at Mahoba.

Of Muslims—All Muslims accept belief in there being but one God and Muhammad being his prophet, the Holy Quran being the result of divine inspiration. The main duties enjoined upon the faithful by Islam are the offering of prayers five times a day, individually or collectively (*namaz*), fasting during the month of Ramadan (Rova), the Hajj, or pilgrimage to the holy places, and the offering of alms (Jakat) i. e. portion of income to be given in charity.



Tara (Buddhist deity), Mahoba

The places of Muslim worship in the district include the mosque at Mahoba, constructed during the reign of Sultan Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, the *dargah* of Pir Mubarak Shah at Mahoba, the mosque at Rath, built during the reign of Aurangzeb and the three mosques at Maudaha. There are also three noted *dargahs* in Maudaha town, called after Pir Sukhru, Moti Shahid and Sheikh Chand. Pir Sukhru is said to have been eaten by worms and people who are similarly afflicted, or whose cattle suffer with worm diseases, use the earth of the *dargah* as a remedial application. The *dargah* of Moti Shahid, a fakir, is similarly resorted to by persons suffering from fevers. According to local tradition Sheikh Chand lived about 1800 A. D. and one day he suddenly disappeared. Near the town of Rath is the tomb of the Bara Pir and a fair is held there on the fourteenth day of Rabi-us-sani (the fourth month of Hijri calendar).

Of Christians—Christians of the district, like their co-religionists all the world over, believe in God as the Father of the universe and Jesus Christ, his only son (the saviour of mankind), as the messenger who came down to the earth to justify the ways of God to men, besides the holy spirit, the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. The Bible is their holy book.

Of Sikhs—Sikhism is a monotheistic religion, which disfavours idolatry and recognises no caste distinctions. No Sikh is admitted to the privileges of the community until he has received the *pahul* (baptism), when he adopts the five *kakars*—*kesh* (uncut hair), the *kachh* (short drawers), *kara* (iron bangle), *kripan* (steel dagger), and *kangha* (small tooth comb worn in the hair). They attend congregational prayers in their *gurdwaras* (house of the Guru). Their holy book is the "*Granth*" now known as '*Guru Granth Sahib*'.

Of Jains—Jains are the followers of the path of liberation shown by the Jinas. The *tre-ratna* (three gems) right faith, right knowledge and right conduct-constitute the path of *moksha* (liberation) for them.

Of Buddhists—The main tenet of Buddhism is that while there is woe in the world, the eightfold middle path of righteousness based on *Satya Vishwas* (right belief), *Satya Vichar* (right aspiration), *Satya Bhashan* (right speech), *Satya Karma* (right action), *Satya Nirvar* (right living), *Satya Prayatna* (right effort), *Satya Dhyan* (right recollection), and *Satya Bhao* (right rapture), leads to the end of sorrow and to the attainment of peace, enlightenment and nirvana.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

Though the external pattern of life of all the communities is becoming increasingly uniform under the socio-economic stresses of modern living, yet each community has its own particular way of life, distinguished by their varying manners and customs. Among all the communities, there is a prescribed ceremony for every important occasion in a person's life from birth to death.

Among the Hindus some of the important ceremonies are *Namkaran* (naming of the child), *Mundan* (the first tonsure of the hair), *Yajnopavit* or *Upanayana* (sacred thread ceremony), *Vivah* (marriage ceremony) and *Antyesthi* (funeral rites).

Namkaran ceremony is usually performed on the tenth or twelfth day of a child's birth. The family in which a child is born is considered unclean for ten days and the *Namkaran* is preceded by a minor purificatory ceremony. The Hindus attach great importance to names. The name or the first alphabet of the name is suggested by the family priest after studying the child's horoscope. After the name-giving ceremony, it is customary for the father to distribute sweets to his friends and relatives.

Mundan is another important ceremony. Hindus attach religious importance to shaving the head of the child clean on this occasion, for they believe that it has the power to clean the body and the soul. Generally the ceremony is performed during the child's third or fifth year.

Upanayana is a Vedic ceremony performed to invest the boy with the sacred thread. Among the three higher castes it is an essential *sanskara* or initiatory rite for the boy to enter *brahmacharyashrama* or the stage of celibacy and studenthood.

Marriage too among the Hindus is considered a *sanskara* or sacrament which calls for the performance of elaborate rites to enable a person to enter *grahasthashrama* or the house holder's stage. The rites and ceremonies performed at the *Vivah* (wedding) are, by and large, the same among all Hindus, though they may vary in minor details according to customs particular to different castes. The principal rites commonly in vogue are in order *kanyadan* (giving of girl in marriage), *Vivah* (marriage ceremony), *Pargrahana* (acceptance of the hand of the bride by the bridegroom at the marriage ceremony) and *saptapadi* (seven steps taken round the sacred fire).

Hindus cremate their dead, and they perform *shradha* or ceremonies after death for the salvation of the departed soul. During the first year, monthly, half-yearly and yearly *shradhas* are also performed.

The chief ceremonies among the Muslims are *Aqiqa*, *Bismillah*, *Nikah* and funeral rites.

On the seventh, fourteenth or twenty-first day after child birth *Aqiqa* which has two parts, namely the shaving of child's head and the sacrifice of one or two goats is solemnized. The ceremony is usually followed by rejoicing and feast in which friends and relatives heartily join.

Bismillah ceremony, which consists of taking of the name of God, is performed when a child is made to repeat, after the priest, the first verse of the *Quran* and the relatives are feasted to commemorate the occasion. The *Khatna* (circumcision) takes place when the boy is six or seven years old. On this occasion too friends and relatives are feasted.

A Muslim marriage ceremony does not last for more than a day. Arriving at the bride's house, the bridegroom is led to his seat. Then the *qazi* (Muslim judge) asks the bride's agent whether she accepts the groom as her husband in consideration of *mehr* (dower) as decided. If she assents, he records her declaration and of her two witnesses. He then follows the same procedure in respect of the bridegroom. The solemnization of the marriage is followed by great rejoicing and feasting.

The Muslims bury their dead. The duty of helping at the funeral and praying for the departed soul is solemnly enjoined on all Muslims and is carefully observed by them. *Ziarat* ceremony is performed on the morning of the third day following the death. The relatives of the deceased abstain from taking part in any festivity for 40 days after death, the period and intensity of mourning depending on the person's relationship with the deceased.

The main ceremonies among the Christians relate to occasions of baptism, confirmation, marriage and death. When a Christian dies the corpse is well washed and neatly dressed and placed in a coffin. The priest offers prayers in the house of the deceased for peace of the departed soul. The dead body is then taken by some to the church for prayers and then to the cemetery for burial. Hymns are sung before the body is lowered in the grave.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

Of Hindus

Chief Hindu festivals and fairs are briefly described below :

Rama Navami which falls on the ninth day of the bright half of Chaitra, is celebrated as the birthday of Rama. People fast on this day and the temples of Rama are specially decorated and illuminated at night. The *Ramayana* is recited in the temples to a large number of devotees.

Naga Panchami is celebrated on the fifth day of the bright half of Sravana when the 'Nagas' or serpent gods are propitiated. Drawings of snakes in charcoal dust mixed with milk are made on the walls of the houses and are worshipped by the family-milk, rice and flowers being placed before them. Wrestling matches are also held on this occasion. Being a rainy season festival, women and girls sing *Kajaris* (folk songs), "*Jhula*" or swinging in the air, becomes more or less customary at this time, and more particularly on this occasion.

Raksha-bandhan falls on the last day of Sravana. On this occasion a sister ties a *raksha sutras* or *rakhi* (Protective thread or cord) around the right wrist of her brothers as token of the protection she expects to receive from them. Fairs are also held at several places.

The eighth day of the dark half of Bhadra is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Krishna, the tenth incarnation of Vishnu. Worshippers fast the whole day, breaking their fast with *prasad* distributed at midnight when Krishna was born. Devotional songs are sung and at most temples and in many houses "*jhankies*" (scenes) of Krishna's life are artistically reproduced.

The Dasahra festival of Navaratri is observed in the month of Asvina. From the first to the tenth day of Shukla Paksha (bright half) *Ramlila* celebrations are held at different places in the district. At many places Durga Saptshati is recited. He-goats are sacrificed at the altar of goddess Durga, the dreaded incarnation of Parvati, on the tenth day, Dasahra, which marks the culmination of the festival. It symbolises the triumph of good over evil and reminds the people of the great epic legend in which Rama invoked the help of Durga, to defeat the demon king Ravana.

Divali (or Dipavali), the festival of lights, is another major festival of Hindus. It recalls the gay celebrations on Rama's return to

Ayodhya on completing 14 years exile and his victory over Ravana. All the houses are cleaned and white washed. Divali heralds the approach of winter. Every house is illuminated at night with earthen lamps, children and the young let off fire works, and there is rejoicing all round. In the night, Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, is worshipped. For traders and businessmen, Divali marks the end of a fiscal year and they pray for prosperity in the new year. Jains also celebrate this festival as the day of nirvana of the twenty-fourth *tirthankara* Mahavir. On the following day Govardhan Puja is performed. With cow-dung 'Govardhan Parvat' is 'erected' and worshipped with heaps of sweets and edibles.

Kartiki-purnima is a bathing festival which falls on the full-moon day of Kartika, and attracts huge crowds on the bank of all rivers, but particularly so at the Yamuna.

Sivaratri, the most important festival of Saivites, is observed on the thirteenth day of the dark half of Phalguna with a fast, accompanied with milk and *belpatras* (the leaves of the bel) offerings to Lord Siva. For Arya Samajists too, it is a memorable occasion, as Swami Dayanand, the great reformist and founder of Arya Samaj, is said to have achieved enlightenment on this night.

Holi is a spring festival which falls on the last day of Phalguna. People sing *Phaags*—generally bawdy songs of the season. Big open air fires are lit on important cross-roads of every town and village of the district to celebrate the annihilation of the forces of evil in the shape of the legendary incineration of the incombustible Holika, and the preservation of Prahlad, by God's grace, from the fiery grave that had been contrived for him by her brother and his father the evil king Hiranyakashyap. Being also a harvest festival, and ears of barley and wheat are roasted in these community fire. Sprinkling of coloured water and throwing of coloured powder, accompanied with mutual embracing by males throughout the next forenoon is the chief characteristic of this occasion. Rural areas hum with melodious voices rendering *Phaags* (songs) into ecstatic folk music.

On the most festive occasions fairs are held. The more important Hindu fairs, observed in the district, are as follows.

The Kajalia fair is held on the banks of Kirat Sagar (at Mahoba) on the first day of the dark half of Bhadra, and the Siddh Mela, on the Gokhar hill near Mahoba in the same month. At Goindi, the Siddh Baba fair is observed on the bright half of Agrahayana, the Sri Krishna Lila fair and Siddhon Ka Mela are held at Jaitpur on

the full moon day of Kartika. The Jalbihar fair at Kulpahar is held on the 12th day of the bright half of Bhadra. A large fair is held annually in January in honour of Siddh Baba temple at Mahoba Kanth.

Of Muslims

A brief account of the more important festivals observed by the Muslims of the district (the occurrence of which corresponds with particular dates in the Islamic lunar calendar) is given below.

Barawafat, the birthday of the prophet Muhammad, is celebrated on the twelfth day of Rabi-ul-awwal, when alms are distributed and discourses (Milad Sarif) are held on the prophet's life.

Shab-e-Barat is celebrated on the night of the fourteenth day of Shaban when prayers (*fateha*) are offered for the peace of departed souls.

Id-ul-Fitr is celebrated on the first of the month of Shawwal when thanks giving prayers are offered for the successful completion of the fasts of the previous month of Ramadan. On this day men visit mosques for attending congregational prayers.

Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid) falls on the tenth day of Zilhijja to commemorate the occasion when the prophet Ibrahim submitted himself to the will of God. Men attend morning prayers in mosques or Idgahs and sacrifice sheep and he-goats in God's name.

Giarhween Sharif is a festival of special importance and is observed on the eleventh day of the month of Rabi-us-sani in honour of Abdul Qudir Jilani, an early Muslim divine of Baghdad, acclaimed as a descendant of the prophet Muhammad. Prayers, sweets and flowers are offered in his memory on this occasion.

Muharram is observed by mourning in the first ten days of month that commemorates the tragedy of Karbala which witnessed the martyrdom of Imam Husain, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad, and his companions. Although this occasion has special significance for the Shias, the Sunnis also take part in some of the observances. The *imambaras* (buildings for the performance of religious ceremonies, etc., in memory of Imam Husain and Imam Hasan and their followers) are illuminated on the eighth and the ninth day and *tazias* (replicas of the tombs of Imam Husain and Imam Hasan, generally made of coloured paper and bamboo) are

taken out in procession separately by Shias and Sunnis on Ashra (the tenth day).

In the district fairs are held at the tombs of prominent religious persons, these fairs are styled *urs* (anniversary). *Urs* of Barey Pir at Rath, Mardan Ghail at Tunka (in Rath tahsil) and Kammu Peer Baba at Patara (in Hamirpur tahsil) are famous. Milad celebrations are also common on these occasions.

Of Jains

The Jains in the district celebrate the birth and *nirvana* anniversaries of Parshvanath and Mahavira, their twenty-third and twenty-fourth *tirthankaras* respectively. The other important festivals of the Jains are Paryushan, the last ten days of Bhadra, and Asthanhika falling on the last eight days of Kartika.

Of Christians

The main festivals of the Christians are Christmas, the birth-day of Jesus Christ, which falls on 25th December; Good Friday, the day of Jesus Christ's crucifixion; Easter, which always falls on Sunday in March or April, the day of His resurrection. People attend services in churches and exchange greetings and presents. On Christmas eve scenes from the nativity of Christ are enacted and cribs are set up in the churches where people, particularly children, flock to see them.

Of Sikh

The Sikhs celebrate the birthdays of their gurus, Nanak Deo, Teghbahadur and Govind Singh. Portions from the *Guru Granth Sahib* are recited, congregational prayers are held at *Gurdwaras* and processions taken out. The Baisakhi is another Sikh festival. Local fairs and *Langars* are held at *Gurdwaras* on all these occasions and *Kara Prasad* freely distributed.

Of Buddhists

The Principal festival of the Buddhists is the Buddha Purnima on which day itself Buddha was born, got enlightenment as also attained *nirvana*. On this occasion they worship in their temples and recite verses from *Tripitaka*.

A list of some important fairs is given in Statement IV at the end of the chapter.

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and Inheritance

In matters of inheritance, the Hindus, Sikhs and Jains are governed by the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, the Muslims by their personal laws, and the Christians by the Indian Succession Act, 1925. Before the enforcement on July 1, 1952 of the U. P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1952 (Act No. 1 of 1951) right to inherit agricultural land and property was exercisable according to the provisions of the U. P. Tenancy Act, 1939 and the personal laws of the individual concerned.

Joint Family—In this district, as in other parts of the State, the institution of joint family, which has been a characteristic feature of Indian society since ancient times, is breaking down owing to economic and social factors, the impact of modern ideas and the individualistic outlook of the younger generation. The rapid growth of industries and urbanisation, the increasing demand for labour and the expectation of better wages in the city have also accelerated this disintegration. Division of property during the life time of the patriarch is also becoming common.

Marriage and Morals

The following statement shows the distribution of the population of the district according to marital status in various age groups in 1971 :

Age group	Total population	Unmarried		Married		Widowed		Divorced or separated		Unspecified status	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—9	3,18,433	1,68,182	1,50,251	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	1,14,624	52,014	30,991	12,756	18,688	25	70	—	—	—	80
15—19	70,794	18,285	6,100	21,355	24,674	195	155	30	—	—	—
20—24	67,305	6,354	535	27,362	32,419	345	260	15	15	—	—
25—29	70,221	3,321	25	31,476	34,239	740	355	45	20	—	—
30—34	65,884	2,170	30	31,048	30,381	1,155	995	80	10	5	10
35—39	55,795	1,255	15	26,287	25,463	1,410	1,250	70	25	20	—
40—44	53,339	1,400	10	25,218	22,083	1,775	2,833	15	5	—	—
45—49	43,911	1,160	25	20,036	17,803	1,965	2,863	50	10	—	—
50—54	41,731	1,080	25	19,046	11,852	3,274	6,424	15	5	—	10
55—59	26,646	540	25	10,688	8,470	2,625	4,288	—	10	—	—
60—64	28,717	535	25	11,062	5,177	3,495	8,383	30	5	—	5
65—69	13,178	275	—	4,738	2,170	2,105	3,875	5	10	—	—
70 and above	17,555	305	30	4,928	2,370	3,720	6,192	10	—	—	—
Age not stated	82	19	2	1	20	—	40	—	—	—	—
Total	9,88,215	2,56,895	1,88,089	2,46,001	2,35,808	22,829	37,983	365	115	25	105

Hindus—According to Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, the marital age was 18 years for the bridegroom and 15 years for the bride but in the event of the latter not having completed the age of 18 years, the consent of the guardian had to be obtained. The marriage age has recently been raised to 21 and 18 by an amendment to the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978 which came into force with effect from March, 1978. Under this Act polygamy among the Hindus is illegal. In this context the term Hindus includes Jains and Sikhs also. The customary restrictions, generally observed by the people of the district, such as those on marriages between persons of the same *gotra* (endogamous group descended from a common ancestor in the male line of descent) have been abolished with the passing of the Act and now inter-caste and inter-subcaste marriages, among parties of same *gotra* are not rare. Both law and custom prohibit *sapinda* (literally having the same pinda or funeral cake an agnate within seven generations) marriages among the Hindus. The restrictions regarding endogamic marriages are not as rigid as they were in the past. Generally marriages are arranged by the parents, initiative being taken by the bride's party (sometimes through intermediaries). A number of ceremonies, differing from caste to caste, and place to place, precede the nuptials. *Kanyadan* (giving away of the daughter) and *bhanwar* or *saptapadi* (seven steps taken round the sacred fire) are however, essentials of every traditional Hindu marriage.

Muslims—Islam permits polygamy to the extent of keeping four wives at a time but most of the Muslims of the district do not now favour to have more than one wife. The Islamic marriage is a contract and any 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 has been brought about without his or her consent. The amount of dower (*mehr*) may be fixed before, at the time of or after the marriage. The essentials of a Muslim marriage are that there should be a proposal by or on behalf of one of the parties and an acceptance by or on behalf of the other within the presence and hearing of 2 men and 2 women witnesses who must be sane and adult Muslims (according to the Shia law the presence of witnesses is not necessary). The proposal and acceptance, both must be expressed at one meeting. The custom that prevails in the district is that after the settlement of the marriage, the *sagai* or *mangni* (asking for the bride) takes place. The marriage ceremony (*nikah*) is performed by the *qazi* in the presence of witnesses. Among the Shias one *maulavi*, instead of *qazi*, from each side participates in solemnizing the marriage.

Christians—According to the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, as amended by the Act of 1952, the minimum marital age for the boys and the girls was 18 and 15 years respectively, but if latter was under 18 years of age, the consent of the guardian was required. But with the enactment of the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978, the marriage age has been raised to 21 and 18 years respectively. The marriage customs of adherent of different denominations in the district usually follow the general pattern. The marriage may be contracted by the parties concerned or may be arranged by their relatives. The period of engagement, which precedes the marriage, may be long or short. The banns are published 3 time (once every week) by the priest of the church, where the marriage is to be solemnised, in order to invite objections, if any. On a fixed date, the marriage ceremony is performed in the church by the priest. The essential parts of it are the giving away of the daughter by the father (or other near relative or friend), the repeating aloud, after the priest, of the marriage vows by the bride and bridegroom, the placing of the ring by the bridegroom on the third finger of the bride's left hand (sometimes the bride and the bridegroom exchange rings at this time), 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.

Dowry—With the passing of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, the offer as well as acceptance of dowry has become illegal, however, as an age old practice the evil still persists in almost all sections of society.

Civil Marriage—The Special Marriage Act, 1954, provides for marriage to be performed and registered by a marriage officer appointed by government for the purpose. In this system the parties give one month's notice, before the proposed date of marriage, to the marriage officer indicating their intention to marry. The notice of marriage is exhibited on the notice board of the marriage officer of the deputy commissioner for inviting objections, if any. In the absence of any valid objection against the proposed marriage it is performed and registered, after the expiry of the period notified for inviting objections. The parties have to sign the register and receive marriage certificates from the marriage officer.

Widow Marriage—The Hindu Widow Re-marriage Act, 1956 makes legal provision for the remarriage of a Hindu widow. Though the Arya Samaj, started advocating and performing widow remarriages according to the Vedic sanctions, right from the time the sect was founded, the number of such marriage is still insignificant particularly among the higher castes.

Divorce—In the past, the dissolution of marriage was not permissible among the Hindus. However, on getting the sanction of the caste panchayat, it was possible to do so among the Scheduled Castes. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 has made divorce legal under certain circumstances. The Muslim law permits the husband to divorce the wife on payment of *mehr*. The Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, gives, under certain conditions, the right to the wife to claim dissolution of her marriage. The Indian Divorce Act, 1869, is applicable to all civil marriages and generally to the Christians also. However, cases of divorce among the higher classes are rare.

From 1970 to 1974 only 47 (15 men and 32 women) filed cases of divorce and the courts permitted it in 36 cases.

Prostitution and Traffic in Women—Though with the enforcement of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1956 red light areas of the district have ceased to exist, yet this social evil has not been wiped out as yet completely.

Gambling—The Public Gambling Act, 1867 (Act No. 3 of 1967) as applicable to the State under the Uttar Pradesh Public Gambling Acts of 1952, and 1961, prohibits gambling. Details of gambling cases sent up and decided by the courts in the district during the past four years are given below :

Year	Prosecuted	Convicted
1971	44	33
1972	58	31
1973	50	12
1974	74	2
Total	226	78

HOME LIFE

The following statement shows the classification of households by their size and tenure status in the district :

Tract	Tenure status	Total no. of census households	Households having number of persons						No. of persons unspecified
			One person	Two persons	Three persons	Four persons	Five persons	Six and more persons	
Total District	Owned and Rented	1,76,995	13,385	16,535	18,260	24,115	26,705	77,985	10
	Owned	1,69,845	11,705	15,460	17,205	23,180	25,820	76,465	10
Rural Area	Rented	7,150	1,680	1,075	1,055	935	885	1,520	—
	Owned and Rented	1,59,235	11,695	14,695	16,340	22,095	24,235	70,165	10
Urban Area	Owned	1,55,930	10,795	14,210	15,860	21,620	23,855	69,580	10
	Rented	3,305	900	485	480	475	380	585	—
Urban Area	Owned and Rented	17,760	1,690	1,840	1,920	2,020	2,470	7,820	—
	Owned	13,915	910	1,250	1,345	1,560	1,965	6,885	—
Urban Area	Rented	3,845	780	590	575	460	505	935	—

Types of Dwellings

There still is a vast difference between the shape, size and durability of residential buildings found in the rural and urban areas of the district.

In villages, small one storied structures are most common. The walls are generally constructed of mud or unbaked bricks plastered inside and outside with clay, and bear thatched or tiled roofs. In 1971, 75.5 per cent rural houses had mud walls. The poor generally live in congested and insanitary surroundings. A single door is provided which acts both as an entrance and exit. Ventilators and windows are rarely found. The accommodation is scanty and the covered space usually consists of a room, sometimes with a dark cell inside and a verandah opening in the front. In such areas, where community development schemes have been implemented, ventilators, bathing platforms, improved cattle shed, better drainage etc. can often be seen. A courtyard is a must for most rural homes. The accommodation is, however, usually multi-purpose, with little privacy for individual life. Despite these shortcomings, the village women generally keep their homes well swept and tidy.

In the towns, one generally comes across pucca house built with kiln-burnt bricks and lime or cement plastering and stone, lime-concrete or ferro-concrete roofs. Steel girders are fast replacing the wooden beams. The dwellings consist of several apartments, each for a specific purpose and provided with adequate ventilation and ingress.

Furniture and Decoration

In rural houses, string cots, *takhats*, *morhas*, *chaukis* and mats are common pieces of furniture generally found. Kitchenware consists of brass, aluminium and iron utensils. Water or grain is stored in earthen pots and tins. Glazed pottery is scarce and glass vessels are rarely used. The only decoration that the eye may catch are caricatures, flowers or some geometrical figures, drawn by the womenfolk on the walls. Occasionally printed images of deities, framed or otherwise, adorn the niches. Houses in urban areas possess all sorts of modern furnishings, items of furniture, kitchenware, crockery and decorative pieces.

Dress

The normal dress of the men, both Hindus and Muslims, is shirt or *kurta* and dhoti or pyjama at home. While going out, however, they put on trousers with coat, snirt or bushshirt etc. which has become the dress of working class. Once back home they revert to their normal attire. On formal occasions, men wear coats,

sherwanis or *achakans*, and trousers, *churidars* or loose pyjama. In villages men still wear turbans or put on caps. The normal dress of women consists of a sari and blouse or *choli* i.e. short blouse. The Punjabi women, however, put on *salwar*, *kurta* and *dupatta*. Some Muslim women still wear *churidar pyjama* or *garara* with *kurta*, and *dupatta*. In the towns of the district, young girls are seen wearing shirts and slacks, *salwar*, *garara* or *sharara* with *kurta dupatta* and more recently bell-bottomed pyjamas with *kamiz*. The use of *lahanga* (full long skirt) lingers among the women of the villages, on ceremonial occasions in Hindu families.

Ornaments

Men usually do not wear ornaments except rings on fingers or sometimes a gold chain around the neck. Women's ubiquitous craze for jewellery persists here as elsewhere, silver ornaments being more common in the rural areas.

Food

The staples diet of by the people of the district consists of wheat, jowar, *makka* and *bajra*, the last three being coarse grains generally eaten by the poor. The pulses generally favoured are *urd*, *mung*, *chana*, *masur* and *arhar*. Most of the Hindus of the district are vegetarian by habit and preference. Muslims, Christians and Sikhs are generally non-vegetarians.

COMMUNAL LIFE

Amusement and Recreation

Kabaddi, *gulli-danda*, *gulhar*, *choon-ghora*, cards etc. are the indigenous games and sports commonly played in the district. The village folk generally find time for recreation during the rainy season, or on winter nights, when they are comparatively free. They sing folk songs, called *Alha* the most popular song and ballet (of Bundelkhand), *rasia*, *holi* and devotional hymns, to the accompaniment of handily musical instruments like *dholak*, cymbals and harmonium.

Ramlila, Raslila, Nautanki and Dramas are other occasional sources of recreation and amusement. Cinema and radio are the

most common modern sources of amusetment. Cinema facilities are, however, available only in the large aownns. There are, in all, 5 cinema halls in the district as follows :

Name of town	No. of cinema halls	Seating capacity
Hamirpur	One	300
Maudaha	One	406
Mahoba	Two	500 & 704
Rath	One	425

The total number of licensed radio sets in the district is approximately 900. The means of recreation in the country side are playing cards, chess, radio, *nautanki*, *kirtan* and visiting the numerous fairs.

There is no important pilgrim centre in this district. At Mahoba, there are some ruins of the times of Chandel rulers. The fort on the hill top at Charkhari and the big tanks constructed by Bundelas and Chandels are famous. Both Mahoba and Charkhari are places worth seeing.

Local folk dances are performed generally at the time of Holi, and sometimes at the Dipavali festival also. The kahars are known for their flair for dancing at most of their celebrations.

In rural areas there are few facilities for modern sports. Usually old patterned dangals are organized by common people as well as by the Gaon Sabhas. In addition to this annual tournaments of school children are also organised. Some modern games are also now being popularised by Yuvak Mangal Dals and Bal Mangal Dals.

IMPACT OF ZAMINDARI ABOLITION ON SOCIAL LIFE

The U. P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 (Act No. 1 of 1951) which came into operation in this district, on July 1, 1952 brought about significant changes in the social and economic lives of the people. The rural elite, which formerly consisted mainly of the Zamindars, and had been exploiting the actual

tiller of the land for the last several centuries, has now been replaced by a community of progressive farmers owning land and cultivating it vigorously with modern appliances and techniques. As a result, not only the per capita availability of farm produce has increased but the general prosperity of the people has also improved, manifesting itself in relatively higher standards of life. Lately educational institutions are coming up rapidly through government and voluntary efforts to combat illiteracy which had impeded social and economic development. The rural society is fast undergoing transformation to develop itself so as to be able to meet the challenges of life more effectively.

NEW TRENDS

The winds of change have been blowing all over the country after Independence and the impact of the Five-year Plans and community development schemes has been enormous. The patterns in dress, ornaments, social customs, food and other habits of the people; their very modes of living, their religious beliefs and practices even, all have undergone considerable change over the last three decades. The impact of the cinema is also farreaching, though not necessarily always healthy. With the diversification of occupations and spread of education, the social barriers are gradually crumbling and the rigidity of the caste system is also disappearing slowly. Cases of inter-caste and inter-provincial marriages have increased considerably. Untouchability has been outlawed, though the prejudices still persist among the more tradition-bound and orthodox people's minds. The extension of general and technical education has opened up new vistas of employment. Women have shed their shyness and are slowly taking up their place alongside the males in the society everywhere. By and large, the people have become politically conscious and take intelligent interest in the elections whether they are of pan-chayats, State Legislature or of Parliament. With the allround increase in prices, the purchasing power of agriculturists has also increased and they now spend lavishly on social customs. Thus there is a growing sense of confidence and general prosperity in the countryside and an awareness of their own worth and importance among the rural people, which is a happy contrast with the pre-Independence era. There is greater enterprise and much more wealth and modern comforts and amenities in the cities.

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

1. There has been no jurisdictional change in the district during the decade. The difference in area figures is due to the revised calculation of area done by the board of revenue

2. According to the central statistical organisation, the area of the district was 7,192 sq. km. in 1971

Reference Page No. 61

Languages	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Hindi	9,51,039	5,06,745	4,44,294
Urdu	33,259	17,363	15,896
Bundelkhandi	2,569	1,309	1,260
Bhojpuri	770	392	378
Punjabi	376	206	170
Rajasthani	58	28	30
Telugu	46	26	20
Marathi	36	17	19
Tamil	24	10	14
Bengali	15	5	8
Gujarati	10	6	4
Marwari	5	—	5
Gorkhali/Nepali	4	3	1
Malayalam	2	1	1
Sindhi	2	2	—
Oriya	1	1	4
Persian	1	1	—
Total	9,88,215	5,26,115	4,62,100

STATEMENT III

Religion

Reference Page No. 62

	Year					1971				
	1951		1961		Total	1971		Total	Urban	Rural
	Total	Rural	Total	Rural		Total	Urban			
Hindu	6,23,031	5,68,100	7,39,829	6,90,416	54,931	9,21,257	49,413	8,51,611	69,646	8,51,611
Muslim	41,536	22,309	53,716	36,927	19,227	65,604	16,789	38,054	27,550	38,054
Christian	359	122	512	339	237	728	173	343	385	343
Sikh	253	13	226	68	240	401	158	93	308	93
Jain	234	184	143	124	50	216	19	149	67	149
Buddhist	15	3	12	14	12	9	1	8	1	8
Other Religions	1	—	8	8	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6,65,429	5,90,731	7,94,449	7,27,896	74,698	9,88,215	66,553	8,90,258	97,957	8,90,258

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

STATEMENT IV

Fairs

Reference Page No. 7P

Place	Name of fairs or its association with	Date	Average daily attendance
1	2	3	4

TAHSIL RATH

Ballaon	Dwij Fair	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 2	700
Bara	Shyamla Devi	Asadha, <i>sukla</i> 15	10,000
Bhindi	Nav Durga	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 9	5,000
Bira	Chaturbuj Baba	Chaitra, <i>krishna</i> 30	800
Chandant	Ramlila	Pausa, <i>krishna</i> 30	3,000
Chandwari Danda	Deviji	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,000
Inderpura	Gabhaura	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 15	600
Karpra	Nav Durga	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 9	500
Khera Silajit	Ramlila	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 8	2,800
Pruaini	Sidh Baba	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 9	600
Rath M. B.	Ramlila	Kartika, <i>krishna</i> 1	8,000
Rath M. B.	Barey Pir	11th of <i>Rabi-us-sani</i>	5,000
Sarila	Sarila	Pausa, <i>krishna</i> 5	5,000
Tunka	Mardan Ghail	Thursday of <i>Rabi-al-awal</i>	2,000

TAHSIL HAMIRPUR

Bhakaull	Sidh Baba	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 15	5,000
Bidokhar	Brahma Deo	Magha, <i>sukla</i> 8	2,500
Chhuni Buzurg	Sadrakh	Magha, <i>krishna</i> 1	4,000
Hamirpur M. B.	Ramlila	Asvina, <i>sukla</i> 10	10,000
Jalla	Kalka Devi	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 15	500
Jhalokher	Bhuiyan Rani	Every Sunday	500
Kandaur	Sidh Bhanti	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,000
Kandaur	Daya Karar	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 1	2,000
Kuchhechh	Gausi Baba	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 1	2,000
Merapur	Kartiki Purnima	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	3,000
Misripur	Sivratri	Phalguna, <i>krishna</i> 13	4,000
Nadehra	Sayed Bale	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15 to	2,000
		Agrahayana, <i>krishna</i> 2	
Pachkhura Buzurg	Sankranti	Pausa, <i>sukla</i> 2-7	1,000
Pahar	Jala Baba	Pausa, <i>sukla</i> 8	3,000
Panchri	Jwala Devi	Pausa, <i>sukla</i> 8	3,000
Panchri	Maheshwari Devi	Pausa, <i>sukla</i> 8	3,000
Pautha Buzurg	Jhara Baba	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,000

[Contd.]

1	2	3	4
Patara	Kammu Peer Baba	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	5,000
Rethari	Deviji	Magha, <i>sukla</i> 15	500
Sangau	Donya	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	6,000
Saukhar	Manasir Nath	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	3,500
Sikrorhi	Chhattra Sal	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,000
Sikrorhi	Maheswari Devi	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,000
Surauli Buzurg	Sankranti	January, 14	1,000
Surauli Khurd	Manasir Nath	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,500

TAHSIL MAUDAHA

Adhaipurwa	Kedar Baba	Agrahayana, <i>krishna</i> 4	400
Bahinga	Sidh Baba	Magha	600
Bandhur Buzurg	Mahabirji	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 15	400
Baswari	Salra	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 5-7	800
Behoni Kalan	Ramlila	Pausa, <i>sukla</i> 30	700
Chhani	Gau Ghat	Magha	1,000
Chherka	Basdeo Baba	Pausa, <i>krishna</i> 2-4	500
Chichara	Ramlila	Pausa, <i>krishna</i> 11-30	400
Garhrauli	Nageshwar Baba	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 13 to Kartika, <i>krishna</i> 1	750
Gaura	Naga Panchami	Sravana, <i>sukla</i> 5	400
Gusyari	Ghazi Miyan	First Sunday of Jyaistha	600
Kahra	Rahaslila	Bhadra, <i>krishna</i> 8-15	400
Khanna	Balbhadra Baba	Pausa, <i>krishna</i> 5-7	600
Kharela	Sravan Fair	Bhadra, <i>krishna</i> 1	500
Maudaha	Kanslila	Sravana, <i>sukla</i> 15 to Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 14-15	2,000
Sisolar	Maharaja Baba	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	750

TAHSIL CHARKHARI

Aichaka	Bhuiyan Rani	Pausa, <i>krishna</i> 7-10	4,000
Bharwara	Gudari	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,000
Bumhori Kalan	Garai Baba	Agrahayana, <i>krishna</i> 3-4	2,000
Charkhari M. B.	Gobardhan Nath	Kartika, <i>krishna</i> 1-15	12,000
Devai	Sidh Baba	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 15	3,000
Jakha	Jal Bihar	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 12	2,000
Kakur	Mahabirji	Vaisakha, <i>sukla</i> 5-6	5,000
Kamal Khera	Mahabirji	Pausa, <i>krishna</i> 2-3	1,500
Kulpahar	Jal Bihar	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 13-15	1,000
Nagsaghai	Sankura	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	3,000
Nattera	Bhuiyan Rani	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 1	1,500
Panwari	Ramlila	Magha, <i>sukla</i> 5 to Phalguna, <i>krishna</i> 5	8,000

[Contd.]

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1	2	3	4
Patha	Bhuiyan Rani	Magha, <i>krishna</i> 15	2,000
Rahunia	Bath (Burki)	January 14	500
Satari	Dhanush Yagya	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 15	500
Sheohar	Mahadeoji	Pausa, <i>krishna</i> 1-2	1,600
Sunaria	Mania Mela	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 1	2,000
Supa	Kanhaiyaji	Magha, <i>sukla</i> 5	1,000
Turra Mahar	Jal Bihar	Bhadra, <i>sukla</i> 13	4,000

TAHSIL MAHOBA

Ajnar	Ajna	Phalguna	3,000
Atrar Mauj	Ramlila	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 5-6	1,000
Chhani Kalan	Sidh Baba	Pausa and Magha	1,000
Darhat	Bidesan Devi	Agrahayana	1,000
Geondi	Sidh Baba	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 15	3,000
Guhra	Mahabirji	Pausa, <i>sukla</i> 2-4	1,000
Karnraha	Burki (Bath)	January 13	1,000
Mahoba M. B.	Kajli Mela	Kartika, <i>krishna</i> 1-2	5,000
Makarbai	Sidh Baba	Agrahayana, <i>krishna</i> 14	1,000
Pawa	Dhanush Yagya	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,000
Pipra Muaf	Mela Pipra Muaf	Magha	2,000
Rabatia	Kartiki Mela	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	1,500
Sijehri	Ramlila	January 2-4	2,000
Sijwala	Ramlila	Agrahayana, <i>sukla</i> 9	1,000

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

LAND UTILISATION AND RECLAMATION

In 1971, the total number of workers in the district was 3,23,330. Of these 2,74,212 constituting about 84.81 per cent were engaged in agricultural pursuits, either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers and the remaining were employed in mining, quarrying, construction, trade and commerce and other non-agricultural activities.

The following statement gives details of land utilisation in the district in 1951, 1961 and 1970-71:

Land use	Area in hectares		
	1951*	1961**	1970-71***
Total geographical area	7,00,335	7,33,533	7,27,569
Forests	3,786	40,748	38,127
Uncultivated land (land under water, buildings, roads and land put to other non-agricultural uses)	98,068	77,039	39,717
Other uncultivated land (including <i>usar</i> , grazing land, groves and old fallows)	1,50,233	92,804	1,13,341
Current fallows	47,976	62,855	30,139
Cultivated land	4,00,272	4,60,087	5,06,245

*Average of the five years with the census year as the mid-year.

**Average of five years ending in 1961.

***Actual figures for the year.

Cultivated Area

The statement below gives the figures of the net cultivated area in the district in 1951-52, 1961-62 and 1972-73 :

Year	Cultivated area (hectares)	Per cent of total area (hectares)
1951-52	4,20,176.8	58.0
1961-62	4,78,431.5	64.4
1972-73	5,06,301.0	67.7

Culturable Area

Forest Land, groves, fallows, waste lands like pastures and land generally classified as unculturable due to sand or *reh* (alkaline soil) or ravine scouring or overgrowth of kans, dhak and other pernicious vegetations constitute the culturable area. The extent of this type of land in the district was as follows :

Year	Culturable land (hectares)
1951-52	2,07,532.8
1961-62	1,67,612.8
1970-71	1,52,345.0

In 1970-71 such land included 38,127 hectares of forests, 2,619 hectares of groves, 60,200 hectares of culturable waste, 574 hectares of pastures besides fallows measuring 50,824 hectares. Barren and *usar* land constituted 29,262 hectares and the total area of land that was either under water or put to non-agricultural uses, e.g., roads, habitation sites, grave-yards, etc., accounted for 39,717 hectares.

Precarious Tracts

The entire district, with the possible exception of southern portion of tahsil Rath, is precarious. This precariousness is a characteristic feature common to Bundelkhand and is bound up with the peculiar character of its soils and the uncertainty of its climate. The soils, being either extremely retentive of moisture or extremely porous, for the most part require well distributed and regular rains. But the seasons during which conditions are favourable in both respect are few. A season in which the rainfall is deficient, especially if it ceases at the beginning of September, is more disastrous than any other. But while light soils can generally rid themselves of excessive moisture, this brings peculiar evils in its train in black soil tracts, in the shape of an extension of the growth of kans, particularly since the twenties of the last century. This grass is inherent in the soils of Bundelkhand, and has a special affinity for *mar* and *kabar*. Ordinarily nearly a metre high but sometimes under favourable conditions much higher, kans possesses extremely long tenacious roots, estimated to extend one to one and a half metre below the surface of the ground. The consequence of this is that it is impossible to eradicate it, while its downy, seedbearing blossoms are transported by the wind in their myriads all over the country, enabling it to spread with great rapidity. Like other varieties of grass it is

affected by drought and there have been times when years of drought have been a positive benefit to many villages infested with it. Left to itself, kans is reputed to die down in a period variously estimated from 12 to 20 years; and it is asserted that the preliminary to its periodical disappearance is its replacement by *sonta* grass. The literature on kans is voluminous and its habits and special features are well known. But no truly efficacious and economical remedy for it has as yet been discovered. The only practical remedy found so far is deep ploughing.

Soil erosion is another important physical characteristic of this region. Areas along the rivers Yamuna, Ken, Dhasan and Betwa in the district, especially in Rath, Kulpahar and Charkhari tahsils are scoured by deep ravines. The following statement gives the area affected by soil erosion in each tahsil of the district in 1971 :

Tahsil*	Area affected by soil erosion (hectares)	Per cent of total area
Rath	68,797	40.79
Hamirpur	68,797	63.71
Maudaha	78,914	50.39
Charkhari	74,867	53.01
Mahoba	72,843	40.09
Total district	3,64,218	50.56

Erosion by water constitutes the most serious menace to the land not only because it denudes the soil directly but also because it leads to the silting of the rivers, reservoirs and tanks resulting in recurring floods. It has been found that on an average nearly 28,445 hectares of land in the district are flooded by the overflow of the rivers during the monsoon. Conservation of the soil is necessary for storing the precious rain water, which otherwise flows down the rivers due to surface denudation and goes waste. Erosion of the slopes is generally always accompanied by a lowering of water table and drying up of natural springs and artisan wells. Since ground water is the most valuable natural resource anywhere for agriculture, constituting the best defence against droughts, its maximum replenishment through an intensive programme of soil conservation has been taken up in the district since 1963-64. There were three

*Kulpahar tahsil was created subsequent to 1971 census.

units engaged upon this work with headquarters at Hamirpur, Rath and Mahoba. Measures like bunding, levelling, construction of outlets in the fields and check-dams, contour ploughing and sowing of cover crops are undertaken methodically under the programme. From 1963-64 to 1974-75, the total area of land in the district protected through soil conservation measures was 84,877 hectares. Besides, an area of about 3,496 hectares, mostly in the ravined tracts of the Dhasan and Betwa, has also been afforested.

