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AZAMGARH

BALWANT SINGH
I.A.S.

State Editor

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PREFACE

This is the forty-fourth 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 district of Azamgarh was published in 1883 and was known as the *Statistical, Descriptive, and Historical Account of the North-Western Provinces of India*, Vol. XIII, *Gorakhpur Division*, a work compiled by F.H. Fisher. In 1905 an account of the district appeared in the *Imperial Gazetteer, United Provinces, Gorakhpur Division*, and in 1911 was published D.L. Drake-Brockman's *Azamgarh : A Gazetteer*, being Volume XXXIII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces which was supplemented by Volumes B, C and D in 1916, 1925 and 1935 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 Azamgarh District Gazetteer was started in the time of Sri D. P. Varun, State Editor. It was continued under the able guidance and supervision of his successors Sri Mata Prasad, Sri Om Prakash and (Dr) P. N. Mishra. In this task they were throughout 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 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 other officials and non-officials, who have helped in bringing out this volume.

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August 19, 1980

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CONTENTS

		Page
Preface		v
Advisory Board		vii
Map of the district		xi
Chapter		
I	General	1
II	History	13
III	People	49
IV	Agriculture and Irrigation	81
V	Industries	96
VI	Banking, Trade and Commerce	108
VII	Communications	122
VIII	Miscellaneous Occupations	134
IX	Economic Trends	140
X	General Administration	152
XI	Revenue Administration	158
XII	Law and Order and Justice ...	178
XIII	Other Departments	195
XIV	Local Self-Government	199
XV	Education and Culture	222
XVI	Medical and Public Health Services	240
XVII	Other Social Services	254
XVIII	Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organisations	262
XIX	Places of Interest	271
Appendix		
	Conversion Factors	283
	Glossary	285
	Bibliography	289
	Index	295

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Origin of Name of District

The district is named after its headquarters town, Azamgarh, which was founded in 1665 by Azam, son of Vikramajit. Vikramajit a descendant of Gautam Rajputs of Mehnagar in pargana Nizamabad, like some of his predecessors, had embraced the faith of Islam. He had a Muhammadan wife who bore him two sons Azam and Azmat. While Azam gave his name to the town of Azamgarh, and the fort, Azmat constructed the fort and settled the bazar of Azmatgarh in pargana Sagri.

Location, Boundaries, Area and Population

Location and Boundaries—The district of Azamgarh comprises a somewhat irregularly shaped tract of country lying south of the Ghaghra river, between the parallels of 25°38′ and 26°27′ North latitude and the meridians of 82° 40′ and 83° 52′ East longitude. It is bounded on the east by Ballia, on the south-east by Ghazipur on the south-west by Jaunpur, on the west for a short distance by Sultanpur, on the north-west by Faizabad, on the north by Gorakhpur and on the north-east by Deoria districts. The river Ghaghra separates the district from the Gorakhpur and Deoria districts while the boundary with the other district is purely artificial.

Area—According to the Central Statistical Organisation the district had an area of 5,744 sq. km. on July 1, 1971, occupying 20th position in the State.

Population—According to the census of 1971, the district occupied 6th position in the State in respect of population which was 28,57,484 (including 14,26,217 females). The rural areas were inhabited by 27,08,617 persons (13,56,706 females) and the urban 1,48,867 persons (69,511 females).

History Of District As Administrative Unit

It is only in the latter part of the seventeenth and the early part of the eighteenth century that Azamgarh district begins to have a separate political existence, brought about by the severence of Azamgarh parganas from Jaunpur and their grant to a local potentate who received or assumed the title of raja of Azamgarh. Azamgarh tahsil is co-extensive with the pargana of Nizamabad. The district has six tahsils, Sagri, Ghosi, Azamgarh, Muhammadabad, Phulpur and Lalganj. The existence of Mahal as a separate fiscal subdivision dates from the middle of the eighteenth century. The modern pargana of Atraulia owes its origin to the efforts made by the Palwar families to establish taluqas. One pargana

of the Ain-i-Akbari, namely Chakesar, has been merged in the modern pargana of Ghosi. The existing fifteen parganas of the district appear to cover the same territory as the parganas of the same name in the Ain-i-Akbari as well as Tilahari and Chakesar. Mahul, however includes portions of Surhurpur, Ungli and Nipun, and Deogaon, owing to alterations made at the fifth Settlement, and differs considerably from that pargana as it stood in 1596 or at the cession in 1801. Lastly the pargana of Bela-Daulatabad was carved out of Nizamabad only as late as 1874.