IRRIGATION

In discussing the extent of the irrigated area in a district of Bundelkhand it must always be borne in mind that the tract differs from the doab in one most important particular, namely, the retentiveness of moisture in the soil. With an ordinarily well distributed rainfall, nearly all the *mar* and *kabar* soil is capable of sustaining spring crops to maturity without the aid of artificial irrigation. Till the beginning of the present century it has been a common belief in these parts that artificial waterings in these soils do more harm than good—a prejudice which has operated against the spread of irrigation as an integral part of agricultural development. A further hinderance has been the great cost of sinking wells, owing to the considerable depth of the subsoil water in the black soil tracts, and both these factors have combined to restrict the irrigated area generally to the neighbourhood of *kachhiana* and *parua* soil tracts. Another factor responsible is the uneven character of a large portion of the soil in the district. Hence construction of embankments, at suitable places, which retain the surface water till the sowing of the Rabi, and the soaking received by the soil, usually make sufficient moisture available for the winter sowings.

On the whole the district is well provided with canals, taken out either from the two major rivers, the Betwa and the Dhasan, or those fed by the large number of natural lakes and tanks and artificial reservoirs. Prior to the advent of the canal irrigation system, wells were the most important source of water for the crops, and even after the extension of canals in the district, wells still constitute a major source of irrigation. Construction of wells and fitting them with electric or diesel pumps and *rahats* (Persian wheels) are important features of the minor irrigation programme taken up by the government in the district since the later fifties and sixties of this century. As the streams of the district run for the most part in deep channels between high banks, their water is utilised for irrigation through the traditional, indigenous lift devices like *dhenkli* (pot and lever apparatus) and *dal* or *daliya* (basket made of bamboo or wide leather bag). In recent years a number of major pump canal schemes have been completed on the Betwa and the Yamuna in order to mechanise the lift irrigation methods.

The statement given below shows the gross irrigated area reported in the district in 1951-52, 1961-62 and 1972-73 :

Year	Gross irrigated area (hectares)	Per cent of gross cropped area
1951-52	37,990.0	8.8
1961-62	49,490.0	10.01
1972-73	74,236.0	14.06

Means of Irrigation

The statement below shows the area irrigated from wells, canals and other sources during 1951-52, 1961-62, 1971-72 :

Year	Area irrigated from wells (hectares)	Area irrigated from canals (hectares)	Area irrigated from other sources (hectares)
1951-52	4,638.0	32,846.3	259.4
1961-62	3,966.0	45,007.5	210.8
1971-72	7,100.0	72,364.0	1,567.0

Ordinarily the construction of wells is a very costly affair in these parts due to the rocky terrain and the large depth at which water lies from the surface. There is a sharp contrast, however, between the north-eastern and south-western portions of the district in this respect. Wells are much more in numbers in Mahoba, Kulpahar and Charkhari tahsils and in pargana Rath, where the average depth of water is but 8 to 12 metres. In the north in Hamirpur, Sumerpur and Maudaha parganas where the average depth of water ranges from 20 to 21 metres construction of wells is not at all economical. The only portions in the district where the depth of water is comparatively less are south of Jalalpur and Rath parganas. In the last two decades government has provided liberal financial assistance for the construction of masonry wells with the result that in 1975 there were 10,615 such wells in the district.

Tube-wells

Till recently the substratum of this region, consisting for the most part of granite rocks, was considered unsuitable for the construction of tube-wells. In 1972, the ground water board made an exhaustive survey and discovered that a 20 km. broad belt along both the Yamuna and Betwa was suitable for the construction of

tube-wells. Soil strata in Sarila development block in tahsil Rath and Sumerpur and Kurara blocks in tahsil Hamirpur were accordingly found suitable for boring tube-wells and the work was taken up in 1972. By 1975, a total number of 58 tube-wells were bored in this area, out of which 25 were successful.

Minor Irrigation

Since the fifties of the present century the government has also taken up the private minor irrigation works programme in the district. The commercial banks, co-operative institutions and quasi-government financial corporations provide financial assistance to the cultivators for the construction of wells and installing pumping sets or Persian wheels. By 1974-75, 10,615 masonry wells had been constructed, 1,279 masonry wells bored, 1,512 Persian wheels and 4,311 pumping sets installed in the wells and 95 private tube-wells completed in the district.

Canals

The river canal system is prevalent in Kurara, Panwari, Rath and Sarila development blocks and the canals fed by the dams and embankments, tanks and jhils cover Maskara, Jaitpur, Maudaha, Panwari, Kabrai and Charkhari development blocks of the district.

The Hamirpur branch of the Betwa canal and its distributary channels had a total length of nearly 58 km. in the district in 1975. The canal originates at the village of Parichha in Jhansi district. It was opened for irrigation in 1887-88.

The Dhasan river canal was completed and opened for irrigation in 1912. The total length of the main canal and its distributary channels in the district was 632 km. in 1975.

The question of utilising the lakes and tanks existing in the district for purposes of irrigation was taken up in 1855. A beginning was made with Bijainagar and Bela Tal lakes and subsequently the Dasrapur, Thana, Madan Sagar, Kirat Sagar, Kalyan Sagar, Naigaon and Tikamau lakes were also provided with sluices. The construction of artificial embankments for the storage of water for the crops has been a special feature of these areas since times immemorial. Their construction received a considerable impetus with the beginning of the present century, and more so from the year 1908-09 onwards. Nearly 215 embankments (*bundhis*) were made in the district by 1916. Majhgawan tank canals (52 km. long) were constructed in 1914 at a cost of Rs. 4,37,000, the Kulpahar tank canals (8 km. long) followed in 1924 at a cost of Rs. 94,000. Three canal systems aggregating 110 km., were later constructed at Bela

Sagar Tal, Raipura and Kamalpura at a total cost of Rs. 13,05,000. In recent year a number of important canals namely Arjun, Kabrai, Keolari and Chandrawal totalling nearly 426 km. have been completed in the district till 1973-74.

The age-old system of lifting water from the rivers flowing in deep channels between high banks carried out through *dal* or *daliya* and *dhenkli* has now given way to mechanised lift irrigation schemes known as pump canal schemes taken up at several places in the district since 1972. The Sahjana pump canal was taken up at Sahjana on the left bank of the river Betwa in September 1972 and was completed in March 1974 at a total cost of Rs 23.44 lakhs. It is 16.9 km. long and capable of irrigating 1,417 hectares of land. Three more such schemes were taken up in April-May 1973 at Sohrapur, Patyora and Sarauli Buzurg and were completed by March 1974. The Sohrapur pump canal taken out from the Betwa at a cost of Rs. 46.60 lakhs is 38.4 km. long. Similarly the 38 km. long Patyora and 21.2 km. long Sarauli Buzurg pump canals, meant to utilize the waters of the Yamuna, were constructed at a cost of Rs. 38.53 lakhs and Rs. 29.69 lakhs respectively. The total irrigation potential of the aforesaid three pump canals in the district is nearly 8,864 hectares.

AGRICULTURE INCLUDING HORTICULTURE

Land and Soils

The district can be roughly divided into two parts. The northern portion is a flat plain, consisting mainly of black soils, except where the land has suffered from erosion due to the numerous streams traversing it. Towards the south the surface rises, the soils becoming lighter in character. Numerous outcrops of gneiss rock, tending to cluster into low ranges, surrounded by uneven broken country and overgrown for the most part with stunted jungle, appear. Further south the hills become more frequent and the three southern tahsils Mahoba, Charkhari and Kulpahar may fairly be described as hilly tracts.

The soils consist of the well known Bundelkhand varieties, *mar*, *kabar*, *parua*, and *rakar*, the two former commonly known as black and the latter as light soils. *Mar* is often called 'black cotton soil'. It varies greatly in colour, consistency and fertility but is marked by the constant characteristics of being highly argillaceous, calcareous and adhesive. It contains small lumps of *kankar*. It is friable and retentive of moisture and generally possesses a high degree of fertility. *Kabar* range from a rich dark black to light brown. Its chief characteristic is its extreme adhesiveness, which

causes it to quickly dry and cake into hard blocks. There are no *kankar* nodules in it and it is much less retentive of moisture. Generally it appears in its superior forms of a fine clay tinged with organic matter, and in this shape is as valuable as *mar*. The lighter qualities, the poorest of which probably contain much sand making them less consistent, are intractable and ungracious soils, needing an evenly distributed and consistent rainfall to render agricultural operations successful. If too much rain falls *kabar* becomes a mire; if too little falls it can hardly be turned up by the plough. The characteristics of retentiveness and cohesion, though they are of great service in years of drought, constitute the main dangers of *mar* and *kabar*.

Parua is a light coloured sandy soil, found in many forms. Sometimes it has a strong admixture of clay which, under the influence of standing water, makes it soft and cohesive like a poor variety of *kabar*; sometimes it is a sandy loam closely approaching that of the doab. It is usually less rich in organic matter, but its finer texture makes it more responsive to manure and irrigation and, where these are available, it is a highly prized and valuable soil. Occasionally *parua* is found in a extremely sandy form, generally in the neighbourhood of rivers, where it is commonly called *bhat*.

Rakar is refuse soil which occurs on sloping ground, where the action of water has tended to denude the earth of all its better qualities. It is extremely porous and needs plentiful and regular rain. It is commonly divided into *moti* and *patli*; the former being deteriorated *mar* or *kabar*, and the latter deteriorated lighter soil. Neither variety intrinsically differs, but *rakar moti* is always found in close proximity to *mar* or *kabar* plains and in those soils in the first period of deterioration; consequently by the aid of embankments the process may often be arrested and the soil attains a high degree of excellence. *Rakar patli* is a thoroughly scoured soil, which may be fairly productive if manured, but which finds its worst expression in the barren ravines that fringe the larger rivers. Both varieties are conspicuous by the existence of *kankar* nodules.

Other conventional soils consist of the highly manured and irrigated plots that surround the village sites, in which vegetable crops are raised, particularly by the Kachhis, locally known as *kachhwara* or *kachhiana*, and the soils of the land that lies just beyond the *kachhiana*. They are known as *goind*, *gauhan*, *khero* or *khirwa*, the last two terms expressing a feature common to many Bundelkhand villages which lie on elevated sites called *kheras*. Soils subject to fluvial action are divided into *kachhar* and *tari*, the

latter found along the edge of the rivers or in the beds of nullahs, which is covered with water in the rains and fertilized regularly by silt while *kachhar* lies higher up the shelving bank, and though less liable to benefit from regular silt, is also less liable to destruction from the stream.

The characteristic of the two north-eastern tahsils, Hamirpur and Maudaha, is an upland plain of black soil, the highest portions being generally *mar*. This slopes away and passes into lighter soils along the edges of the ravines which fringe the rivers, *parua* and alluvial soil lying between the ravines and the stream. In the centre of parganas Hamirpur and Maudaha are found specimens of the best black soil, while in the triangle between Hamirpur town and the junction of the Betwa and Yamuna rivers lies a good example of a semi-alluvial tract. In Rath and Jalalpur west of the Barma river similar characteristics are found. To the south of pargana Rath the land rises considerably and appears to be above the black soil deposits. In the extreme south-west of Rath tahsil is a tract of good *parua* varied by light *kabar*. This passes northward into heavier *kabar* and gradually merges into the northern black soil plains.

In the southern tahsils of Charkhari, Kulpahar and Mahoba conditions are somewhat more varied owing to the occurrence of hills; The characteristics being similar to those of central India. The prevailing soil is *parua* of an inferior quality, deteriorating into poor *rakar* along the foot of the hills, it is interspersed here and there with patches of shallow *mar* and *kabar*, and is improved in the vicinity of habitation sites by irrigation and manure, where it is known as *kachhiana*, *goind*, *gauhan* and *khero* the gradation and quality decreasing on the distance from the village sites in that order.

Cultivation

The system of agriculture pursued in the district does not differ from that found in other parts of Bundelkhand. Generally the district is classed as agriculturally backward in comparison with the districts situated in the doab in the north. The unkindliness of the soils, the uncertainty of outturn except under a rare combination of suitable climatic conditions, are some of the factors that contribute to this state of affairs. The picture has, however, its other side as well. Much care is taken in better soils in preparation for the sowing of crops, especially the Rabi harvests, by thorough ploughing and aeration of the soil, and instances where extensive improvements have been made by the cultivators themselves at their own cost by

constructing embankments in the fields are not uncommon. As regards manure, *mar* or black soils in the north-eastern part of the district are considered to be sufficiently rich without it, while in *parua* tracts its application is extensively practised by careful husbandmen. Ordinarily *mar* does not require manuring and if it did, the water level is usually so low in black soil areas that it would be difficult to raise enough of it needed, for irrigation. The conditions have changed in post-Independence era considerably particularly during the last two decades in nearly all parts of the State and this district has also made consequently appreciable progress in agricultural sphere. Much better irrigational facilities made available through canals, minor irrigation works like wells, installation of pumping sets and Persian wheels and lift irrigation schemes have resulted in significant agricultural advancement.

Harvests

There are three harvests, the autumn or Kharif, have usually known as *siyari*, and the spring or Rabi as *unhari*. The Zaid or extra harvest is insignificant in area, consists of cucurbits, vegetables, spices, tobacco, legumes and a host of low grade cereals and covered only 288 hectares in 1970-71. The kharif crops are sown in Asadha-Sravana (June-July) and reaped in Kartika Agrahayana-Pausa (October-November-December). The preparations for the Rabi sowing commence after the cessation of the rains and the crops are sown in Kartika-Agrahayana. The Rabi crops are harvested from the month of Chaitra (March) and the operations last sometimes up to Jyaistha (May). There has been an appreciable extension of the double-cropped (*dofasli*) area and the more valuable and high-yielding staples are fast replacing the old, indigenous varieties.

The comparative figures of the area covered by the Kharif, Rabi, and *dofasli* crops in the district are given below :

Year	Area under Kharif (hectares)	Area under Rabi (hectares)	Area under <i>dofasli</i> (hectares)
1951-52	1,60,816.0	2,71,236.5	12,053.5
1961-62	1,47,656.0	3,47,468.0	16,753.5
1970-71	1,63,042.0	3,58,906.0	18,990.0

Principal Crops

Kharif—The principal Kharif crop in the district is the big millet or jowar which, alone or in combination with *arhar*, occupies a major Kharif area. It is the main black soil staple, but is otherwise a favourite crop in all other soils. In good *mar* and *kabar* soils it is usually grown alone, but in lighter soils more commonly mixed with pulses such as *moong* and *urd*. In recent years high-yielding hybrid strains of jowar have been introduced in the district, though the older, indigenous varieties, the commonest being *dugru*, are not yet out of cultivation. Jowar covered 74,266 and 95,474 hectares in 1951 and 1961 respectively. The district stood second in the whole of Jhansi Division in point of area, and first so far as the total production of jowar is concerned in 1971-72.

The next Kharif crop in order of importance in the district is paddy. In recent years high-yielding hybrid strains of paddy have been introduced and they are fast replacing the indigenous varieties like *anokhi*, *dudhi*, *manki*, *gardhan* and *ajan*, the popular varieties in these areas in the bygone days. Paddy was sown in 5,497 and 5,688 hectares in 1951 and 1961 respectively.

Bajra is another notable Kharif crop. It is locally called *lihdra* and is a favourite crop in light sandy soils or in more uneven tracts in the neighbourhood of streams and rivers. Usually *arhar* is sown mixed with it. *Bajra* covered 5,799 and 3,602 hectares in 1951 and 1961 respectively.

The rest of the Kharif area is taken up for the most part by the smaller and coarser millets like *sawan*, *kodon* and *kakun* which flourish well in the *rakar* and light *parua* soils. *Kodon* is another favourite mixture with jowar. Among the pulses in this season *urd*, *moong* and *moth* are notable. They too, are usually sown mixed with jowar. The following statement shows the extent and status of the main Kharif cereals in the district in 1972-73 :

Crops	Area sown (hectares)	Total production (tonnes)	Average yield per hectares in district (quintals)	Average yield per hectare in State (quintals)
Jowar	89,046	60,875	6.84	7.19
Rice	9,425	4,602	4.88	7.48
Bajra	2,961	1,249	4.22	6.63
Sawan*	1,292	542	4.20	4.20
Kodon*	4,106	1,893	4.61	4.61
Urd	} Kharif pulses			
Moong				
Moth		984	2.70	3.60

*Figures of 1971-72 only are available.

Rabi—Gram leads all other cereals in this season. In terms of area it occupied about 55 per cent of the total Rabi area in 1971-72. It is grown in almost all soils, from the finest variety of *mar* to the better fields of *rakar*. The district stood second in the cultivation of gram in the Jhansi Division coming next to Banda in that year. Gram was sown in 1,53,670 and 1,70,585 in 1951 and 1961 respectively.

Wheat takes second place among the Rabi cereals in the district. The general practice here is to sow wheat in combination with gram, barley, pea or mustard. 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 introduced in the district like *Sonalika*, *Kalyan Sona*, *Sonara*, *K-68* and *K-65*. Wheat was sown in 90,638 and 1,21,180 hectares in 1951 and 1961 respectively.

Barely has never been a favourite crop in these parts. It is seldom sown alone, and is generally mixed with wheat or gram or both. It covered 7,744 and 6,910 hectares in 1951 and 1961 respectively.

Of the pluses, *arhar* and *masur* occupy a sizeable area in the district, which has an important place in the State as a prolific grower of these pulses. The district was the second largest *arhar* growing area in the Jhansi Division in 1972-73. *Arhar* is really sown in the Kharif but is harvested with the Rabi crops. And because of the long time it takes in ripening, it is generally sown along with jowar or *bajra*.

The following statement gives the extent and status of the main Rabi cereals produced in the district in 1972-73 :

Crops	Area sown (hectares)	Total production (tonnes)	Average yield per hectares in district (quintals)	Average yield per hectares in State (quintals)
Gram	1,98,280	1,54,265	7.78	7.61
Wheat	1,41,919	1,68,805	11.89	12.25
Barley	4,261	3,517	8.25	10.09
Pea	2,013	1,097	5.45	6.20
Arhar	30,549	59,511	19.48	15.40
Masur	5,973	6,085	10.19	6.23

Non-food Crops

Cotton, which has been a valuable cash crop in the district till the early years of the present century covering nearly 18 per cent of the total Kharif area, has now wholly disappeared. Indigo and *al* have also met the same fate, because of the introduction of the aniline and chemical dyes.

Pan (betel leaf) has been cultivated at Mahoba for centuries, one mahal being called the *dariba* or *pan* shop. Rath is another place famous for its cultivation which is entirely in the hands of Tambolis or Barais. The renowned Mahoba *pan* is famous throughout northern India.

Oil-seeds like linseed, til, mustard and castor, sugar-cane sunn-hemp, tobacco, vegetables are the chief non-food crops of the district. The district occupies a leading position for the cultivation of oil-seeds in the whole of Jhansi Division.

The following statement gives some relevant details of the main non-food crops in the district in 1972-73 :

Crops	Area sown (hectares)	Total production (tonnes)
Oil-seeds (Combined)	28,985	5,546
Potatoes	113	1,073
Sugar-cane	1,934	50,517
Sunn-hemp	2,640	1,017
Tobacco	84	92

Improvement of Agriculture

The ever-increasing demand for food-grains necessitated far-reaching improvements and changes in the patterns and techniques of agriculture. In the post-Independence period, especially since the launching of 'green revolution' in the sixties of this century, the advancement of agriculture has been given the most important place in the economic planning of the district. The various measures adopted are briefly described below.

Seed Supply

The most common among the recently introduced high-yielding varieties of seeds of cereals are the exotic paddy and millets, hybrid maize, Mexican wheat, U. P. wheat, U. P. maize and hybrid *bafla*

Seeds are supplied by the government through the seed stores maintained by the agriculture department and co-operative seed stores. From a total of 43 such seed stores 12,934 quintals of Kharif and Rabi seeds were distributed in 1975-76. These seed stores, however, meet but a small fraction of the total demand of the cultivators, the bulk being supplied by the local dealers who obtain them from the National Seeds Corporation, Terai Development Corporation and other agencies or through mutual exchange. The government farms at Kulpahar (established in 1959-60), Kurara (established in 1960-61) and Rath (established in 1961-62) are also engaged in the production of improved seeds.

Soil Nutrients

The traditional manures are cattle dung, farm refuse and stable litter. The usefulness of green manure crops such as *lobia*, *guar*, *dhaincha*, *sanai* and *moong*, which help in fixation of nitrogen in the soil and increase its fertility, is also being increasingly realised by the cultivators. Nearly 1,390 quintals of green manure seeds were supplied to the farmers and an area of 2,110 hectares was sown with them in 1974-75.

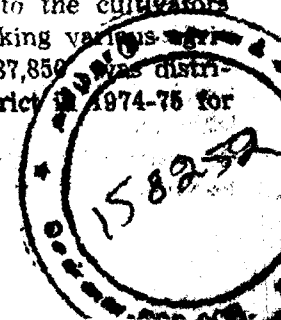
The chemical fertilizers of the nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic groups are now very popular among the farmers. Of the total requirement of fertilizers nearly 40 per cent was supplied by the agriculture department and the U. P. Agro-Industries Corporation and 50 per cent by the co-operative institutions in 1974-75. Total quantity of fertilizers supplied by the government, co-operative institutions and private agencies to the farmers in the district was 2,045 tonnes in that year. The agriculture department distributes *tagavi* to the cultivators for the purchase of chemical fertilizers and other agricultural inputs, and an amount of Rs 1,29,220 was distributed in 1974-75 on this account alone.

Agricultural Implements and Machines

According to the live-stock census of 1972, there were 1,09,059 ploughs, 75,780 other improved agricultural implements like harrows, cultivators, sowing machines, threshers, etc., 835 sugar-cane crushers, 252 tractors, 283 *ghanis* or oil-seed crushers and 2,167 diesel and electric pumping sets for irrigation in the district.

The co-operative institutions provide loans to the cultivators for purchasing improved implements and for making various agricultural improvements. A total sum of Rs 65,37,850 was distributed by the co-operative institutions in the district in 1974-75 for these purposes.

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Rotation of Crops and Mixed Cultivation

Formerly the practice of leaving the fields fallow for some time was common among the cultivators as it was considered necessary to allow the land some time to recuperate its fertility. But this practice is now giving place to sowing crops in rotation and the practice of mixed cropping which permits intensive cultivation and also give increased yields. In the irrigated fields the most common rotation is wheat or *masur* and gram after paddy. In the unirrigated fields gram or *masur* after paddy, wheat, gram and peas after *sawan* and barley, gram and linseed after jowar are the main rotations. Sowing a number of crops mixed in a single field is an old agricultural practice. Leguminous crops like *moong* and *urd* provide nitrogenous ingredients to the soil and are thus mixed with *arhar*, jowar, *til*, or ground-nut, *bajra* is mixed with *urd* or *arhar*, wheat with gram, peas or mustard and barley with gram or peas.

Agricultural Co-operatives

The practice of joint cultivation of land (*sajha*) is very old. Other forms of co-operation in various other agricultural operations have also been quite common among the cultivators. The institutions have assumed the shape of statutory co-operative societies in the villages. There are now such bodies for farming, distribution of seeds, loans, fertilizers, implements, marketing of agricultural produce, etc. In 1974-75, there were 22 such seed stores, 6 marketing societies at Rath, Charkhari, Maudaha, Mahoba, Sumerpur and Kabrai, the district co-operative bank and the co-operative federation at the district headquarters and co-operative credit societies scattered all over the rural areas of the district. But co-operative venture in the farming have not proved very promising as yet. Out of the 11 such societies organised in the district so far in recent years only one, the Satpura farming society, is working and nearly 103 quintals of grain was produced by it in 1974-75.

Horticulture

The district had a total area of 2,619 hectares under groves in 1970-71.

The common fruit trees are mangoes, guavas and other citrus fruit trees. The horticulture department has established two nurseries, one each at Charkhari and Hamirpur, which supply fruit plants and seedlings and seeds of vegetables to the cultivators. Nearly 51,182 fruit plants and seedlings and 36 quintals of vegetable seeds were supplied by these nurseries in 1974-75. Among the vegetables potato covers notable area, it being sown in 112 hectares in 1971-72.

Agricultural Diseases and Pests

On an average there is a loss of nearly 15 to 20 per cent of agricultural produce due to the depredations of various pests and crop diseases. The usual pests are insects, birds, animals like stray cattle and jackals and rodents like rats and rabbits. Insects include white ants, aphids, grasshoppers, pyrrilla, white fly, caterpillars and *gujia*. Plant diseases like rust, smut, blight, canker are harmful to wheat, barley, jowar, paddy, *bajra*, potatoes, gram, *arhar*, fruits, vegetables and tomatoes. Various weeds also hamper the growth of plants. They are the *doob*, *bathua*, *chaulai* and *kulfa*. Weeding and timely interculturing are the usual methods employed to eradicate such weeds.

For looking after the health of the flora of the district, there is a plant protection officer at the district headquarters and a plant protection centre at each of the 11 block development headquarters. Spraying and dusting of insecticides and pesticides are carried out by these centres. A total area of 18,298 hectares was covered by various crops protection methods like seed treatment, eradication of rats and weeds, destroying of pests and diseases and spraying of insecticides and pesticides in 1975.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES

There is no indigenous breed of cattle in the district, but those of the well known *kenwariya* breed are easily obtainable from the neighbouring district of Banda. Its habitat is along the Ken river. It is lowest, sturdy and fairly powerful animal of a rufous colour. Improvement of the local breed of cattle had been neglected a good deal in the past. In 1867, an attempt was made and six bulls were brought by some *zamindars* and one was supplied by the government from the Punjab and Haryana areas, but the experiment proved a failure which was attributed to the inferiority of the local cows.

There is no special breed of horses, but ponies of the usual small type are almost universally used. Camels are rarely used being unsuited to the climate of the district. Donkeys are also few and of the usual underfed and over-worked variety. Goats and sheep, especially the former, are abundant. What is called the Jamunapari goat appears to constitute a distinct breed, and is a good milk-giver. Large numbers are exported to Kanpur and other big cities for slaughter for their flesh. Sheep breeding is an industry of some importance both for the wool and for the butcher. Drovers from Kanpur come down regularly to buy the yearlings. In some places sheep and goat are penned on the cultivator's lands as their droppings are valuable fertilizer.

The live-stock population of the district according to the live-stock census of 1972 was as follows :

Live-stock	Number
Cattle (cows and bulls)	5,23,317
Buffaloes (male and female)	1,36,040
Goats	2,30,112
Sheep	48,884
Pigs	20,120

Development of Live-stock

Considerable progress has been made in recent years in improving the cattle through selective breedings, culling the undesirable and up-grading the indigenous cattle with improved bulls of the well-known and tried Indian breeds like Murrah and Haryana distribution of seeds of improved varieties of fodder and cattle-feed at moderate prices. Artificial insemination service for breeding cows and buffaloes has been started and there were 21 such centres in the district in 1975. A total number of 12,617 cows and buffaloes were provided with artificial insemination service in 1975-76. Government also supplies cows and buffaloes of improved breeds; 42 cows and 16 buffaloes were sold to the farmers in the district in that year. For improving the strain of sheep, goats and pigs, high pedigree stud rams, bucks and boars are stationed at the veterinary hospitals and insemination centres. Sheep and goats are also distributed among breeders at concessional rates. A total of 195 sheep and 23 goats were made available to the shepherds in 1975-76.

Poultry farming is rapidly gaining ground with increasing demand for animal protein. The animal husbandry department sold 5,873 birds at concessional rates to the poultry breeders in 1974-75.

Cattle Diseases and Treatment

The common cattle diseases are rinderpest (Pokna), malignant sore throat (Galaghontu), black quarter (Padsuja) anthrax (Tilsuja), dysentery (Pechis), foot-and-mouth disease (Khurha) and Haemorrhagic septicaemia. There is a live-stock officer who is in-charge of the animal husbandry department in the district. There were 13 veterinary hospitals, 5 dispensaries and 14 stockman centres in the district in 1975. During 1975-76, total number of animals treated was 2,76,440, those that were vaccinated numbered 7,78,424 and the number of scrub male cattle that were castrated was 68,954.

Housing and Feeding

Domestic animals are generally housed in thatched kutcha sheds. Grazing facilities for the cattle are poor though available in the forests, waste lands, groves and orchards and harvested or fallow fields. On the canal banks and alongside the roads and railway tracks too cattle are allowed to graze under stipulated conditions.

The crops which provide fodder are maize, jowar, bajra, bar-seem, lobia and guar. The husk and dried and crushed stalks of wheat, barley, arhar, urd, moong, pea and gram and paddy are also used by the farmers to feed the cattle. Seeds of improved fodder crops are also supplied by the government and nearly 80 hectares of land was sown with them in 1974-75.

Fisheries

The district has very good potential for fish development. There are a number of artificial reservoirs like Chandrawal, Keolari, Pahari, Lachaura, Arjun, Salarpur, Rajpura, Kamalpur, Majhgawan and Kabrai which are suitable for large-scale fish culture.

Fish of the usual varieties common to the plains are found in abundance in the rivers and *jhils* of the district. For the local Kewats and Dhimars, it forms not only an easy and important article of diet but also livelihood. They catch fish with nets of various kinds, wicker baskets and line and the rod.

The fisheries development programme began in 1963-64 in Mahoba. In 1975 there were three fisheries development circles in the district the Mahoba (established in 1963-64), the Charkhari (established in 1964-65) and Keolari (established in 1966-67). Their main activities are development and exploitation of reservoirs for pisciculture and supply of fingerlings to private breeders and Gaon Sabhas under the 'small water scheme' and 'applied nutrition programme'. There were 50 fish nurseries and breeding tanks in the district under the management of the fisheries department in 1975.

The reservoirs and tanks are stocked with fingerlings obtained from the nurseries. The fries are taken out from them and sold to the pisciculturists. The bigger fish are caught and sold for table purposes. From 1969 to 1974 more than 20 lakhs of fingerlings and 2,600 quintals of mature fish were taken out from the reservoirs and other departmental waters and sold.

FORESTRY

Most of the forests in the district are managed by the forest department. There are also certain jungle areas called civil forests which are under the management of the Gaon Sabhas. In 1971 the district had a total area of 38,127 hectares under the forests.

The most common trees in these forests are babul, *mahua*, *karaunda*, *karel*, *tendu*, *khair*, *sahjana*, bamboo, shisham, *turha*, *seja*, *kardhaj* and *dhak*.

Of these shisham, *khair* and bamboo are industrially, more important. Besides scrub, reeds, kans and other grass are profusely found. They provide useful grazing to cattle. Most of the requirements of the village people for building materials, agricultural implements, fuel, grass for thatching and rope making are met from the forests. *Tendu* leaves for bidi industry, *khair* for catechu making and numerous medicinal herbs and shrubs are also obtained from the forests.

NATURAL CALAMITIES

Famines, Floods and Droughts

No earlier records are available of the extent to which the great famines that devastated northern India affected this region. But the district does not appear to have escaped the *chalisa* of 1793, and the droughts of 1809, 1813, 1819 and 1829. The year 1833-34 was a disastrous one on account of pestilence and famine which denuded this district of nearly one-half of its population. Between 1830 and 1838 there had been three extremely bad seasons in 1830, 1834 and 1838.

The great *pachisa* of 1868-69, affected Hamirpur comparatively lightly. A number of relief works were taken up in the district and a sum of Rs 1,02,375 was spent on them. The year 1894-95 was characterized by excessive rainfall, the Kharif was lost due to waterlogging and the Rabi by rust and hailstorms. A total of Rs 1,50,000 of land revenue was remitted. In 1895-96, the monsoon ceased abruptly and the winter rains also failed. Relief works were taken up and poor-houses at each of the tahsil headquarters were also started. Land revenue amounting to Rs 1,71,352 was remitted. The hopes of a good monsoon in 1896-97 were belied.

The distress, was further accentuated by the calamities of the two preceding seasons. Both the Kharif and Rabi crops were below normal. To alleviate the suffering, relief works like the construction of roads and tanks were started and gratuitous relief was doled out to the indigent and those incapable of work. A total sum of Rs 11,94,600 was spent on them and Rs 57,800 were given away as *taqavi* for seed purchase and construction of wells. Out of the total suspension of land revenue of Rs 8,13,732 nearly Rs 5,76,797 were remitted. During the next few years the revenue was found to be excessive and was summarily reduced.

In 1899-1900, too there was irregular monsoon, but the district fortunately escaped with only a partial drought. The year 1905-06 was marked by another famine. The rains started late and were very light throughout. The winters were marked by unprecedented frost. The result was naturally famine which was officially declared in February 1906 and relief operations started. The pressure on this occasion was somewhat relieved by the Dhasan canal works which provided employment to nearly 10,000 workers. An expenditure of Rs 4,94,136 was incurred on the relief works. In addition, the poor-houses and the gratuitous relief cost a total of Rs 1,87,733. The government also advanced loans amounting to Rs 2,83,913 for the purchase of cattle and seeds. Land revenue totalling Rs 3,82,105 was also remitted.

The district suffered in common with a large portion of the State gain in 1907-08. The cultivation had not yet taken normal shape on account of the severe setbacks of the previous seasons and the cultivators were not in a position to pay off the dues. Land revenue totalling Rs 6,60,665 was remitted and a sum of Rs 3,78,392 was distributed as *taqavi*. The Dhasan canal works again provided ample employment and a number of other temporary construction works were also started as relief operations. A sum of Rs 3,83,834 was spent on them.

The next decade was comparatively a period of freedom from famines and agriculture was steady in the whole of Bundelkhand region. In 1926, the growth of kans grass said to be growing rapidly since 1920 began to cause serious alarm. The abrupt drought in 1929-30 gave a serious jolt to the agriculture of the district. In the years which followed the rains ceased early and were somewhat light. In 1931-32, untimely rains in the cold weather caused a most destructive blight in the Rabi crops. The years 1933 and 1934 were also years of partial drought. Of late the years 1966-67, 1972-73 1973-74 and 1974-75 were marked by droughts.

The years from 1850 to 1854, were marked by abnormal rainfall. The Yamuna and Ken were in spate in 1865. There were again very injurious and excessive rains in 1867, 1869 and 1871. In 1896 the Betwa floods caused great loss. The year 1901, 1906, 1914, 1916, 1922, 1923, 1947, 1948, 1956, 1958, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1974 were marked by destructive floods in the Betwa, Yamuna and Ken.

It has been noticed that scarcity caused by drought is to some extent mitigated in these parts by fair crops in better soils but there is little to lighten the distress brought about by excessive or untimely rainfall. The network of the Dhasan and Betwa canals has to a very large extent secured the district from drought and in the present century there has not occurred any serious famine in district. As a result of the vagaries of the monsoon and weather however, local scarcities and prices fluctuations do occur. They are overcome by timely relief measures adopted by the government. For this purpose one of the subdivisional officers in the district acts as officer in charge (scarcities). Relief to the people is given in several forms such as the suspension and remission of the land revenue, distribution of taqavi loans and grants and providing employment to the needy by employing them on construction or repairs of public relief works like roads, canals, bunds, etc., specially started for the purpose.

Drought Prone Area Programme

As a measure of long-term relief against droughts rural work programme was started in the district in 1970-71, laying emphasis on labour intensive rural work. It aimed at increasing the irrigation facilities and taking up of afforestation schemes and construction of roads. In 1971-72 the scheme was designated as the 'drought prone areas programme'. The main objects of the programme are to mitigate the severity of drought, make all-round efforts for the maximum utilization of resources with particular emphasis on the development of land, water, live-stock, poultry and fisheries in the area, restore the ecological balance and promote generation of sustained employment and income for the people so as to enable them to withstand the adverse effects of drought and to improve the general living standard of the rural people who suffer most in periods of drought.

Out of the 11 development blocks in the district, five namely **Sumerpur, Maudaha, Kabrai (Mahoba), Charkhari and Sadila** covering an area of 4,051.88 sq. km. or about 56.5 per cent of the total geographical area of the district have been selected for the implementation of the programme.

Under the programme efforts have been made to provide financial help to the tune of 25 to 33.33 per cent, in the shape of loans and subsidies to the small and marginal farmers, landless labourers and other weaker sections of the rural society for the purchase of milch cattle, agricultural implements, construction of tube-wells, wells, raising of orchards and plantations, etc.

During the Fourth Five-year Plan up to 1973-74 projects estimated to cost Rs 197.85 lakhs were taken up. Nearly Rs 139.47 lakhs were spent on increasing the irrigation facilities and 12.02 lakhs on construction of roads. As a result additional irrigation potential to provide facilities to an area of 6,424 hectares was developed and nearly 28 Km. of roads were constructed.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Old-time Industries

The tract was almost exclusively devoted to agriculture in the past and manufactures were conspicuously absent. In Gaurahri village located at the north of Kulpahar, several hundred persons were engaged in moulding bowls and other vessels out of a soft soap stone found in the hills closeby and these were exported to different places. Coarse cloth for local use was woven by the Koris throughout the district and there were many muslim weavers in Mahoba. Potters had a wheel which is peculiar to the district. It is called *kunda* and instead of being supported on a wooden pivot fixed to the ground it has a ball of lac attached to its under surface on which it revolve. Another manufacture was casting of idols and small animals figures in brass which was carried on by few families of goldsmiths in Srinagar, south of Mahoba. These idols were of two kinds, solid and hollow. The Maudaha silversmiths had some skill, their speciality was curious jointed fishes used as trinkets, but the industry declined. Cotton ginning was carried on at Kulpahar and Mahoba. A hay baling press also worked at Kulpahar. Cloth dying was done at Rath.

Of all the old time industries, the manufacture of pyraflite wares mentioned above, carried on mainly at Gaurahri in tahsil Charkhari, is perhaps the oldest. The soft stone found in the hilly regions of this tahsil is locally known as 'Gora Pathar'.

Power

Electric power is available in the district from the State Grid. The per capita consumption of power was 8.2 K. H. W. in the district in 1975.

The consumption of power in various sectors of the economy in the district in 1974, was as follows :

Sector	Total number of units consumed	Number of consumers
Industries	31,30,164	443
Agriculture and irrigation	53,65,522	296
Domestic and others	21,26,544	7,422

Rural Electrification

The district is still comparatively backward in respect of rural electrification. In 1974, there were 917 villages in the district but only 64 villages were electrified. Thus only about 7 per cent of the villages were electrified in the district as against 22.1 per cent in the State.

Small-scale Industries

Agricultural implements, wood-work, utensils, soap, medicine, engineering goods, leather goods, oil-pressing, preservation of fruits etc., printing work, mechanical goods and steel furniture are the main small-scale industries being carried on in the district. Most industrial activity in the district is, however, relatively, of recent origin. The gross output of the district in 1969-70 was Rs 30 crores but the industries contributed only Rs 25 lakhs. At the end of 1972, there were 87 units registered with the directorate of industries but the number of industrial units employing five or more persons was 34 only. Of these 34 existing units in 1972, none was established before 1961. Only 7 units were set up during the decade 1961-70. During the two years of 1971 and 1972 as many as 27 units were set-up. In 1972 these industrial units provided employment to 209 persons, goods produced were worth Rs. 13.66 lakhs and the investment amounted to Rs. 12.24 lakhs. The number of such units rose to 100 in 1975.

Agricultural Implements—Ploughs, crushers, buckets and pans (for making *jaggerv*) etc. are manufactured in 18 units, located at Hamirpur, Mahoba, Rath and Maudaha. These units are power (electric) operated and use iron and tin as raw material.

Wood-work—The manufacture of wooden furniture, frame for doors, windows, beds, wheels for carts and other timber work is done by 12 units, located at Hamirpur, Mahoba, Rath and Kulpahar. Wood, found locally, is used as raw material.

Utensils—Brass and aluminium utensils of different varieties are produced in 10 units, mainly located at Mahoba, Hamirpur and Rath. The products have only a local market.

Chemicals—Soap, and wax candles are manufactured by 7 units, mainly located at Mahoba, Hamirpur, Rath and Jaitpur. Soda ash, wax, and spirit etc. are used as raw materials. Two units manufacture Ayurvedic medicines.

General Engineering—Repair and overhauling of machines are undertaken by 7 units, located at Mahoba, Hamirpur and other tahsil headquarters.

Leather Goods—This industry is scattered all over the district, but only 5 units are registered, which manufacture foot-wear and allied articles. These units are located at Mahoba, Charkhari and Sumerpur.

Oil Pressing and Flour Milling—There are 5 registered units, engaged in oil pressing, dal and rice hulling and wheat milling in the district. The extraction of oil is done through oil engines and expellers. These units are located at Mahoba, Kurara and Maudaha.

Cold Storages—There are four cold storages, all located at Mahoba. Potato, onion and green vegetables etc. are stored for preservation.

Printing Work—Four printing presses are located at Hamirpur and Mahoba. All of them do job work.

Mechanical Goods—Spare parts for different machinery are produced in three registered units located at Mahoba and Hamirpur, which cater for the local market only.

Steel Furniture and Other Articles—Steel furniture, boxes, almirahs and other articles are manufactured by two registered units in the district. The raw material is imported.

Bricks, dairy products, biscuits, ink, electric goods, plastic toys and novelties, optical lenses and stone crushing and manufacture of stone articles are other important industries of the district.