By the first article of the treaty concluded between Nawab Saadat Ali Khan and the governor general on November 10, 1801, Chakla Azamgarh, taluqa Mahul and pargana Maunath Bhanjan were ceded to the East India Company, and were included in the new British district of Gorakhpur. At the beginning of 1820 parganas Deogaon, Nizamabad, Mahul, Kauria, Tilahani, Atraulia and Gopalpur were transferred from the Gorakhpur collectorate to Jaunpur, and the parganas Sagri, Ghosi, Chakesar, Suraipur, Belhabans, Qariat Mitu Chiriakot, Muhammadabad, Maunath Bhanjan and Nathupur were transferred to Ghazipur. Until Azamgarh was formed into a separate collectorate on September 18, 1882, the portion of the district included in Ghazipur remained directly subordinate to the collector of that district. An assistant collector, with the title of deputy collector, was in 1823 deputed to hold charge of parganas Nizamabad and Koelsa. Deogaon and Mahul remained at first directly under the collector of Jaunpur, but Mahul was subsequently added to the charge of Azamgarh deputy collector. The eight tahsils over which the parganas had been distributed in 1820 remained practically unchanged until, 1861. The only alteration made was the transfer of pargana Maunath Bhanjan from tahsil Chiriakot to tahsil Muhammadabad. But in 1861, tahsils Koelsa, Ghosi, and Chiriakot were abolished, their component parganas being divided amongst the remaining five tahsils. Pargana Bela-Daulatabad was formed in 1874 out of Nizamabad but no further changes took place till 1904. In that year 166 sq. km. of country, comprising of 102 villages, were transferred to Azamgarh from Gorakhpur in rectification of boundaries. A new tahsil was created at Ghosi out of parganas Ghosi and Nathupur of tahsil Sagri with the addition of two *tappas* from pargana Muhammadabad. The villages transferred from Gorakhpur were allocated to the reduced Sagri tahsil and thus a sixth tahsil was added to the previously existing five. The jurisdictional change took place in 1954 when 9 villages with an area of 13.2 sq. km. were transferred from Akbarpur tahsil of Faizabad district to this district and 2 villages with an area of 1.2 sq. km. were added from Phulpur tahsil of this district to Akbarpur tahsil of Faizabad district.

Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas

The district has six subdivisions—Sagri, Ghosi, Azamgarh, Muhammadabad, Phulpur and Lalganj—each forming a tahsil of the same name.

Tahsil and subdivision Sagri is the northern tahsil of the district. It is bounded on the south by tahsils Azamgarh and Munammadabad, in the east by tahsil Ghosi, on the north by the Ghaghra river and on

the west by tahsil Phulpur and the district Faizabad. According to the census of 1971 it has 973 villages covering an area of 914.5 sq. km. with a population of 4,25,732 (females 2,10,722).

Tahsil and subdivision Ghosi is the north-eastern tahsil of the district. It is bounded on the north by the Ghaghra which separates it from the district of Gorakhpur, and on the east by district Ballia, on south and south-west by tahsil Muhammadabad and on the north-west by tahsil Sagri. According to the census of 1971 it has 847 villages and a town covering an area of 942 sq. km. with a population of 4,95,156 (2,46,190 females).

The tahsil and subdivision of Azamgarh is the central tahsil of the district. It is bounded on the west and north-west by tahsil Phulpur, on the north by tahsil Sagri, on the east by tahsil Muhammadabad and on the south by tahsil Lalganj. It is the only tahsil of the district which does not anywhere debouch on the district boundary. According to the census of 1971 it has 920 villages and a town covering an area of 811.2 sq. km. with a population of 4,56,315 (2,25,750 females).