The following statement gives the total investment, value of production and number of persons employed in the registered units of small-scale industries of the district in 1975.

Industry	Total investment (in Rs)	Total production (in Rs)	Number of persons employed
Agricultural implements	9,20,000	4,52,000	71
Wood-work	1,61,000	1,06,000	37
Utensils	2,03,000	1,74,000	39
Chemicals	3,84,000	2,11,000	34
General engineering	75,000	48,000	18
Leather goods	58,000	28,000	16
Oil-pressing and flour milling	2,90,000	2,28,000	20
Cold storages	5,65,000	2,13,000	24
Printing work	88,000	37,000	13
Mechanical goods	98,000	1,06,000	14
Steel furniture and other articles	48,000	45,000	7

Village and Cottage Industries

In the village and cottage industries manufacture of handicrafts handed down from generation to generation such as foot-wear, leather (tanned), carpentry pieces, palmgur, gur and *khandsari* (sugar) edible oil (tel-ghani), pottery and idols made of brass etc., are produced. These industries are generally manned and owned by particular sections of the village community.

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

Total number of units	13,662
Total number of persons employed	50,000
Total investment (in Rs)	25,82,000
Total value of raw materials used (in Rs)	80,03,000
Total value of goods produced (in Rs)	1,22,89,290

Footwear—Shoe-making and manufacture of other allied articles is an age old industry dependent mostly on traditional skill and workmanship. The shoes made conform mostly to indigenous designs and utilize locally tanned leather. Though this industry is scattered throughout the district and many families are engaged in it, only 7 co-operative societies are registered. They are located at Panwari, Etayal, Sijwaha, Kabrai, Sumerpur, Lodhan and Gahrauli.

Leather Tanning—It is also an old industry of the district, mainly concentrated at Mahoba, Rath, Panwari, Sumerpur, Kulpahar, Charkhari, Muskara and Kharela and more than 1,000 families are engaged in this work. The old techniques of tanning are still in vogue and the leather produced is of ordinary quality. Hides, skins, lime, reh and babul bark constitute the raw materials for this industry, and the same are locally arranged. Five registered co-operative societies located at Sumerpur, Mahoba, Rath, Jaitpur and Panwari are engaged in this industry.

Khandsari and Gur—Manufacture of khandsari sugar is an age old industry which has survived the vicissitudes of time and is still flourishing. Though it is scattered throughout the district, only 4 units located at Jaitpur, Odera, Gohand and Barda, are registered. This industry commences with the cane season, beginning in September and continues, sometimes till the close of April.

Carpentry and Smithery—Minor agricultural tools and implements, wheels for carts, ploughs and doors etc. are manufactured in almost all the villages of the district. Two registered co-operative societies, located at Jaitpur and Kharela, are also engaged in this industry.

Gur Making—The manufacture of gur from palm is done in two registered co-operative societies located at Sugera and Magraul.

Brass figures—Manufacture of solid and hollow brass figurines is one of the oldest industry of the district, though now a much depleted enterprise at Srinagar in tahsil Mahoba. Like many other old time industries, it has also declined considerably due to lack of market yet quite some number of them are still regularly exported to Mathura, Ayodhya and Varanasi. Lack of initiative and the ever increasing refinements in quality of brass-casting at Moradabad has seriously affected this local enterprise. No unit is registered.

Village Oil Industry—The oil is extracted from oil seeds in the Kolhus. In the *ghanis* of old design an average of two kilos of oil seeds are pressed in three hours. This industry is mainly located at Charkhari, Kulpahar, Jaitpur, Panwari, Sumerpur, Srinagar, Rath, Mahoba, Pandhari and Ingohta. Many families are engaged in this industry. No unit is however, registered.

Other Industries—Pottery, basket, tin goods and fire works are produced in a large number of unregistered units in the district.

The following statement gives the total investment, value of production and number of persons employed in the registered units of village and cottage industries of the district in 1975 :

Industry	Total investment (in Rs)	Total production (in Rs)	Number of persons employed
Footwear	3,98,502	4,76,460	48
Leather tanning	5,52,185	6,10,445	45
Khandsari and gur	19,40,000	37,01,575	234
Carpentry and smithery	97,087	1,51,547	21
Palm gur	39,200	41,350	15

Aid to Industries

Hamirpur is one of the industrially backward districts of Uttar Pradesh. Though assistance is given to various industries in the district under the State Aid to Industries Act and the Credit Guarantee Schemes of the State Bank of India, yet since there has been a dearth of enterprise in the district so far the available credit facilities are not being fully utilized.

Industrial Estate

There is an industrial estate at Mahoba but only two sheds are as yet occupied. One unit manufactures aluminium utensils, employs persons and produces annual goods worth Rs 10,000 annually. The other unit is a stone crusher which produced goods worth Rs 1,40,000 in 1974 and employed 8 persons.

Credit Facilities

The Central Financial Institution-Industrial Development Bank of India and Industrial Financial Corporation of India advance loans for projects upto Rs 1 crore to entrepreneurs at an interest rate lower by one percent than the normal rate.

The U. P. Financial Corporation, Kanpur, extends assistance to industrial concerns on its own behalf and on behalf of the State government. Its own plan of disbursement is known as the corporation loan scheme, while the loans advanced on behalf of State Government are under the liberalized loan scheme and ordinary loan scheme. It advances loans at lower rates of interest (between 7 and 7.5 percent), for prompt repayment, and gives a longer grace period i. e. upto 4 years and a longer repayment period i. e. upto 15 years. The Corporation has been authorised to carry on and transact various types of business, but till now it has confined its activities to the granting of loans to industrial concerns and issue of deferred payment guarantees to industrial units for the purchase of indigenous machinery from manufacturers and suppliers, and acting as an agent of the State Government for various schemes. The corporation can grant loans under the corporation loan scheme to the extent of Rs 30,00,000, in case of private and public limited companies or registered co-operative societies, and Rs 15,00,900 in the case of proprietorship concern. The current rate of interest is 11.5 per cent per annum with a rebate of 2 per cent for prompt payment. The loan under the ordinary loan scheme and liberalized loan scheme are considered for amounts ranging from Rs 5,000 to 50,000. The applications of loans under the schemes are channelized through the district industries officer, Hamirpur. The interest charged is 8 per cent per annum, with a rebate of 2 per cent for prompt payment. The loans are recoverable in eight equal annual instalments. The number of repayment instalments are more under the liberalised loan scheme. The following statement gives an idea of the limited loan assistance utilised so far under different heads :

Scheme	No. of units	Loans disbursement in Rs) (in lakhs) as on 31-3-74
Corporation loan scheme	3	12.79
Liberalised loans scheme	1	0.25
Ordinary loan scheme	1	0.05

The other institutions which have rendered assistance to the industries of the district are the U. P. small scale industries corporation, Kanpur and the national small industries corporation. The State government is also helping through the handloom industry scheme, the khadi development scheme, the intensive development scheme, the credit and grant scheme and industrial co-operative society scheme.

Industrial potential and plans for future development

With the introduction of modern methods of cultivation and a minimum price guarantee for agricultural produce, the economic condition of the people has improved, providing the district a better base for industrial development. The prospects for establishing new industries in the district may be analysed on the basis of available resources and existing and anticipated demand for various manufactured items in the district. Since there is no large scale unit in the district, there is scope for the establishment of some units and also for ancillary industries. Industrial potential for small-scale industries is based on infra-structure and available resources.

In a developing economy means of communication play important role because they enable a quick movement of finished goods to the markets and of the raw materials to production units. There are roads connecting the district with all important places within and outside district. The district is located near Kanpur and Jhansi. Though Hamirpur is not on the main line, but the railway line passes through other important industrial centres of the district like Mahoba and Bharwa Sumerpur.

The district is poor in natural resources. Agriculture produce and live-stock can, however, provide the bulk of the raw material. The prospect for resource based industries are thus limited. They are discussed below in the light of availability of each commodity

Oil-seeds—A solvent extraction plant can be set up in the district, as the production of oil-seeds in 1970-71 was about 7,892 tonnes. Much of oil is still left in oilcakes. The oilcakes can be treated by solvent extraction process which has a double advantages viz. surplus oil is recovered from the oilcakes and dry oilcake can be easily

exported. Currently there is a drive on for bringing large areas under sun-flower and Soyabean cultivation. Sunflower has gained acceptance from farmers and is being grown on a largescale. Hence a unit for producing sunflower oil can also be set up.

Sugar-cane—In 1970-71 sugar cane production was about 69,000 tonnes, most of it being in the Rath tahsil. Hence two *khandsari* sugar units with a capacity of 80 to 100 tonnes of cane per day can easily be set up in Rath tahsil. At present wheat flour is milled by 'atta chakkis' and there is no roller mill in the district. With the increasing demand for *maida* and *suji* a roller flour mill with a capacity of 30 tonnes per day can also be established.

Hides and Skins—A conservative estimate places the availability of raw hides and skins at 45,000 per year. At present only a small portion of hides collected is tanned locally, the remaining being exported to Kanpur and Calcutta. A medium sized tannery with a capacity of about 30,000 hides per year can be set up at Mahoba. Leather articles such as belts, purses, suitcases, shoes and chappals etc. can also be manufactured.

Bones—Availability of bones is estimated at 4,000 tonnes in a year. There is a scope for one bone meal unit in the district which will have a ready market due to its superior quality as fertiliser.

Pulses—There is scope for opening a few *dal* mills as there is only one registered unit at present. The production of pulses in 1970-71 was estimated at about 65,000 tonnes in addition to 1,22,000 tonnes of gram.

Size of market, levels of income, educational attainments, degree of urbanization, habits and outlook of consumers are major factors to determine the setting up of demand based industries. With the advancement of medical aid and expansion of hospitals and primary health centres, the demand for distilled saline and glucose water has increased, for which one manufacturing unit can be easily set up. Besides the units for the manufacture of steel furniture, rolling shutters, conduit pipe, mixed fertilizers, cattle feed,

agricultural implements, electrical goods, hosiery items, ready-made garments, cycle-parts, polythene sheets and bags, plastic novelty items, toys and toilet articles can also be set up in the district. There is scope for few more cold storages also. The old cottage industries need serious attention and efforts deserve to be made in order to revive them.

Labour Welfare

Details of labour welfare activities and organisation will be found in chapter XVII of this volume.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

BANKING AND FINANCE

History of Banking

The district has little to boast of in the field of banking, in the past though trade has been carried on since early times, with the adjoining districts of Banda, Kanpur, and certain Central India states now included in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Although there was lack of means of communications, merchandise moved on horseback, ponies, and by boats across the rivers. There was the usual internal trade with transactions financed where necessary by money-lenders called *sahukars*. The *hundi* system of indigenous banking was in vogue, loans being chiefly negotiated by a few Marwaris and small advances being handled by small banias. Treasuries were established by the rulers of the day, for collection and disbursement of money.

The British established their treasury at Hamirpur after taking over the administration of the district in 1803, followed by the opening of sub-treasuries at the tahsil headquarters.

The fact that Hamirpur District Co-operative Bank, Ltd., was the only bank that was established in the district during the entire British reign, at Mahoba in 1924 is in itself a tell-tale commentary on the status of commerce in the district in the pre-independence era. After a gap of 26 years, the Allahabad Bank was the first to open its branch at Mahoba in 1950. The State Bank of India opened its branches at Hamirpur in 1958, at Mahoba in 1959, at Rath in 1963, and at Maudaha in 1969. The Allahabad Bank opened its other branch at Charkhari in 1970. The period, ranging from 1971 to 1976, has witnessed the opening of a large number of banks at different places in the district. By the end of 1974, the State Bank of India had opened two more branches at Sumerpur and Kulpahar; the Allahabad Bank had established as many as seven more branches at Hamirpur, Kurara, Muskira, Kabrai, Srinagar, Panwari and Kharela.

In the sixties, the Uttar Pradesh State Co-operative Land Development Bank Ltd., established a branch office at Hamirpur, and by the end of the year 1974 it opened three more branches

at Maudaha, Mahoba and Rath. The District Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Hamirpur opened as many as 7 branches in the twenty-five years after 1950, at Sumerpur, Maudaha, Charkhari, Mahoba, Rath, Muskira and Panwari.

Central Credit Facilities

A new policy is being adopted by the commercial banks in the seventies, in matters of advancing loans. Formerly credit was confined to industrialists and traders only but the emphasis has now shifted to agriculturists, small traders, artisans, transport workers, students and self-employed persons also. The two major commercial banks, State Bank of India and the Allahabad Bank, have together 15 branches in the district. The Co-operative Banks have 12 branches which chiefly cater to agriculturists and the members.

The following statement gives the location of the commercial banks and co-operative banks in the district in 1976:

Branch of banks			
State Bank of India	Allahabad Bank	U. P. State Co-operative Land Development Bank, Ltd	District Co-operative Bank, Ltd, Hamirpur
Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Hamirpur	Hamirpur (Head Office)
Sumerpur	Kurara		Sumerpur (Branch)
Maudaha	Muskira	Maudaha	Maudaha
Kulpahar	Kabrai		Charkhari
Mahoba	Mahoba	Mahoba	Mahoba
Rath	Charkhari	Rath	Rath
	Srinagar		Muskira
	Panwari		Panwari
	Kharela		

As stated earlier financial credit and loans are also made available by the State Government and various financial institutions located at Lucknow and Kanpur in the State and also from central organisations.

Rural Indebtedness

The condition of the rural people was generally not good when the British took over the administration of the district in 1803. More than a hundred years later, even in 1909, both the landholders and cultivators were still poor, the landless labourers and small proprietors being amongst the most poverty stricken people. Many proprietors, belonging to the upper castes, particularly

Rajputs, were averse to manual work in the fields and depended on the work done by labourers. The land was not put to the best use. They had to rush to the moneylenders whenever the need of money was pressing, and hence to remain in debt more often than not.

The rates of interest in the first decade of this century ranged from 6 to 12 per cent in small transactions where articles were mortgaged, but were more if the loans were taken on personal security, ranging from 25 to 50 per cent per annum, 37.50 per cent being the most common rate of interest. The rate was particularly high on grain loans. However, if the money was borrowed with a lien on crops, the rate was comparatively low, varying from 20 to 24 per cent. Ten per cent was considered as a fair return for money invested in buying an estate. Impoverished landholders sometimes borrowed money, to pay their revenue or other expenses at 25 per cent per half year calculated at compound rates. Large loans were advanced by the few Marwaris (banias of Rajasthan) and small ones by the ubiquitous village banias.

During the First World War (1914-18), cultivators everywhere benefited from sudden spurt in prices of farm products, and their financial condition improved considerably. The economic depression of the thirties, however, brought back sufferings of the rural population as returns diminished sharply. The high prices, which agricultural commodities fetched during the period of the Second World War (1939-45) once again brought more money to the cultivators but a corresponding rise in the prices of other essential consumer goods soon left them with but little gains. With the introduction of land reforms, modernisation of agricultural practices and increasing demand for farm products after independence, the agricultural community has prospered to a great extent though not yet in equal measure. The small farmer and the landless labour continue to eke out a marginal existence, due to low incomes from their lands, and more mouths to feed even though, the density of population in Hamirpur is lower as compared to more developed districts like Meerut and Saharanpur.

The Reserve Bank of India held a survey in the region in 1971. It was estimated that the family of an average cultivator was indebted to the extent of Rs 754, of which the value of cash loan was Rs 700 and that of the other loans Rs 54. The assets of an average farmer's family were worth Rs 15,070 in 1971. The per capita rural indebtedness is highest in this region of Uttar Pradesh, which comprises the districts of Jhansi, Banda, Jalaun and Hamirpur.

The district, however affords a vast potential for raising the Production from agricultural land. An intensive agricultural development programme has been introduced in 1971-72, for the Banda-Hamirpur region. An important characteristic of the region is that it has a surplus in food-grains in spite of comparatively low per hectare yield. Unlike districts of Meerut and Muzaffarnagar, where large-scale cultivation of sugar-cane limits, even in their surplus areas, food-grains production to no more than 216 tons per thousand population, the Banda-Hamirpur region produced 482 tonnes of food-grains per 1,000 of the population in 1971-72. However, the relative economic prosperity of the cultivators can endure only through ever high production from land through improved practices as the low density of population may not remain a lasting factor in the district always.

Urban Indebtedness

Office and industrial workers residing in the urban centres are also, now a days, generally indebted rising prices being the main cause of their indebtedness. Although the prices had considerably decreased since the last quarter of 1975 and the trend was halted in two years. The Reserve Bank of India estimated in 1971, that the family of an average artisan was indebted to the tune of Rs 467, while his family assets amounted to Rs 2,254 only.

Debt-relief Legislation

The Usurious Loans Act, 1918, was the first enactment that allowed the courts to look into and reopen the transaction between the parties and provide relief to the debtor. The other enactments that followed the economic depression of the thirties were the United Provinces Agriculturists Relief Act, 1934; the U. P. Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Act, 1937, and the U. P. Debt Redemption Act, 1940. These Acts enabled a reduction of rates of interest and the fixing of easy instalments for repayment of debts, and also protected the person and property of debtor from being proceeded against in execution of decrees. But the majority of the farmers were illiterate and, therefore, they could not derive substantial advantage from these laws. Money-lenders sometimes manipulated the records of the transactions and generally succeeded in litigation. The U. P. Regulation of Money-lending Act, 1976 has been enforced in the same year.

The law is expected to control money-lending and curb black money. The Act forbids the money-lenders from molesting debtor on pay days near their places of work. The money-lenders are

also required to furnish, periodically, amount slips to the debtors, which shall be open to inspection by the registrar of money-lending. The registrar controls all money-lending operations in Uttar Pradesh. Each money-lender is being issued a licence and nobody will be allowed to transact business without a valid licence. Another important feature of the Act is that the money-lender will have to make payment through cheques for loans of Rs 1,000 or above. The government has been given the powers to fix rates of interest on loans, and the money-lender must issue receipt for every payment made to him.

Commercial loan of over Rs 5,000, which have been advanced by banks, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Co-operative Societies, government and provident fund authorities are exempt from the jurisdiction of the Act.

ROLE OF PRIVATE MONEY-LENDERS AND FINANCIERS

With the manifold increase in trade and commerce in the district after Independence, money-lending activities have also increased. The money-lenders now a days are generally traders and affluent farmers. Rastogis, from Lucknow and Kanpur, also lend money to borrowers in the district. Some of the traders of Banda have also similarly flourishing credit business here. According to the findings of the Lead Bank Survey Report, 1971 there were 2,000 money-lenders in the district, about 500 of them being rich and affluent. Each rich money-lender had invested more than a lac of rupees in this trade.

In the rural area, the rate of interest is as high as 36 per cent per annum, while in the urban centres it ranges between 25 to 30 per cent per annum.

Commercial Banks

At the end of the year 1970 there were four branches of the State Bank of India situated at Rath, Hamirpur, Mahoba and Maudaha, and two branches of the Allahabad Bank located at Mahoba and Charkhari. The population per office of commercial banks in the district was 1,62,000 in 1971. The corresponding figure for Uttar Pradesh in the same period was 91,000 per office of the commercial banks.

The deposit of the commercial banks increased considerably in 1967, it being Rs 78,00,000. However, the total deposits decreased

to Rs 67,00,000 in 1968, but again increased to Rs 1,06,00,000 in 1969. Deposits per capita in the Hamirpur district were only Rs 8. as against Rs 37 for Uttar Pradesh, and Rs 77 for the country as a whole at the end of 1967.

The advances made by the commercial banks during the years 1967, 1968 and 1969 stood at Rs 6,00,000 Rs 12,71,000 and Rs 13,83,000 respectively. Average credit per capita was Rs 0.71. Rs 1.37 and Rs 1.46 and the credit deposit ratio was 6.5 per cent, 14.6 per cent and 13.0 per cent at the end of the years 1967, 1968 and 1969 respectively. In the past very little of the deposits available was used for making advances. However, with a change in the lending policies of the commercial banks, advances increased to Rs 65,62,000 at the end of December, 1974, when the total deposits amounted to 3,68,40,000 and the credit deposit ratio was 17.8 per cent.

Formerly, funds were advanced only to important traders and rich persons of the district. But now funds are made available to agriculturists, transport workers, small industrialists and traders and self-employed persons who indeed now fall in the category of priority sector. The following sums of money were advanced to them at the end of December, 1974 :

Category	No of accounts	Amount advanced (in Rs)
Agriculturists	259	29,33,000
Small industries	40	59,000
Transport workers	39	17,72,000
Retail traders	206	10,35,000
Self-employed persons	42	40,000
Total	586	58,39,000
Other advances	—	7,23,000
Total advances		65,62,000

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The co-operative movement was initiated in the district Hamirpur with the establishment of the Para Sakhari Samiti, Ltd, on May 25, 1912. There being till then no central bank for co-operative societies in the district, the society was affiliated to the District Co-operative Bank Ltd, Banda. The Hamirpur District Co-operative Bank, Ltd, was established at Mahoba in 1924, and the co-operative movement came to assert itself as more and more money was advanced to the agricultural co-operative societies for being

loaned to the agriculturists. At the end of the second decade of this century in 1920, there were only 31 agricultural co-operative societies with a total membership of 712; while in 1930 there were 114 societies with a total membership of 11,321. Only Rs 75,000 were advanced by the societies in 1920, while the corresponding figure for 1930 was Rs 4,32,000. Average membership of a society was 23 in 1920, which increased more than thrice in a decade. On the average, each society had 99 members in 1930.

The co-operative movement has assumed significant dimensions after Independence. The membership of the agricultural co-operative societies has increased from 30,402 in 1940 to 74,154 in 1975. There were only 251 societies in the district in 1940, the number increased to 487 in 1960. Since 1960, wherever possible, large and viable societies are being constituted by amalgamating smaller societies. The total number of societies has therefore, decreased, from 487 in 1960 to 463 in 1975. The rate of interest on loans advanced by the agricultural co-operative societies has also increased in the last 50 years. It was four per cent per annum in the twenties and thirties; 6, 7 and 8.50 per cent per annum in the forties, fifties and sixties respectively, and 13 per cent per annum in 1975.

The following statement gives the progress of the co-operative movement in the district since 1940 :

Year	No. of societies	Membership	Amount of loan advanced by the societies to agriculturists (in Rs)
1940	251	30,402	
1950	384	56,412	25,02,000
1960	487	62,917	40,10,000
1975	463	74,164	71,27,000
			50,36,000

Other Co-operative Institutions—The Hamirpur zila Sahkari Sangh, Ltd, Mahoba was established in 1961, it is the central co-operative institution for consumer's co-operatives in the district. It buys and sells food-grains, seeds, cement, fertilisers, and other goods. The unit flourished in the sixties, but the sales considerably declined in the seventies. However, the unit has sponsored the establishment of a number of marketing societies in the district. Six large marketing societies, located in the important towns, have helped both the agriculturists as well as the urban consumers. These six large co-operative marketing societies are situated at Kabrai, Maudaha, Mahoba, Charkhari, Rath and Sumerpur. Food-grains,

oil-seeds, fertilisers and other consumer goods like cloth, etc., are sold in the shops of the marketing societies. Agriculturists also market their food-grains, oil-seeds and other products through the societies and are assured just returns. The following statement gives some information about the marketing societies in 1971 :

Total membership	Working capital (in Rs)	Purchases (in Rs)	Sales (in Rs)
12,872	20,75,000	33,61,000	32,69,000

Sales in 1975

Location of society	Value of sales in 1975 (in Rs)
Kabrai	19,12,415
Sumerpur	6,09,445
Maudaha	6,46,175
Charkhari	6,29,789
Mahoba	4,77,780
Rath	12,24,018

The marketing societies also advanced as loan Rs 25,34,000 in 1971, to the members. The amount of money repaid by the members in the same year was Rs 23,24,000.

Co-operative Banks

The Hamirpur District Co-operative Bank, Ltd, which is situated at Mahoba, finances the co-operative institutions of the district and it also provides banking facilities to its members. Unlike the commercial banks, the bank does not depend on deposits only for raising its assets, but resorts to a greater extent to borrowing and share capital also.

The bank, has four branches, located at the tahsil headquarters. In 1969-70 it advanced Rs 63,38,000 through the co-operative societies. This was a significant contribution in comparison to the credit given by other financial institutions. However, the deposits mobilised by the bank the same year were no more than Rs 4,08,000. Borrowing and share capital were two important components of the working capital in 1970 as the following statement indicates :

	(in Rs)	Percentage of the total working capital
Paid up share capital	25,30,000	38
Reserve and other funds	4,80,000	7
Deposits	4,08,000	7
Borrowings	32,57,000	48
Working capital	66,57,000	100

The bank advanced the following sums in 1973-74 and 1974-75 :

Year	Amount advanced (in Rs)
1973-74	61,84,000
1974-75	41,14,000

The branch of the U. P. State Co-operative Land Development Bank, Ltd, at Mahoba, advanced Rs 12,70,000 in 1970 for the development of agricultural economy of the district. In 1975, there were four branches of the bank located at Mahoba, Hamirpur, Rath and Maudaha.

The bank advanced the following sums of money in 1973-74 and 1974-75 :

Year	Amount advanced (in Rs)
1973-74	50,68,000
1974-75	15,01,850

The advances decreased in 1974-75 as commercial banks also advanced money to agriculturists.

LIFE INSURANCE

The life insurance business was taken over by the Life Insurance Corporation of India in 1956. An office of the corporation was established at Mahoba in 1972. Prior to 1972, the life insurance business in the district was undertaken by the Jhansi office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

The following statement gives the business of the corporation in the district in the last four years :

Year	No. of lives insured	Amount (in Rs) of insurance
1972-73		
1973-74	1,565	1,35,46,750
1974-75	1,445	1,49,59,250
1975-76	1,532	1,47,20,000
	1,587	1,63,81,000

The office at Mahoba is in the over-all charge of a branch manager, who is assisted by two class one officers, two class two officers and 13 others.

NATIONAL SAVINGS ORGANISATION

The post-office savings bank scheme has been in vogue since the last decade of the nineteenth century. This and other subsequent small savings schemes have been introduced to tap the savings of those who generally do not subscribe to government loans, to inculcate the habit of thrift in people, and to utilise the savings in national development schemes. The border war with China in 1962 led to the introduction of the defence deposits and national defence certificates. Various other securities have been floated from time to time. The Government of India introduced a 15 years public provident fund scheme in 1974-75 for the benefit of those people who have no regular saving schemes for old age like pension or provident fund.

The total net value of all the securities on March 31, 1975 was Rs 23,66,053.

GOVERNMENT LOANS

It has been traditional duty of the rulers of the country to provide relief to the agriculturists in times of distress. However, with the attainment of Independence in 1947 money is advanced not only for distress, but also for the development of the agricultural economy. These loans are known as *taqavi*.

The disbursement of *taqavi* was quite considerable in the past. In 1970, a sum of Rs 56,61,000 was advanced to the agriculturists for distress, development of minor irrigation and for buying improved live-stock, implements and seed. The *taqavi* is advanced by the agriculture department and the revenue department of the State Government.

CURRENCY AND COINAGE

Punch marked coins, with one or two figures marked on them as symbols of the issuing authority, were in circulation as far back as the sixth century B.C. The imperial Guptas issued a series of fine old coins, which are considered to be of high artistic standard. The weight of the earliest coins were based on the system laid down in *Manu-Samhita*. Generally coins of single metal, copper or silver were in circulation. The silver coin was known as *purana* or *dhu-rana* and weight 32 *ratas*.

In the medieval period, there were mainly three types of coins, the dam, the rupee, and the *mother*.

1. Majumdar, R. C. : *Ancient India*, P. 15.

The British issued their own rupee of 180 grains. A rupee comprised 16 annas and an anna was divided into 12 pies or four paise (old). With the introduction of the decimal system of coinage on October 1, 1958, the rupee has been divided into 100 paise. There are coins of one paise, two paise, three paise, five paise, 10 paise, 20 paise, 25 paise, and 50 paise.

The currency consists of one rupee notes and coins issued by the Government of India and bank notes issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The bank has issued notes of the denominations of rupees two, five, ten, twenty, fifty, and one hundred.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Course of Trade

In the early times and even in the medieval period, the trade routes ran from north to south or vice versa and along rivers. In this district these were the river Yamuna, and the unmetalled roads that crossed the various rivers and rivulets on ferries. The Yamuna was the main river used for the transport of goods, merchandise and soldiers. Allahabad, which also is situated on the banks of the Yamuna and the Ganga, was one of the more important trade centres of northern India. Besides Hamirpur other important trade centres along the river Yamuna were Delhi, Agra, Etawah, Kalpi and Banda. The goods were sent as far as Patna in Bihar through the Yamuna up to Allahabad, and then through the Ganga from Allahabad onwards. The articles of trade were woollen and cotton goods, utensils, engravings on marble, ivory and silver, jewellery and ornaments, spices, fruits and other eatables. Big lighters touched the district (Hamirpur) regularly on their way from Agra to Allahabad and on their return journey. Boats carried food grains, oil-seed and *pan* (betel leaves) in considerable quantities to the adjoining districts of Jalaun and Banda.

In the beginning of the twentieth century, the articles of trade exported from the district were mainly agricultural commodities like gram, pulses, ghee, raw cotton, *pan* (betel leaves), jowar and oil-seeds (til, linseed and *mahua*). The chief imports were refined as well as unrefined sugar, rice, wheat, salt, kerosene oil and cotton piece-goods. During the five years ending in 1907, besides a large number of animals an average of 1,784 tons of food-grains, 5,287 tons of oil-seeds and 385 tons of cotton were exported from the district. The main roads that were extensively used, for the transport of goods, were the Kanpur-Hamirpur-Saugar (in Madhya Pradesh) and the Fatehpur-Banda-Saugar roads. Rath, which was the most important trade centre, was connected with Hamirpur, Kulpahar and Maudaha by metalled roads. Metalled roads also linked Mahoba to Charkhari, Maudaha to Muskira and Mahoba to Loheri.

The pattern of trade has not changed, and even now, the agricultural products are the main items of export, while general merchandise, coal, cement, fertiliser, salt, cloth and other consumer goods make the imports. However, with an increase in the population of the district in the last fifty years, there has been a decrease in exports and a corresponding increase in imports. It appears that, at present, the district is just about self-sufficient in food-grains and oil-seeds. The bulk of the imports come from Kanpur, the rest from Jhansi and Madhya Pradesh.

Railways transport agricultural commodities, sand, general merchandise, cloth, coal and kerosene oil etc., in the region. The important stations for the trade are Hamirpur road, Akona, Ichauli, Mahoba, Bela Tal and Kulpahar. The agricultural produce of the region are collected at Rath, Hamirpur, Maudaha, Sumerpur, Char-khari, Panwari, Kabrai, Muskira, Kurara, Srinagar, Kherala, and Kulpahar and from there it is exported to other region by road and rail. Sand of late become one of the most important items of export from the district. It is exported on trucks, and by rail from Sumerpur railway station.

Sumerpur, in the district, is the most important centre of import via the railway. The other railway stations, where goods are imported, are Hamirpur road, Ragul, Ichauli and Bela Tal.

Exports and Imports

Exports—The following statement gives the quantities of articles exported from the railway stations of the district in 1971-72. The figures are in m. tons:

Railway Station	Quantity (in m. tons) of commodities exported				Total
	Food-grains	Pulses	Bones and hides	Sand and General goods	
Hamirpur road	8,398 (76.80)	—	—	2,440 (22.31)	10,935
Sumerpur	84,810 (18.94)	5,621 (1.26)	—	3,56,400 (69.63)	4,47,584
Ragul	32,635 (24.63)	94,895 (71.62)	38 (0.03)	4,569 (3.45)	1,32,500
Akona	548 (71.17)	222 (28.83)	—	—	770
Mahoba	33,048 (62.27)	16,995 (32.03)	—	1,398 (2.63)	53,068
Ichauli	4,500 (59.10)	3,114 (40.90)	—	—	7,614
Bela Tal	5,047 (72.72)	671 (9.67)	—	—	6,940
Kulpahar	31,990 (58.26)	20,680 (37.66)	—	2,240 (4.08)	54,910

(Figures in brackets indicate percentage of total exports from that station)

Imports—The following statement gives the quantity of articles imported into district at various railway stations in 1971-72:

Railway station	Quantity (in m. tons) of commodities imported						Total
	General goods	Salt	Coal	Cement	Fertilisers	Oil and Fire wood	
Hamirpur road	995 (2.71)	1,380 (3.75)	—	3,482 (93.54)	—	—	36,757
Sumerpur	1,996 (2.98)	9,732 (14.55)	778 (1.16)	48,482 (72.47)	—	5,913 (8.84)	66,901
Ragul	2,258 (5.25)	12,246 (28.47)	—	28,514 (66.28)	—	—	43,018
Ichauli	221 (6.63)	—	—	2,957 (88.72)	—	115 (4.65)	3,333
Bela Tal	—	—	—	—	1,662 (52.83)	1,484 (47.17)	3,146

(Figures in brackets indicate percentage of the total imports to that station)

Trade Centres

The wholesale market at Hamirpur is an old *mandi*. It was developed considerably in 1904, when the then district magistrate and collector, Mr Spencer took keen interest in its development. Sheds were constructed and metalled roads built to connect it with Kanpur, Fatehpur, Maudaha and Rath. However, the nearest railway station, Hamirpur Road lies at a distance of 9.6 km. (6 miles) from the *mandi*.

A large number of commodities are sold, both in wholesale and retail in the market. There were 15 wholesale dealers for agricultural commodities and 8 for other goods in the market in 1971. Food-grains, oil-seeds, general merchandise, cloth, medicines and drugs, agricultural implements and fertilisers mainly are sold in the market. The number of retail traders in the market in 1971 was 22. Commodities and goods worth Rs 1,40,00,000 were sold in that year.

The other important wholesale markets (*mandis*) of the district are located at Rath, Maudaha, Sumerpur, Charkhari, Panwari, Kabrai, Muskira, Kurara, Srinagar, Kharela and Kulpahar. The operational area of the markets roughly extends to area within a radius of 4 km. to 16 km. from each market. The following statement gives some details about the trade in each wholesale market in the district in 1971-72:

Market	Commodities sold	Quantity (in m. tons)	No. of traders	
			Wholesale	Retail
Rath	Food-grains, oil-seeds, cloth, general merchandise	15,500	37	100
Maudaha	Food-grains, oil-seeds	52,978	5	80
Sumerpur	Food-grains, oil-seeds, etc.	37,867	23	22
Charkhari	Food-grains, oil-seeds, pulses, jaggery, <i>khandsari</i>	31,093	—	49
Panwari	Food-grains, pulses, jaggery, <i>khandsari</i>	31,479	10	30
Kabrai	Food-grains, pulses, oil-seeds	8,100	25	30
Muskira	Food-grains, pulses	25,000	8	50
Kurara	Food-grains, pulses, oil-seeds	6,000	30	50
Srinagar	Food-grains, pulses, oil-seeds	750	20	30
Kharela	Food-grains, pulses	2,000	10	40
Kulpahar	Food-grains, pulses, oil-seeds, sugar-cane	4,000	10	55

Krishi Utpadan Mandi Samitis have been constituted under the Krishi Utpadan Mandi Samitis Adhiniyam, 1964 in each of the *mandis* at Kurara, Sumerpur, Maudaha, Mahoba, Charkhari, Panwari and Rath. The Samitis look after the management of the *mandis*.

Retail Trade

The common requirements of the villagers and those residing in the urban centres of the district, are generally met by traders and pedlars operating in the local bazars. In the rural areas the bazars are held on fixed days in a week and are known as *hats*. The largest number of *hats* 22, are held in tahsil Charkhari, while only four *hats* are held in tahsil Hamirpur. Each *hat* is held either once or twice a week. Food-grains, cloth, vegetables and salt etc., are sold in the *hats*. The following statement gives the number of *hats* held in each tahsil of the district in 1973:

Tahsil	No. of <i>hats</i> held
Charkhari	22
Mahoba	17
Rath	17
Hamirpur	4
Total	60

Warehousing

The increase in production of food-grains and oil-seeds has necessitated the construction of warehouses in the district. However, the total warehousing capacity, available in the district, is far short of the requirements. Tahsil Maudaha and Rath claim the largest number of warehouses. The following statement gives the number of warehouses and the total warehousing capacity available in each tahsil in 1971-72 :

Tahsil	No. of warehouses	Total capacity (in m. tons)
Rath	12	30,096
Maudaha	11	23,544
Mahoba	8	12,873
Charkhari	8	8,712
Hamirpur	9	783
Total	48	76,008

The warehouses belong to the departments of agriculture, co-operative and individual citizens.

Price Control and Rationing

In the wake of the Second World War (1939-45), the prices of all commodities increased, and in order to arrest their further rise and to give relief to the consumers, the prices of a larger number of commodities were controlled and supply of many of them was rationed. Some of the more important commodities thus controlled or rationed were food-grains, cloth, matches, drug and petrol. Dealers in these commodities had to take licences from government departments. Various schemes for the rationing of food-grain, chiefly wheat and its products, gram, rice, sugar and kerosene oil, however, have continued since then with varying degrees of applicability. In 1975, there were 69, fair-price shops in the district. Besides sugar, wheat and rice are also available at these shops to the ration card holders, each household having one such card for the purpose, although at times the consumer prefers to buy them from the open market whenever the prices decline. However, sugar is one commodity which all the ration card holders prefer to buy from the fair-price shops.

Fairs

The biggest fair in the district is held at Charkhari within the municipal limits, starting from Kartik Sukla 1 and lasts for a month. It is known after Sri Gobardhan Nath, the presiding deity of the town. Agricultural implements, cloth, utensils, toys, sweets, food-grains and vegetables are sold in the fair. Another fair, with a large attendance, is held at Channi Buzurg in honour of Sidhh-rakh Baba, commencing on the day of the full moon in Pausa (December-January). The fairs, although purely religious in character, also afford an opportunity for trading on a small scale.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

In the northern portion of the district, the ordinary *seer* and *tola* were in use in the first decade of this century. However, in the region bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jhansi district, the system introduced by Chatrasal was in vogue. The unit of this system was the *takka balushahi*, weighing 255 grains. The *seer* here varied from 16 to 28 *takkas*. There was *adhari* equal to four to seven *takkas*. Four *adharis* made one *adhara*, *karua chauri* or *seer*. Ten to 16 *adharas* made one *paila*, four *pailas* made one *manu*, and eight *manus* comprised one *gon*. In some places *manu*, was not in use and 20 *pailas* made one *gon*. The liquid or a quarter of a *seer*. These were followed by the *adhser*, *arhatya* or two 2.5 *seers*, the *panseri*, and the *man* (maund).

The *angul* or average breadth of a man's finger was one unit for measuring cloth. Four of five *anguls* made one *griah*, eight *girahas* one *hath*, and two *haths* made one *gaz* (yard). The multiple of *angul* was *bita* which contained 16 *anguls*; two *bitas* made one *hath*, 100 *haths* made one *khat* or *din*, and 100 *khats* made one *kos*. Among the jewellers 3 grains of rice made one *ratti*, 8 *rattis* one *masha* and 12 *mashas* made one *tola*. A common form of land measure was *gutta*, which was equivalent to 4 to 6 *haths*; twenty *haths* made one *deri*; and twenty square *guttas* made one *bigha*. The government *bigha* was equal to 2093 square yards and contained 2 ordinary *bighas*, 6 *biswas* and 5 *biswansis*. The measure of time were *pals*, 60 *pals* made one *ghari*, 4 *gharis* made one *pahar*, and 8 *pahars* comprised the day.

The metric system of weights and measures was introduced with effect from October 1, 1960. For the proper enforcement of the new system, the government established an office at Hamirpur. A senior inspector is incharge of the enforcement and he works under the supervision of the district supply officer. Every traders has to submit his weights and measures for inspection and every such unit is stamped after being found accurate. Camps for the purpose are held in different *mandis* and traders are able to obtain accurate weights and measures. Every year in December, a publicity week is celebrated in which new measures are publicised through films, placards, hoardings and pamphlets.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

TRADE ROUTES AND HIGHWAY

Old Time Trade Routes and Highways

The area covered by the district finds its first specific historical mention in the travel accounts of the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang, who visited and described in 641 A. D., the region now known as Bundelkhand as fairly open to communications with neighbouring and even with some distant regions like Ujjain and Mahesvaropura in the south, which has not yet been accurately identified. Geographically the district formed an important link between Central India and the Deccan, thus, necessitating well-laid communication system for ready and quick accessibility of the marching armies of north to south. The Guptas were, perhaps, the earliest who took notice of the strategic importance of this region, later to be accorded even greater significance by the Turkish sultans of Delhi, who much frequented the south in all probability passing through the environs of this district. There is every reason to believe that by the end of the reigns of Turkish sultans of Delhi, the district must have afforded especially well-settled land route to the south, and was otherwise well connected with other parts in general.

In the beginning of the present century the roads were divided into two main classes known as provincial and local, the former being under the charge of the public works department and the latter being entrusted to the district board. The most important provincial roads were Kanpur-Hamirpur-Sagar and the Fatéhpur-Banda-Sagar roads. The total length of the former within the district was about 43 km. and of the latter about 45 km. They unite at Kabrai, and continue past Mahoba to Srinagar, about 5 km. south of which they leave the district. In the first decade of the present century, the first class metalled roads in the charge of district board were about 96 km. They included the road about 22 km. in length, round the civil station of Hamirpur about 19 km. of the road from Rath to Hamirpur, and about 22 km. of the road from Rath to Kulpahar. The rest consisted of about 10 km. of the road from Mahoba to Charkhari, about 4 km. of which led from Mahoba to Loheri, a short portion of the road from Maudaha to Rath, and about 14 km. of railway approach road at Kabrai, Mahoba, Jaitpur and Kulpahar stations.

In 1909, there were about 634 km. of unmetalled roads, further divided into various classes. Those which were bridged and drained throughout, comprised only the Jaitpur-Kulpahar road, about 6 km. in length, and two short railway approach roads at Kari Pahari and Supa station. Of partially bridged and drained roads there were about 157 km. including about 59 km. of the Hamirpur Rath road, about 37 km. of that from Banda to Sumerpur, about 26 km. of road between Hamirpur and Kalpi and between Rath and Panwari, each being about 21 km., in length. The other important roads, covered about 108 km.; they connected Rath and Chandavt, Rath and Mohanaghat, and Baswari and Sisolar.