Tahsil and subdivision Muhammadabad stretches from within a couple of kilometres of Azamgarh town to the south-eastern border of the district. It is bounded on the north by tahsils Sagri and Ghosi, on the west by Azamgarh, on the south-west by Lalganj tahsil and on the south-east by the district of Ghazipur. According to the census of 1971 it has 986 villages and 3 towns and covers an area of 927.5 sq. km. Its population was 5,37553 which included 2,64,095 females

Tahsil and subdivision Phulpur is a broad strip of land lying along the western border of the district. On the north it is bounded by Faizabad and on the west by Jaunpur, while a projecting corner of Sultanpur touches it between the two. At its north-east corner it touches tahsil Sagri. On the east lie tahsils of Azamgarh and Lalganj. According to the census of 1971 it has an area of 1,152.6 sq. km. the number of villages in it being 1,042. Population of the tahsil was 5,29,288 (2,65,064 females).

Tahsil and subdivision Lalganj is the southern-most tahsil of the district. It is bounded on the west by tahsil Phulpur and on the south-west by Jaunpur district. Its south-eastern boundary marches with that of Ghazipur district. On its north lies the tahsils of Azamgarh and Muhammadabad. According to the census of 1971 it has about 860 villages covering an area 997.7 sq. km. The total population of the tahsil was 4,13,440 which included 2,14,396 females.

Thanas—For the purpose of police administration there are 23 *thanas* (police-stations) in the district, the names of which are given below:

Kotwali
Nizamabad
Khandharapur
Mubarakpur

Gambhirpur
Deogaon
Tarva
Chiriakot
Muhammadabad
Mohnagar
Ahraula
Pawai
Sarai Mir
Atrauli
Mahrajganj
Bardah
Didarganj
Ghosi
Mau
Madhuban
Dohrighat
Jainpur
Raunapar.

TOPOGRAPHY

In its general aspect the district is a level plain without any hills, the only variations in the surface being caused by the bad lands along the streams that drain it. Except in the proximity of the Ghaghra the country slopes gently towards the south-east. Here and there will be found depressions of varying depth and extent, in which the surface drainage of the interior collects. On the other hand, there are some high lying *usar* plains.

There are only two natural divisions—the southern low-lying tract and the northern high-lying tract. They differ from one another in many aspects. In the southern tract a distinction may be drawn between the interior uplands which consist of comparatively old formations of alluvial deposit, and the riverine alluvium, which lies in the valleys of the rivers and is liable to change. The dividing line of the two tracts lies roughly along the metalled road which runs from Shahganj through Azamgarh to Mau. The northern tract is divisible into two portions, the uplands known as the *bangar* and the lowlands in the vicinity of the Ghaghra called the *kachhar*. The *bangar* is the most fertile and most stable portion of the district. A portion of it is cut off from the rest in the north-east by the Chhoti Saryu. This is drained partly by that river and partly by some minor channels. The rest of the *bangar* is drained by the Tons river and its affluents. The soil of the *bangar* tract is a good firm loam which, in the neighbourhood of the rivers becomes light and in a few cases even sandy. The clay soil is found in the narrow depressions in which the various drainage channels originate, and there are isolated patches of clay and *usar* land resembling those found in the southern tract.

The southern tract is drained by the Gangi, Udanti, Besu, Mangai and Bhainsahi rivers. The soil of this portion of the district is, for the most part, clay; level of the land is low and abounds in marshes and lakes.

The rivers all flow in an easterly or south-easterly direction and their waters fall eventually into the Ganga, those of the Gangi and Besu direct, those of the Udanti after joining the Besu, and those of the Mangai and Bhainsahi after uniting with the Chhoti Saryu. Soil is lighter and the villages resemble those in the northern half of the district but such villages are few in number and form but a small portion of the tract.

The *kachhar* area consists of two portions, one belongs to the valley of the present Ghaghra and the other an old bed. The soil is, for the most part, sandy covered in the depressions with deposits of clay silt of varying thickness. The *kachhar* in the former direction forms a strip of country on the average 10 km. broad, except at one point, namely, Doharighat. It is a few kilometres to the west of Doharighat that the Ghaghra itself, or a branch of it, at one time turned to flow in a southerly direction across the district to join the Ganga. This bed after being deserted is now occupied by the Chhoti Saryu, a much smaller stream. The Ghaghra is far less rich in silt than the Ganga and its general quality is also not very high.

RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

Ghaghra—The river has its origin in the mountains of Kumaon and Nepal and is formed by the combined waters of the Chauka, Kauriala, Rapti and many smaller streams. It swells during the rains to an immense size, when its current becomes very rapid, and damage from floods is often severe. It will at times form one or more subsidiary channels, into anyone of which it may suddenly turn its whole force, tearing through the intermediate land. At such times it deposits nothing but sand, but at other times it will confine itself to a single channel and lays down stretches of fertilising silt. The Ghaghra makes the northern boundary of the district and separates it from Gorakhpur.

Other Rivers—Among the minor channels which traverse the district is river Tons, into which the Chhoti Saryu flows. This river takes its rise many kilometres beyond the borders of Azamgarh in the Faizabad district. It flows parallel with the Ghaghra till it enters the district 9.6 km. north-east of Mahul. It is soon after joined by a small tributary called the Majhoi on the boarders of pargana Nizamabad and it flows then in a very tortuous course for about 56 km. to the station of Azamgarh. Then it runs north-eastwards for 12 km. to Birman in the south of Sagri and then south-eastwards past Muhammadabad to the point of junction with the Chhoti Saryu. The stream of the Tons is perennial but during the dry months of the year only a sluggish current of water flows in the bottom of its bed.

Very little drainage of Azamgarh falls into the river Ghaghra. The only streams joining it are but a few minor nalas in the *kachhar* of the north, such as Badrauhan and the Haha, and two small streams, the Pharai and the Basnai, which drain parganas Nathupur and Ghosi. While the drainage lines are in the initial stage of swamp the country in their neighbourhood is, during the rainy season, little better than a large shallow lake. As the outlets work eastward and become deeper,

the country within immediate reach of them is more rapidly drained. Some of drainage channels take their rise in a series of swamps, as in the south, but others such as the Kuriwar, Majhoi, Tons Silani and Suksin have well defined deep cut channels the vicinity of their banks being in some cases cut up by ravines.

Lakes

Lakes and jhils of the district are not only very numerous, but in many cases of considerable size. The more important of them are, in the southern tract, those known as Kotail, Jamuawan, Gumadih, Kumbh, Pukh, Asaune and the largest of all the Gambhiran. In the northern section of the district, however, the only lakes that deserve mention are Koila, Kasila-Gasila, Kaili, Duhia Birna, Ara Telhnan and Manchhil. The Salona Tal in Sagri tahsil is estimated to be over 3,660 metres long by about 2,750 metres broad, its depth being some 6 metres. The Pakri-Pewa Tal in Ghosi tahsil is 9.6 km. long and 3.2 km. broad while the Narya Tal in Muhammadabad tahsil and the Ratoi Tal in Ghosi tahsil cover each some 2,023 hectares.

GEOLOGY

The district is, by and large, underlain by fluvial deposits of Quaternary age, consisting of sand, silt and clay. The alluvial deposits belong both to younger and older alluvium. The younger alluvial sediments generally occupy the areas of lower elevations, restricted chiefly to the present-day flood plains of the rivers. These comprise mainly medium to fine grained sand with silt and minor amount of clay. The older alluvium has been classified into back-swamp and meander belt deposits. The back-swamp deposits consist principally of unconsolidated stratified clays. The meander belt deposits, on the other hand, consist of medium to coarse grained sands which are moderately to highly permeable.

The mineral products of the district are few. They are confined to the saline earths from which saltpetre and salt are educed and the limestone conglomerate known as *kankar*. *Kankar* occurrences associated with older alluvium are common. Brick-earth is found at most of the places in the district.

The groundwater in the older alluvium lies generally within 15 metres of land surface. The older alluvium sediments include the most productive aquifers of the area. The younger alluvium also yield small to moderate quantities of water. The ground water is of excellant quality for irrigation and public water supply.