Highways

The roads of the district are maintained by public works department, Zila Parishad, municipal board and by forest department.

At present there are about 217 km. of State highways, 231.5 km. of major roads, 102 km. of other district roads and 16.4 km. of feeder canal and forest roads.

State highways connect the district with Jhansi, Mirzapur, and Kanpur, etc. The major district roads connect the different tahsils of the district. Village roads connect various places in the interior but their condition is poor.

The following statement gives the details regarding roads maintained by public works department in the district :

Road	Length (km.)
Mirain-Panwari road	49.7
Kanpur-Hamirpur-Kabrai road	68.9
Jhansi-Mirzapur road	98.1
Hamirpur-Rath road	73.4
Hamirpur-Kalpi road	22.0
Rath-Kalpi road	18.9
Maudaha-Kapsa road	17.2
Mahoba-Chhatarpur road	21.9
Kulpahar-Jaitpur-Naujawan road	31.0
Mahoba-Charkhari road	16.9
Charkhari-Muskira road	30.1
Maudaha-Bedawar road	19.4
Maudaha-Baswari road	26.5
Jarakhar-Bangra road	5.0
Bedawar-Jalalpur road	6.0
Pailani-Jaspura-Sumerpur road	15.4
Sumerpur-Tikri Buzurg road	10.8
Maudaha-Atarra road	7.6
Rewai road	2.1
Ingohta-Chhani road	9.4
Sumerpur Railway Feeder road	1.2
Charkhari Railway Station road	9.8
Kabrai Railway Feeder road	3.0
Maudaha Railway Feeder road	2.3

The following statement gives the details of roads maintained by Zila Parishad :

Road	Length (km.)
Metalled	
Kulpahar Aabadi road	1.00
Hamirpur-Diggi Talab road (via Safgam bridge)	13.20
Kulpahar Railway Feeder road	1.60
Jaitpur Railway Feeder road	2.20
Srinagar Aabadi road	0.37
Gandhi Marg Maudaha (Part of Ingohta road)	5.60
Rewan road	1.60
Unmetalled	
Kulpahar-Lugasi via Mutari road	16.00
Kulpahar-Pipra road	16.00
Srinagar-Supa road	16.00
Srinagar-Digaria road	8.00
Baripura-Tikamau road	12.00
Srinagar-Bhandra road	8.00
Kulpahar-Nonaura road	12.80
Kabrai-Surha road	8.00
Surha-Kunetha road	16.00
Kabrai-Chandauli road	16.00
Kabrai-Siwahar road	12.80
Panwari-Lahchura road	19.20
Jaitpur-Bharwara road	12.80
Panwari-Garotha road	16.00
Kabrai-Barbai road	4.80
Panwari-Luhargaon road	14.40
Ajnar-Harpalpur via Mangaria Digaria road	8.00
Didwara-Paharia road	8.00
Muskira-Shivhar road	8.00
Dhanauri-Kharela via Jaledi road	9.60
Muskira-Ghurauli road	9.60
Vivaur-Imiliya road	17.70
Bihuni-Kharela road	8.00
Rath-Siyanwari road	0.60
Rath-Kargaon road	4.80
Rath-Bharwara road	16.00
Sarila-Dhagwan road	8.00
Kharela-Achano road	9.60
Rath-Manjhgawan road	12.50
Rath-Kuchhecha road	17.70
Gahrauli-Achano road	8.00
Maudaha-Narayach road	3.20
Sumerpur-Patara road	12.80
Kurara-Manki road	16.80
Jhalokhar-Lalpur road	16.00
Jhauri-Khanna road	11.20
Maudaha-Patanpur road	8.00
Maudaha-Sisolar road	14.4
Sumerpur-Silauli road	14.4
Khanna-Gorahri road	12.8
Akona-Railway Feeder road	12.8
Bhanwal-Achano road	8.0

From the earliest times till the coming of the railways, the usual means of transport and travel were palanquins, horses, camels or vehicles drawn by bullocks, buffaloes, horses and camels. The bulk of the heavy goods was usually carried in carts and carriages. Horses and ponies were commonly used during the Mughal period and the familiar conveyance of later days, the *ekka*, appears to have been developed only since Akbar's time. People in the villages depended largely on bullock carts and on vehicles drawn by horses and camels. Camel carts were a common sight in olden days. With the construction and improvement of Metalled roads, speedy mechanised transport, which has the added advantage of being able to ply in almost any kind of weather, also made its appearance and today motor cars, motor cycles, scooters and other motor vehicles, cycle-rickshaws and bicycles are a common sight in the towns and their neighbourhood. As an economical and convenient means of transport the bicycle is popular both in the urban and the rural areas. However, the *ekkas* and bullock-carts are still quite popular in this district.

Vehicular Traffic

With the beginning of the second quarter of the present century, lorries and trucks started plying in the district and gradually their number increased and now they can be seen rushing day and night on all the main routes of the district.

After Independence the volume of goods traffic has considerably increased. Consumer goods, agricultural produce and other articles are generally transported on trucks. A truck generally carries about 74 quintal goods in weight. Taxis and buses are also available for the transport of passengers.

In 1975, as many as 557 private passenger buses were operating in the Jhansi region of which the district is a part. The following statement shows the various kinds of vehicles plying in 1975 on different routes in the district :

Kind of vehicle	Number of vehicle
Trucks (private and public carriers)	244
Taxis	313
Stage carriages (Buses) (other than roadways)	557

U. P. State Road Transport Corporation—The U. P. Government roadways organisation which was converted into the U. P. State road transport corporation with effect from June, 1972, started

running passenger buses in the district in 1948 on five routes viz; Mahoba-Hamirpur, Mahoba-Banda, Mahoba-Rath, Mahoba-Charkhari and Rath-Kulpahar.

With the development and improvement of roads and increasing passenger traffic, the facilities expanded and in 1975-76 U. P. S. R. T. C. buses were plying on following 18 routes :

Name of route	Number of buses plying	Approximate length of route in km.
Mahoba-Betwa-Khajuraho	1	166
Mahoba-Betwa-Hamirpur	10	82
Mahoba-Muskira-Betwa	1	107
Mahoba-Rath	8	66
Mahoba-Banda	4	55
Mahoba-Muskira	4	56
Mahoba-Bewar	4	79
Mahoba-Charkhari	1	21
Mahoba-Hamirpur	1	71
Rath-Maudaha	1	61
Rath-Harpalpur	4	45
Rath-Banda	2	121
Rath-Betwa Ghat	1	78
Rath-Sumerpur	5	89
Hamirpur-Kalpi	2	58
Hamirpur-Oral	5	82
Hamirpur-Lucknow	2	211
Hamirpur-Kurara	3	17
	1	

Railways

The first railway to be opened was the section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Jhansi to Manikpur, which was opened for traffic in 1889. It passes through Kulpahar and Mahoba in the south of the district, and has stations at Ghutal, Bela Tal (Jaitpur), Kulpahar, Supa, Mahoba, Karipahari and Kabrai. Its total length in the district was about 77 km. The section from Juhi (Kanpur) to Hamirpur Road was opened on April 21st, 1913 and the section from Hamirpur Road to Khairada on July 20th, 1914. The latter section known as the Kanpur-Banda section was connected with the Jhansi-Manikpur section at Khairada Junction. On the said section there were only three railway stations in the district, but on the transfer of the Khanna-Ichauli circle from the district of Banda to this district in 1925, two more railway stations, Akona and Ichauli were added. The opening of this section has secured the trade of the towns of Maudaha and Sumerpur, which once used to pass along the Kanpur-Mahoba metalled road across the Yamuna and the Betwa rivers at Hamirpur.

In 1951, the railways were regrouped and the lines passing through the district were placed under Central Railway. At

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

present the district is served by two branches of Central Railway—one running between Jhansi and Manikpur and the other between Kanpur and Banda, both passing through the territory of the district. The important railway stations on the former are Ghutai, Kulpahar, Mahoba and Kabrai and on the latter Kinara, Bharua, Sumerpur, Ragul, Ingohta and Isauli.

Ferries—In 1974, there were 10 ferries in the district of which 8 were maintained by Zila Parishad and 2 by public works department on the rivers Yamuna and Betwa.

TRAVEL FACILITIES

Passengers including tourists can now reach the district by rail, buses and taxis. Boarding and lodging facilities are available in both urban and some rural areas of the district. The district has road links with adjoining districts of Kanpur, Jalaun, Banda, Jhansi and the State of Madhya Pradesh. It has facilities of dharmshalas, rest houses, post-offices and telegraph offices at the district and tahsil headquarters.

The inspection houses, rest houses, and dak bungalows in the district are maintained by different departments of the government and are meant chiefly for the use of their own officials but officials of other departments, and members of the public and tourists are also welcome on payment, if accommodation is available. Statement I, at the end of the chapter, gives some details of dharmshalas, hotels, etc., in the district and the Statement II that of the inspection houses, dak bungalows, etc.

POST, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONES

In earlier times the postal arrangements of the district did not differ from those in vogue in other regulation districts. There were general post-offices located at headquarter stations, and the mails were delivered at those by runners along the main trunk roads. The district dak was maintained by the district officer, who made arrangements for distribution of letters at the various district offices in his district. The letters from the post-office were handed over to nazir at the collectorate, who managed their despatch along with official letters to the district offices. Paid letters were delivered by village chaukidars and unpaid by head constables. In 1863, the imperial and district post were amalgamated and, with the introduction of Act XIV of 1866, the entire arrangements for the delivery and despatch of letters was undertaken by the

post-office, which opened regular offices. In 1908, the district contained 17 branch-offices, and 7 sub-offices, in addition to the head office at Hamirpur.

In 1975, the district contained one head post-office, 21 sub-post-offices and 179 branch offices, 23 telegraph offices and an equal number of public call offices.

STATEMENT I

Dharmshalas, Hotels, etc.

Reference Page No. 142

Place	Name	Facilities available	Management
TAHSIL HAMIRPUR			
Village Manjhupur Hamirpur	Ranno Devi Dharmshala Hamirpur Kanchan Hotel, Hamirpur	Fooding & lodging	Private
Sumerpur Muhal Chand	Sri Boda Prasad Dharmshala	Lodging only	Private
TAHSIL RATH			
Rath Dekuni	Dharmshala Padao	—	Private
Rath Purabi	Dharmshala Hamirpur Chungi Chauki	—	Private
TAHSIL MAUDAHA			
Maudaha	Dharmshala Jamuna Prasad	Lodging only	Private
TAHSIL MAHORA			
Mahoba	Dharmshala Jamuna	Lodging only	Private
Mahoba	Sri Seth Deoki Nandan Dharmshala	Lodging only	Private
Mahoba	Paras Hotel	Fooding & Lodging	Private
TAHSIL CHARKHARI			
Charkhari	Dharmshala Runpur Temple	Lodging only	Private
Charkhari	Youth Hostel	—	—
Charkhari	Hotel Lumesa	—	—

STATEMENT II

Inspection Houses, Dak Bungalows, etc.

Reference Page No. 142

Place	Name	Managing department
TAHSIL HAMIRPUR		
Hamirpur	Dak Bungalow	Irrigation Department
Hamirpur	Dak Bungalow	Public Works Department
Sumerpur	Dak Bungalow	Irrigation Department
Sumerpur	Dak Bungalow	Zila Parishad
Kurara	Dak Bungalow	Irrigation Department
Chhani	Dak Bungalow	Zila Parishad
TAHSIL RATH		
Rath	Inspection House	Public Works Department
Rath	Inspection House	Canal Department
Gauhand	Inspection House	do
Pachkhura	Inspection House	do
Rehota	Inspection House	do
Kulahnda	Inspection House	do
Chilli	Inspection House	do
Dadri	Inspection House	do
Baukher	Inspection House	do
Sarila	Inspection House	do
Majhgawan	Inspection House	do
TAHSIL MAUDAHA		
Narajhch	Dak Bungalow	Zila Parishad
Kunetha	do	Forest Department
Khanna	Inspection House	Irrigation Department
Bewar	do	do
Ainjhi	do	do
TAHSIL MAHORA		
Mahoba	Inspection House	Zila Parishad
Mahoba	Dak Bungalow	Irrigation Department
Mahoba	Inspection House	do
Kabrai	Inspection House	Public Works Department
Mahoba	Tourist Bungalow	Tourist Department
TAHSIL CHARKHARI		
Charkhari	Inspection House	Public Works Department
Supa	do	Irrigation Department
Leta	do	Irrigation Department
Akthoha	do	do
Panwari	do	Public Works Department
TAHSIL KULPAHAR		
Kulpahar	Inspection House	Zila Parishad
Kotra	do	Irrigation Department
Bela Tal	do	do
Ajnar	do	do

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In 1961, the population of the district was 7,94,449 out of which 3,69,994 were workers. Of them 89,288 were engaged in various occupations as follows :

Occupations	Number
Industry	20,801
Live-stock, forestry, fishing and hunting and plantation	9,704
Trade and commerce	8,502
Personal services	2,917
Public services	2,780
Transport, storage and communication	2,076
Construction	2,023
Educational and scientific services	1,821
Electricity, gas, water and sanitary services	1,426
Business	523
Medical and health services	304
Mining and quarrying	499
Religious and welfare services	400
Community services and trade and labour association	333
Recreational services	257
Legal services	192
Unspecified services	34,530
Total	89,288

Although in 1971, the population of the district increased to 9,88,215 the number of workers decreased to 3,23,330 and those in miscellaneous occupations to 49,168 due to classification under various categories of economic activities differing from the previous census.

In the census of 1971 economic activities of the people were divided into the main and subsidiary categories. All part-time workers were removed from the category of workers—as indicated in the census of 1961—and were included in the subsidiary category. Consequently the total number of workers in 1971 was less than in 1961. They numbered 3,23,330 only in 1971, which was short of 46,664 of the 1961 figure, which was 3,69,994.

PUBLIC SERVICES

The planned economic and social development of the country has increased employment opportunities under the Central and State Governments at different levels considerably. Besides, activities of corporations and local bodies have also assumed vast dimensions. An idea of this may be had from the following table for the year 1974 :

Type of establishment	No. of reporting establishments	No. of employees
State government	—	—
State government	73	8,504
Quasi government (Central)	13	152
Quasi government (State)	4	625
Local bodies	32	762

Persons in the above services fall under the category of fixed wage earners who are often hard hit by the ever increasing cost of living. However, dearness allowance is paid to all classes of such employees at rates increasing with the price index and varying in accordance with their salary structure. Benefits like provident fund and free medical treatment are available to the government servants as well as to the employees of the local bodies, while pension facilities are extended to government servants only. Some government servants are allowed to encash the whole or part of the earned leave. Leave rules have been revised by the government to provide more relief to the temporary employees. Other benefits include advances for the purchase of conveyance and construction or repair of houses. Residential accommodation at moderate rates of rent is also provided in government built quarters and house rent allowance is paid in lieu thereof to others living in private rented accommodation. Non-practising allowance is paid to certain categories of the employees of the medical and health departments holding posts where private practice is prohibited.

The employees are allowed to form their service associations or unions under the Societies Registration Act XVI of 1860, for their welfare and for the protection and promotion of their service interests. The State government employees in the district are members of district level associations which are affiliated to their state-level bodies.

EARNED PROFESSIONS

HAWAR DISTRICT

Education

In ancient times, education was deemed as the exclusive concern of religious preceptors and institutions such as the *pathshalas* and *maktabs* which were run mostly by the Pandits and Maulvis. In those days, teaching was an act of philanthropy and consequently no regular fee was charged from the pupil. Though the modern system of education has gradually replaced this traditional class of teachers by a professional one teaching in schools and colleges, yet teaching is still regarded as a noble and respectable profession. The avenues of employment open now to the trained and experienced teachers are considerably more than in the past.

Since 1964 the triple benefit scheme has been in force in the State aided institutions run by local bodies, or by private managements. This scheme provides facilities of contributory provident fund, compulsory life insurance and pension, including family pension to teachers. Payment of salaries to the teachers of institutions, which are on the grants-in-aid list of the State government, are made through cheques signed by the manager of the institutions concerned and the district inspector of schools. The teachers serving in the government institutions are entitled to all the benefits available to other State government employees.

Teachers' wards are entitled to get free tuition up to intermediate classes. Needy and disabled teachers can get financial assistance from the National Foundation for teachers' Welfare Fund, and those suffering from tuberculosis can get admission to the Bhowali Sanatorium where certain seats are reserved for them. Principals, head masters or head mistresses of government higher secondary schools and government normal schools and lady teachers employed in primary schools in rural areas are entitled to residential quarters. The teachers of the district have organised themselves into associations, such as the Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh constituted by the teachers of the higher secondary schools of privately managed institutions, and the Prathmik Shikshak Sangh formed by the teachers of the primary and junior high schools of the district. These associations are affiliated to their parent bodies at the State level. The main aims of these associations are to protect and promote the service interests of their members. In 1961, the district had 1,818 teachers, including 242 women. In 1975 their number had increased to 3,732 which included 620 women.

The following statement shows the number of teachers of the primary and secondary schools managed by different agencies in 1975 :

OR. VIII - MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATION

Agencies running the institution	No. of teachers		Total number
	Male	Female	
Government Higher Secondary Schools	69	102	171
Privately managed Higher Secondary Schools	580		580
Senior Basic	224	105	329
Junior Basic	2,239	413	2,652
Total	3,112	620	3,732

Medicine

Before the advent of the British rule, Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine were practised by the *voids* and *hakims* in the district. After cession, the allopathic system of medicine was introduced and its dispensaries opened. The Ayurvedic and Unani systems began to lose ground due to lack of government patronage. In due course the homoeopathic system of medicine also entered the field, and because of its being comparatively inexpensive, it soon became popular, especially among the less affluent sections of the population.

In 1961, there were 134 medical practitioners of all systems of medicine and 254 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians in the district. In 1974-75 there were 72 doctors, 52 compounders, 9 nurses and 116 others under the employment of government and Zila Parishad. Besides, there were 169 doctors who practised privately.

The district has two associations for qualified allopathic doctors—the district branches of the Indian medical association and the provincial medical health services association. The branch of Indian Medical Association aims at promoting and advancing medical and allied services, to promote medical education, and to maintain the honour and dignity of the medical profession. The provincial medical health services association is an association of members of the State medical and health services, whose main interest is to safeguard and further the interests of their service.

Law

The legal profession attracts law graduates and a few retired persons who possess a degree in law. The lawyers have one or more *moharris* (clerks) attached or working with them, depending

on the size of their clientele. In 1961, there were 94 legal practitioners in the district. This figure rose to 170 in 1975. The State Government appoints public prosecutors for criminal, and district government consent counsels for civil and revenue work from among qualified legal practitioners to conduct the cases on behalf of the State. To assist them a number of lawyers are appointed by the government known as additional public prosecutors (formerly known as panel lawyers). For the purpose of conducting cases in the lower criminal courts there is a state service from which public prosecutors and assistant public prosecutors are posted in the district.

In recent years, with the influx of large number of new entrants the legal profession has become much more competitive. Various malpractices have also raised their head. Nonetheless the profession has on the whole retained a high ethical, moral and professional standard. The very nature of the profession provides ample opportunities to the lawyers to maintain very close touch with all sections of society. The lawyers usually take a very active part in all walk of public life in the district, particularly in the social, educational and political activities. Generally the lawyers practise at the district headquarters as most of the case work is dealt with in the courts located there. A few practise at the tahsil headquarters too, where a number of subordinate courts are located, and more are being shifted gradually.

There were five bar associations of the lawyers in the district located one each in Hamirpur, Maudaha, Charkhari, Mahoba and Rath.

The objectives of these associations are to organise the members of the bar, to maintain a high professional standard and to procure justice for the public.

Engineering

There are mainly four branches of government engineering services in the district namely the construction (of building and roads), the irrigation, the local self-government and the hydel. In 1961, there were 37 architects, engineers and surveyors in the district. In 1974-75 the total number of engineers (other than State government employees) in the district was four. Zila Parishad had one civil engineer and three junior engineers, the municipal board, Hamirpur had only one engineer and the municipal board Maudaha had one engineer and one junior engineer.

The industrial establishments in the district also employ qualified engineers and diploma holders. A number of qualified engineers, architects and surveyors execute works on their own and render professional advice against payment.

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES

Domestic Servants

Domestic servants comprise a fair proportion of the working force of the district. They are not necessarily unskilled workers though they get lower wages as compared to other members of the labour classes. They render wholtime as well as part-time service in houses, hotels, private concerns or business houses, full-time servants are usually employed by well-to-do persons. They are normally paid in cash, but payment of remuneration in kind like board and lodging, garments etc., along with cash payments is also in vogue. They dwell generally in slums or out-houses. Often there is no job security for them and frequently they change their place of work themselves. With growing costs, this class is fast becoming scarce at least in domestic establishments. In others, they are organising themselves into unions and demanding better working conditions.

In 1961, in the district, there were 381 house-keepers, cooks, maid servants and related workers of whom 178 were cooks and cook-bearers, 148 butlers, bearers and workers and 6 ayahs and maids. The number of cleaners, sweepers and watermen was 1,901, of which 1,231 were females.

Barbers

In the past barbers or *nais* used to visit families either daily or weekly, for serving their clients. But the practice is dying out fast and now hairdressing shops and saloons are cropping up everywhere. The number of such saloons is larger in the urban areas and are usually manned by more than one person including paid assistants. Village barbers often attend to their customers on roadside pavements of busy thoroughfares, in fairs and other festive occasions (*melas*).

The barber were in the past invariably required to perform certain duties on ceremonial occasions among the Hindus. Even now besides carrying his main task of hairdressing, he also attends to his age old traditional duties in rituals and sacraments, like births,

naming of the new-born, *mundan*, *yagyopavita*, marriage and death. In these the barbers are assisted by their womenfolk as well. In 1961, there were 1,369 barbers, hairdressers, beauticians and related workers, of whom 193 were in the urban areas.

Washermen

In spite of the change over to laundries, washing shops and dry-cleaning shops in recent years, the washerman is still a common sight in cities and towns collecting dirty clothes for washing on the banks of some near by river, rivulet, *nullah* or tank.

The rising cost of washing materials and the popularity of synthetic clothes have adversely affected the calling of the washermen. A substantial number of clothes are now washed at home, only the woollens, silks and other delicate clothes finding their way to the laundries and dry-cleaning shops in the cities. The conditions in the villages, however, have undergone little change. In 1961, there were 910 washermen, including dry-cleaners, of whom 160 were in the urban areas.

Tailors

Since times immemorial tailoring has been considered to be a skilful art which requires specialised training, often under an expert. Well known tailor in the cities use the scissors themselves and leave the stitching and sundry jobs to their assistants, who are either close relations or are employed on daily or monthly wages or on commission basis, some specialise in ladies, or gents, garments.

In the rural areas the entire work is done by a single individual, the *kurta*, shirt, and payjama being the traditional items of tailored dresses. In 1961, there were 1,984 tailors, dress makers and garment makers of whom 451 were in the urban areas.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

Among other occupations in 1961, 3,555 were spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers; 1,858 carpenters joiners, pattern makers (wood); 719 hawkers, pedlars and street vendors; 3,726 basket weavers, and related workers, 165 brick layers, plaster and construction workers; 1,336 potters and related clay formers, 851 crushers and pressers (oil seeds) : 13 *khandsari* sugar and *gur* makers; 417 bakers, confectioners, candy and sweetmeat makers; 397 religious workers; 31 compositors, printers, engravers,

book binders and related workers; 230 book-keepers and cashiers; 803 millers, pounders, huskers and parchers of grains and related food workers; 1,185 shoe makers and shoe repairs; 84 fishermen and related workers; 239 animal-drawn vehicle drivers; 153 musicians and related workers; 1,424 jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths; 19 precision instrument makers, watch and clock makers and repairmen; 6 plumbers and pipe fitters; 34 electricians, electric repairmen and related workers; 669 blacksmiths, hammer smiths and forgers; 191 loggers and other forestry workers; 185 *malis* (gardeners); 33 astrologers, palmists and related workers; 1,336 salesmen, shop assistants and related workers; 31 cycle rickshaw drivers and rickshaw pullers; 79 tobacco and its product makers; 555 *jurnacemermen*, kilnmen and overmen; 15 sawyers and wood working machinists; 271 stone cutters, stone carvers and stone dressers.

LABOUR ORGANISATIONS

The different classes of workers have organised themselves to form associations and have drawn up a schedule of rates for the jobs undertaken by their members and services rendered by them. A strong feeling of trade-unionism is fast growing mainly to protect their interests and avoid competition amongst themselves and exploitation by customers.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

Workers and Non-workers

The percentage of workers and non-workers in 1961 in the district was 46.6 and 53.4, the corresponding figures for the State being 39.1 and 60.9 respectively. Of the total workers in the district cultivators and agricultural labourers comprised 75.6 per cent. Next came 'other services' claiming 12.5 per cent, followed by household industry and other manufacturing concerns 8.1 per cent; and trade and commerce 2.2 per cent. In other categories the number was small, altogether accounting for 1.6 per cent. The extent of female participation in work was 33.6 per cent against 6.7 per cent in the State. The non-earning female dependents were mostly engaged in household work and did not seek work for livelihood. Their participation was higher in agricultural activities than in non-agricultural, being 34.9 and 29.7 per cent respectively.

The total rural population, 7,27,896, of the district in 1961 comprised 48.1 per cent workers and the remaining 51.9 per cent non-workers. The corresponding percentages for the urban area were 30.1 and 69.9 respectively. Thus the proportion of workers was lower in towns than in villages. Of the total workers in the rural area in 1961, cultivators and agricultural labourers were 80.6 per cent and workers in non-agricultural activities were 19.4 per cent only. As usual there was preponderance of non-agricultural workers in the urban areas, the percentage being 79.3.

The comparative data of 1961 and 1971 are tabulated below :

Year	Total population	Total workers	Percentage of workers to total population			
			Agricultural workers		Non-agricultural workers	
			District	Uttar Pradesh	District	Uttar Pradesh
1961	7,94,449	3,69,994	35.1	11.5	46.6	39.1
1971	9,88,215	3,23,330	27.8	4.9	32.7	30.9

The statement apparently indicates a decrease in the working population reflecting unemployment amongst the already employed persons of 1961. This anomaly has cropped up due to change in the

definition of 'worker' in 1971. The use of term 'worker' was so comprehensive at the 1961 census that a person doing as little as one hour's work in a day was treated as a worker. Accordingly a woman, who mostly attended to household duties, was classified as worker, if at all, she took food on the field, tended the cattle or did some such other work. In the census of 1971 a man or woman who was engaged permanently in household duties such as cooking for own household, whether such a person helped in the family's economic activities as a part-time worker, was not treated as worker but categorised as a non-worker. This may explain the sharp decline in the number of total workers in 1971 inspite of a rise in population of about 24.4 per cent.

At the 1971 census workers were classified into nine major categories, the basis of the classification being those economic activities which were similar in respect of process, raw materials and products. The details of the nine categories of workers in 1971 are as follows :

Number and name		Total	Male	Female	Percent- age to total workers	Percentage to total population
I	Cultivators	1,67,301	1,57,273	10,028	51.7	16.9
II	Agricultural labourers	1,06,911	72,940	33,971	33.1	10.8
III	Live-stock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities	5,130	4,982	148	1.5	0.5
IV	Mining and quarrying	152	124	28	0.1	0.0
V	Manufacturing processing servicing and repairs :			1,064	3.5	1.2
	(a) Household industry	11,293	10,229	119	1.1	0.3
	(b) Non-household industry	3,366	3,247	57	0.4	0.2
VI	Construction	1,554	1,497	403	2.5	0.8
VII	Trade and commerce	8,096	7,693	35	0.5	0.1
VIII	Transport, storage and communications	1,470	1,435	35	0.5	0.1
IX	Other services	18,057	16,316	1,741	5.6	1.8
	Total workers	3,23,330	2,75,736	47,594	100.0	32.6
	Non-workers	6,64,885	2,50,379	4,14,506	—	67.4
	Total population	9,88,215	5,26,115	4,62,100	—	100.0

As will be observed all non-workers have been grouped together in one single class though they were classified at the census into the following categories :

- Full-time students
- Those attending to household duties
- 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

There are no records extant for tracing the earliest fluctuations of prices. From 1861 to 1871 wheat averaged over 18 seers per rupee, the highest rate being 9.75 seers in the famine of 1869 and the lowest 26.25 seers on 1862. The average for gram was 24 seers and for jowar 26 seers. In the following ten years the famine of 1877-78 operated adversely on prices and raised the average considerably, but apart from this calamity, the rates were somewhat easier than in preceding decade. About 1885 a general rise took place throughout the State, resulting from widespread economic causes, and since that year, they never regained the position they held prior to it. The succeeding decade was characterised by a severe famine; but even when the effects of this had passed away in 1899, wheat was found selling at a little over 13 seers, gram at 19.25 seers and jowar and *bajra* at 18.50 seers per rupee. In 1900, 1905 and 1907 there were other famines and scarcities that affected the average, but normal prices in the district about 1907 were reckoned to be 14 seers for wheat, 21 seers for gram, 22 seers for *bajra* and 23.75 seers for jowar, these being the grains most commonly consumed by the people.

About 1911 normal rates per rupee for the district were reckoned to be 11.5 seers for wheat, 7 seers for rice, 19.25 seers for gram and 12.75 seers for *dal arhar*.

After the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, a series of changes in prices, including a considerable rise in the price level of food-grains, were witnessed in the succeeding years. The price level in the district as compared to that of 1911 was higher by 28 per cent in 1916 and by 89 per cent in 1928.

The worldwide economic depression started in 1930 and continued with greater severity in the years that followed. Consequently from 1930-31 the rates registered a downward trend and the price levels in 1934 went down by about 53.4 per cent and 31.2 per cent as compared to those of 1928 and 1916 respectively. Prices remained low till the end of the first half of 1936 when they began to stabilize and became steady in 1937, at a level higher than that of 1936. By

1939 the prices had registered a rise of nearly 35.2 per cent over those prevalent in 1934.

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 further shortages, contributed in no small measure to maintain and even to advance the high level reached in prices. 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. In 1942 a district advisory committee was formed to find out ways and means to ease the situation. This had no effect in lowering the prices. The price control measures were then vigorously enforced which included fixation of prices (as modified from time to time), launching of prosecutions to check profiteering and licensing of food-grain traders. Even then the prices continued to go up when they registered a rise of 185 per cent in 1944 over those of 1939.

It was experienced that effective control of prices was not possible without a corresponding check on supplies.

Hence in January, 1943, partial rationing was introduced in Hamirpur town when wheat, rice and certain coarse grains were made available at controlled rates from the government shops to about 25 per cent of the population comprising poorer section of the society. Having failed to achieve the desired result, the partial rationing was converted into the total rationing (which provided the closing of the open market and rationing for all inhabitants) in 1945. It remained in force for nearly three years, being discontinued about May, 1948. Immediately after the abolition of the total rationing, prices started going down. The basic over-all shortage, however, reasserted itself and the prices soon resumed on upward trend and it seemed as if the markets would go beyond control unless definite steps were taken to arrest the rise in prices. People also clamoured for restoration of rationing and controls. The government took immediate steps and the total rationing was reimposed about the middle of 1949. It continued till June, 1952, when a change in government policy with regard to controls was made. With effect from that date free markets were restored but the issue of food-grains to ration card holders, however, continued. Restrictions on movement of food-grains within the State were also withdrawn and procurement was suspended, but food-grains, however, continued to be issued by government shops to arrest any rising trend in prices. Towards the end of 1953, the prices tended to come down a little. The normal forces of demand and supply once again started adjusting the prices. Neither the cultivator was sure of

getting a fixed minimum price for his produce nor the trader was assured of his commission. This uncertainty led to a decline in prices in 1954 which further fell in 1955. This was a countrywide trend, which required to be checked to stabilize the economy and sustain the growth of agriculture. The government, therefore, took measure in 1954 to support agricultural prices and the results were conducive to production.

The prices thereafter began to show an upward trend and continued to move up. The approximate price for certain years from 1955 to 1974 are given in the following statement:

Average yearly retail prices in Rs per kg.			
Year	Wheat	Gram	Rice
1955	0.50	0.46	—
1965	0.70	0.80	—
1971	0.85	0.80	1.20
1972	0.90	1.10	1.25
1973	1.25	1.80	1.50
1974	1.75	2.20	2.50
1975	1.55	1.75	2.50

The retail prices in the headquarters town for certain other commodities in 1976 were as follows:

Commodity	Price in Rs per kg.
Sugar	4.11
Ghee	18.56
Mustard oil	4.92
Fire-wood	0.18
Kerosene oil (per litre)	1.47

Wages

There had been a very great and rapid enhancement in wages after 1875, and it was estimated in 1874 that all wages had since that time risen from 15 to 100 per cent. in 1874 smiths were paid at the rate Re 0.19 to Re 0.25 per day, bricklayers and carpenters Re 0.16 to Re 0.19 labourers in town Re 0.12 and the same class in the villages Re 0.09. Afterwards the rise was steady but less marked. As regards field labourers it is difficult to gauge the amount of increase, during this period owing the custom of paying in grain, or partly in grain and partly in cash. It was, however, difficult to procure men labourers for less than Re 0.16, though women and children commanded Re 0.06.

The first wage census was carried out in the State in 1906. The results of the survey made at that time and certain succeeding years are tabulated below:

Year	Wages in Rs per day	
	Unskilled	Skilled
1906	0.12	0.22
1911	0.09	0.25
1916	0.16	0.31
1928	0.22	0.54
1934	0.14	0.34
1939	0.16	0.50
1944	0.40	1.06

After the First World War a general rise in the wages occurred as revealed by the wage census of 1928. The year 1930 was one of worldwide economic depression which reflected in the wage census of 1934. Thereafter wages began to mount. The steep rise in 1944 was attributed to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. The wages moved for an adjustment but there was no coming down and they continued to go upwards as would appear from the following statement:

Year	Wages (in Rs per day)	
	Unskilled labour	Skilled labour
1950	0.62	2.90
1955	1.00	3.00
1960	1.50	3.50
1965	1.75	7.50
1970	3.00	10.00
1974	5.00	

In 1974 wages for various agricultural occupations e. weeding, reaping, ploughing, etc. were about Rs 4 per day for 8 working hours.

The approximate average wages paid to the workers at district headquarters in 1975 for certain occupations were as follows:

Occupation	Unit of quotation	Wages (Rs)
Gardener	Per month (whole-time)	225.00
	Per month (part-time)	
Chowkidar	Per month	100.00
Herdsmen	Per cattle	5.00
Casual labourer	Per day	5.00
Domestic servant	Per month without food	90.00
	Per month with food	30.00
Wood-cutter	Per 40 kg. of wood turned into field	0.50
Carpenter	Per day	10.00
Blacksmith	Per day	10.00
Midwife	For a delivery	8.00
Barber	Per shave	0.35
	Per hair-cut	1.00
Scavenger	Per month for a house for one cleaning per day	3.00
Motor driver	Per month	250.00
Truck driver	Per month	300.00

GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment Trends

The statement given below shows that there has been a considerable increase in the number of persons employed in the private and public sectors during the years 1970 to 1974. The data relate only to a few selected establishments which were subjected to enquiry conducted by the employment exchange authorities during the quarter ending in December :

Year	No. of establishment			No. of employees		
	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total
1970	31	72	103	790	8,418	9,208
1971	26	91	117	810	8,759	9,569
1972	27	114	141	881	9,479	10,360
1973	25	116	141	954	9,940	10,894
1974	28	122	150	1,031	10,043	11,074

The number of persons in 1973 and 1974 may further be classified according to work categories in the following manner:

Nature of activity	No. of reporting establishments		Number of employees					
			1973			1974		
	1973	1974	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total
Agriculture, live-stock and fishing	4	4	—	348	348	—	332	332
Quarrying	1	1	—	10	10	—	11	11
Manufacturing in handlooms	1	1	37	—	37	37	—	37
Construction	12	12	—	818	818	—	824	824
Water supply	5	5	—	41	41	—	42	42
Trade and Commerce	21	23	88	203	291	85	222	307
Transport (bus service)	1	1	—	624	624	—	604	604
Services (public, legal, etc.)	96	103	829	7,896	8,725	909	8,008	8,917
Total	141	150	954	9,940	10,894	1,031	10,043	11,074

Employment of Women

The extent of employment of women workers is indicated by the following statement which shows their number in the private and public sectors during the quarter ending December 1974 :

No. of reporting establishment	150
No. of women employees in public sector	1,012
No. of women employees in private sector	22
Total number of women employees	1,034
Percentage of women employees in private sector of total employees in that sector	2.2
Percentage of women employees in public sector of total employees in that sector	10.0

The proportion of women workers in educational services was about 41.1 per cent, in medical and public health 54.0 per cent and the remaining 4.9 per cent in other services.

Educational standards of men and women who registered for employment during the year ending December 1974, were as follows :

Educational standard	Men	Women	Total
Post-graduate	29	6	35
Graduate	386	8	394
Intermediate	1,169	19	1,188
Matriculate	1,191	35	1,226
Below matriculate	1,874	86	1,960
Illiterate	—	—	1,485

During the same quarter the employment exchange was required to recommend candidates for 419 posts, the State Government needed 413 candidates and the local bodies and the private sector 3 each.

The district experienced shortage of compounders (homoeopathic) and stenographers. There was a surplus of persons having no previous experience and also of turners, fitters and machinists.

Employment Exchange

An employment exchange at Hamirpur was established in 1960 to provide job assistance to the unemployed and employers of the district. The following statement gives an idea of the assistance rendered by the employment exchange during 1970 to 1974 :

Year	Vacancies notified by employers	No. of persons registered for employment	No. on 'live register'	No. of persons provided with employment
1970	910	5,076	3,198	546
1971	521	5,835	3,597	531
1972	1,095	7,883	5,926	761
1973	880	7,366	6,589	939
1974	324	6,134	4,803	238

The employment market information scheme has also been functioning in the exchange since 1962. Under this scheme an intensive study is carried out to ascertain the number of persons employed, vacancies created and the types of jobs for which qualified candidates are not available and other allied information during the quarter in public undertakings and some selected private enterprises.

NATIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The subject of national planning and rural development received little attention under the British rule, and the few steps that were taken to recondition the village economy and society were mostly conciliatory in nature and seemingly motivated by political expediency. They largely consisted of improvement in sanitation, expansion of agriculture and extension of irrigational facilities when the first popular government came into office in 1937, a scheme for rural development was adopted in certain villages of the district. Gradually it was later expanded and a rural development association was formed at the district level. The functions of the association, having a non-official chairman and

subdivisional magistrate as secretary, were more or less advisory in nature. They covered rural hygiene, construction of roads, establishment of libraries, construction of panchayat ghars (houses), holding of night classes for adults, and allied developmental activities. With the peoples' government going out of office in 1939 the rural development programme suffered heavily. In 1946 the rural development department was merged with the co-operative department and the rural development association was replaced by the district development association with a non-official as chairman and the district co-operative officer as its secretary. In 1951, the district planning committee, having the district magistrate as its chairman and the district planning officer as its secretary, replaced the district development association. It had a number of sub-committees for the preparation and execution of Five-year Plan schemes and projects. Its role, however, continued to be advisory. The development blocks were the units of operation into which the district was divided for the implementation of the Plan programmes of each department.

The First Five-year Plan started functioning from April 1951 with the main objective of raising the standard of living of the people and for opening out to them opportunities of a wider more varied life. It was largely a collection of departmental programmes. In the wake of the problems created by partition, emphasis was on agriculture, irrigation and transport. Consequently efforts were made for improving agricultural practices and developing the village community through national extension service scheme and peoples' participation in different activities. Earthwork on buildings and village roads, digging of soakage pits, etc., were done by voluntary labour (*shramdan*). Improved methods of agriculture and use of compost were also introduced. Tubewells and other means of irrigation were augmented.

In 1954, Maudaha, the first community development block of the district, was opened in January, followed by that of Sumerpur in August, 1956.

The scope of the Second Five-year Plan (1956-61) was enlarged to include industrialisation with stress on the development of heavy industries and on the enlargement of the scope of the public sector. The aim was to increase the national income and to reduce unemployment. In the field of agriculture, schemes relating to Japanese method of paddy cultivation, U. P. method of wheat cultivation and expansion of training in the use of agricultural implements and chemical and green manures were taken up. The whole district was divided into 11 development blocks for implementation of the Plan schemes.

In 1958, the Antarim Zila Parishad, the precursor of the present Zila Parishad, was formed by amalgamating the district planning committee and the district board. For the co-ordinated execution of the different Plan schemes the resources of agriculture, co-operative, animal husbandry, panchayat raj and some other departments like health, plant protection, etc., called the Plan departments, were pooled and put under the control of the district planning officer.

During the Third Plan period (1961-66) a three tier structure of rural self-governing bodies was set up with effect from December 1, 1963 to ensure peoples' participation in the successful implementation of the planning and development programmes. Now the village panchayats function at village level, the Kshettra Samitis at development block (Kshettra) level and the Zila Parishad at the district level. The district has eleven development blocks all of which are now in post-stage II. Some other details of these blocks are given below :

Name of block	Date of inauguration	No. of		Population
		Gaon Sabhas	Nyaya panchayats	
Panwari	1-4-67	70	8	48,459
Charkhari*	1-4-70	71	9	97,427
Sumerpur	15-8-56	63	10	94,379
Kosara	2-10-72	42	6	55,105
Jaitpur	1-7-57	68	8	66,582
Kabrai* (Mahoba)	1-4-62	85	11	82,368
Maudaha	26-1-54	91	12	1,05,138
Muskara	10-10-59	43	8	86,115
Sarila	1-4-59	48	9	76,744
Rath	2-10-61	46	8	82,541
Gohand	2-10-72	55	9	72,600

*with headquarters at Mahoba.

A block development officer is posted in each block. He is assisted by five assistant development officers (A. D. O's.) one each for agriculture, panchayats, co-operatives, minor irrigation and statistics in execution and evaluation of the developmental activities concerned. The functions of the A. D. O's. are closely related with their departmental activities alongwith the co-ordination and collaboration with the team spirit in various schemes of national importance such as family planning and national savings.

In each block at village level one village level worker (V. L. W.) is posted in a circle and a Panchayat Sewak is attached to each nyaya panchayat centre. There about 10 V. L. Ws. circles in each block. Moreover employees of the departments of co-operative, medical, public health and family planning; minor irrigation,

animal husbandry and of Prantiya Vikas Dal also carry the message of planning development in the rural areas and are equally responsible for the successful execution of the Plan scheme.

The Third Five-year Plan was conceived as the 'first stage of a decade or more intensive development leading to a self-reliant and self-generating economy'. It sought to ensure a minimum level of living to every family while narrowing economic and social disparities. Some special programmes such as those related to improved variety of seeds, particularly of dwarf variety, intensive method of wheat and paddy cultivation and crop protection measures, were taken up in hand. Because of Chinese aggression of 1962 the economy of the country so strained that the process of planning and development was considerably slowed down during this Plan period.

The next three years from April, 1966 to March, 1969 did not form part of the next Five-year Plan. Yearly Plans for these three years were, therefore, formulated with the following broad objectives :

- (i) A growth rate of 5 per cent in the agricultural sector and 8 to 10 per cent in industry
- (ii) An annual growth rate of 6.9 per cent in production of food-grains to achieve self-sufficiency
- (iii) To maximise employment opportunities
- (iv) To redress imbalances arising from a high rate of population growth and inadequate expansion in agricultural production by reducing the fertility rate to 25 per thousand in shortest possible time

The Fourth-Five-year Plan (1969-74) defined more precisely the wider and deeper social values as the 'structure of socio-economic relations should be so planned that they result not only in appreciable increases in national income and employment but also in greater equality in incomes and wealth'. It sought to enlarge the income of the rural population and to achieve self-reliance in agriculture and industry. Consequently new small industrial units in the district were established, besides increased facilities for sanitation, transport and health services with special emphasis on improving the conditions of the backward classes and grant of subsidies to them for starting small crafts. The desired progress could not be made during this Plan period because of Indo-Pak conflict of 1971.

Removal of poverty and attainment of economic self-reliance have been defined to be the two basic objectives of the Fifth Five-year Plan; and expansion of employment opportunities has also to receive the highest priorities.

The Plan programmes of the district are an integral part of the State Plans and they broadly reflect the same priorities. Without going into details it may be observed that the implementation of various development Plan schemes, has helped in appreciable growth in agricultural production, power generation and consumption, industrial development, irrigation and road transport. The planned efforts have also resulted in raising the standard of living, providing better wages and living conditions all round and helping the general economic growth of the district.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Hamirpur is one of the districts of the Jhansi Division of Uttar Pradesh with the divisional Commissioner's headquarters at Jhansi.

Commissioner

He functions as a vital link between the administration of districts under him and the government. He controls, guides and advises district and regional level officers, solves inter-departmental problems and assesses the performance of officers of various departments. On the judicial side, his jurisdiction extends to hearing appeals and revisions under the U. P. Land Revenue Act, and U. P. Zamin-dari Abolition and Land Reforms Act and several other enactments like the Indian Arms Act, etc. He is the chairman of the divisional planning committee, and the regional transport authority and exercises powers of supervision over the Zila Parishad, municipal boards and other local bodies.

District Officer

Usually a member of the Indian Administrative Service, and occasionally an officer of the State Civil Service, the district officer presides over the general administration of the district. He combines in himself the functions of a magistrate and collector, appointed under the Code of Criminal Procedure and the U. P. Land Revenue Act respectively. In his capacity as head of civil administration in the district, he acts as the principal co-ordinator between functionaries of various departments represented in the district. Maintenance of law and order, enforcement of the various laws, rules and regulations and miscellaneous orders of government, 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 acts as the head of the district police. He is also the licensing authority for possession of arms and ammunition, distribution of motor spirit, etc.

As collector he is responsible for recovery of land revenue and other government dues and maintenance of an up-to-date record of rights of the cultivators. Survey, record operations, Settlements, resumption and acquisition of land, rehabilitation of displaced per-

sons, distribution of relief on calamitous occasions are some other subjects dealt with by him as the principal revenue officer of the district. It is also his responsibility to recommend suspension and remission of land revenue, whenever he considers it necessary. He also supervises the work of consolidation of holdings and hears revisions as *ex-officio* district deputy director, consolidation under the Consolidation of Holdings Act. The district treasury is also in his ultimate charge. He is expected to tour extensively for long durations, particularly in the interior of his district, every year. He visits each tahsil during the rainy season for tahsil and thana inspections and in winter to acquaint himself with the condition of agriculturists and the countryside, to watch the implementation of development schemes with which he is otherwise constantly concerned as chairman of the district planning committee.

Necessary certification in the case of claimants to old age or political pension, payment of compensation under the Workmans Compensation Act in case of accidents causing disability, total or partial, dealing with strikers and other labour problems, extension of visas, management of estates owned by the government and nazul, supervision of the conduct of civil suits in which the State is a party, etc., are also some of his manifold duties. The district officer acts as the chief protocol officer in the district. He has also to ensure equitable distribution of food-grains and other essential commodities through fair price shops with the help of the district supply officer. He is *ex-officio* district election officer and *ex-officio* president of the district soldiers', sailors' and airmen's board.

The district officer is responsible for the successful implementation of all projects and schemes which are introduced by the government from time to time and relate to general welfare of the people in his district. Census, Van Mahotsava, wild life preservation, securing investments to small savings, raising of loans for the State Government and augmenting sale of State lottery tickets are among other functions of the district officer.

He is the pivot of the planning set up in the district. For intensive social and economic development of the area he is assisted by a district planning officer at the district level, and the block development officers at the block level.

The district officer has under him in the district five sub-divisional officers, who perform duties--revenue, executive and magisterial--similar to those of the district officer though confined only to their respective sub-divisions, which are, except in the case of Mahoba.

Code and other major local Acts in the years 1971 to 1974 was as follows

Crimes	1971	1972	1973	1974
Murder				
Reported	79	100	110	85
Convicted	27	26	31	8
Acquitted	27	38	29	9
Dacoity				
Reported	38	40	46	48
Convicted	8	10	3	1
Acquitted	12	13	6	2
Robbery				
Reported	84	96	87	109
Convicted	13	9	7	2
Acquitted	16	10	5	2
Riot				
Reported	98	79	94	76
Convicted	15	10	7	3
Acquitted	19	13	7	3
Theft				
Reported	684	577	494	567
Convicted	42	50	33	7
Acquitted	31	36	15	2
Housebreaking				
Reported	604	499	464	592
Convicted	31	35	25	13
Acquitted	36	23	10	3
Kidnapping				
Reported	9	9	14	5
Convicted	2	2	2	—
Acquitted	—	—	4	—
Rape				
Reported	9	6	3	3
Convicted	2	2	2	1
Acquitted	4	—	—	—
Unnatural Offences				
Reported	2	2	—	1
Convicted	3	1	—	—
Acquitted	1	—	—	—

Organisation of Police Force

For the purposes of police administration, the district of Hamirpur lies in the Jhansi range, which is under the charge of a deputy inspector general of police with headquarters at Kanpur. He is the directing, controlling and co-ordinating authority in respect of the superintendents of police of his range.

The superintendent of police with headquarters at Hamirpur is the head of the district police force and is responsible for the maintenance of its discipline and the efficient performance of its duties. In broad matters of district policy, the district superintendent is subordinate to the district magistrate, even though the latter has no authority in anything touching the internal administration of the police force. They are jointly responsible, through their separate functions to serve the common purpose of keeping the peace.

Civil Police

There are two permanent inspectors and 40 permanent and 6 temporary sub-inspectors, 47 permanent and 4 temporary head constables, 454 permanent and 44 temporary constables. The duty of the civil police is to investigate crime and maintain law and order in the district, which has been divided into three police-circles for the purpose with twenty police stations, each being under the charge of a station officer, who is assisted by a second-officer, a number of head constables and constables.

The following statement shows the number and names of police stations in each circles and out-posts attached to some of them :

Police circles	Police stations	Police out-posts
Superintendent of Police Circle	Kotwali, Mahoba,	Kotwali, Hamirpur
	Kulpahar	Mahoba, Bhatipura
Sadar Circle	Kurare Benwar,	Kulpahar, Jaitpur,
	Muskira, Rath,	Rath, Chandaut,
	Panwari, Mahobkanth,	Sarila
	Majhrawan,	
	Jaraiva,	
	Jahulpur	
Mahoba Circle	Sumerpur, Maudaha,	Sumerpur, Maudaha,
	Khanna, Kabrai	Sisolar, Dhawar
	Srinagar, Ajnar	Charkhari, Kharela
	Charkhari, Kharela	

Prosecution Staff

The working of the prosecution staff is now under the control of district magistrate, and its strength comprises a prosecuting officer (abhiyojan adhikari), 7 assistant prosecuting officer (*sahayak abhiyojan adhikari*) and subordinate staff. These officers prosecute i. e. conduct criminal cases in the court of magistrates. For this work in the sessions courts there is a public prosecutor (*lok adhi-vakta*) who is assisted by some additional public prosecutors.

Village Police

The institution of village chowkidars, which forms the lowest rung of the police organisation, came into existence after the introduction of North-Western Provinces and Road Police Act, 1873 when the district magistrate was made the appointing and dismissing authority of the village chowkidars. This still continues to be so.

The village chowkidars are attached to the police stations and they are expected to carry out duties of village watchmen in their respective areas. They are paid a small salary by the government. The main duty of the village chowkidars is to report to the local police the occurrence of crime and other incidents or accidents in their areas. They also act as a process servers of the nyaya panchayats for which they get a remuneration.

There were 643 chowkidars in the district of Hamirpur in the year 1972.

Village Defence Societies

Village defence societies are functioning in the district. Their members perform voluntary duties of night patrolling and apprehending lawless and anti-social elements by themselves or with the assistance of police.

Pradeshik Vikas Dal

This is another voluntary organisation whose members are sometimes assigned duties in fairs or for works of public utility e. g. *shramdan* (voluntary contribution of labour), adult education, mass tree plantations, etc. They are called upon to guard and patrol vulnerable points during emergencies or to assist during fires, floods, etc. They have now an apex staff which consists of a district organiser and 11 block organisers, the unpaid staff comprising of 3 block commanders, 98 *halqua sardars* (circle leaders), 678 *dalpatis* (group leaders), 2,034 *tohi nayaks* (section leaders) and 20,340 *rakshaks*.

Jails and Lock-ups

There is one jail at Hamirpur, known as the district jail which existed at the turn of the century as well. It is under the charge of a superintendent who is assisted by a jailor, medical officer, a deputy jailor and three assistant jailors. The overall control over the administration of the jail, is exercised by the inspector-general of prisons, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow. The jail hospitals is looked after by a whole time doctor who is an assistant medical officer. The jail has accommodation for 266 prisoners at a time. The daily average population since 1970 has been as follows :

Year	Daily average population	
	Convicts	Under trials prisoners
1970	130	258
1971	122	256
1972	105	226
1973	119	291
1974	96	297

The main industries in which the inmates of jail are gainfully employed are, making of *niwar* (cotton tape), *dari* (carpet) and *moonj* (a kind of reed of which ropes, etc. are made) and mats.

Welfare of the Prisoners

Formerly prisoners were classified under categories 'A' 'B' and 'C' but since 1948, they have been placed in two categories viz., 'superior' and 'ordinary', superior class being allowed only in special cases by government on the basis of the status of the prisoners' education and standard of living etc. This classification applies to convicted prisoners, to undertrials and to political prisoners. There has been a considerable amelioration in condition of the prisoners after independence. They take part in constructive activities and are paid regular wages for their Labour. They are provided with newspapers, periodicals and magazines. The Panchayat system was also introduced in the jails in 1955, to look after the welfare of the prisoners, and has shown good results.

Visitors

The director of the medical and public health services, Uttar Pradesh, all the members of the State and Central legislatures from the district, all the members of the standing committee (of the State legislature) for jail, the chairman of the central committee (of the U.P. Apradh Nirodhak Samiti, the Secretary of its district committee and the presidents of the municipal board and that of the Zila Parishad of the district are the ex-officio official and non-official visitors to this jail in addition to five other non-official visitors appointed from time to time for the purpose. The visitors visit the jail if they chose to do so, record their observations and recommendations in a book specially kept for the purpose.

Lock-ups .

Lock-ups are provided at the district headquarters and at police-stations, separately, for detaining male and female suspects before their first production in courts. Apart from the police-station lock-up at Mahoba there is a judicial lock-up also which is under the charge of an assistant public prosecutor, where under trials of the courts located at Mahoba are kept. These are more halting places, well guarded by the constabulary but here again, more humane facilities and attention are now provided.

Probation

The probation scheme under the U. P. First Offenders Probation Act, 1938 was introduced in the district on 1st June, 1969 and to implement it a probation officer has been appointed since then. His duty is to make inquiries and to submit his recommendations in all cases referred to him by the courts, in respect of juvenile delinquents or where it is proposed to release a first offender with admonition or on probation of good conduct for a specified period.

JUSTICE

Prior to 1945 the districts of Kanpur, Fatehpur, Banda and Hamirpur formed one judgship under the administrative control of the district judge Kanpur. Only one permanent court of munsif was functioning at Hamirpur. The civil and sessions judge, Banda exercised civil and criminal jurisdiction over Hamirpur and he used to come to Hamirpur in alternate months to dispose of civil and sessions cases.

In 1945 Hamirpur was separated from Kanpur judgship and was placed under the control of district judge Jhansi and a court of civil and sessions judge was created at Hamirpur. By the end of 1958, a separate judgship was created at Banda and Hamirpur was placed under the control of district judge Banda. In 1969 a separate temporary judgship was created at Hamirpur. The court of district and sessions judge Hamirpur started functioning with effect from December 2, 1969 which was made permanent with effect from March 16, 1974.

Civil Justice

At present the civil judiciary at Hamirpur consists of courts of one district judge, two additional district judges, one munsif and two additional munsifs.

The position of civil cases in the year 1975 was as under :

Cases	Number of suits
Pending at the beginning of the year	844
Instituted during the year	655
Disposed of during the year	512
Pending at the end of the year	987

Of the above cases the number of suits involving immovable property were 222, movable property 269, mortgage suits 2 and matrimonial suits 11. Number of suits under Specific Relief Act were 96 and easement rights 15. Numbers of suits instituted in the same year, according to their valuation, were as follows :

Valuation	Number of suits
Not exceeding Rs 100	20
Exceeding Rs 100 but not Rs 1,000	358
Exceeding Rs 1,000 but not Rs 5,000	144
Exceeding Rs 5,000 but not exceeding Rs 10,000	18
Exceeding Rs 10,000 but not exceeding Rs 20,000	5
Exceeding Rs 20,000 but not exceeding Rs 5 lakhs	—
Exceeding Rs 5 lakhs	—

Total valuation of property in the suits thus instituted was Rs 6,27,532.39. The different modes of disposal of suits in the year 1975 were as follows :

Manner of disposal	Number of suits
Disposed of after trial	161
Dismissed for default	156
Otherwise decided without trial	36
Decreed ex-parte	83
On admission of claims	7
On compromise	69
On reference to arbitration	—

The position of appeals instituted and disposed of in the year 1975 was as follows :

Nature of appeals	Instituted	Disposed of
Regular civil appeals	107	96
Miscellaneous civil appeals	21	20

Criminal Justice

In the beginning of the present century, the district of Hamirpur had one magistrate and collector and five tahsildars. A number of sub-divisional magistrate and judicial magistrates were later appointed to dispose of the criminal cases.

At present the district and sessions judge constitutes the chief criminal court of the district. In the sessions work he is assisted by two additional district and sessions judges. For other criminal cases there is a chief judicial magistrate, one munsif magistrate, two additional munsif magistrates and two judicial magistrates. Some information about the conviction of criminal cases during the three years ending in 1974 is given below :

Nature of offences	1972	1973	1974
Affecting life	105	173	184
Kidnapping and forcible abduction	2	5	3
Hurt	10	4	10
Rape	7	1	7
Unnatural offences	—	1	—
Extortion	48	45	60
Robbery and dacoity	2	15	4
Other cases	—	—	—

Persons tried and sentenced during these three years by magistrates and sessions judges is as follows :

Persons tried/sentenced	By Magistrates			By sessions judges		
	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974
Persons tried	6,930	7,472	5,690	749	626	513
Sentenced to death	—	—	—	20	17	8
Life imprisonment	—	—	—	79	55	42
Rigorous imprisonment	312	224	239	145	95	68
Simple imprisonment	509	107	70	—	10	2
Fined only	952	1,283	852	—	—	4
Other punishment	911	1,102	658	—	—	—

Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions

Partial separation of the judiciary from the executive was tried soon after Independence through the appointment of judicial officers to dispose of cases involving offences punishable under the Indian Penal Code. These officers had different designations at different periods of time but they had to work under the direct control of the district magistrate, and later through the additional district magistrate (judicial), who himself was member of the executive service.

Occasionally a senior judicial officer was made in charge of the team of judicial officers in the district, but the overall supervision of the commissioner at the divisional level went a long way in retaining executive authority over the lower judiciary. The experiment regarding severing judiciary from the executive, however, reached a decisive stage, when all the judicial officers headed by A.D.M. (J) were placed under the direct control of the sessions judge of the district within the administrative jurisdiction of the High Court on October 2, 1967. The subsequent amendment of Code of Criminal Procedure and its enforcement from April 1, 1974 has brought about absolute separation of the judiciary from the executive.

Nyaya Panchayats

Under the United Provinces Panchayat Raj Act, 1947 ninety-two panchayati adalats (now called *nyaya* panchayats) were established in 1949 to provide the villagers cheap, and prompt justice.

The jurisdiction of a *nyaya* panchayat usually extends over an area of five to ten *gaon sabhas*, depending on population of the constituent villages. At present the total number of *nyaya* panchayat in the district is 98.

The *panchas* of the *nyaya* panchayats are nominated from amongst the elected members of the *gaon* panchayats by the district magistrate with the assistance of an advisory body. These *panchas* elect from amongst themselves the *sarpanch*, who is the presiding officer, and a *sahayak* (assistant) *sarpanch*. The *panchas* are honorary workers and hold office for a period of five years. Their term of office can be extended by one year by the State Government. The cases are heard by benches consisting of five *panchas*, constituted by the *sarpanch* for each year. The presence of atleast three *panchas* including a *sarpanch*, at each hearing is essential.

The *nyaya* panchayats are empowered to try cases under the following Acts and their respective sections :

(a) The U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947

(b) Indian Penal Code, Sections :

140	269	299	352	403*	431	509
160	272	294	357	411 *	447	510
172	283	323	358	426	448	
174	285	334	374	428	504	
170	289	341	379 *	430	506	

*Involving property not exceeding an amount of Rs 50/- in value

(c) Sections 24 and 26 of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871

(d) Sub-section 1 of section 10 of the U. P. District Board Primary Education Act, 1926

(e) Section 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 if immovable property is not involved. They are not authorised to award sentences of imprisonment and can impose fines upto one hundred rupees only. Revision applications against their decisions in criminal and civil cases lie respectively to the *munsif* and the sub-divisional officer concerned.

The number of cases instituted in the *nyaya* panchayats and disposed of by them during the years 1970-71 to 1974-75 was as follows :

Year	Cases pending at the beginning of the year	Cases instituted during the year	Cases disposed of during the year
1970	134	652	632
1971	154	421	434
1972	141	181	136
1973	186	73	23
1974	236	402	436

There is a district bar association at the district headquarters, which is working for more than fifteen years. There are separate bar associations at each of the tahsil headquarters, Maudaha, Char-khari, Mahoba and Rath. Their total membership is near about 200.

The association assists the administration in dispensation of justice and protects and safeguards the rights and privileges of the members belonging to the legal profession in general, and the members of the association in particular.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Departments of the Government dealing with general administration, revenue administration, law and order and justice in the district have already been dealt with in Chapters X, XI and XII respectively and necessary details of many other minor department have been given at appropriate places. The organizational set-up at the district level of a few other important departments like the agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operative, education, forest, horticulture, industries, irrigation and public works are briefly discussed below.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The main function of this department is to raise agricultural production by persuading cultivators to adopt improved practices, including modern technology suited to local conditions, and to arrange for them an uninterrupted supply of essential inputs such as quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides, etc.

The agricultural set-up comes under the administrative control of the deputy director of agriculture, having his headquarters at Jhansi. Locally, the district agriculture officer is incharge and is assisted by an additional district agriculture officer, one special seed production officer, one senior plant protection assistant, and one senior mechanical assistant to formulate and implement various agricultural development programmes, including extension of area under high yielding crops, oilseeds, cotton, etc., under the successive Five-year Plan schemes.

While the activities of all development departments, including this department, at the block level, are supervised by the block development officers, every block has one or more assistant development officers (agriculture) who are experts in their respective fields and are especially responsible for implementation of the agricultural programmes within their jurisdiction.

There are 24 seed stores, each under the charge of an assistant agriculture inspector, in the district. The officers, besides meeting the main agricultural input requirements of the blocks, are

also directly associated with the agricultural development activities of the villages adjoining the seed stores.

Soil Conservation

The district has one soil conservation unit headed by a soil conservation officer who surveys, plans and prepares schemes to combat erosion of farmland by the natural elements. He is assisted by one technical assistant, two overseers, five inspectors, 25 assistant inspectors and other subordinate staff. The whole unit is divided into five sub-units. In each sub-unit one soil conservation inspector and five assistant soil conservation inspectors are posted who survey the areas, prepare estimates of the income and expenditure involved in the projects, work out details of the schemes to be undertaken and secure people's participation in the successful implementation. They also assist in the execution, evaluation and measurement of work in their respective sub-units. The assistant soil conservation inspectors provide technical guidance and help in getting financial assistance, besides survey and preparation of plans. The overseers are engaged in the preparation of plan estimates of pucca works, supervising their execution and providing technical guidance.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT

The district animal husbandry departments falls under the jurisdiction of the deputy director of animal husbandry, posted at Jhansi. The district live-stock officer is incharge at the district level, being responsible for bringing about improvements in animal breeds and poultry, prevention and treatment of diseases, controlling possible out-breaks of epidemics, implementation of plan schemes, executing the applied nutrition programmes and arranging financial assistance to prospective breeders. There are 13 veterinary hospitals, each under a veterinary assistant surgeon, nine artificial insemination units and twelve artificial insemination sub-centres in the districts.

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

The department deals with the organization, registration and promotion of various co-operative societies formed in the district, besides attending to administrative and statutory functions like supervision and control over the co-operative units through inspection and review of work of their own officials.

The deputy registrar, co-operative societies, Jhansi is the

regional head of the department. The assistant registrar at Hamirpur is assisted by three additional district co-operative officers and one senior inspector. One additional district co-operative officer looks after and inspects the work of all the six marketing societies, the other deals with high yielding variety programme and the third with the activities of the credit societies and with banking. The farming supervisor supervises all the 11 farming societies in the district and three group II co-operative inspectors attached to three co-operative marketing societies act as their secretaries. One inspector looks after the co-operative consumer scheme. At each of the eleven stores there is one assistant development officer (co-operative). Co-operative supervisors are further posted at each of the 22 seed stores, 15 large sized co-operative societies, and seven marketing societies, to work as godown keepers-cum-accountants. The district co-operative bank has 22 co-operative supervisors to supervise the credit societies in different circles of the district.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The district falls within the jurisdictions of the deputy director of education and regional inspectress of girls schools, both having their headquarters at Jhansi.

The regional inspectress of girls' school, Jhansi region, is in overall charge of girls' education at the regional level while at the district level she is assisted by a deputy inspectress of girls school and one assistant inspectress.

The district inspector of schools is the chief officer of the department for secondary education in the district, working under the administrative control of regional deputy director. He is responsible for supervision, control and inspection of educational institutions in general and of institutions for boys in particular. He is assisted by a deputy inspector of schools who looks after the senior and junior Basic schools for boys and a deputy inspectress of girls school and an assistant inspectress of girls schools.

A Zila Basic Shiksha Adhikari has been working since 1972 to superintend all primary and junior high schools in the district. He also controls the staff of these institutions.

The Sanskrit pathshalas and the Urdu medium primary schools are respectively under the overall charge of the assistant inspector. Sanskrit pathshalas and assistant inspector, Urdu medium schools, both having their headquarters at Jhansi.

The department, besides imparting education, tries to emphasize the need for building up a sound moral character and physique among all students. Games, physical education, training in scouting, national discipline scheme, etc., have been enforced in most of the educational institutions of the district with this end in view.

FOREST DEPARTMENT

The department of forest lies within the jurisdiction of the divisional forest officer of Banda forest division under the conservator of forests, southern circle, U. P. Allahabad. The district has two forest ranges Rath and Mahoba, with headquarters at Rath and Mahoba, respectively, and some portion comes under the forest range Banda.

The field staff consists of two deputy rangers in charge of the range, three other deputy rangers, eight foresters, six Jamadars, 40 forest guards. The department has been making efforts for the afforestation of waste lands, replacement of inferior trees in forests by fastgrowing and industrially important species. It also undertakes the construction of forest roads and is entrusted with the preservation of wild life.

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The district horticulture officer is responsible for laying out new orchards, rejuvenating existing groves, supplying seeds, plants and samplings and providing necessary technical know how. He is assisted by one senior horticulture inspector, one district horticulture inspector and one assistant horticulture inspector whose duties include plantation of citrus orchards in the district under the citrus scheme. There are government nurseries at Charkhari and Hamirpur.

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

The district currently falls under the southern zone of the industries department of the State, the zonal office being situated at Allahabad. The district industries officer, Hamirpur, looks after the industrial development of the district and provides technical guidance and financial assistance to local entrepreneurs.

Handloom industry, till lately looked after by the district industries officer is now supervised by an assistant director of industries (handloom) under the new directorate for handloom and textiles.

tile created at State level at Kanpur. In the district the assistant village industries officer supervises the work. The Khadi and village industries are looked after by the Khadi and village industries board, Kanpur.

There is a government industrial training and extension centre in Mahoba where training is given, for one year courses in carpentry, smithy and electronics.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

The chief engineer with headquarters at Lucknow is in overall charge of this department. The superintending engineer, with headquarters at Jhansi, is in incharge of the 4th circle irrigation works, Jhansi. The district is under the jurisdiction of the following officers with their circles and divisions indicated below :

Circle	Division
4th Circle Irrigation works, Jhansi	Betwa canal division, Orai
Irrigation works circle, Banda	Irrigation division, Mahoba
Investigation and planning circle, Jhansi	Irrigation and development division, Mahoba
Tube-well circle, Kanpur	Lift irrigation division

The executive engineer Saprar Division is incharge of only a part of the district. He is assisted by two assistant engineers (II and III) who partly looks after Rath and Maudaha tahsils. The executive engineer, Irrigation Division Mahoba, with headquarters at Mahoba, is responsible for the whole district, except Rath. He is assisted by four assistant engineers, one deputy revenue officer, 16 junior engineers and 2 draftsmen, and field staff.

Minor Irrigation

The minor irrigation works of the district which include boring, pumping sets, *rahat*, masonry wells and private tube-wells are looked after by an assistant engineer posted at Hamirpur. He is assisted by one senior and two junior engineers. At the block level there are 10 assistant development officers (minor irrigation) posted in the block headquarters assisted by 15 boring mechanics.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The district falls under the 35th Circle, P. W. D., Jhansi. The executive engineer stationed at Hamirpur is responsible for construction and maintenance of roads and bridges on State highways.

CH. XIII - OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The temporary construction division P. W. D. Mahoba is headed by an executive engineer. He is assisted by six assistant engineers (civil), and one assistant engineer (electrical), whose duties include execution and supervision of work, electrification and maintenance of government buildings. Besides, there are 40 junior engineers (civil) and a junior engineer (mechanical) also working under this division.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

While it is reasonable to believe that viable unites or self-government functioned in the villages and towns in the past, in the absence of any records, it is not possible to delineate the rise and fall of these institutions in Hamirpur district since the earliest times. However, the growth of local bodies after the British occupation of the district in 1803 can be traced easily with the help of material contained in earlier gazetteers, and local records, and is dealt with in the following paras under their respective heads.

MUNICIPAL BOARDS

Hamirpur

The town of Hamirpur first came under the administration of Act XX of 1856 in the year 1871. In the year 1931 it came to be administered under Act II of 1914 and was further given the status of a town area in 1935. In 1949 Hamirpur was upgraded as a municipality and is at present administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, as amended from time to time. The area under the municipality is 3.34 sq. km. with a population of 14,783 persons according to the census of 1971, which is divided into 6 wards electing 15 members. The members are elected by the residents of the municipal area on the basis of adult franchise, and they, in turn, elect the president. The term of office of the members and president is five years, which can be enhanced by the State government in special circumstances. The president is liable to be ousted by a vote of no confidence by the members.

Finances—The income of the municipal board is mainly derived from sources like government grants and contributions, local rates and taxes, octroi, fees imposed under special Acts, revenue from municipal property and license fees on vehicles and slaughter houses. The expenditure is incurred mainly on general administration, collection of taxes, street lighting, water-supply, public health, sanitation and education.

Street Lighting—Electricity was made available to the town

CH. XIV - LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

in the year 1958. The board has installed 20 electric lamps for lighting the roads and streets. Total expenditure incurred on this account during the year 1974-75 was Rs 6,421.

Public Health and Medical Services—The board employs a vaccinator, 32 safai mazdoors and 2 jamadars for the cleaning and proper maintenance of roads. During the year 1974-75 a sum of Rs 1,76,422 was spent on this account.

Drainage—The board maintains 2,000 metres of pucca and 20,000 metres of kutchha drains. About 2,000 metres of surface drains are flushed daily.

Water-supply—The water-supply scheme of this town was completed in the year 1956. In 1975 it was transferred to the Jhansi division Jal Sansthan which is under the administrative control of the U. P. Jal Nigam. There were 76 public and 996 private taps, total length of pipe-lines laid being 23,250 metres. Water is supplied for 12 hours daily. Total capacity of water supplied being 11,51,84,000 litres in the year 1974-75.

An idea of the finances of the board from 1965-66 to 1974-75 can be had from Statement I (a, b) at the end of the chapter.

Charkhari

The town was given the status of a municipality in 1950. At present it is governed by the U. P. Municipalities Act 1916 as amended from time to time. The town is managed by a committee of 15 members elected directly through adult franchise from 5 wards of the town and a president is elected from amongst themselves for a period of 5 years.

The town at the census of 1971 had a population of 15,778 distributed over an area of 7.8 sq. km.

Street Lighting—The town is electrified. There are 180 electric lamps for lighting the roads and streets. The expenditure incurred by the board in the year 1974-75 was Rs 3,298.

Public Health and Sanitation—The board with the assistance of 19 employees, manages the sweeping of roads and removal of garbage from the town; the refuse is auctioned by the board for preparing compost.

Water-supply—At present there is no regular water-supply scheme in the town, and the residents receive their supply of water from 3 wells. A central water reservoir having a capacity of one lakh gallons has also been constructed to meet the needs of water. This arrangement is looked after by a staff of 3 employed by the municipal board. The system has but 31 public and 601 private hydrants. The water is supplied for only three hours a day due to scarcity. The board spent a sum of Rs 10,544 on this item of public utility.

An idea of the finances of the board and the main spheres of the board's activities during 1965-66 to 1974-75 can be had from Statement II (a, b) at the end of the chapter.

Maudaha

Prior to its being upgraded as a municipal board the town of Maudaha was administered under Act XX of 1856 since 1860. At present this town is governed as a municipality under the U. P. Municipalities Act, 1916.

The town had a population of 14,629 according to the census of 1971 distributed over an area of 1.0 sq. km.

Water-supply—Piped supply of water was introduced in 1966. Water is supplied for two and a half hours daily to the residents at the rate of 25 litres per head. A sum of Rs 46,235 was spent on this account in the year 1974-75.

Public Health and Sanitation—The board looks after the sanitation of the town and to improve the drainage it has constructed 40 km. of pucca and 72 km. of kutchra drains, about 40 km. of drains are flushed daily.

An idea of the finances of the board and the main spheres of the board's activities during 1965-66 to 1974-75 can be had from Statement III (a, b) at the end of the chapter.

Mahoba

From 1871 to 1908 the town was administered under Act of 1856 but with effect from 15th April of the latter year it was converted into a notified area under Act I of 1900.

The town was given the status of a municipality in 1948 and

at present it is governed by the U. P. Municipalities Act, 1916. The board has 16 members, elected through direct elections from 6 wards of the town. The area of the town at the 1971 census was 8.16 sq. km. and it had a population of 29,707.

Water-supply—The water-supply scheme in the town was commissioned in 1963 but has since been transferred to the Bundelkhand Jal Sansthan.

Street Lighting—Electricity came to the town in 1957. The number of electric street lamps was 500 and that of kerosene oil-lamps was 150.

Garden and Parks—The board has laid out 4 parks, one such park having been laid in the memory of the legendary hero, Udal of Bundelkhand. A full size statue of Udal mounted on a horse has been installed in the centre of the park which, in turn, is surrounded by a large tank having a small fountain and coloured lights. Another park with a marble fountain has been laid on Jawaharnagar crossing. Besides this the board has chalked out a scheme of laying out a garden with an area of 6 acres of land in memory of Pandit Nehru near Madan Sagar dam.

An idea of the finances of the board and the main spheres of its activities from 1965-66 to 1974-75 can be had from Statement IV (a, b) at the end of the chapter.

Rath

From 1869 to 1908 the town was administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856. With effect from 1st April 1908 it was converted into a notified area under Act I of 1900. In 1950 the place was further upgraded into a municipality and at present the U. P. Municipalities Act 1961, as amended from time to time, governs this municipal board. It has 16 members, elected by adult franchise from 6 wards of the town. The area of the town at the 1971 census was 2.4 sq. km. and it had a population of 23,061.

Public Health and Sanitation—The board has a staff of 72 persons. It also runs a homoeopathic dispensary. In the year 1975-76, 9,047 persons were treated in it.

The receipt and expenditure of the board from 1966-67 to 1974-75 are given in Statement V (a, b) at the end of the chapter.

TOWN AREAS

Sumerpur

The place was first brought under the administration of Act XX of 1893. At present the town is administered under U. P. Town Areas Act 1914 since 1st April, 1920. The town, according to the census of 1971, had a population 10,453 distributed over an area of 1.12 sq. km. The town has been divided into 4 wards which return 10 committee members through adult franchise to transact its affairs for a period of 5 years. The chairman of the town area is elected directly by the public.

At present there is no piped supply of water in the town and people get their supply from wells, but a scheme for regular water-supply is already under way.

Electricity came to the town in the year 1971-72 and since then practically the whole town is electrified. There were 400 electric street lamps in the year 1974-75.

The local committee is now only responsible for looking after the sanitation and conservancy services in the town. Nearly 6 km. of paved and unpaved drains are flushed daily, for which the committee employs a staff of 12.

The receipts and expenditure of the town area from 1966-67 to 1974-75 are given in Statement VI (a, b) at the end of the chapter.

Sarila

The place was upgraded to the status of a town area on March 8th, 1958. The place has a population of 6,785 persons spread over an area of 5 sq. km. The town is electrified. In the year 1975-76 there were 50 electric and 60 kerosene oil-lamps for lighting the roads and streets of the town.

The Statement VII (a, b) gives an idea of the activities and sphere of work of the town area committee and its finances from 1966-67 to 1974-75.

Kharela

The town area of Kharela was created on September 1, 1974 and is still in its early stages of formation.

PANCHAYATI RAJ

In ancient times the panchayats consisting of village elders used to exercise traditional administrative, social and even some judicial control over the community. With the advent of Muslim rule these self-governing units declined in their importance though they continued to exist and function till such time they did not come into conflict with the establishment. During the British rule these panchayats generally lost their residual importance too, though they continued to survive mainly to control the social life of the villages. The U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, passed after Independence, restored the ancient system on the modern pattern of elected *gaon* panchayats, and delegated to them adequate powers for the proper administration of local village affairs. The national extension blocks which were envisaged for community development started coming into being gradually from 1952. They each had a block development committee as an advisory body, set-up to help and guide the staff posted in the blocks, for the speedy implementation of the Five-year Plan schemes. The government transformed their structure by enacting the U. P. Kshetra Samiti and Zila Parishad Adhiniyam, 1961 and these *samitis* (committees) became statutory bodies with wide executive and financial powers. With the passing of this Act, the three tier organisation viz, *gaon* panchayat at the base, the Kshetra Samitis in the middle, and the Zila Parishad at the apex, was introduced. The organisation and working of these bodies is discussed in the following pages.

Zila Parishad

The district board in the district came into existence under the United Provinces District Board Act, 1906 which was repealed later on to make better provision for local self-government in rural areas, by the U. P. District Board Act, 1922, which came into force in the district from February 1923. This Act of 1922 extended territorial jurisdiction of the district board to the whole of the rural area and made it more board-based by introducing the system of partial elections. There was no further enactment for the district boards and the same Act, with its later amendments, constituted the basis of the district board in U. P. till 1958, when the Antaram Zila Parishads Act, 1958, was passed which converted the district boards into Antaram Zila Parishads.

The body, at present known as the Zila Parishad, was established in 1962 under the U. P. Kshetra Samitis and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam, 1961. The Parishad then consisted of 50 members.

Their term of office as well as of the Adhyaksha (President) was 5 years which could be extended by the State government in special circumstances. Pending a review of the constitution and functions of the Zila Parishad, the U. P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishads (Alpakalik Vyawastha) Ordinance was passed in March, 1970, under which the powers and functions of the Zila Parishad were vested in the district magistrate for a period of two years. Since then the Zila Parishad has been reconstituted. Being an elected body the president is chosen by the members through the system of proportional representation. The term of the president as well as the members is 5 years. The vice-president is elected for one year.

The functions of the Zila Parishad are almost akin to those of the old district board. They include co-ordination of the activities of *vikas khand*s (development blocks), implementation of inter-block schemes and utilisation of funds allotted by the government for the purpose of agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, co-operation, village industries, public health, education, construction of wells, repairs of roads, bridges and ferries, cultural activities and welfare of children and women and youth.

The principal sources of income of the Zila Parishad are government grants and taxes. The income is mostly spent on general administration, medical and public health, public works and amenities etc.

Medical and Public Health—There are 11 vaccinators working under the Zila Parishad. There were 8 Ayurvedic, two Unani and one allopathic dispensaries. Besides, there were 4 veterinary and one eye hospitals, total number of patients treated being 75,977 in 1974-75. The board spent a sum of Rs 1,92,159 on this account in the same year.

Public Works—The Parishad has constructed and maintained 26,405 km. of metalled and 493,32 km. of unmetalled roads in the district during 1974-75. Besides this the Parishad also constructed 49 culverts.

The Statements VIII (a) and (b) at the end of this chapter show the major heads of income and expenditure of the Parishad from 1965-66 to 1974-75.

Kshettra Samitis

The community development blocks established in the fifties of the present century for intensive social and economic development

of the rural areas, had block advisory committees to help and advise the extension agency. With the enforcement of the U. P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishad Adhiniyam, 1961 the functions that were previously carried out by these committees were taken up by the Kshettra Samitis in 1963. The number of these Samitis was 11 in 1974-75, one for each development block. The term of Kshettra Samitis is normally 5 years but can be curtailed or extended by the government. The members of the Kshettra Samitis is made up of all the *pradhans* of the *gaon sabhas*, chairman of the town area committee, within the block, and all elected members of the Central and State Legislature representing or residing in any part of the development block or Kshettra. The *samiti* also co-opts persons interested in planning and development work, representatives of women and persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes. The Kshettra Samiti is headed by a *pramukh* and two *up-pramukhs* elected by the members. The block development officer acts as the executive officer of the Kshettra Samitis which is responsible for formulation and execution of the development plans of the *gaon sabhas* relating to horticulture, live-stock, fisheries, minor-irrigation works, maternity and child welfare centres, prevention and control of epidemics and promotion of village industries and co-operative institutions.

Every Kshettra Samiti has a *Karya Karini* (executive) an *Utpadan* (production) and a *Kalyan* (welfare) *samitis* headed by the *pramukh* and one of the two *up-pramukhs* respectively. Since 1964, the services of the officers and others, employed in the development blocks have been placed at the disposal of the Kshettra Samitis. The *samiti* acts as the co-ordinating agency for the *gaon sabhas* functioning within its jurisdiction in the implementation of schemes and programmes.

Gaon Panchayats

With the coming into force of the U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, elections were held in 1949 and *gaon panchayats* were constituted in the district. In 1974-75 there were 678 *gaon sabhas*. The *panchayat* is the executive body of the *gaon sabha* which consists of the entire adult population of the area. A fixed number of members of the *gaon sabha* are usually elected for a period of five years. The *pradhan* and *up-pradhan* also function as chairman and vice-chairman of the larger body, the *gaon sabha*. The *panchayat sevak* is the secretary-cum-executive officer of the *gaon sabha* and the *gaon panchayat*.

The functions of *gaon* panchayats include construction, repair, cleaning and lighting of streets, improvement of sanitation and prevention of epidemics, maintenance of buildings, lands and other property belonging to the *gaon sabha*, registration of births and deaths, regulation of markets and fairs, provision of drinking water

For the fulfilment of these objectives the *gaon* panchayats largely depend upon voluntary contributions and government aid. To augment their resources they have been empowered to levy taxes, rates and fees etc., by an ordinance promulgated in November, 1972. They have also been made eligible to borrow money from the State government, corporations, scheduled banks, co-operatives, and other financing bodies.

Some of the main achievements of the *gaon* panchayats during the years 1973-74 and 1974-75 have been as follows :

Name of the project	Year	
	1973-74	1974-75
Construction of roads kutcha (km.)	2,669	2,397
Construction of roads pucca (km.)	209	174
Road repairs (km.)	321	266
Construction of <i>Kharanja</i> (km.)	8,15,988	13,75,072
Construction of drinking water wells (Nos.)	2,820	2,670
Construction of drains pucca (km.)	250	470
Construction of panchayat <i>ghars</i> (Nos.)	89	136
Construction of schools (Nos.)	584	517

STATEMENT - I (a)

Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Hamirpur

Reference Page No. 201

Year	Municipal rates & taxes	Revenue derived from municipal property etc.	Grants and contributions and loans	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total
1965-66	58,490	10,191	80,402	185	7,003	1,56,271
1966-67	44,279	9,879	76,482	93	5,086	1,35,819
1967-68	55,480	21,719	96,413	102	16,293	1,90,007
1968-69	92,224	11,292	84,204	165	1,766	18,9,651
1969-70	79,859	12,252	94,438	81	11,125	1,97,755
1970-71	80,832	10,365	95,183	687	10,937	1,98,004
1971-72	1,36,872	10,934	2,12,381	9,123	1,326	3,70,636
1972-73	1,02,801	43,044	74,180	2,330	14,844	2,37,199
1973-74	1,24,305	19,393	29,978	2,414	1,388	1,77,478
1974-75	1,30,507	37,241	1,04,108	3,958	3,565	2,79,379

STATEMENT—I (b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Hamirpur

Reference Page No. 201

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health & sanitation	Education	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Other heads	Total
1965-66	18,479	5,287	68,702	56,674	100	237	14,703	1,64,182
1966-67	16,440	6,412	62,374	59,102	100	27	6,531	1,50,986
1967-68	17,441	8,213	92,652	69,432	244	39	8,040	1,96,061
1968-69	39,306	6,299	67,904	50,705	100	26	3,135	1,67,475
1969-70	32,234	7,229	49,474	79,241	100	1,090	26,649	1,96,017
1970-71	34,672	8,060	69,907	76,463	200	98	5,515	1,94,915
1971-72	31,981	10,902	94,491	78,673	—	—	9,296	2,25,343
1972-73	24,943	17,429	2,29,163	52,078	1,912	87	9,929	3,35,541
1973-74	42,572	13,046	1,33,338	3,968	736	18	10,130	2,03,808
1974-75	65,753	6,421	1,80,752	—	982	29	17,392	2,71,329

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

STATEMENT—II (a)

Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Charkhari

Reference Page No. 202

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under special Acts	Revenue derived from municipal property, etc.	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total
1965-66	28,016	5,119	21,830	1,30,803	2,212	1,33,969	3,21,949
1966-67	36,013	5,370	26,112	68,220	8,666	4,263	1,48,644
1967-68	30,458	3,644	22,892	48,901	10,403	2,870	1,18,368
1968-69	43,001	4,439	49,686	49,147	6,275	85,706	2,38,254
1969-70	35,995	6,263	59,865	94,746	9,735	33,583	2,40,087
1970-71	39,072	7,945	68,260	74,239	6,649	5,493	2,01,658
1971-72	28,612	6,257	74,592	1,57,070	12,406	2,065	2,81,002
1972-73	28,422	4,642	58,394	59,546	3,716	1,236	1,55,956
1973-74	35,100	8,114	84,603	21,515	3,487	9,003	1,61,822
1974-75	73,912	5,343	1,11,890	29,057	3,180	4,391	2,27,773

CH. XIV—LOCAL SELF—GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT-II (b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Charkhari

Reference Page No. 202

Year	General adminis- tration and collec- tion charges	Public safety	Public health and sanitation	Education	Other sources	Total
1965-66	25,134	1,697	1,55,141	30,641	17,931	2,30,544
1966-67	27,345	2,415	42,045	36,163	99,885	2,07,853
1967-68	31,764	2,094	55,606	30,980	22,008	1,42,452
1968-69	32,760	8,333	55,706	30,470	29,726	1,77,015
1969-70	36,100	4,655	1,42,239	29,926	25,537	2,68,457
1970-71	36,264	4,482	72,533	34,531	36,928	2,15,073
1971-72	32,953	4,516	81,564	30,174	36,471	2,25,480
1972-73	32,907	5,749	54,356	55,282	35,707	1,81,951
1973-74	34,439	2,563	65,406	2,570	49,026	1,54,014
1974-75	49,644	3,296	71,265	44	58,192	1,82,443

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

STATEMENT-III (a)
Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Maudaha

Reference Page No. 202

Year	Realisation under Special Acts	Revenue derived from municipal property, etc.	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total
1965-66		3,582	18,234	2,963	1,16,727	1,41,506
1966-67		19,068	24,727	765	80,863	1,25,423
1967-68		12,763	24,058	3,161	1,84,054	2,24,036
1968-69		89,013	11,127	3,341	64,000	1,47,481
1969-70		56,678	17,958	1,488	63,487	1,39,611
1970-71		68,156	13,974	930	59,811	1,42,871
1971-72		1,04,087	1,60,254	4,388	78,892	3,47,621
1972-73		1,42,794	1,13,328	6,761	1,82,134	4,45,017
1973-74		1,27,091	42,950	2,109	2,58,392	4,30,542
1974-75		1,42,336	77,738	1,967	2,83,282	

STATEMENT - III (b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Maudaha

Reference Page No. 202

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and sanitation	Education	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total
1965-66	35,633	5,281	6,059	562	200	3,090	44,563	95,388
1966-67	54,126	463	33,132	20,520	200	2,627	19,015	1,30,083
1967-68	59,173	1,739	64,234	28,498	200	5,229	60,906	2,19,974
1968-69	43,529	1,433	62,214	17,513	200	1,619	20,983	1,47,491
1969-70	39,722	1,433	49,020	13,002	200	1,618	28,790	1,33,785
1970-71	44,836	1,984	56,141	12,793	200	6,035	18,275	1,40,264
1971-72	85,643	853	89,182	25,050	—	6,107	32,210	2,39,045
1972-73	80,334	3,343	1,44,242	18,376	—	3,324	16,040	2,65,677
1973-74	74,253	3,407	1,37,527	130	—	3,946	63,311	2,82,574
1974-75	1,05,016	6,399	2,22,388	—	—	9,449	99,969	4,43,221

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

CH. XIV - LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

STATEMENT - IV (a)
Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Mahoba

Reference Page No. 203

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under Special Acts	Revenue derived from muni- cipal property etc. other than taxes	Grants and contri- butions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total
1965-66	81,193	8,530	1,01,140	1,71,016	1,912	1,99,989	5,03,780
1966-67	1,30,849	9,868	1,17,933	1,08,574	1,797	49,665	4,18,686
1967-68	97,543	12,889	1,18,257	75,439	4,501	77,178	3,85,807
1968-69	1,19,072	14,161	1,52,325	80,822	7,383	77,616	4,51,379
1969-70	1,08,177	12,195	1,50,450	1,02,286	1,879	3,770	3,78,757
1970-71	1,12,426	13,606	1,72,626	1,05,488	3,371	2,150	4,09,667
1971-72	1,05,771	13,354	2,38,256	1,31,782	2,318	2,350	4,93,831
1972-73	1,40,684	13,384	2,44,254	1,07,212	2,328	1,701	5,09,563
1973-74	84,926	16,078	2,11,168	57,919	5,542	526	3,76,158
1974-75	1,34,953	17,884	2,47,502	1,18,802	4,881	1,075	5,24,997

STATEMENT - V (b)
Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Mohoba

Reference Page No. 203

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and sanitation	Education	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Other heads	Total
1965-66	32,801	20,647	2,05,579	72,843	240	13,304	1,96,741	5,42,155
1966-67	34,519	17,400	1,64,721	84,982	240	12,897	1,00,517	4,15,176
1967-68	35,955	21,513	1,35,220	74,823	260	16,764	1,28,641	4,13,176
1968-69	36,723	28,807	1,59,264	86,678	220	26,971	1,29,779	4,52,442
1969-70	39,285	24,732	1,63,867	94,122	240	15,380	54,084	3,91,710
1970-71	36,619	24,908	1,70,606	99,140	240	16,812	54,006	4,02,331
1971-72	38,457	30,085	1,62,904	1,30,140	140	16,837	53,863	4,32,426
1972-73	43,856	44,009	2,42,073	1,20,802	220	16,190	53,863	5,21,013
1973-74	55,387	27,724	2,24,052	38,640	240	12,103	53,863	4,12,609
1974-75	86,937	37,552	2,90,668	48,288	240	27,737	25	4,91,447

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

STATEMENT - V (a)
Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Rath

Reference Page No. 203

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under special Acts	Revenue derived from municipal property, etc.	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total
1965-66	90,744	1,773	1,16,851	1,15,187	7,579	3,356	3,35,490
1966-67	82,560	4,306	1,11,220	96,473	7,687	7,833	3,10,079
1967-68	91,785	4,267	1,30,801	1,12,798	7,565	6,533	3,53,749
1968-69	1,53,333	3,949	1,59,897	1,43,646	8,082	12,761	4,81,668
1969-70	1,42,612	3,764	1,40,689	1,97,218	5,343	22,470	5,12,096
1970-71	1,45,430	4,454	1,49,819	1,18,251	4,216	12,039	4,34,209
1971-72	1,64,665	4,742	1,77,427	1,56,510	7,769	34,220	5,45,333
1972-73	1,60,790	3,822	1,85,914	1,22,285	4,887	5,009	4,82,707
1973-74	1,79,180	7,239	1,86,224	38,888	7,728	5,591	4,22,850
1974-75	1,74,480	2,591	1,67,847	80,994	14,994	49,129	4,90,035

STATEMENT-V (b)

Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Rath

Reference Page No. 203

Year	General admin- ration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and sanita- tion	Education	Miscellaneous	Other heads	Total
1965-66	45,285	23,775	1,70,399	81,768	8,484	30,192	3,60,103
1966-67	45,938	15,841	1,69,081	87,958	13,444	28,233	3,60,495
1967-68	39,708	15,828	1,82,601	96,720	10,701	26,143	3,72,001
1968-69	38,184	13,297	1,93,352	88,983	14,593	28,268	3,76,677
1969-70	41,253	19,277	2,94,068	1,23,326	20,057	27,386	5,25,887
1970-71	49,877	23,881	2,56,061	1,23,818	14,429	29,566	4,97,732
1971-72	60,716	24,687	1,79,031	1,43,990	14,029	27,333	4,50,286
1972-73	61,420	25,320	2,37,339	74,025	13,440	78,592	4,90,236
1973-74	65,428	23,513	2,91,288	3,897	17,031	62,127	4,63,284
1974-75	92,758	30,221	3,86,729	144	13,222	53,573	5,76,747

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

STATEMENT-VI (a)

Receipts (in Rupees), Town Area Committee, Sumerpur

Reference Page No. 204

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Revenue deri- ved from municipal pro- perty, etc.	Grants and contri- butions	Miscella- neous	Other sources	Total
1966-67	—	—	—	—	—	31,743
1967-68	—	—	—	—	—	44,313
1968-69	—	—	—	—	—	62,589
1969-70	5,410	38,026	—	7,667	—	51,102
1970-71	—	—	—	—	—	64,522
1971-72	—	—	—	—	—	72,031
1973-73	5,604	28,552	—	47,013	—	81,169
1973-74	8,754	36,403	10,000	12,389	—	67,546
1974-75	25,831	29,280	12,377	6,079	—	73,567

STATEMENT-VI (b)

Expenditure (in Rupees), Town Area Committee, Sumerpur

Reference Page No. 204

Year	General administra- tion and collec- charges	Constructions	Miscellaneous	Total
1966-67	—	—	—	22,888
1967-68	—	—	—	38,702
1968-69	—	—	—	48,035
1969-70	16,104	8,126	19,914	44,144
1970-71	—	—	—	60,085
1971-72	—	—	—	43,961
1972-73	30,746	—	59,105	89,851
1973-74	35,508	—	34,204	69,712
1974-75	34,284	24,327	6,545	65,156

STATEMENT---VII (a)

Receipts (in Rupees), Town Area Committee, Sarila

Reference Page No. 204

Year	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total
1966-67	7,625	6,915	4,874	19,414
1967-68	17,606	8,315	236	26,159
1968-69	2,384	11,361	2,315	16,060
1969-70	1,736	9,754	4,976	16,466
1970-71	2,822	11,982	6,394	21,198
1971-72	43,708	13,055	4,969	61,732
1972-73	91,375	31,419	8,993	1,31,787
1973-74	70,493	13,944	9,013	93,450
1974-75	23,874	76,516	7,292	1,07,682

STATEMENT---VII (b)

Expenditure (in Rupees), Town Area Committee, Sarila

Reference Page No. 204

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public health and sanitation	Constructions	Miscellaneous	Total
1966-67	1,903	6,219	400	3,417	11,939
1967-68	1,519	6,496	11,500	3,676	23,191
1968-69	2,100	6,997	17,676	6,164	32,937
1969-70	3,452	9,358	2,985	5,140	20,935
1970-71	3,075	9,581	116	3,390	16,162
1971-72	2,348	10,855	1,483	8,255	22,941
1972-73	2,744	11,625	38,980	77,090	1,30,439
1973-74	3,149	8,881	46,458	19,652	78,140
1974-75	5,418	12,100	11,000	1,31,170	1,59,688

STATEMENT---VIII (a)

Receipts (in Rupees), Zila Parishad, Hamirpur.

Reference Page No. 206

Year	Government grants	Education	Medical and Public health	Pounds	Other sources	Total
1965-66	27,62,445	2,36,198	200	1,06,776	3,22,489	34,28,108
1966-67	30,94,882	90,049	—	1,05,707	2,92,085	35,82,703
1967-68	33,31,910	79,648	300	1,08,125	7,72,625	42,92,608
1968-69	36,89,364	1,56,575	4,624	1,35,218	1,10,790	40,96,571
1969-70	48,85,563	79,691	4,933	1,11,195	1,14,806	51,94,188
1970-71	49,37,472	1,17,677	7,025	1,90,209	1,21,932	53,74,315
1971-72	92,05,639	1,11,060	7,648	1,04,674	3,53,341	97,82,362
1972-73	38,83,120	75,063	14,295	1,00,788	1,88,154	38,61,429
1973-74	16,16,381	—	12,658	1,14,683	2,27,977	19,71,699
1974-75	4,65,635	—	5,882	97,421	3,62,128	9,31,066

STATEMENT---VIII (b)

Expenditure (in Rupees), Zila Parishad, Hamirpur

Reference Page No. 206

Year	General administration and collection charges	Education	Medical and public health	Public health	Other heads	Total
1965-66	69,873	25,52,409	88,085	1,73,807	1,69,797	30,53,971
1966-67	68,516	28,08,021	86,426	4,10,192	3,17,999	36,91,154
1967-68	90,698	28,48,432	90,787	6,01,868	7,33,673	43,65,458
1968-69	78,778	31,70,530	93,545	5,86,592	1,34,087	40,63,532
1969-70	79,945	39,22,356	1,16,671	3,82,203	1,64,000	46,47,175
1970-71	56,943	40,22,268	1,18,018	5,08,690	1,81,545	48,87,464
1971-72	1,00,668	49,66,443	1,20,803	12,38,755	1,79,650	66,56,317
1972-73	1,02,165	25,82,096	1,11,568	37,42,623	5,22,350	70,60,802
1973-74	94,265	—	1,00,589	13,45,387	7,06,938	22,47,179
1974-75	1,50,953	—	1,92,159	5,63,935	2,89,688	11,96,735

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The educational and cultural history of the region comprising the present district of Hamirpur can be traced to hoary antiquity, dating back to the age of Vedas. A number of *ashramas* (hermitages) came into being in the district, particularly at Mahoba, where many great sages of the past lived and performed their religious rites and austerities.

From the Vedic age downwards the primary conception of education has been that it is a source of illumination showing the right path to the individual in whatever sphere of life he may be. The inculcation of a spirit of piety and religiousness, formation of character, development of personality, observance of civic and social duties, and the promotion of the spirit of service and sacrifice for the motherland were the chief aims and ideals of ancient Indian education. It is likely that in this region in ancient times, as elsewhere in India, education was the concern of the family, the teachers and scholars usually being Brahmanas. In the ancient system of teaching a pupil had to go either to the house of a teacher or to the hermitage of a rishi to get his education.

Education, in those days, was for the sake of learning and spiritual advancement and was imparted with the best of care, free of cost and was free of state control. The individual was the chief concern and centre of this system and the development of character and the acquisition of learning of the sacred lore and its application in practical life, its chief aim. *Brahmacharya* or celibacy which formed the basis of the entire educational system, entailed discipline of the mind and the body and was considered as an essential pre-requisite for all during the initial phase of their lives.

One of the more important features of the system was to create an intimate relationship between the teacher and the taught which was expected to inculcate in the latter the attitudes of obedience, service, austerity and purity of conduct.

In course of time the system of imparting education under the direct guidance and the personal contact of the teacher became traditional, the establishments, where no fees were charged, being called *gurukulas*. During the medieval period many of these

institutions degenerated into private *pathshalas* (schools), and in those, that were attached to temples, subjects taught were Sanskrit, grammar, astrology, mathematics, etc. when the Muslims settled in this region they established their *maktabs* or *madrassas* which were mostly for Islamic learning and were attached to the mosques. In those days, *pathshalas* and *maktabs* were privately owned and run, receiving no regular financial aid from the government, except occasional gifts of land.

On the eve of the British occupation of this region children were still receiving their education (which was mainly religious) in indigenous schools—the Hindus in *pathshalas* and the Muslims in *maktabs*.

There were also some secular elementary schools in which reading, writing and a little of arithmetic was taught. The trading community provided their children mainly vocational education. The artisan classes received education required for professional skill such as carpentry, smithy, tailoring, etc. Schooling of girls was not in vogue but they were generally neither ignorant nor illiterate. They were generally given training in cooking, house-keeping, embroidery, etc., at home by the elderly ladies who also familiarised them with the basic tenets of religion, the epics and the legends. These indigenous systems of education gradually gave way to governmental institutions, which were started by the British and came to be known as *tahsili* and *Halqabandi* schools.

In 1855 as many as 8 *tahsili* schools were started at Hamirpur, Sumerpur, Gahrauli, Jaitpur, Maudaha, Panwari, Mahoba and Rath. Later on village primary schools were introduced and in 1861 there were 28 such institutions in the district. In 1862 an Anglo-vernacular school was opened at Hamirpur. The following year a government middle school was started and the number of village schools rose to 71. For female education 5 schools were started in 1864 with a total attendance of 54, but the number increased later on. Two more Anglo-vernacular schools were opened, one each at Maudaha and Mahoba. In 1867, the Anglo-vernacular school at Hamirpur was established as zila school and the middle schools functioning at Hamirpur and Panwari (which had moved to Kulpahar in 1866) were abolished. In 1870, there were 6 *tahsili* schools with an attendance of 280 pupils, 52 village schools with 1,754 pupils, and 45 indigenous institutions having 556 students on roll. There were 2 primary schools for girls having 36 pupils.

In 1880, the government Anglo-vernacular schools, an English primary school and 91 primary vernacular schools which had 3,386 students and one government and one aided female school had 34 girls on roll.

The following statement shows the decennial figures of schools and students from 1900-01 to 1930-31 :

Year	Primary education			Secondary education		
	Schools and colleges	Students		Schools and colleges	Students	
		Males	Females		Males	Females
1900-01	90	2,854	31	7	833	—
1910-11	139	4,949	247	8	714	104
1920-21	224	10,134	1,434	10	423	—
1930-31	337	11,816	1,699	11	677	105

GROWTH OF LITERACY

In 1881, it was found that 5 per cent males and 0.03 per cent females were literate. In 1891, these figures stood at 5.5 and 0.05 respectively and in 1901 they were 6.5 in the case of males and 0.1 in that of females.

Thereafter, there has been a slow but steady rise in the number of literate persons, both males and females. Achievement in this field between 1911 to 1971 is depicted below :

Year	Percentage of literacy among	
	Males	Females
1911	7.1	0.3
1921	8.3	0.5
1931	10.0	0.6
1951	17.5	2.3
1961	26.6	5.0
1971	31.1	7.8

By 1961 there had been considerable improvement both in male and female literacy but the district, with the percentage of literacy at 16.2 was lagging behind the State average of 17.7 and ranked 30th among the districts of the State. The following statement gives the educational standards of the literate population

Educational standard	Persons	Males	Females
URBAN			
Literate without educational level	13,222	9,046	4,176
Primary or junior Basic	5,518	4,304	1,214
Matriculation or higher secondary	2,275	2,039	236
Technical diploma not equal to degree	3	3	—
Non-technical diploma not equal to degree	—	—	—
University degree other than technical degree	50	44	6
Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree	468	409	59
Engineering	20	20	—
Medicine	7	7	—
Agriculture	6	6	—
Veterinary and dairying	1	1	—
Teaching	2	2	—
RURAL			
Literate without educational level	89,275	76,979	12,296
Primary or junior Basic	14,980	13,939	1,041
Matriculation and above	3,174	3,053	121

In 1971, the percentage of literacy rose to 20.2 as against the State average of 21.8. Literacy percentage among males was 31.1 and the females 7.8. There has been further improvement both in male and female literacy during the last decade.

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

Special attention was first given to the education of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes in 1937-38, and now greater incentives are being given to the students of these groups to encourage the spread of education amongst them. The following statement gives an idea about the education in urban and rural areas of the district for the Scheduled Castes at the census of 1961 :

Educational standards	Males	Females
URBAN		
Literate (without educational level)	1,129	101
Primary or junior Basic	421	33
High school or higher secondary	96	3
University degree other than technical degree	7	—
Non-technical diploma not equal to degree	32	—
RURAL		
Literate (without educational level)	7,937	461
Primary or junior Basic	1,304	38
High school and above	153	2

The number of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes in 1975 was as follows :

Educational level	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Junior Basic	225	112	13,518	6,755
Senior Basic	45	22	903	454
Higher secondary (up to class X)	1,151	46	2,083	60
Higher secondary (up to class XII)	1,669	11	3,788	18

The facilities given to the Scheduled Castes in this behalf have been discussed in Chapter XVII of this volume.

GENERAL EDUCATION

General education now includes education from the pre-junior Basic or nursery stage to the university stage. The pattern and system of education is uniform all over the State. The following statement gives the number of students in the various categories of schools in the district in 1974-75 :

Type of institutions	No. of institutions		No. of students	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Junior Basic	776	222	53,112	30,688
Senior Basic	54	43	5,354	1,504
Higher secondary	23	4	16,996	2,324
Degree college	2	—	565	12
(Co-education)				

Junior and Senior Basic Stage

Education at the junior and senior Basic stages is based on the Wardha scheme of education initiated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1937. It was adopted by the State government with certain modifications. The term Basic now includes education at the junior Basic stage from class I to V and the senior Basic stage from class VI to VIII. Mahatma Gandhi held that education ought to draw out the best in the pupil in body, mind and spirit. It further implied that free and compulsory education for a term of eight years be provided by the State, that the mother-tongue be the medium of instruction, that the process of education centred around some useful handicraft enabling the child to channelize his creative ability

from the moment his training is begun, and that every school be self-supporting.

In order to ensure academic and administrative efficiency Basic education has been taken over by the government and the Basic Shiksha Adhiniyam enforced since July 25, 1972. The management of the Basic schools has accordingly been transferred from the local bodies to the board of basic education. Control at the district level is vested in the Zila Shiksha Samiti and the village level in the Goan Shiksha Samiti. A district Basic education officer and an additional Basic education officer (women) are posted in the district to look after Basic education.

To encourage education among the boys and girls, school enrolment has been made compulsory.

The Statement I at the end of the chapter shows number of institutions and students in them from 1965-66 to 1974-75.

Re-orientation Scheme

The re-orientation scheme aims at introducing agriculture as a central craft in the schools. In 1975, there were 6 such schools in the district. The total area attached to these institutions was about 23 hectares.

Secondary Education

Secondary education covers the courses of study after the senior Basic stage up to class XII. With the establishment of the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, U. P., in 1921, the high school and intermediate examinations began to be held at the end of class X and class XII respectively. To encourage female education, the State government has made girls' education free up to high school since January 1, 1965. A list of higher secondary schools functioning in the district in 1975 is given in Statement II at the end of the chapter.

Higher Education

There are two colleges in the district imparting higher education up to graduate level in Arts, Science and Agriculture faculties. These institutions impart education to both boys and girls. They are affiliated to the Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, and the following figures give certain relevant particulars about these colleges for the year 1976 :

Name and location	Name of founder	Managing agency	Year of establishment	No. of teachers No. of students Faculties				Agriculture and science
				Males	Females	Males	Females	
Brahma Nand Mahavidyalaya, Rath	Swami Brahma Nand	Private body	1960	26	—	382	3	
Government Degree College, Hamirpur	State government	State's education department	1975	7	1	183	9	Arts

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Industrial and Technical Training

Before the mechanisation of industries there was hardly any scope for opening institutions of technical and professional education. In the age of handicrafts, skill in the production of goods was acquired through apprenticeship and dexterity passed on from generation to generation. But with the advent of machine technology and its application to spheres of production, propagation of professional and technical education became imperative.

One industrial training institute in the district is being run by the State directorate of training and employment at Charkhari.

The following figures show the number of persons trained in different trades by the institution from 1973 to 1975 :

Year	Trades	No. of persons taught	
		One year	Two years
1973	Carpenter and upholsterer		Fitter and wireman
1974	Carpenter and upholsterer		Fitter and wireman
1975	Carpenter and upholsterer		Fitter and upholsterer
			No. of persons trained (total)
			40
			22
			21

Teachers Training

To meet the growing demand of trained teachers for Basic schools three training institutes are being run in the district by the education department. Their position in 1975 was as indicated below :

Name and location	For boys/girls	Diploma or certificate awarded	No. of students	No. of teachers	Duration of training
Government Training School, Charkhari	Boys	Certificate	96	10	One year
Government Training School, Kulpahar	Boys	Certificate	98	9	One year
Government Girls' Training School, Maudaha	Girls	Certificate	99	9	Two years

ORIENTAL EDUCATION

Sanskrit

There were nine Sanskrit *pathshalas* in the district in 1975 all of which are affiliated to the Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwa Vidyalaya, Varanasi. They impart education in Sanskrit literature, *vyakarna*, *ganita*, etc., and prepare students both for certificate and degree courses. The following table gives some particulars about these *pathshalas* for that year :

Name and location	Year of establishment	No. of students	No. of teachers
Shri Thakur ji Adarsh Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Abhiliya	1927	32	4
Shri Sita Ram Sanskrit Pathshala, Jaitpur	1938	22	3
Shri Hari Sanskrit Pathshala, Kurara	1940	24	4
Shri Saraswati Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Bharva	1943	38	5
Shri Sumerpur	1944	79	5
Shri Kasturba Gurukul Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Rath			
Shri Koteswar Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Beri	1954	25	4
Shri Bhuneshwari Maheshwar Nand Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Jhalokhar	1955	89	7
Shri Durga Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Bari Chai Ka Mahoba	1962	107	7
Shri Raman Behari Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Charkhari	1972	51	4

Arabic and Persian

The Madarsa Rahmania Anwarul Uloom which was started in 1947-48 is functioning at Mahoba. It imparts education in Arabic, Persian, Hindi, Urdu, etc. There are 233 students on roll in this Madarsa with 7 teachers.

LIBRARIES

There are a number of libraries in the district which contribute towards the literary and educational advancement of the people. The well-known libraries of the district are the Jawaharlal Nehru Pustakalaya, Gahrauli and the Saraswati Pustakalaya, Hamirpur managed by private bodies. Certain information about these is given in the following statement :

Name	Year of establishment	No. of books	No. of magazines	No. of newspapers	No. of daily visitors
Saraswati Pustakalaya, Hamirpur	1938	4,120	—	3	35
Jawaharlal Nehru Pustakalaya, Gahrauli	1964	3,800	20	—	25

MEN OF LETTERS

Jagnik, the renowned bard, flourished at the court of Parmal of Mahoba in 1180 A. D. He is the reputed author of the *Alha-khand*. He recited it throughout India. In this book he has immortalised the exploits of two Banafar brothers Alha and Udal, who were the sons of one Jasraj of Mahoba and had distinguished themselves by displaying exceptional valour in the desperate war against Prithviraj, the Chauhan ruler of Delhi, which was fought by them on behalf of their own sovereign Parmal, the overlord of Mahoba who had earlier expelled them.

Reference Page No. 227

Year	Junior Basic education			Senior Basic education			Higher secondary education		
	Schools		Students	Schools		Students	Schools		Students
	For boys	For girls		For boys	For girls		For boys	For girls	
1965-66	756	179	62,646	33	20	25,881	17	3	9,756
1966-67	756	179	62,028	34	22	33,840	17	3	9,825
1967-68	756	179	63,107	37	24	33,943	17	3	10,272
1968-69	756	180	64,897	38	26	34,003	17	3	10,837
1969-70	757	185	64,920	43	37	34,009	18	3	11,606
1970-71	758	186	65,967	47	35	34,720	18	4	11,885
1971-72	758	188	64,842	50	38	34,657	19	4	14,254
1972-73	758	189	65,564	53	40	33,373	20	4	14,527
1973-74	758	190	65,214	54	42	34,281	22	4	15,499
1974-75	776	222	53,112	54	43	30,688	23	4	16,996

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

STATEMENT - II
Higher Secondary Schools

Reference Page No. 227

Name of institutions	Year of establishment	Name of founder	State when started and year of upgrading	No. of teachers			No. of pupils		
				1	2	3	4	5	6
Ganga Singh Inter. College, Charkhari	1856	Rattan Singh	Intermediate in 1964					37	882
Government Inter. College, Hamirpur	1873	State government						32	635
Government Girls Inter. College, Rath	1901	State government	Junior high school 1950 and Intermediate 1967					28	755
D. A. V. Inter. College, Mahoba	1924	Lodha Ram	Junior high school 1935 and Intermediate 1951					29	794
B. N. V. Inter. College, Rath	1937	Swami Brahma Nand	Intermediate 1944					61	1,442
R. I. C. Maudaha	1938	Syed Muhammad Salim Jaffry	High school 1949 and Intermediate 1952					38	1,093
G. R. V. Inter. College, Rath	1945	Lakshmi Prasad Pathak	High school 1949 and Intermediate 1952					42	1,077
N. Inter. College, Maudaha	1946	Ram Gopal Gupta	Intermediate 1951					50	1,153
Islamia Inter. College, Hamirpur	1949	Syed Mohammad Islam	High school 1952 and Intermediate 1965					32	822
Government Girls Inter. College, Mahoba			High school 1949 and Intermediate 1965					29	914
Vidya Mandir Inter. College, Hamirpur	1949	State government	Intermediate 1965					49	1,387
	1950	V. M. I. C. Managing Committee	Intermediate 1953					35	866
J. I. College, Kulpahar	1950	Shiksha Bachani Samiti	High school 1951 and Intermediate 1963						

[Contd.]

1	2	3	4	5	6
K. P. V. Inter College, Kharela	1954	Devaki Nandan Seth	High school 1956 and Intermediate	1972 33	730
P. M. V. Inter. College, Chaili	1954	Swami Shyam Sunder Das	High school 1955 and Intermediate	1966 23	505
Gandhi Inter. College, Gohand	1956	Kamlapati Lodhi	High school 1965 and Intermediate	1974 25	1,136
Government Girls Inter. College, Hamirpur	1956	State government	Intermediate 1961	28	664
Gayatri Vidya Mandir Inter. College, Sumrpur	1962	Swami Naga Nand	Junior high school 1962 High school, 1966 and Intermediate	30 1971	835
N. Higher Secondary School, Mahoba	1964	Managing Committee	—	10	297
Ch. P. S. Inter. College, Ichaul	1964	Brij Raj Singh	High school 1969 and Intermediate	1973 19	581
Akhand F. S. School Kalrai	1944	Rudra Pratap Tripathi	High school 1963	22	566
Garud H. S. School, Gahrauli	1955	Swami Brahma Nand	High school 1955	14	361
M. T. H. S. School, Mahoba	1962	Nagarpalika	High school 1972	18	818
B. N. H. S. School, Lodhpur Niwada	1962	Swami Brahma Nand	High school 1973	8	196
Nehru H. S. School, Panwari	1964	Brij Nath Saksena	High school 1967	21	629
Anand H. S. School, Bilwai	1965	Hira Lal	Junior high school 1955 and High school 1973	8	133
Raja Ram H. S. School, Ghalokhar	1970	Baba Raja Ram	Junior high school 1970 and High school 1971	13	334
Government Girls' H. S. School, Charkhari	1970	State government	High school 1971	17	391

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICAL FACILITIES IN EARLY TIMES

No direct reference is available on the medical facilities and systems of medicines prevailing in the district in ancient times. The physicians or primitive faith-healers were quacks, priests and magicians all rolled in one and are still sometimes found in the rural areas of the district. They are even known at times to work wonders. Diseases in the past were often attributed to sins, crimes, vices, visitation by evil spirits, or disobedience of divine laws and the cures prescribed were either offering of prayers, fasting, animal-sacrifice, flagellation or invocation of deities, as the case may be. These practices doubtlessly had some psychological effect on the ignorant victims, and can be laughed at nowadays, in view of the great progress in the field of medical care.

Ayurveda, which literally means the science of life, is the earliest known system of medicine which is still practised in the district. The practitioners of this system are known as *vaidas*, and specialize in diagnosing diseases by feeling the pulse and use herbal medicines. In the past affluent people of charitable disposition extended financial help to such physicians and looked after their material comforts out of piety and such *vaidas*, in their turn, did not charge any fees from the poor, taking it to be a part of their holy duties.

During the Muslim rule Unani System of medicine, which is based on Arabic and Greek system, was introduced in the district. Practitioners of this system are known as *hakims*. Surgery of rough and ready type was practised by *jarruhs* most of whom were of the barber class. Both the Ayurvedic and Unani system flourished side by side.

When the British took over they brought with them the western system of medicine known as allopathy. Though, in the beginning, this system was not welcomed by the common people, as they were against injections etc., but gradually their thinking changed and allopathic system became much more popular in the

dictinct. The homoeopathic system is of even later origin in these parts but has become popular due to its comparative ease of administration and cheapness.

VITAL STATISTICS

An examination of the figures of vital statistics gives a fair idea of the comparative healthiness of the district. From 1877 to 1880, the average number of deaths recorded annually was 18,433, giving a rate of 35.03 per thousand. During the ensuing decade the annual mortality rose to 21,402 or 42.2 per thousand; Two years namely 1884 and 1887 were abnormally unhealthy and the mortality ranged from 16,069 in 1885 to 29,972 in 1887. From 1891 to 1900, in spite of famine in 1896-97 when the annual deaths reached the high figure of 31,887, the decennial average was 19,260, with a rate of 37.5 per thousand. The first six years of the present century saw little change, the average annual number of deaths being 19,029. Judged by the rate per thousand the year 1906 has been the most unhealthy on record for thirty years, the proportion of deaths to total population being 65.2 per thousand.

The following statement shows decennial birth and death rates of the district for seven decades ending with 1970 :

Decade	Birth-rate per thousand	Death-rate per thousand
1901-10	47.0	45.1
1911-20	19.3	46.6
1921-30	38.7	31.7
1931-40	37.8	25.1
1941-50	26.2	19.1
1951-60	14.4	8.5
1961-70	16.0	6.6

Infant Mortality

Mortality among children below one year of age was very high in the past, mainly due to the inadequate maternity and child welfare services. This is now greatly reduced, and the following statement gives the number of deaths of infants below one year of age in the district during the last few years :

Year	*Number of death (children below one year)
1971	41
1972	42
1973	34
1974	17
1975	32
Deaths of infants within municipal limit only	

Common Diseases

The common diseases which resulted in large number of deaths in the district were fever of different types, respiratory diseases, bowel disorders (diarrhoea and dysentery) and epidemic of plague, small-pox and cholera.

Fever—The term Fever covers a number of unidentified and undiagnosed diseases which are usually accompanied by fever. There were 14,340 deaths due to this cause in 1894. According to the returns, from 1877 to 1906 fever had been responsible for no less than 62.25 per cent of the total mortality. During the decade 1891 to 1900, the highest number of deaths in 1897 viz 24,714, was due to fever. The identification of causes and diagnoses having greatly improved in the last few decades, the number have now gone down considerably.

The following statement gives the number of deaths caused by fevers from 1971 to 1974 :

Year	Number of deaths
1971	109
1972	118
1973	92
1974	107

Dysentery and Diarrhoea—Connected with fever are bowel complaints, usually in the form of dysentery and diarrhoea, which claim every year a large number of lives in the district. Their mortality from this cause rises considerably in famine years. Their high incidence is also attributed to insanitary conditions and unsatisfactory arrangement of drinking water. But due to strict enforcement of sanitary measures, the incidence of these diseases

has of late been greatly lowered as no death has been reported since 1971, from the district for these causes.

Respiratory Diseases—These diseases were also included in the category of fevers before 1941. These diseases generally lead to temporary or permanent infirmities but in few cases are also fatal. The average yearly mortality from respiratory diseases in the district during 1941-50 was 1,723 or 13.2 per cent of total deaths. The highest figure was 2,444 in 1941 and the lowest 689 in 1949, in the same decade. During the period 1951-1960, the maximum deaths occurred in 1951, when 1,107 persons lost their lives and the lowest in 1960 when only 737 persons died due to these diseases.

The following statement shows the number of deaths from respiratory diseases during some recent years:

Year	Number of deaths
1971	12
1972	31
1973	51
1974	31

Epidemics

In the past, epidemics of plague, cholera and small-pox usually accounted for a high incidence of deaths in the district. In urban areas when an epidemic breaks out, it is the duty of the local bodies to take such measures as may be required to control it. In rural areas, the responsibility for dealing with the outbreak of epidemic rests with the district medical officer of health, now designated as the deputy chief medical officer (health).

To control and check the disease from spreading, the village level functionaries of both the police and revenue department are required to report the outbreak to enable the higher authorities to indicate preventive and curative measures. The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, empowers the district magistrate to remove patients to hospitals, segregate them and disinfect the affected areas.

Plague—Plague first made its appearance in 1902 and was responsible for three deaths. It has never made much headway and Hamirpur, like other districts of Bundelkhand, has been spared

this scourge. The highest number of deaths was 403 due to plague in 1924. The last 32 cases of plague were reported in 1951 from the district. Even before that it was considered to fall within the normal mortality zone with low variation.

Cholera—The district has been visited by the disease not infrequently. In some years the district enjoyed comparative immunity from the disease. For example in 1893, only one death was reported while in 1904 only three persons lost their lives. As against this there were 5,655 deaths, forming 20.49 per cent of the total mortality recorded in 1879, 3,883 or 18.48 per cent in 1895, 4,593 or 15.36 per cent in 1906 and there have been several occasions when the mortality exceeded 1,000. For the period 1940-50 the highest number of deaths was reported to be 2,274 in 1945 but no death was reported in 1947. There were 31 deaths due to cholera in 1955, 12 in 1956, 342 in 1957, 5 in 1958 and 47 in 1960. Since 1970 no cholera case has been reported from the district.

Small-pox—The district remained free from the violent outbreak of small-pox epidemic. However, during 1877 to 1914, in no single year the district has been entirely free from it, though on three occasions only a single death was reported due to this cause. Even after that mortality never exceeded 100 except in 1926 when 102 persons died. For the period 1940-50, the maximum deaths were 158 in 1948, and the lowest only 2 deaths in 1941. During the year of 1951, the total number of deaths was 425 followed by 39 in 1956, 593 in 1957, 1089 in 1958, 44 in 1959 and 198 in 1960. Now the district has been declared free from small pox, as no case has been reported from the district in the last several years.

Other diseases

Among other diseases prevalent in the district are various ear and eye diseases, cancer, leprosy, tuberculosis, gastro-enteritis, and certain venereal diseases, etc.

ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP

Prior to 1948 there were separate departments for medical and public health activities but these were amalgamated in that year under a single directorate for better cohesion and control over the entire medical and public health 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 administration of these institutions, however, remained with 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 reorganised in the State, abolishing the posts of the civil surgeon and the district medical officer of health. From that year, under the new set-up, a chief medical officer heads the entire medical, public health, and family planning set-up in the district. He is assisted by three deputy chief medical officers.

At Hamirpur, a superintendent each of the District Hospital (male), and the women's hospital, are the controlling officers of medical health and family planning activities in their respective institutions in urban centres.

The municipal medical officer of health is responsible for public health activities in the municipalities concerned. 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 between the deputy chief medical officers. The rural State dispensaries fall under the primary health centres and are supervised by the deputy chief medical officer concerned.

At the level of primary health centre a medical officer is in over-all charge of the medical, health and family planning activities. He is assisted by another medical officer in family planning and maternity and child welfare work.

Hospitals

Statement I at the end of the chapter gives relevant details about the hospitals functioning in the district during the year 1974-75.

Dispensaries

The Statement II at the end of the chapter gives details about the allopathic dispensaries functioning in the district in 1974-75, and the Statement III provides information about the Ayurvedic, Unani, and Homoeopathic dispensaries functioning during the same year.

Primary Health Centres

There are eleven primary health centres in the district, each having a dispensary and maternity centre with 3 sub-centres. The sanctioned staff for each centre consists of a medical officer, a compounder, a health visitors and 4 midwives (one for the headquarters and one each for the sub-centre). All the primary health centres are under the administrative control of the deputy chief medical officer.

Statement IV at the end of the chapter gives some relevant information regarding primary health centres functioning in the district.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

The maternity and child welfare centres were established to reduce high rate of women mortality during ante and post-natal periods and of infants. In the past the maternity services were rendered in the district by Red Cross Society, but now they are provided by the primary health centres. Each primary health centre has a maternity and a child welfare centre at its headquarters and three sub-centres at other places. There are eleven maternity centres and thirty three sub-centres functioning in the district. Each maternity centre is usually staffed with an auxiliary nurse (mid-wife) and a dai, but there are a medical officer and a health visitor in addition, at the primary health centres of the block. The trained staff of these centres offer advice and aid at the centres and also pay domiciliary visits.

The following statement gives particulars of the maternity centres and sub-centres in the district :

Centres	Sub-centres
Kurara	Patara, Hamirpur, Bhauliberi
Sumerpur	Engohta, Terha, Chhani
Maudaha	Echauli, Khanna, Sisolar
Muskara	Benwar, Kharela, Imilia
Kabrai	Mahoba, Geondi, Srinagar
Gorahri	Kulpahar, Supa, Rebai
Jaitpur	Ajnar, Budhaura, Mahua Bandh
Panwari	Bendo, Pahariya, Mahobkanth
Para	Basela, Malehta, Saidpur
Gohand	Dhanauri, Italia, Dhagwan
Dhagwan	Sarila, Puraini, Bhondi

Though malnutrition has not assumed any alarming proportions in the district, but the diet of the people is usually deficient in proteins, iron and vitamins, particularly of A and B varieties. The health staff have undertaken schemes to educate the masses in wholesome food habits. Consumption of milk, eggs, meat, fish soyabean products, fruits and vegetables is encouraged, and milk powder and vitamin A drops are distributed largely as gifts received from voluntary organisations like CARE and UNICEF.

Sanitation

In the cities and towns the sanitary arrangements are more elaborate and they are usually looked after by municipal medical officer, where the urban areas has a municipal board, or otherwise, by a sanitary inspector. To ensure regular flushing of drains, removal of night-soil, garbage and sweeping of streets and lanes with the aid of conservancy staff, a number of sanitary inspectors are generally employed. Where sewer lines have been laid, old type of service latrines are being rapidly changed into flush type privies. Details of achievements in these fields are given in Chapter XIV. Improvement and disinfection of drinking water wells, installation of hand pumps, pavement of lanes, and construction of drains, soakage pits and sanitary latrines has been undertaken on a large scale. Supply of potable water and ground drainage are receiving active attention of the local bodies, and their performance is discussed in Chapter XIV.

To check against adulteration of food stuff and other edibles the health staff collects samples and prosecutes the offenders.

The following statement will show the number of adulterators against whom the action was taken during the recent years:

Year	Number of sample collection	Number of samples found adulterated	Number of cases prosecuted
1972	130	11	4
1973	263	48	14
1974	284	72	4
1975	80	19	2

NATIONAL MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAMME

The national malaria eradication programme was launched in 1958-59. The entire district was divided into two parts, hyper-

endemic and hypo-endemic and was covered by three sub-units—two units of Jalaun district and one of Banda. In 1976 a separate unit was established in Hamirpur under national malaria eradication programme. The supervision of the areas was done by the anti-malaria officers and staff of their respective units. Under the aforesaid Programme, each unit has to pass through four phases namely preparatory, attack, consolidation and maintenance.

In preparatory phase arrangements for housing the unit, recruitment, training of staff and storing of material and equipment is made. In attack phase, D. D. T. spray operations are carried out in all human dwelling and cattle sheds twice a year. In the third phase only surveillance operations are carried out under which a unit is divided into hundred surveillance units and each placed under a house visitor. The house visitor visits his area twice a month in search of fever cases. The blood slides of fever cases are collected and presumptive treatment is given on the spot. In the year of 1963-64, the programme entered into the consolidation phase. At present out of 0.75 unit areas only 0.7 unit areas are under the consolidation phase. The district has yet to enter the last, i. e. the maintenance phases.

The following statement gives the number of blood slides of suspected malaria patients collected and number of positive cases found in the district for the period from 1970-74 :

Year	Number of blood slides examined	Number of positive cases found
		258
1970	43,150	145
1971	41,150	317
1972	51,007	2,347
1973	44,203	4,262
1974	39,205	

VACCINATION

In early times the rate of mortality from small-pox was high in the district as the people were against vaccination. The vaccination through government agency was not introduced till after the freedom struggle of 1857 and at first made in 1971-72 but with little success. Parents are advised to vaccinate their children within six months of their birth.

One vaccinator per 15,000 of rural population has been posted in each of the eleven health blocks in which the district has been divided. One sanitary inspector, two health inspectors and one basic health worker have been appointed for 10,000 people. One sanitary inspector and one vaccinator are available in each of the municipal areas.

People have been receiving the services of vaccinators since 1897. Vaccination is compulsory in municipal areas and becomes imperative in the countryside on the outbreak of epidemic. Vaccination figures for some years are given below :

Year	Total no. of persons vaccinated	Total number of primary vaccinations		No. of revaccinations	
		Successful	Unsuccessful	Successful	Unsuccessful
1968	9,348	9,193	191	13,310	399
1969	31,496	31,255	241	45,911	989
1970	33,451	33,183	268	57,377	1,161
1971	13,960	13,622	346	25,673	1,001
1972	67,306	66,926	379	1,10,699	1,758
1973	39,802	39,571	231	80,776	1,389
1974	39,572	39,381	191	88,025	1,131

Reference Page No. 240

STATEMENT I

Hospitals

Name of Hospitals	Year of establishment	Staff		No of beds		Facilities available	Patients treated		Expenditure in 1974-75 (in Rs) 10
		Doctor	Other	Male	Female		Indoor	Outdoor	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
District Hospital, Hamirpur	1869	3	28	34	4	Pathological test & dental services	32,621	2,18,778	
Women's Hospital, Hamirpur	1942	1	17	-	12	-	5,977	64,424	
Police Hospital, Hamirpur	1942	1	17	-	-	-	4,195	-	
Jail Hospital, Hamirpur	1865	1	4	8	4	Pathological and X-Ray	-	-	
Male Hospital, Mahoba	-	1	7	8	-	-	1,196	29,458	
Female Hospital, Mahoba	-	-	6	-	6	Do.	158	17,414	
Male Hospital, Charkhari	1949	1	15	16	-	Do.	480	39,812	
Female Hospital, Charkhari	1948	1	8	-	14	Do.	379	22,121	
Male Hospital, Rath	-	1	6	6	4	Do.	315	21,794	
Female Hospital, Rath	1967	1	5	-	6	Do.	16	15,416	

STATEMENT II
Allopathic Dispensaries

Reference Page No. 240

Name of dispensaries	Year of establishment	Staff		No of bed		Patients treated		Expenditure for 1974-75 (in Rs.)
		Doctor	Other	Male	Female	Indoor	Outdoor	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Beti dispensary, Hamirpur	—	1	3	—	—	—	2,777	9,111
Chani dispensary, Hamirpur	1948	3	2	—	—	—	3,529	13,792
Imilia dispensary, Maudaha	—	1	2	1	—	—	2,387	8,466
Bhamai dispensary, Maudaha	1964	1	3	—	—	—	1,975	10,648
Srinagar dispensary, Mahoba	1955	1	3	4	2	—	1,918	8,982
Sarila dispensary, Rath	1955	1	4	4	2	—	3,085	9,954
Majhgawan dispensary, Rath	—	1	3	—	—	—	2,723	10,190
Kohria dispensary, Kulpahar	—	1	3	—	—	—	2,740	10,230
Kulpahar dispensary, Kulpahar	—	1	2	—	—	—	2,749	6,204
Gyandi dispensary, Maudaha	1972	1	2	—	—	—	3,895	5,405
Kilua dispensary, Kulpahar	1972	1	3	—	—	—	2,745	10,400
Mamna dispensary, Rath	1973	1	3	—	—	—	1,669	9,046
Bhasai dispensary, Rath	1973	1	2	—	—	—	3,039	6,781
Naiwakpurwa dispensary, Maudaha	1974	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Punia dispensary, Charkhari	1925	1	2	—	—	—	1,958	5,537

STATEMENT III
Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic Dispensaries

Reference Page No. 240

Name of dispensaries	Year of establishment	Staff		Number of bed		Patients treated	
		Doctor	Other	Male	Female	Indoor	Outdoor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ayurvedic Vidhoker Hamirpur	1970	1	4	2	2	10,944	—
Igohista dispensary, Hamirpur	1958	1	3	2	2	—	8,692
Pachkhera dispensary, Hamirpur	—	1	3	—	—	—	9,104
Bhware dispensary, Maudaha	1938	1	3	2	2	9,767	—
Sisohar dispensary, Maudaha	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Kharela dispensary, Charkhari	1942	1	3	—	—	—	5,689
Gahrouli dispensary, Maudaha	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Riwai dispensary, Kulpahar	1952	1	3	—	—	—	10,855
Supu dispensary, Charkhari	1951	1	3	—	—	—	13,487
Siga dispensary, Kulpahar	1943	1	3	—	—	—	4,895
Kanruah dispensary, Charkhari	—	1	3	—	—	—	2,919
Rabak dispensary, Rath	1953	1	3	—	—	—	5,307
Purani dispensary, Rath	—	1	3	—	—	—	6,397
Bhogwa dispensary, Rath	—	1	3	—	—	—	6,244
Pochia dispensary, Rath	—	1	3	—	—	11,261	—
Akema dispensary, Rath	1972	1	3	—	—	9,061	—

[Contd.]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Baroliswarka Dispensary, Rath	1973	1	3	—	—	—	2,886
Jarakhar Dispensary, Rath	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Beri Dispensary, Rath	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Jaria Dispensary, Rath	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Bilwai Dispensary, Mahoba	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Ajner Dispensary, Kulpahar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nanara Dispensary, Mahoba	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Unari							
Kabrai Dispensary, Mahoba	1846	1	2	—	—	4,015	—
Kamaharia Dispensary, Maudaha	—	1	2	—	—	7,677	—
Ghusiari Dispensary, Maudaha	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Yarji Dispensary, Charkhari	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Homeopathic							
Jaria Dispensary, Rath	1976	1	3	—	—	1,104	—
Ghanori Dispensary, Rath	1974	1	3	—	—	598	—
Jigni Dispensary, Rath	1972	1	2	—	—	144	—
Chandauli Dispensary, Charkhari	1974	1	3	—	—	—	—

STATEMENT IV

Primary Health Centres

Reference Page No. 241

Name	Development block	Year of opening	Staff		No. of bed		Patient treated	
			Doctor	Other	For men	For women	Outdoor	Indoor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Kurara	Hamirpur	1958	1	3	2	2	2,714	84
Sumerpur	Hamirpur	1962	1	3	2	2	3,150	8
Maudaha	Maudaha	1960	1	3	5	3	10,519	30
Kabrai	Mahoba	1969	1	3	2	2	5,500	19
Jaitpur	Mahoba	1962	2	3	2	2	8,589	187
Panwari	Charkhari	1968	1	3	2	2	5,429	9
Para	Rath	1970	1	2	2	2	1,583	2
Maskara	Maudaha	1965	1	3	2	2	3,202	61
Gorahri	Charkhari	1966	1	3	2	2	2,133	—
Gohand	Rath	1967	1	3	2	2	4,411	557
Thagwa	Rath	1970	1	2	2	2	2,194	—

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

LABOUR WELFARE

After the attainment of Independence in 1947, many new welfare scheme were initiated to mitigate social and economic handicaps of the working class and to promote a steady growth in production. These labour welfare schemes guarantee minimum wages, and other social security measures like State Insurance of employees for security against privation in old age. Collective bargaining through the medium of recognised trade unions, medical, maternity and child welfare facilities, regulated working hours, payment or bonus as incentive, compensation for injuries, regulated wages, minimum standards of lighting at place of work, ventilation, canteen facilities, recreation, leave, holidays, housing, holiday homes etc., are other matters covered by these new social security measures. The system of bonded labour, the last relic of the feudal times, has also recently been abolished through a law passed by the parliament. The State has also undertaken to provide them free housing sites.

The district falls in the Kanpur region of the State labour department. At the district level, the labour inspector ensures the administration and compliance of labour laws, including prosecutions for their infringement where necessary, enforcement of labour welfare schemes and liaison between employees and employers in the district. The factories inspector also inspects factories under the Factories Act, Payment of Wages Act etc., and takes necessary action against employers failing to comply with the concerned laws.

Besides various Central and State enactments passed after independence ensuring the well-being of the workers and their families, those enacted before independence viz, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Employment of Children Act, 1938, the U. P. Maternity Benefits Act, 1947 and Industrial Employment (S. O.) Act, 1947 are also in force though they have been amended to fulfil the changing needs of the workers. A number of post independence enactments have covered fields not yet covered by the preceding laws, the prime among them, being U. P. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Factories Act, 1948. The motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, the U. P. Industrial Dookan Aur Vanijya Adhistan Adhiniyam, 1962 and Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

In 1975, the contravention of the provisions of U.P. Dookan Aur Vanijya, Adhistan, 1962 & Minimum Wages Act, 1948 resulted in 74 prosecutions of which 70 were for the contravention of the former and 4 for the latter.

Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 the workers or their dependents are given compensation for physical damage or death caused during the course of employment. The amount of compensation given during the last five years (1971-75) is given in the following table :

Year	Fatal cases No. of cases	Amount of compensation paid (in Rs)
1971	1	7,000
1974	1	3,000
1975	3	25,000

OLD AGE PENSION

The old age pension scheme was introduced in the district in the year 1957 to provide subsistence to men above 65 and women above 60 years of age, having no means of subsistence and no relations bound by custom or usage to support them. Under this scheme financial assistance is given in the form of monthly pension of Rs 30/-. In 1976 the provisions of the scheme were liberalised and the amount of monthly pension raised from Rs 30 to 40. The benefits of this scheme are not available to beggars, mendicants and inmates of poor-houses. The pension is now sanctioned by the district magistrate after verification of particulars. The following statement gives the number of persons benefited in each tahsil during 1974-1975 :

Tahsil	No. of persons benefited
Hamirpur	145
Mahoba	40
Maudaha	58
Rath	109
Charkhari	66

PROHIBITION

The district is not a dry area, yet steps have been taken to discourage the addicts from indulging in excessive drinking. Pub-

lic is sought to be educated by meetings, camps and stalls in local fairs, nautankies and exhibitions and distribution of hand bills, posters and literature against the evils of drinking. The excise shops remain closed every Tuesday, on principal festivals like Holi and Diwali etc., and on the dates of important events like Independence day, Republic day and Mahatma Gandhi's birth day.

ADVANCEMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

The advancement of interests of depressed classes has become one of the paramount concern of the state after independence. In pursuance of that goal, the State Harijan Sahayak Department was set up to implement scheme for the welfare of members of the Scheduled Castes, & Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and ex-criminal tribes (known as denotified tribes). In 1957 a district Harijan welfare officer was posted in the district whose designation was changed to Harijan and social welfare officer in 1961, when the Harijan Sahayak and social welfare departments were merged. His main functions are to watch the interests of the members of the Scheduled Castes and implement the schemes formulated by the government for their welfare and amelioration of their lot. During the British rule the members of the Scheduled Castes, then known as depressed classes were often treated as outcasts in the society. However, social reformers have all along continued to make the people and the government of the day alive to the social injustice meted out to these people. The government, initially, took but some half-hearted measures towards assisting the Scheduled Castes etc., by way of awarding stipends and scholarships to their students. The first real step towards ameliorating the condition of the members of Scheduled Castes after Independence was the passing of U. P. Removal of Social Disabilities Act, 1947. The Act ensured to the members of such castes the unrestricted enjoyment of social and religious freedoms. Untouchability, the worst stigma of our social system, which existed since times immemorial, died a hard death in 1950, when the first National Parliament made the observance of it in any form an offence. The Untouchability (Offence) Act, 1955, which came into force in June of the same year to the same effect and made the observance of it in any form punishable.

In 1947, the State government threw open all state services to the members of Scheduled Castes, and major steps were taken to ensure their due representation in government services. In 1953,

the reservation for Scheduled Castes in government services was raised from 10 to 18 per cent. In 1955, the upper age limit for Scheduled Castes was raised by 5 years for gazetted posts as had already been done for non-gazetted posts in 1952.

The district Social Welfare Committee, with the district magistrate as its chairman advises the Zila Parishad on matters pertaining to the social welfare activities in the district, particularly the advancement of the interest of the Scheduled Castes. The Vice-chairman and other non-official members of the committee are nominated by the Government. The committee also includes the members of the State legislature having whole or part of their constituency in the district, the district planning officer, district inspector of schools & the district social and Harijan welfare officer, who acts as the secretary of the committee.

The government also affords economic assistance by way of loans and subsidies to members of Scheduled Castes, for various purposes such as agriculture, industries and construction of house etc. The following table gives the details of the number of persons benefited and the economic assistance given to them during the first four Five-year Plans under different heads :

Name of assistance	First Five-year Plan		Second Five-year Plan		Third Five-year Plan		Fourth Five-year Plan	
	No. of persons benefited	Amount distributed (in Rs)	No. of persons benefited	Amount distributed (in Rs)	No. of persons benefited	Amount distributed (in Rs)	No. of persons benefited	Amount distributed (in Rs)
House building	25	5,300	40	15,180	65	52,650	91	71,000
Industries	12	4,477	52	10,850	144	78,025	214	75,000
Drilling of wells	4	3,000	19	14,776	126	93,000	60	51,000
Agriculture	—	—	96	9,400	210	78,370	12	5,000

In 1975, the Central and the State Governments distributed sums of Rs 3,92,921 and Rs 2,94,244 respectively to the students of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes. During the First plan period, two hostels were opened at Hamirpur and Rath respectively for Scheduled Castes students, and a departmental handicraft school at Mahoba. To provide accommodation facilities to Other Backward Class students two more students hotels were opened, one each in V. P. V. College, Rath and J. I. College, Kulpahar.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

There are two registered trusts in the district which are endowed for charitable and educational purposes. Relevant particulars of those trusts are given below :

Trust	Date of foundation	Annual Income (in rupees)	Objectives
J. P. Dispensary Endowment Trust, Hamirpur	7-7-1925	144	Maintenance of dispensary
Islamia Higher Secondary School Endowment Trust, Hamirpur	9-11-1953	176	Scholarship to students

Shia Waqf

Shia Central Board of Waqfs U. P., Lucknow has so far registered only one waqf in the district, created by one Syed Ata Husain on 30th March, 1933 for religious and charitable purposes. The annual income of the trust is Rs 2,544.

Sunni Waqf

Sunni Central Board of Waqfs U. P., Lucknow has so far registered only one waqf in the district, created on January 29, 1911 for religious and charitable purposes. The annual income of the trust is Rs 4,863.

WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN

For the welfare of ex-servicemen there is a District Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Board in this district which was established in 1944. It works under the control and supervision of Director, Soldier's Welfare, U. P. The work of the Board in the district is carried on under the overall control of the district magistrate by a secretary, who is a paid employee, usually an ex-servicemen himself. The Board, as elsewhere, provides facilities to ex-servicemen and their families and assists them in their rehabilitation. These facilities include pensions, scholarships, relief grants, employment, medical treatment, settlement of accounts, permits for controlled commodities and settlement of disputed cases, the number of ex-servicemen benefited annually during the five year beginning from 1971 being 660, 463, 688, 613 and 56 respectively.

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF DISTRICT IN STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES

State Legislature

Vidhan Sabha—At the general elections of 1952, this district was divided into four constituencies, three to return one member each and one to elect two representatives one of whom was to be a member of the Scheduled Castes. The single member constituencies were those of Hamirpur-cum-Maudaha (North), Maudaha (South), and Rath and the double-member constituency comprised of Mahoba-cum-Kulpahar-cum-Charkhari.

The table below high lights the important features of that poll :

Party	No. of candidates	Seats won	Valid Votes polled
Indian National Congress	5	3	76,598
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	1	—	790
Ram Rajya Parishad	1	—	1,234
Scheduled Castes Federation	1	—	11,060
Socialist	4	—	37,143
Uttar Pradesh Praja Party	1	—	527
Independents	14	2	40,598
Total	27	5	1,67,950 •

For the general elections of 1957, the constituencies were delimited in 1956 in such a manner so as to have three single member constituencies of Hamirpur, Maudaha and Rath and one double-member constituency of Mahoba with one seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

The following statement indicates the number of candidates set up, seats won and votes secured by each contesting party in the assembly elections of 1957 :

Party	Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Akhil Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	—	6,967
Indian National Congress	5	5	1,15,633
Praja Socialist Party	5	—	89,578
Ram Rajya Parishad	1	—	2,784
Independents	4	—	37,379
Total	16	5	2,52,341

The names of Vidhan Sabha constituencies were altered at the general elections of 1962, but the number of seats remained unchanged. The newly formed single member constituencies were those of Mahoba, Maudaha, Hamirpur, Rath and the constituency of Charkhari which was reserved for Scheduled Castes candidate. The number of electors was 4,08,471. Valid votes numbered 2,07,322 and 11,519 were declared as invalid at the count as per details given below :

Party	No. of candi- dates	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Akhil Bhartiya Jan Sangh	5	—	11,251
Indian National Congress	5	4	1,00,408
Praja Socialist Party	5	1	74,966
Ram Rajya Parishad	3	—	3,619
Socialist Party	2	—	5,621
Independents	3	—	11,457
Total	23	5	2,07,322

At the 1967 general elections, the names and number of constituencies and the seats remained unchanged. The constituency of Mahoba was reserved for Scheduled Castes candidate instead of Charkhari. The number of electors was 4,80,478 of which 2,70,914 persons cast votes. The ballot papers treated as invalid were 18,280

The following statement shows the number of candidates, seats captured and votes secured by each contesting party in the assembly election of 1967 :

Party	Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Akhil Bhartiya Jan Sangh	4	4	1,04,846
Indian National Congress	5	—	81,508
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	4,955
Samyukta Socialist Party	2	—	7,373
Independents	6	1	53,952
Total	18	5	2,52,634

The Vidhan Sabha, constituted after 1967 general elections, was dissolved on February 25, 1968, due to a large number of defections which impelled the government to resign and the State began to be administered by the President. A mid-term poll was held after about a year in 1969, on the basis of constituencies delimited in 1967.

Out of 5,01,972 electors 2,82,420 exercised their franchise. The number of invalid votes was 13,158. In all 35 candidates belonging to eight different political groups (including Independents) contested for five seats. The results were as follows :

Party	No. of candi- dates	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Akhil Bhartiya Jan Sangh	5	1	58,209
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	4	—	43,532
Communist Party	4	—	20,442
Indian National Congress	5	4	1,13,030
Proutist Block	2	—	898
Republican Party	1	—	2,399
Samyukta Socialist Party	3	—	3,390
Independents	11	—	27,362
Total	35	5	2,69,262

On October 1, 1970, President's rule was again imposed on the State, but it was soon withdrawn on the assumption of office by a popular ministry formed by the Samyukt Vidhayak Dal on 18th of October, 1970. This government collapsed on April 3, 1971 when the motion of thanks on the Governor's address was defeated in the State Assembly. In the same month Congress (R) formed the government. It stepped down in June, 1973, when the Chief mini-

ster with his cabinet colleagues submitted their resignations and the State came under President's rule once again.

Congress government was formed again in November, 1973. The general elections were held in February, 1974. The district was split into five constituencies of Hamirpur, Maudaha, Rath, Mahoba and Charkhari. The constituency of Charkhari was reserved for Scheduled Castes member.

The statement given below indicates the number of candidates, seats won, and valid votes secured by each contesting party at the general elections of 1974 :

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Akhil Bhartiya Jan Sangh	4	—	36,336
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	5	1	80,440
Communist Party	1	—	11,776
Congress (O)	5	—	12,242
Indian National Congress	5	4	1,11,368
Socialist Party	2	—	2,178
Soshit Samaj Dal	3	—	5,299
Swatantra Party	3	—	3,187
Independents	13	—	43,380
Total	41	5	3,06,206

Vidhan Parishad—The district is included into three constituencies viz, the Kanpur Teacher's constituency, the Allahabad Graduates constituency and the Hamirpur-cum-Jhansi Local Authorities Castes candidate.

Union Legislature

Lok Sabha (House of the People)—For the general elections of 1957, this district formed a double member constituency named Hamirpur, with 7,82,934 voters of whom 8,38,514 exercised their right of franchise; 32,824 ballot papers were being declared invalid at the time of counting. The Congress and Praja Socialist Party set up two candidates each and entered the fray. Both the seats were secured by the congress party of which one was a Scheduled Castes candidate.

At the general elections of 1962, a single member constituency was formed and 2,16,075 electors out of 4,08,471 cast their votes. The number of invalid votes were 8,431. Among the contestants

one each represented the Congress, the Jan Sangh, the Praja Socialist Party, the Socialist Party and the Ram Rajya Parishad. The seat went to the congress candidate.

At the general election of 1967, the electorate consisted of 4,80,478 persons of whom about 2,70,899 exercised franchise. The number of invalid votes cast was 15,232. Three candidates one each from the Congress, Jan Sangh and Independent contested of whom the Jan Sangh won the seat.

On account of a rift in the Indian National Congress, the Lok Sabha constituted after the general elections of 1967 was dissolved on December 27, 1970, and a fresh poll was ordered. The mid-term parliamentary elections were held in 1971 and a new Lok Sabha was constituted in March the same year. For the mid-term poll, the name of the constituency remained unaltered but the number of electors rose to 5,14,662 out of whom 2,79,854 cast their votes. Only six candidates, one each of Congress (J) and Congress (N) now being known as congress and congress (O) respectively, one candidate of Bhartiya Kranti Dal and three Independents, contested for the seat. The Congress (J) candidate was returned.

The table below gives some relevant data of the various elections to Lok Sabha held in the district :

Party/Independents	1957			1962			1967			1971		
	Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes polled	Contes- tants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Akhil Bhartiya Jan Sangh	—	—	—	1	—	13,641	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	84,044
Congress	2	2	4,12,594	1	1	99,375	1	—	79,257	—	—	—
Congress (Organisation)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	24,849
Congress (Ruling)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1,39,704
Raja Socialist Party	2	—	3,93,096	1	—	71,691	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ram Rajya Parishad	—	—	—	1	—	5,114	—	—	—	—	—	—
Socialist	—	—	—	1	—	17,823	1	1	1,38,382	—	—	—
Independent	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	38,028	3	—	20,031
Total	4	2	8,05,690	5	1	2,07,644	3	1	2,55,667	6	1	2,68,628

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Local Publications

The publication of newspapers and periodicals was started in the district sometime in 1954 with the appearance of Hindi monthly *Mehar Pukar*. At present four Hindi weeklies and two Hindi monthlies are being published. All these papers are of general interest. Besides these, the educational institutions bring out their own magazines with limited circulations. The details of newspapers published from here are given below :

Name of newspapers/ magazines	Periodicity	Year of commen- cement	Copies of circulation
In Hindi		1958	250
<i>Sandesh</i>	Weekly	1969	—
<i>Akarshan</i>	Weekly	1971	1,375
<i>Bundel Bandhu</i>	Weekly	1971	1,700
<i>Deenodaya</i>	Weekly	1954	337
<i>Mehar Pukar</i>	Monthly	1971	600
<i>Bahar</i>	Monthly		

Other Periodicals

The popular dailies, weeklies and monthlies published outside the district, but having wide circulation in the district, are listed below :

Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
Hindi			
<i>Hindustan</i>	<i>Dharmyug</i>	<i>Sarita</i>	<i>Maya</i>
<i>Tarun Bharat</i>	<i>Saptahik</i>	<i>Mukta</i>	<i>Manohar Kahaniya</i>
<i>Navjeevan</i>	<i>Hindustan</i>		<i>Chandamama</i>
<i>Nav Bharat Times</i>			<i>Niharika</i>
<i>Swatantra Bharat</i>			<i>Kadamini</i>
<i>Aaj</i>			<i>Madhuri</i>
			<i>Parag</i>
			<i>Lot Pot</i>
			<i>Imprint</i>
English			
<i>The Statesman</i>	<i>Bilitz</i>	<i>Filmfare</i>	
<i>Times of India</i>	<i>The Illustrated</i>	<i>Star & Style</i>	
	<i>Weekly of</i>		
	<i>India</i>	<i>Caravan</i>	<i>Mirror</i>
<i>Hindustan Times</i>	<i>Sports</i>	<i>Women's Era</i>	<i>Reader's Digest</i>
<i>Indian Express</i>	<i>Screen</i>		<i>Picture Post</i>
<i>Northern India</i>	<i>Pastime</i>		
<i>Patrika</i>			
<i>The Pioneer</i>			
<i>National Herald</i>			
Urdu			
<i>Milap</i>	<i>Tej</i>		<i>Beeswin Sadi</i>
<i>Quami Awaz</i>	<i>Ajkal</i>		<i>Shama</i>

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The humanitarian urge to organise voluntary associations to serve a social purpose is found in the people of almost all the districts of this State and Hamirpur is no exception. With the advent of British rule and western method of education in the country, missionary institutions were set-up, which gave rise to many similar religious and social organisations, besides the establishment of hospitals, technical, non-technical and education institutions etc. Since independence the government has also taken active interest in running of voluntary cultural and social service organisations.

Though voluntary organisations are free to undertake any of their welfare schemes, the government ensures that their activities are in harmony with the objectives and policies of the State. This is generally achieved through laying down conditions for providing financial assistance to such organisations and by a periodical review of their performance.

There are number of non-official social service organisations of various categories engaged in the welfare of children, women, youth, destitutes, handicapped, and Harijans in the district. A brief account of the more important ones is given below :

The Manav Sewak Samaj with headquarters at Allahabad is running a branch in Hamirpur. It is an institution for community welfare. It imparts training to young persons in swimming, life saving and scouting. It also helps the various samities (committees) formed in the district at the time of fairs.

The Sarvodaya Mandal, Magrauth, Hamirpur was established on September 24, 1956. Its aims and objects are the eradication of the evil practice of exploitation of the weak and the poor and the raising of the standard of living of the people generally of village Magrauth by distributing land to the landless persons.

The Prantiya Anathalaya (orphanage) was established at Mahoba in 1929. Its management is entrusted to a governing body consisting of five members. The sources of income are public donations and grants from the State government, Zila Parishad Hamirpur and Mahoba municipal board. The Anathalaya admits orphaned children who are provided board and lodging besides free education up to the higher secondary school stage and vocational training.

The Halim' Yatim Khana (orphanage) Maudaha was also established in 1929 to make inmates self-supporting by providing education and training in gainful crafts. It is organised by a committee of eleven members. Its source of income are also donations and government grants.

The Kulpahar Kids, Home was established in 1948, with its main office in the Mission Compound at Kulpahar. It provides shelter to the orphans and to homeless children. Its grant is mainly received from the United States of America.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Bidokhar Thok Purai (pargana Sumerpur, tahsil Hamirpur)

Bidokhar Thok Purai, also known as Bidokhar Purai, lying in Lat. 25° 47' N. and Long. 80° 7' E., is an ancient village situated about 30 km. distant from Hamirpur.

It is mentioned in the *Chandraisa* as having been a thana of Prithviraja of Delhi. It was formerly the headquarters of an estate of 24 villages held by the Bais Rajputs, who came from Daundia Khara (in Unnao district), under the leadership of the two chiefs named Rahil and Das. At the *baithak* (resting place) of the former during Dasahra each year his kith and kin and followers used to assemble in honour of their departed chief, and this annual feature, in course of time, became a fair. This fair is attended by nearly 15,000 people. The village was, however, destroyed in 1795 by Ghani Bahadur of Banda. During the freedom struggle of 1857-58 the old zamindars of the village murdered Girdhari Marwari, who was the auction-purchaser of their rights.

Bidokhar Thok Purai possesses a senior Basic school, two junior Basic schools, an Ayurvedic dispensary, a stockman centre and a post-office.

It falls in the Sumerpur development block and *nyaya panchayat* Ingohta. It has a population of 1,905 persons and an area of 1,104 hectares.

Charkhari (pargana and tahsil Charkhari)

Charkhari, the capital town of the erstwhile State of the same name in Lat 25° 24' N. and Long. 79° 45' E., is situated at a distance of 106 km. from the district headquarters. It is connected by a metalled road with Mahoba, Rath (via Kulpahar) and the district headquarters from one side via Mahoba and from another via Muskira. It is largely served by road transport including the State roadways; the nearest railway station Supa is at a distance of 10 km.

According to a local tradition the name of Charkhari has been derived from *Charkhari* (hyena) which were found here in large number in nearby hills. It is also locally referred to as Mahraj Nagar, but is more commonly known by the name of Charkhari.

The town rose in importance after 1761, when Raja Khuman Singh made it the capital of his state and ruled till 1782. Khuman Singh was succeeded by his son Baje Bikramjit (Bijai Bahadur) who was driven out of his state. He died in 1829 and was succeeded by Ratan Singh, his grand son (1829-1860). The state continued as a separate entity till it was merged in Uttar Pradesh in 1950 when it was made a tahsil of Hamirpur district, with headquarters at Charkhari.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the town as there is no important industry.

The former rulers of Charkhari state also followed the tradition of constructing tanks, lakes and temples to beautify their capital like the former rulers of Chandel dynasty. There are seven tanks around the town and most of these tanks are inter-connected, covered with lotus flowers and surrounded by hills.

After merger of the state into Uttar Pradesh it has been shorn of the glory of being the seat of the government. The biggest fair of the district is, however, still held here every year. The former rulers had also built some modern buildings and a symmetrical market.

The old palace of the maharaja, particularly its gate, is famous for its grandeur and architecture. There are several hills of differing heights, the most important being the Ranjeeta hill, perched atop which is the fort of the Mangal Garh, a place worth a visit on account of the grand view it commands of the entire town.

Temples of Sri Gobardhan Nathji and Sri Gumanbihari are famous. An old religious fair of Sri Gobardhan Nathji starts on next day of Deepawali, i. e. Kartik *sukla* I and lasts for a month. On this occasion all the idols of temples of Charkhari, and those of nearby places, are taken out in a procession to the fair where they are collectively worshipped, the presiding deity no doubt being Sri Gobardhan Nathji. Besides local shopkeepers, merchants from far off places also participate in the fair and display their wares. The estimated inrush of visitors ranges from four to five thousand.

daily. *Kavi sammelan*, *mushaira* and other cultural programmes provide the entertainment and the fair ends with a collective feast.

A weekly market is held on Sundays in the town in *muhabla* Rampur where all types of food-grains, vegetables and merchandise are sold. Another weekly market is held on Wednesdays at Golaghat.

The places of public amenities include a post-office, a P. W. D. inspection house, a dharmshala, a police-station, a reading room, two banks, the Government Inter College for boys, the Government Girls High School, a normal school, a model school and a polytechnic.

The articles manufactured in Charkhari town are mainly handloom cloth and shoes. Wheat, fish and *bhasinda* (lotus root) are exported from Charkhari. From old times the town has been to some extent a trading centre for diamonds. Machinery, cloth and oils are most important commodities among the imported articles.

There are two hospitals, one for men and another for women, and one family planning centre. It has a population of 14,783 persons and an area of 7.77 sq. km.

Goindi (pargana and tahsil Maudaha)

Goindi or, as it is variously spelt, Goendi, Gondi or Gonri lies in Lat. 25°36'N. and Long. 79°59'E., and is situated in south-west of Maudaha, at a distance of about 45 km. from Hamirpur, seven km. west of the metalled road to Mahoba, 16 km. distant from Maudaha and 42 km. from Mahoba.

A number of its inhabitants are Bais Rajputs and they claim descent from one Lakhan Rao, who is said to have married a daughter of Parmal, the Chandel Raja, and to have received as dowry a gift of two villages Sohas and Kailas, in the latter of which he built a fort. His son, Madho Rao succeeded him, but his villages were destroyed and he himself was slain by Prithviraja of Delhi during his advance on Mahoba, and none remained of Madho Rao's family except his wife, who was then in a family way and was away at her mother's house. The widow returned to her husband's place and was given hospitality by Bhopat, an Ahir who had built his hut on the present site of Goindi. Madho Rao's son was born among the herdsman's cattle, and was hence called Gayanr Baba. He founded Goindi and named it after himself.

The village has four junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a post-office, a stockman centre.

It has a population of 6,340 and an area of 876 hectares.

Hamirpur (pargana and tahsil Hamirpur)

Hamirpur, the headquarter town of the district, in Lat. 25°58'N. and Long. 80°9'E., is 140 km. from Lucknow and 68 km. but from Kanpur connected by road only. It is located between two rivers, the Yamuna on the north and the Betwa on the south, at a short distance west of their confluence.

The town is said to have been founded by one Hamira Deva, in the eleventh century. A Karchuli Rajput, driven out of Alwar by the Muslims, he took refuge here with one Badna, an Ahir by caste, whose name still survives in the adjoining village of Badanpur.

Tradition has it that about 1182 A. D. Prithviraja of Delhi left a force at Hamirpur on his way to Mahoba. The remains of fort and a few muslim tombs are the only traces of antiquity in Hamirpur. In the days of Akbar the town gave its name to a *mahal*, which was included in the sirkar of Kalpi indicating that at that time Hamirpur must have been of some local importance. In 1823 Hamirpur was made the headquarters of the district.

In 1949 Hamirpur was raised to the status of a municipality. For civic administration the town is divided into six wards. The collectorate is situated in the east of the town. The other buildings include the district courts, police lines and the district jail. Hamirpur possesses a degree college, three intermediate colleges for boys, one intermediate college for girls, two senior Basic schools, 13 Junior Basic schools, two banks, a male hospital, a female hospital, a maternity and child welfare centre, one T. B. Clinic, a family planning centre, two veterinary hospitals, an artificial insemination centre, a post-office with telegraphic facilities, a police-station, a rifle club and town club, a public library, a cinema hall and a dharmshala.

The main market of the town is Sofiganj, built by Ainslie (an officer in 1830) and named after his daughter. The same officer also built a large mansion here which was later on sold to the Raos of Karwi, (in Banda district) but on their participation in the freedom struggle of 1857-58 against the British it was confiscated.

Mustard oil and pulses are the main produce which along with wheat and gram are exported from Hamirpur. The town has a population of 14,783 persons.

Jaitpur (pargana and tahsil Kulpahar)

Jaitpur lying in Lat. 25° 15'N. and Long. 79° 35'E., is situated at the junction of roads leading from Rath and Kulpahar to Nowgonj, 11 km. distant from Kulpahar, 32 km. from Mahoba and 117 km. from Hamirpur, the district headquarters. The nearest railway station, called Bela Tal, is about three km. north of Jaitpur on the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Central Railway.

Within a short distance of Jaitpur to the east is a large tank known as Bela Tal, which is said to have been built by Balavarman, the Chandel ruler. It has a circumference of nearly nine miles and is of considerable depth. It is used for the purposes of irrigation by means of canals.

The foundation of Jaitpur, as also the massive ruined fort to the west of the tank, are ascribed to Jagat Raj, son of Chhatra Sal. The ruined palace and the smaller fort are locally said to have been built by Kesri Singh. The place was visited by the traveller Tieffenthaler about the middle of the eighteenth century.

Early in 1729 Peshwa Baji Rao marched in person to the rescue of Chhatra Sal, who was then besieged at Jaitpur by Muhammad Khan Bangash, the governor of Allahabad. The appearance of the Maratha army at the opportune moment reversed the prospects of the war and the allies routed Muhammad Khan Bangash's son Qaim Khan in the vicinity of Jaitpur as he was coming to re-inforce his father. Then they attacked Muhammad Khan Bangash himself at Jaitpur with great slaughter but allowed him to retreat to Farrukhabad. After having thus averted the danger to the Bundela kingdom from the Bangash the Peshwa left Jaitpur for Poona early in June 1729. It was perhaps at this time that Chhatra Sal presented the beautiful Mastani to Baji Rao.

Jaitpur has a temple known as Dhaunsa (which is situated near the railway station), a rest house, two junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a Sanskrit pathsala, the Gandhi Ashram, a family planning centre, a veterinary hospital, and an artificial insemination centre. The place is electrified. Markets are held here on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It is famous for Khadi cloth and honey.

Jaitpur is the headquarters of Jaitpur development block. It has a population of 7,425 souls and an area of 3,942 hectares.

Jalalpur (pargana Jalalpur, tahsil Rath)

This place, which gives its name to a pargana, lies in Lat. 25°53'N. and Long. 79°47'E., and is an old decayed town on the right bank of the Betwa river, at a distance of about 48 km. from Hamirpur, with which it is connected by a road via Kurara. Other roads lead to Rath, Muskira, Maudaha and Kalpi. The town is said to derive its name either from Jalal Khan, governor of Kalpi and son of Sultan Sikandar Lodi, or from Jalal Shah, a *faqir*, whose tomb is still to be seen. The old name was Khandaut, by which a large Khera or mound, a short distance west of the town, is still known. Khandaut was one of the *thanas* of Prithviraj of Delhi, established at the time of his invasion of Mahoba. In the days of Akbar it still gave its name to a pargana.

The place can boast of a police-station, a post-office, a pound, and one primary school, and two junior high schools. It has a population of 1,214 souls and an area of 102 hectares.

Jhalokhar (Pargana and tahsil Hamirpur)

A village lying in Lat. 25°57'N. and Long. 80°2'E., it is situated on the metalled road from Hamirpur to Kalpi, at a distance of about 13 km. west of Hamirpur and five km. from Kurara.

It is notable as being a road junction and possessing an ancient temple, dedicated to Deoji Bhanya Rani, the earth in the precincts of which is considered to be a specific medicine for rheumatism. Hundreds of people from far and near come here for worship every Sunday, throughout the year, especially during summers.

Jhalokhar is electrified. It contains an Ayurvedic dispensary, a stockman centre, two junior Basic schools, a higher secondary school, a Sanskrit pathsala, a *maktab* and post-office. The place falls in the Kurara development block. It has a population of 2,362 souls and an area of 754 hectares.

Kabrai (pargana and tahsil Mahoba)

Kabrai lying in Lat. 25°23'N., and Long. 80°4'E., is 21 km. distant from Mahoba and 64 km. from Hamirpur. The place consists of four hamlets—Bhagwa, Gauhari, Mochipura and Kabrai Khas.

There are some interesting relics in Kabrai. The chief of these is the Brahm Tal, an extensive tank now greatly silted up, but which once must have been a fine lake. It is said to have been built

Jaitpur (pargana and tahsil Kulpahar)

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The foundation of Jaitpur, as also the massive ruined fort to the west of the tank, are ascribed to Jagat Raj, son of Chhatra Sal. The ruined palace and the smaller fort are locally said to have been built by Kesri Singh. The place was visited by the traveller Tieffenthaler about the middle of the eighteenth century.

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Jaitpur has a temple known as Dhaunsa (which is situated near the railway station), a rest house, two junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a Sanskrit pathsala, the Gandhi Ashram, a family planning centre, a veterinary hospital, and an artificial insemination centre. The place is electrified. Markets are held here on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It is famous for Khadi cloth and honey.

Jaitpur is the headquarters of Jaitpur development block. It has a population of 7,425 souls and an area of 3,942 hectares.

Jalalpur (pargana Jalalpur, tahsil Rath)

This place, which gives its name to a pargana, lies in Lat. 25°53'N. and Long. 79°47'E., and is an old decayed town on the right bank of the Betwa river, at a distance of about 48 km. from Hamirpur, with which it is connected by a road via Kurara. Other roads lead to Rath, Muskira, Maudaha and Kalpi. The town is said to derive its name either from Jalal Khan, governor of Kalpi and son of Sultan Sikandar Lodi, or from Jalal Shah, a *faqir*, whose tomb is still to be seen. The old name was Khandaut, by which a large Khera or mound, a short distance west of the town, is still known. Khandaut was one of the *thanas* of Prithviraj of Delhi, established at the time of his invasion of Mahoba. In the days of Akbar it still gave its name to a pargana.

The place can boast of a police-station, a post-office, a pound, and one primary school, and two junior high schools. It has a population of 1,214 souls and an area of 102 hectares.

Jhalokhar (Pargana and tahsil Hamirpur)

A village lying in Lat. 25°57'N. and Long. 80°2'E., it is situated on the metalled road from Hamirpur to Kalpi, at a distance of about 13 km. west of Hamirpur and five km. from Kurara.

It is notable as being a road junction and possessing an ancient temple, dedicated to Deoji Bhanya Rani, the earth in the precincts of which is considered to be a specific medicine for rheumatism. Hundreds of people from far and near come here for worship every Sunday, throughout the year, especially during summers.

Jhalokhar is electrified. It contains an Ayurvedic dispensary, a stockman centre, two junior Basic schools, a higher secondary school, a Sanskrit pathsala, a *maktab* and post-office. The place falls in the Kurara development block. It has a population of 2,362 souls and an area of 754 hectares.

Kabrai (pargana and tahsil Mahoba)

Kabrai lying in Lat. 25°23'N., and Long. 80°4'E., is 21 km. distant from Mahoba and 64 km. from Hamirpur. The place consists of four hamlets—Bhagwa, Gauhari, Mochipura and Kabrai Khas.

There are some interesting relics in Kabrai. The chief of these is the Brahm Tal, an extensive tank now greatly silted up, but which once must have been a fine lake. It is said to have been built

by the Chandel raja, Balvarman. The embankment is in the form of a segment, and is faced with immense stones forming a flight of steps reaching down to the water's edge; on it are the ruins of a Chandel temple. In the centre of the lake there formerly stood a small building or a *baithak* (resting place), now wholly in a dilapidated condition, its basement only being visible when the water is low. There are several Sati monuments at Kabrai.

Near the Chakariya Dai temple is an ancient stone carving representing a woman with a child in her arms. Tradition says that she was an Ahir by caste who was turned into stone on swearing falsely that she had not committed some theft. There is another temple situated on the top of a rock which is approached by a tunnelled passage cut through the rock itself. Near it a number of Chandel stones are to be seen; some of them have been built into *Chabutras* (platform). A little further on is Bhawani-ka-Pahar, on which there are some small temples dedicated to goddess Bhawani.

Kabrai is electrified. It possesses three junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a higher secondary school, a Unani dispensary, a family planning centre, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre and a post-office.

Kabrai is also the headquarters of Mahoba development block. Markets are held here on Tuesdays. It has a population of 3,336 and an area of 2,047 hectares.

Kharela (pargana Muskira, tahsil Charkhari)

This large village lying in Lat. 25°33'N. and Long. 79°50'E., stands near the road from Bowar to Charkhari, at a distance of about 14 km. from Muskira and 64 km. from Hamirpur. The village is the largest in the district.

Kharela possesses a pound, a police-station, a post-office, 5 primary schools, one junior high school and one intermediate college. Markets are held on Tuesdays and Saturdays, but there is no trade or manufacture of any importance.

Outside the village at the Mahamun tank a small fair, known as the *Khajalia* fair, is held on the last day of *Sawan*. Some days before the fair women sow wheat and barley in earthen vessels. These they take with them to the tank and, after bathing, break the vessels, distributing the plants to their relations and others, who in return have to take them presents. Above the village is a hill

on which figures of ancient gods are still sometimes found. It is surmounted by a small temple which commands an extensive view. It has a population of 10,031 and an area of 6,394 hectares. It is a town area since September 1, 1974.

Kulpahar (pargana and tahsil Kulpahar)

Kulpahar, the headquarters of the newly formed tahsil, lies in Lat. 25°19'N. and Long. 79°39'E., at a distance of 96 km. south-west of Hamirpur.

In 1865 the tahsil of Panwari was removed from Sungra to Kulpahar. Again in 1876 the two parganas of Panwari and Jaitpur were combined and jointly renamed Kulpahar. Till 10th October, 1976 it (Kulpahar) remained a part of Charkhari tahsil when it was again constituted into a separate tahsil by the State government.

The name Kulpahar is said to be derived from those of the united villages of Kulhua and Paharia, on whose sites the village now stands. Earlier the place was known as Kolhupara, but in the beginning of the 18th century the people began to call it Kulpahar.

There are large tanks constructed by the Bundela Rajas. The Chief of these lies to the south of the town and is known as the Garha Tal, the banks of which are ornamented with numerous temples and houses. A stone *ghat* runs along the embankment with platforms and shrines at intervals. Close to the tank, on the opposite side, stands an isolated octagonal structure on a small mound. It must once have been very beautiful and is still picturesque, though in ruins. It was formerly part of the territory of Raja Chattarsal. The ruins of a fort nearby enjoy some eminence.

There are several modern temples, *idgahs* and *masjids* and the ruins of a palace on a hill. Among the places worth seeing, are the palace of Senapati, temple of Vadyarajan; temple of Mahraj Kishoreji; the fort and the Kund where the queens used to bathe. It is also said that there are two underground tunnels connecting this fort with Sungra and Charkhari.

The place is electrified. The public amenities include a post-office, a rest house, a maternity and child welfare centre, four junior Basic schools and two senior Basic schools, one government normal school and one inter college for boys. The State model school is located in a former palace.

A weekly market is held here on every Friday. A big fair is held for a week at the time of Jalbihar in temple of Mahraj Kishoreji. People also visit Dargah Samara Pir Saheb on the top of a hill. There is an old American Christian mission which is running a hospital, a senior Basic school and an orphanage where one day to 18 years old children are admitted.

It has a population of 8,924 and a area of 4,870 hectares. Making and dying of country cloth, *sarautas* or betel-cutter and knives of the place enjoy local celebrity.

Kurara (pargana and tahsil Hamirpur)

The village lying in Lat. 25°59'N. and Long. 80°1'E., is situated on the metalled road from Hamirpur to Kalpi, at a distance of about 16 km. from the former place. It has two *muhallas*, Khan and Muli, said to be named after the two sons of Nyai Singh, but nothing is known of the latter. Until a short time before the freedom struggle of 1857-58 Kurara was the headquarters of a tahsil. It is a town area since April 10, 1978.

In 1872 it was raised to the status of a town when the provisions of Act XX of 1856 were applied to it. But before the census of 1901 the provisions of the Act were withdrawn. Markets are held here on Sundays and Tuesdays, and some trade in wheat, jowar and cotton is done.

Kurara is electrified and has two junior Basic school, two senior Basic schools, a Sanskrit pathsala, two hospitals, a maternity and child welfare centre, a health centre, four dispensaries, a veterinary hospital, a post and telegraph office and a police-station.

The place is also the headquarters of the Kurara development block. It has a population of 5,645 and an area of 2,937 hectares.

Mahoba (pargana and tahsil Mahoba)

Easily the oldest and historically the most important town in the district and headquarters of a tahsil of the same name, Mahoba lies in Lat. 25°18'N. and Long. 79°53'E., and is situated on Kanpur Sagar road and Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Central Railway at a distance of 85 km. from Hamirpur.

Mahoba is believed to have existed from times immemorial, and to have borne/different names at different times. During the



Siva Temple (12th Century Gramita), Kakramath, Medan Sagar, Mahoba

Treta Yuga it is believed to have been known as Kekpur, and in the *Dwapar Yuga* as Patanpur. Its present name, Mahoba, is said to be derived from the great celebration, or mahotsava, performed by its deputed founder, the Chandel raja Chandravarman, about 800 A. D. In Chand Bardai's bardic account, entitled the *Mahoba Khand*, the town is called Mahotsa or Mahatsanagar. From such evidence as is available it would appear that the civil capital of the Chandels was removed here from Khajuraho about 900 A. D. for the earliest Chandel sovereign locally commemorated is Rahila, the fifth of the dynasty, whose lake Rahila Sagar, with a fine granite temple dedicated to Sun God on its bank, lies about 3 km. to the south-west of Mahoba. Kirtivarman and Madanvarman, the two most illustrious members of the Chandel dynasty, are remembered at Mahoba from the two fine lakes, Kirat Sagar and Madan Sagar, which bear their names.

Parmala was the last prominent ruler of the Chandel dynasty. About 1182 A. D. Prithviraja attacked Mahoba where a fierce battle was fought with Alha and Udal, the Banaphar generals of Parmala. In this campaign both sides suffered serious losses, Udal being killed and Alha wounded. Prithviraja, who was ultimately successful, celebrated his victory by sacking Mahoba.

After the downfall of the Chandels the place shown of its glory, ceased to be of much importance, though it was the head quarters of a *mahal* in Mughal times.

The extent of the place in the days of its glory was doubtless greater than is covered by the present town which still has a number of historical, archaeological, religious and scenic spots of interest,

The most noticeable feature of the town is the lakes or tanks (*sagar*), all of which are formed by means of massive embankments thrown across shallow valleys.

The Disrapur Sagar, a tank of considerable extent, though partly silted, is first of the series that surround the town. It is situated to the north-east of Mahoba. Closely stands a low hillock at the foot of which Alha and Udal, the legendary heroes of the region, are believed to have had their palace, though the site now has no remains and is being cultivated.

The Rahila Sagar is situated in the south-west portion of Mahoba. The tank was built by the Chandel ruler Rahila (890-910 A. D.) Being the oldest tank near Mahoba it is considerably silted

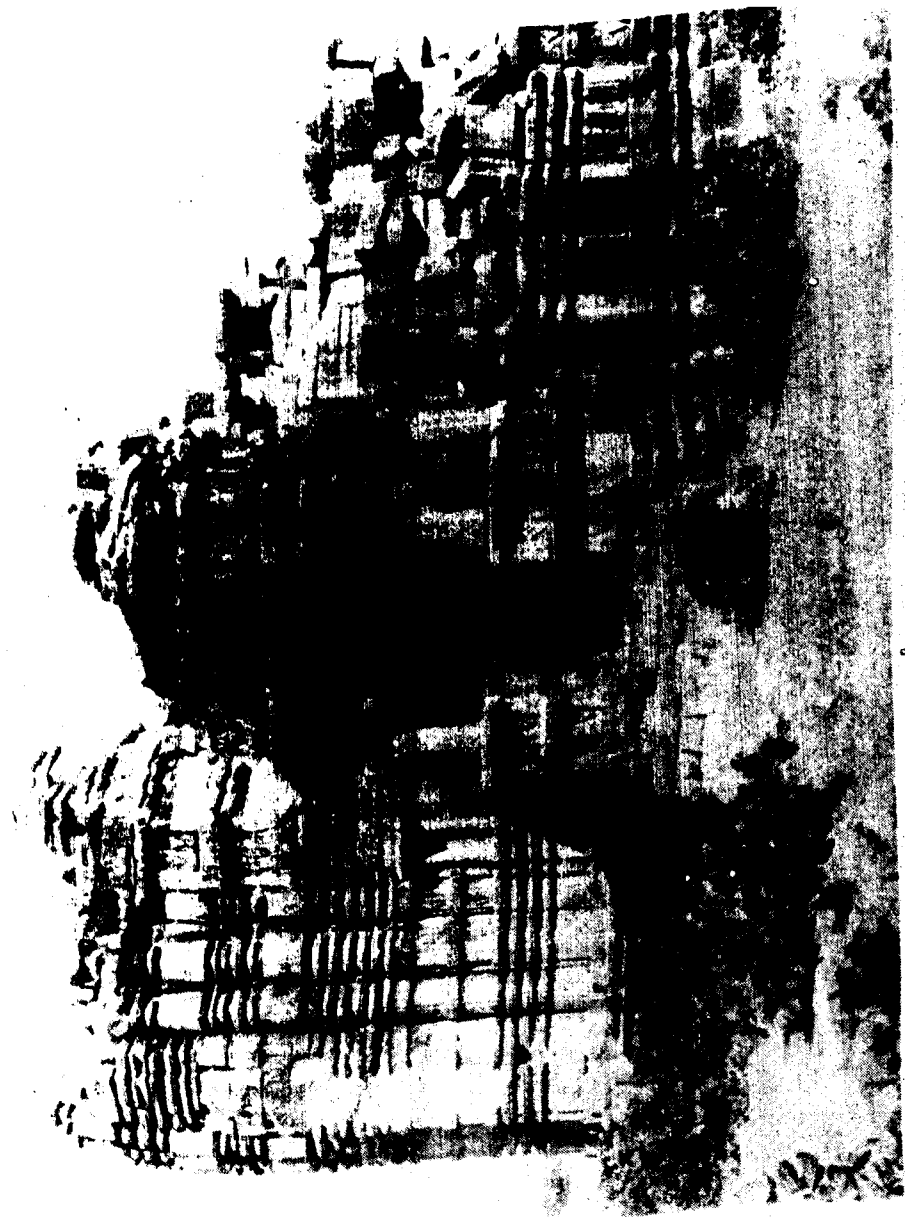
up, but the irrigation department is trying to improve it for minor irrigation. An annual fair is held on its embankment on the Kartiki Purnima (full moon day) when people bathe in the tank and the nearly granite-slab lined sacred-pool called Suraj Kund. The famous 9th century granite temple in cuneiform shape, referred to as Siva Temple by Cunningham, stands on the west end of Rahila Sagar. However, location of the nearby Suraj Kund and find of a Sun God image from a nearby pit tends to suggest that the temple was mainly dedicated to sun. The unique 1.36 metres high sandstone. Sun God image in Aradhana Mudra with calm and placid facial expression and a smaller one of Vishnu are rare specimens of Chandel art. The temple is in a dilapidated condition and is now a protected monument.

The Vijai Sagar (lake) was built by the Chandel ruler, Vijaipala or Vijaivarman (1035-1060 A. D.). It lies in the east of Mahoba town on the Kanpur-Sagar road. It is a magnificent lake of considerable scenic beauty, perhaps one of the finest picturesque lakes in the State. The reservoir has considerable depth of water and is a good resort for swimming and other water sports. A grove of shady banyan trees on its embankment provides a good resting place to the picknickers. Remains of an old fortress and a wall, said to have been built by Mohan Singh (a Bundela of the 18th century), exist on the east and north-east of the embankment. An old fashioned rest house with typical thatched roof, situated on the embankment, and looked after by the irrigation department has recently been destroyed in a fire. The first regular canal from this (Vijai Sagar) lake was constructed in 1855 by Burgess and subsequently one more channel was added to it.

The Kirat Sagar—a medium size tank—with ghats and flight of granite steps in beautiful surroundings is situated in the west of Mahoba. During summer its clean blue water with lotus blooms presents a pleasing sight. Bundelkhand's famous Kajli fair is annually held on its eastern embankment in the month of Bhadra, soon after the Raksha Bandhan. The fair is held to commemorate the historic battle fought in 1182 A. D. between Prithviraja of Delhi and Parmala, the local Chandel ruler. The legend of Paras Pathri or philosophers stone also pertains to Kirat Sagar. The red-earth (*morang*) hillock which provides a picturesque background to the tank has on its top two tombs said to be of Tala Saiyid and Jhallan Khan : the farmer was said to be held in high esteem by Alha and Udai. A roofless granite pillared Baradari, known as Alha's Baithak, stands on the south-east end of the embankment, with a tunnel, said to be leading to the fort by the side of Madan Sagar.



Idol of Sun-God, Sun Temple, Rahila. Mahoba





Gajantak Siva (11th Century), Gokhar hill, Mahoba

The Madan Sagar, built by Madanvarman (1129-1162 A. D.) is situated at the southern edge of the town. The tank presents a beautiful site with some rocky islets containing ruins of ancient monuments. In the north-west corner is located the famous granite Siva temple, called Kakramath, and a *baithak* (resting place). On another nearby island called Majhari ruins of a Vishnu temple are dated Chandel *baithak* or summer house. Both Kakramath and Majhari are protected monuments. The islands are connected with the bank by a low level cause-way said to have been constructed around 1890 by Seth Mithoo Purwar, a local philanthropist, who tried to repair several Chandel monuments in his lifetime. Five life-size disfigured statues of elephants in white sandstone are also to be seen in the vicinity. Along the northern embankment lies the old Chandel fort (known as Qila Mismar) with ruins of Parmal's palace. The celebrated Maniya Devi shrine, the massive stone pillar known as Deewat (or Alha-ki-Gilli) and the *dargah* of Pir Mubarak Shah, a Muslim saint from Arabia, who settled in Mahoba in 1252 A. D., also stand in the fort area with a big bastion (*burj*). Not far from the Alha-Ki-Gilli is the rock hewn image of a horse rider which has been an object of worship by ladies—both Hindu and Muslim—who, as per local tradition, used to smear oil on it on wedding occasions. The two gates of the fort on the west and east respectively, were known as the Bhainsa and Dariba *darwazas*. An open pillared hall of the palace of Parmala, was at some later date converted into a mosque. Just outside the Bhainsa Darwaza there is a flat roofed mosque supported on pillars of manifestly Hindu architecture which, according to an inscription over the doorway, was constructed by Malik Taj-ud-din Ahmad in 1322 A. D. during the reign of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. Near the southern end of the tank are located the shrines of Bari Chandrika Devi, Siva cave temple of Katheshwar and, on a hill adjoining the south-east bank, the 24 rock hewn images of Jain Tirthankaras, with inscriptions dated 1149 A. D. (as reported by Cunningham) are to be found. The Jains, however, ascribe it to be a site of Atishaya Kshetra. The shrine of Choti Chandrika Devi is located in the south west down the Gokhar hill, but its ancient image appears to have been replaced with a cemented deity by local people. The famous 10th century rock-cut image of Siva, locally known as Siva Tandava, depicting the Koorma Purana legend of Gajasur-Sanhar, stands to the west of Madan Sagar at the foot of Gokhar hill. Closeby in a temple is located the shrine of Pathva-ke-Baal Mahavir, a most uncommon idol of god Hanuman to be found anywhere. At a short distance is the huge rock-cut image of Kaal Bhairava overlooking a natural rock garden in peaceful surroundings.

The Gokhar hill, named after the renowned ascetic, Guru Gorakhnath, is a conglomeration of massive granite rocks, perched atop one another in a most wild and striking manner with many natural caves and waterfalls. The hill provides a spot for day long picnic and light mountaineering excursions. With its deep green valleys the hill attracts quite a large number of visitors during the rains, and scaling of its Ujeli and Andheri caves and the steep Mardan Tunga peak, poses a good test to the individual climber's ability. Guru Gorakhnath and his disciple Sidho Dipak Nath had resided in the caves of Gokhar hill which served as *tapobhumi*. A largely attended annual fair called the Sidha Mela is held at the foot of the hill on the second day of Bhadra following the Kajli Mela at Kirat Sagar.

The Kalyan Sagar, constructed by Veervarman (1242-1286 A. D.) and named after his wife, Kalyan Devi, is situated in the east of Mahoba close to the tourist bungalow on the Kanpur-Sagar road. The tank is connected with Madan Sagar in the west and Vijai Sagar in the east. Its northern embankment has many Sati monuments and also the *dargah* of Qazi Qutb Shah. The shrines of Sungh Vahini, fourteen sati *chabutras* (platforms), many in dilapidated condition the temple of Balkhandeshwar and a rock-cut image of Chaumunda Devi are also located in the vicinity of Kalyan Sagar.

Besides the tanks, Mahoba has two famous Chandel period *kunds* (pools) with granite slab lining, in a reverse pyramid shape. The Ram Kund is located to the west of Madan Sagar, to the Rohila Sagar Sun temple. Originally both Ram Rund and Suraj Kund used to serve as *havan kunds* (pits for sacrificial fire) for the great yajnas often performed by the Chandel rulers. On religious occasions people take holy dips in them.

Mahoba, a municipal town, is divided for civic administration into six wards. The town comprises three distinct portions. Purana Qila or the old fort, lying to the north of a low granite hill, Bhitari Qila, or the inner fort, on the top of the hill; and Dariba, or the pan (betel) market situated on the south of Mahoba. There are four old *muhallas* known as Tiwaripura, Kachhipura, Sheikhanpura and Malikpura. The town is gradually developing with new housing colonies.

Mahoba is famous for its pan all over India. They are of fine quality and are chiefly exported to different parts in the country. The stone cubes cut from rocky mountains and ballast are also produced in sizeable quantity.

The town is electrified and has waterworks. It contains two intermediate colleges, four higher secondary schools, four senior Basic schools, fifteen junior Basic schools, a Sanskrit pathshala, a *maktab*, an auditorium, three banks, two cinema houses, a male hospital, a female hospital, a maternity and child welfare centre, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre, a post and telegraph office, a railway station, a police-station, three inspection houses, a tourist bungalow an industrial estate, a co-operative mill and an ice factory.

Mahoba gives its name to the Mahoba development block which has its headquarters at Kabrai. It has a population of 29,707 souls and an area of 816 hectares.

Majhgawan (pargana and tahsil Rath)

Majhgawan, a large village lying in Lat. 25°37'N. and Long. 79.25'E., is close to river Dhasan, and is about 21 km. north-west of Rath. The place is particularly known on account of it being a settlement of a body of Pahar Rajputs who came from Mount Abu and Nahar Rao. The latter is said to have come from Mount Abu and settled in Jigni whence he overran the Dhasan-side villages in both Jhansi and Hamirpur. A descendant of his, Raja Ram Parihar, built the fort of Ramgarh, the remains of which still exist in the ravines between the village and the river.

The place contains a police-station, a pound, two primary schools, two junior high schools and a post-office. It has a population of 2,142 souls and an area of 1,513 hectares.

Makarbai (pargana and tahsil Mahoba)

Makarbai village lying in Lat. 25°21'N. and Long. 80°5'E., is situated close to the main road from Mahoba to Kabrai, 16 km. east of the former and 5 km. south of the latter. It is 70 km. distant from Hamirpur.

The village is said to have derived its name from a Rajput named Makrand who in the time of the Chandel rule, seized the village from the Ahirs. In the eighteenth century, Muhammad Khan Bangash appointed the Bais Rajputs as *Chaudhris* of the place for collecting revenue.

There are remains of a large pillared hall, known as Parmala's *baithak*. There is also an old tank, and the ruins of what must at

one time have been a fine Chandel temple built of granite.

The village contains two junior Basic schools and a post-office. It is included in the Kabrai development block. It has a population of 2,385 and an area of 2,246 hectares.

Maudaha (pargana and tahsil Maudaha)

Maudaha town lying in Lat. 25°46'N. and Long. 80°7'E., is situated at a distance of 32 Km. from the district headquarters. Through the town runs the road from Banda to Jalalpur and Kalpi, while other roads run north to join the road at Ingotha, and west to Muskira and Rath.

According to local tradition the town was founded by one Sheikh Ahmad, a native of Egypt, who with the aid of a Parihar Rajput expelled the Kols and took possession of the place. His son Husain afterwards quarrelled with the Parihars, who migrated to Ingotha. The original fort was built by Bijai Bahadur of Charkhari. This was subsequently replaced by a stone fort erected on the same site by Nawab Ali Bahadur of Banda; in this are now located the police-station and dak-bungalow. There are three mosques in the town, one of which was built by Ali Bahadur and another by a courtesan named Azim-un-Nissa. There are five tanks, at one of which, known as the Ilahi, a fair is held in the month of *Jeth* in honour of Saiyid Salar, who is generally known here as Ghazi Mian. There are three noted *dargahs* in the town called after Pir Shukru, Moti Shahid and Sheikh Chand. The *dargah* of Pir Sukhru is considered holy, because when it rains the enclosure is filled with water but it disappears immediately. The saint is said to have been by worms and people who are similarly afflicted, or whose cattle suffer from a similar disease, use the earth of the *dargah* as a medicinal application. The *dargah* of Moti Shahid a *faqir* who rose to great wealth, is similarly resorted to by persons suffering from fever, but on Fridays only. Seikh Chand, was a venerable person who lived about 1800 A. D. and was so perfect that he used to go about naked. One day while wandering about the fields round Maudaha he asked the owner whose was the land on which he was standing, and on being courteously told that it was his, he suddenly disappeared and his tomb was erected on the spot. During the freedom struggle of 1857 the fort was assaulted under a Maratha named Bhaskar Rao, who for a time held possession of Jalalpur, but his men were beaten off with the aid from Charkhari. Maudaha has always been seat of authority, and in 1725 Daler Khan, the *chela* and agent of Muhammad Khan Bangash, was killed here in a battle with Chhatarsal. Subsequently about 1734, it witnessed a battle between Pahar Singh, Raja of Jaitpur, and his nephews Guman Singh and

Khuman Singh; and again about 1765, Khuman Singh was defeated by Noni Arjun Singh and the Banda forces. The tomb of Daler Khan, situated about 1.6 km. outside the town, is the resort of considerable number of Votaries every Thursday in *Chait*.

Besides the tahsil buildings, there are a police-station, seven primary schools, two junior high school, two intermediate colleges, one *maktab*, a post-office and a cattle pound. Markets are held here twice a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The town has only a small trade in agricultural produce, but its silversmiths have some skill in the manufacture of curious joined fishes.

Maudaha town has two hospitals and one family planning centre. It has a population of 14,629 and an area of 2,046 hectares.

Pachkhura (pargana Sumerpur, Tahsil Hamirpur)

Pachkhura or Pachkhura Buzurg, which lies in Lat. 25°52'N. and Long. 80°7'E., on the road from Sumerpur to Sarauli, consists of two villages Pachkhura Buzurg and Pachkhura Khurd, and is situated about 16 km. from Hamirpur. The former has a population of 3,141 spread over an area of 1,932 hectares and the latter has a population of 783 with an area of 760 hectares. Pachkhura is doubtless an ancient place standing on a mound in which old broken bricks and fragments of sculpture are often found. In 1877 a large find of Bactrian coins belonging to the reigns of Menander, Apollodotus, Antirran and Nikephoros and Eukratides were dug up at the roots of a machus, Nikephoros and Eukratides were dug up at the roots of a dhak tree which show that there was some contact with the Greeks in olden times.

Pachkhura possesses three junior Basic schools, two senior Basic school, an Ayurvedic dispensary and a post-office. It falls in the Sumerpur development block. It has a population of 3,924 and an area of 2,692 hectares.

Panwari (pargana and tahsil Kulpahar)

The headquarters of a development block of the same name Panwari lies in Lat. 25°29'N. and Long. 79°29'E., in the extreme west of the tahsil headquarters and 102 km. south-west of the district headquarters. The place has pakka roads and the nearest town from the place is Rath at a distance of 19 km.

The place is said to have been founded by one Pandwari, who in 900 A. D. expelled Kols, Bhils and other aborigines, but another tradition says that it was originally named Parharpur and was founded

by Parihar Rajputs. Yet another tradition says that at the time of the reign of Pandavas of Mahabharat fame this village was known as Pandavpuri. It continued to be corrupted and was known as Pandvari for about 400 years. Afterwards it began to be known as Panari. In the west there are signs of some old structure which, according to people, represents the site of the court of the Pandvas. There is hardly any place of note except perhaps the *dargahs* of Bhai Khan and Pir Haqim erected in the beginning or the 18th century, which are still objects of some veneration. Till 1857 Panwari was the headquarters of the pargana and tahsil when it was removed to Kulpahar.

The places of public utility include three junior Basic schools, two for boys and one for girls; two senior basic schools one each for boys and girls; one higher secondary school for boys, a post-office, one primary health centre, one dispensary, a hospital and an inspection house. Bi-weekly market is held on every Monday and Thursday. On every Monday a cattle market is also held where cattle from far off places are brought for sale. The place has a population of 6,163 and an area of 1,134 hectares.

Rath (pargana and tahsil Rath)

Rath, the headquarters of the tahsil of the same name is a large town in the district. It lies in Lat. 25°36'N. and Long. 79°34'E., on the road from Hamirpur and Muskira to Jhansi, at a distance of about 26 km. from Muskira and 80 km. from Hamirpur. Other roads lead north to Chandaut and Kalpi, north-east to Jalalpur, South to Jaitpur and south-west to Panwari.

The name Rath is perhaps derived from the Rathor clan of Rajputs, but about 1210 A.D. it was re-founded by one Sharaf-ud-din, who called it Sharafabad after himself.

Rath possesses a fine large lake called the Sagar Tal, besides several smaller ones, adorned with extensive ghats. The two-stone structures near the town, which are popularly known as Chandel *baithaks*, are now Mohammadan tombs, built of fragments of Hindu or Jain temples, and in their present shape date from the fourteenth century. There are also the ruins of two forts built by the Rajas of Jaitpur and Charkhari about the second-half of the eighteenth century. One of the mosques in the town and a large well was built in the reign of Aurangzeb. Outside Rath on the west is the tomb of the Bara Pir, said to have been built by a native of Rath over a brick brought from Baghdad from the tomb of Sheikh Abdul Quadir Jilani. A small fair is held on the fourteenth day of Rabi-us-sani (a month of Hijri year) and is attended both by Hindus and Mohammadans.

In the days of Akbar, Rath was the headquarters of a *Mahal* in the sarkar of Kalpi, and over a hundred years later, when it was attacked by Chhatarsal, it is said to have contained many Saiyids. It appears to have always remained a stronghold of Muslims in the district.

Rath is the chief trading centre of the district and deals in grain and sugar. There are small industries in weaving dyeing and salt petre.

Besides the tahsil, the town contains a police-station, a post-office, a cattle-pounds, a road inspection bungalow, 18 primary schools, 5 junior high schools and one higher secondary school and two good *sarai*. The old bazar, known as Kot, was erected by a tahsildar named Usman Khan about 1865. Markets are held on Sundays in each week.

Rath has three hospitals, one family planning centre and one dispensary. There are three intermediate colleges. One degree college, with faculty of agriculture, is also located in Rath. It has a population of 23,061 and an area of 2,410 hectares.

Sayar (pargana and tahsil Maudaha)

This village lying in Lat 25°44'N. and Long. 80°2'E., is situated on the road from Maudaha to Jalalpur, at a distance of about 14 km. from Maudaha and 29 km. from Hamirpur.

Close by the village there is a mud fort erected by Guman Sing, Raja of Banda. Sayar was destroyed by Ghani Bahadur in 1765, an event that is still remembered as the Ghani-Sai.

There are three primary school, one junior high school and a cattle pound. A fair, known as *Siddhon ka Mela* is held near the village on the full moon of Kartik. There is *chabutra* or platform, near which, according to a local custom, all who are desirous of an offspring for themselves or their cattle dig a small square of earth. The fair lasts for one day only. Sayar has a population of 3,296 and an area of 1,604 hectares.

Srinagar (pargana and tahsil Mahoba)

Srinagar lying in Lat. 25°10'N. and Long. 79°47'E., is situated on the metalled road leading from Mahoba to Chhatarpur, about 18 km. distant from Mahoba and about 105 km. from Hamirpur.

The place is believed to have been founded during the first quarter of the 18th century by Mohan Singh, a Bundela chief. Mohan Singh built the fort, and two fine tanks, one of which, known as the Bara Tal, has an island in the middle on which are the ruins of an old Chandel temple. After the death of Mohan Singh Srinagar fell into the hands of the subahdars of Jalaun, who established a mint in the fort and issued Srinagari rupees which were in use till the freedom struggle of 1857-58. During the freedom struggle Srinagar suffered at the hands of General Whitlock who, in search of Despat, the leader of the freedom fighters, demolished the fort and devastated Srinagar. The remains of the fort still exist. There are two temples, one of Bhairon Nath and the other of Sri Ram Chandra.

Srinagar contains two junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a police-station, an allopathic dispensary, a maternity and child welfare centre, a stockman centre and a post-office.

The place is electrified. It is famous for brass idols making industry. Srinagar falls in the Kabrai development block and has a population of 5,127 and an area of 2,087 hectares.

Sumerpur (pargana Sumerpur, tahsil Hamirpur)

The headquarters of pargana of the same name, it is also a railway station on Banda-Kanpur section of the Central Railways. It is situated on the metalled road running from Hamirpur to Mahoba, lying in Lat. 25°50'N. and Long. 80°10'E., at a distance of 16 km. from the former.

The town comprises four localities known as Garhgaj, Uncha, Chand and Imilia. The last is of recent origin, having been carved out of Garhgaj and named after a grove of tamarind trees. The main road runs through Garhgaj, Chand and Uncha, and on each side of it is the bazar. Markets are held here on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The main articles of trade are grain and live-stock, the cattle market being one of the largest in the district. The only industry of the place is dyeing, which is carried on to some small extent.

Sumerpur is of some antiquity as is proved by the brick-strewn mounds found here. In the immediate neighbourhood of the town there are three old *kheras* (mounds) known as Lakhanpur, Mirzapur and Itara, in which glass bangles and earthenware remains and coins are occasionally found.

Sumerpur is said to have derived its name from one Sumer, a Khangar by caste. Mirzapur which is said to have been a Khangar village, was perhaps also founded by Sumer. Lakhanpur is said to have been burnt down by Muhammad Khan Bangash of Farrukhabad. In the vicinity of Sumerpur are the remains of two forts, one of which is said to have been built by Muhammad Khan Bangash and the other by Khuman Singh, raja of Charkhari, about the middle of the eighteenth century.

Another local name for the town is Barka, which is explained by the story that in the time of Khuman Singh and Guman Singh, the zamindars of the place had to bear the burden *bhar* of collecting the revenues of the place.

The town of Sumerpur is mentioned in the *Chandraisa* as one of the strongholds established by Prithviraja of Delhi on the occasion of his attack on Mahoba about 1182 A.D. During the freedom struggle of 1857-58 the Rajput zamindars of Sumerpur offered a tough resistance to the British.

The town is administered as a town area. It is electrified and has a police-station, a post-office, five junior Basic schools, three senior Basic schools, a Sanskrit Pathshala, a *maktab*, an intermediate college, a maternity and child welfare centre, a dispensary, a veterinary hospital and an old temple believed to have been constructed in the 18th century by the Gosains.

Sumerpur is also the headquarters of Sumerpur development block. It has a population of 10,453 and an area of 113 hectares.

Sungra (pargana and tahsil Kulpahar)

Sungra village lies in Lat. 25°20'N. and Long. 79°36'E., southwest of Hamirpur. It is linked by pakka road and the nearest town is Charkhari at a distance of 26 km.

It is commonly known as Kunwarpur, so called after Kunwar Rai Singh, a banwar Rajput who settled here about the middle of the 18th century. The name Sungra is said to be derived from *Sungur*, the 18th century. The name Sungra is said to be derived from *Sungur*, the 18th century. The name Sungra is said to be derived from *Sungur*, the 18th century, which infested the rocks in the vicinity and rendered the place uninhabitable.

The public amenities include two junior Basic schools, one each for boys and girls, two senior Basic schools, one each for boys and girls, one high school and a post-office. It has two cottage industries. It is included in Kulpahar *nyaya* panchayat circle.

There is a fort built by the Jaidpur rajas. It stands on a height and commands a beautiful view and contains a large masonry well or *baoli*.

A weekly market is held here on every Sunday. It has a population of 3,514 and an area of 902 hectares.

Supa (pargana and tahsil Charkhari)

An important village, it lies in Lat. 25°20'N. and Long. 79°46'E., south of tahsil headquarters and 88 Km. south-west of Hamirpur. It possesses the remains of a fort built by Panwar Arjun Singh of Sungra at the beginning of the 18th century.

The place is served both by pakka roads and railway line. The public amenities include two junior Basic schools for boys and one such school for girls, two senior Basic schools, one each for boys and girls, one State allopathic dispensary and a post-office. The village is electrified. The nearest town Charkhari is at a distance of 8 km.

A weekly market is held here on every Thursday. It has a population of 5,394 and an area of 4,064 hectares.

Surauli Buzurg (pargana Sumerpur, tahsil Hamirpur)

This village, also known as Sarauli Buzurg Danda, lying in Lat. 25°53'N. and Long. 80°18'E., is situated on the banks of the Yamuna at a distance of about 22 km. from Hamirpur.

It came into prominence during the freedom struggle of 1857-58 when its Gaur Rajputs fought against the British guns and plundered the boats passing on the river Yamuna. By way of punishment the village was confiscated by the British.

It falls in the Sumerpur development block. It possesses a junior Basic school, a senior Basic school and a post-office. It has a population of 3,105 and an area of 346 hectares.

CONVERSION FACTORS

Money

- 1 pie = 0.52 paise
- 1 pice = 1.56 paise

Linear Measure

- 1 inch = 2.54 centimetres
- 1 foot = 30.48 centimetres
- 1 yard = 91.44 centimetres
- 1 mile = 1.61 kilometres

Square Measure

- 1 square foot = 0.093 square metre
- 1 square yard = 0.836 square metre
- 1 square mile = 2.59 square kilometres = 2.59 hectares
- 1 acre = 0.405 hectare

Cubic Measure

- 1 cubic foot = 0.028 cubic metre

Measure of Capacity

- 1 gallon (Imperial) = 4.55 litres
- 1 seer* = 0.937 litre

Measure of Weight

- 1 tola = 11.66 grams
- 1 *chhatak* = 58.32 grams
- 1 seer* (80 tolas) = 933.32 grams
- 1 maund* = 37.32 kilograms
- 1 ounce (Avoirdupois) = 28.35 grams
- 1 pound (Avoirdupois) = 453.59 grams
- 1 hundredweight = 50.80 kilograms
- 1 ton = 11,016.05 kilograms = 1.016 metric tonnes

Thermometer Scales

- 1° Fahrenheit = $9/5$ ° Centigrade + 32

* As defined in Indian Standards of Weight Act, 1939

GLOSSARY

<i>Achkan</i>	: A type of long coat
<i>Adalat</i>	: Court of justice
<i>Amani</i>	: Individual cultivator
<i>Amin</i>	: Petty official, attached to court of justice and entrusted with work of realising government dues
<i>Aya</i>	: Nurse
<i>Chakravartin</i>	: Universal Monarch Q
<i>Chela</i>	: Disciple, follower
<i>Dai</i>	: Midwife, other than diploma holder
<i>Dargh</i>	: Shrine of Muslim saint
<i>Dupatta</i>	: Scarf worn by women
<i>Dwapar yuga</i>	: The second of the ages of the Hindu world
<i>Faujdar</i>	: Subordinate military officer under the Mughals
<i>Gaddi</i>	: Seat
<i>Ganita</i>	: Mathematics
<i>Ganita</i>	: Loose trouser worn by women
<i>Gur</i>	: Jaggery
<i>Gurdwara</i>	: The place of worship for Sikhs
<i>Ilaqa</i>	: Tract of country
<i>Jarrah</i>	: Surgeon barber
<i>Kavi sammelan</i>	: A symposium of Hindi poets
<i>Khandsari</i>	: Indigenous white sugar
<i>Khandar</i>	: Hand woven coarse cotton cloth
<i>Kirtan</i>	: Recitation of names and attributes of duties with repetition
<i>Kurta</i>	: Loose collarless shirt worn usually by men
<i>Lekhpal</i>	: Revenue official (formerly designated as patwari) who keeps revenue records and collects agricultural statistics
<i>Mahal</i>	: A revenue division in Mughal times
<i>Mahipati</i>	: King
<i>Maktab</i>	: School for muslim children
<i>Masrad</i>	: Throne
<i>Maulavi</i>	: Muslim teacher
<i>Mundan</i>	: Tonsure ceremony
<i>Munif</i>	: A puisne judge
<i>Mushaira</i>	: A symposium of Urdu poets

Mutasuddi	: Official appointed for collection and management of revenue of a village
Naib	: Assistant, deputy
Nautor	: Reclamation of land from waste
Nazul	: Land belonging to government but not belonging to any particular department
Nripa	: Monarch
Nyaya	: Justices
Pachotra	: Headman's share of revenue
Pathshala	: School
Patwari	: Same as Lekhpal
Prasad	: Offering made to a deity or God
Qanungo	: A revenue official, higher to Lekhpal
Rakshak	: Guard
Samanta	: Feudatory nobleman
Sanskritisation	: Cultural development
Sarpanch	: Head of panchayat
Sayar	: Income from wasteland and its produce
Tahsili	: Schools started in villages during the British times
Tapobhumi	: Stretch of countryside for land used by holy-men for religious austerities
Taqavi	: Loan (with or without interest) given by the government for agricultural purposes
Thana	: Police station
Thanedar	: Incharge of police station
Treta yuga	: The third of the ages of the Hindu world
Vaid	: Practitioner of Ayurvedic system of medicine
Vikas-kar	: Development tax
Vyakarna	: Grammar
Yagyopavita	: Sacred thread ceremony among Hindus
Yugadharma	: Religion of the time

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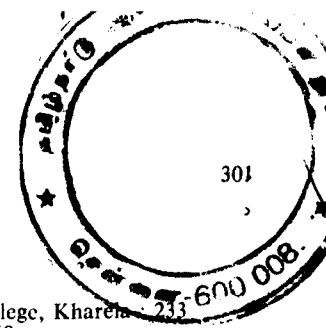
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