FLORA

There are no forests of any great importance in the district. Along the Ghaghra there are large expanses of sandy ground known as *dewaras* covered with *jhaw* or tamarisk, but the *kachhar* tracts are generally most deficient in trees. In the interior of the district, near the Tons or

some of the other streams, there are a few woods of *paras* or *dhak*, *siher*, *babul*, and other wild trees. Altogether there are some 288 hectares in the district which are covered with scattered trees and bushes. Pasture land for cattle is very deficient in Azamgarh. Except during the rains and in the alluvial tracts near the Ghaghra, there is very little grazing land and the cattle have to be mostly stall-fed. In the few places where the *dhak* jungles still remain, the cattle are a little better off for pasture than elsewhere. The *usar* plains bear no useful vegetation. The brownish grass, known as usaraili, with the sharp points of its leaves protuding like prinkles through the *reh* efflorescence, is useless for grazing, as cattle will not eat it.

The whole of Azamgarh district, except the southern tract, is, however, fairly well-wooded. The number of groves in the northern *bangar* tract filled with mango and other trees is large and gives a pleasing variety to the landscape. The commonest tree, at any rate in groves, is the *mango*, (*Mangifera indica*), but the Mahua (*Madhuca indica*), Shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*), *nim* (*Azadirachta indica*), *pipal* (*Ficus religiosa*), *bargad* (*Ficus bengalensis*), *gular* (*Ficus glomerata*), kachnar (*Bauhinia variegata*) *jamun* (*Syzygium cumini*) and *imli* (*Tamarindus indica*), are all to to be found singly or in clumps around the village sites or in the fields. In some places, especially in the northern parganas, the *tar* or toddy-palm is abundant, and a large income is annually derived from the lease of he right to collect and sell the *tari* or sap obtained by tapping.

FAUNA

The wild animals of the district are unimportant both as regards their actual number and the variety of species. There are none of the larger carnivora, and even wolves are scarce. Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) and jackal (*Canis aureus*), as in other districts, are abundant, and wild pigs (*Sus secrofa*) are to be found along the low lands of the Ghaghra and the larger streams. Nilgai or blue bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) are still occasionally met with in the few remaining scrub and dhak jungles, but antelope or black buck are scarcely ever seen.

Reptiles

Snakes, however, are numerous and are responsible for a number of deaths every year. To reduce mortality from snake-bite landholders generally remove all shrub and jungle from the proximity of their villages but still there are numerous bamboo clumps growing all over, which often shelter these pests.

Birds

A variety of the game birds and the non-game birds are found in the district. The most common among the game birds is the partridge (*Francolines pondicerionus*) which occurs everywhere and is locally known as *titar*. Among the quails the most common are the *bater* (*Coturnix communis*) and the *lava*(*Perdicula asiatica*)which are usually found

in the bushes. Other birds found in the district are *kabutar* or pigeon (*Columbia livia*), *fakhta* or dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), *parkia* or turtle dove (*Streptopelia chinesis*), *harial* (*Streptopelia senegalensis*), peacock (*Pavo cristatus*), snipe or *chaha* (*Capella gallinago*), seekhpar (*Anas acuta*) and jalmurgi (*Amaurornis phoeonicums*).

Fish

The species which are commonly found in the district are *Rohu* (*Labeo rohita*), *Karounch* (*Labeo calbasu*), *Bata* (*Labeo bata*), *Khursa* (*Labeo gonius*), *Bhakur* (*catla catla*), *Nain* (*cirrihina mirgala*), *Parhan* (*wallangonia attu*), *Tengra* (*Mystus aor*), *Tingan* (*Mystus vitatus*), *Chengna* (*Ophicephalus straitus*), *Girai* (*Ophicephalus gachuwa*), *Mangur* (*Clarious mangur*), *and singhi* (*Heteropneustes fossils*).

Game-laws

The game-laws appicable to the district were governed by the Wild Birds and Animal Protection (U.P. Amendment) Act, 1934. It has been replaced by the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which has made game-laws more stringent with a view to conserving wild life and preventing the extinction of certain species. The wolf and peafowl have been declared protected species while certain restrictions have been placed on shooting of wild pigs, *nilgai* and some other species. The punishment for in ringement of the laws has been made more deterrent.

CLIMATE

The climate of the district is moist and relaxing except in winter and hot seasons. The year may be divided into four seasons. The period from March to the middle of June is the hot season. The south-west monsoon season which follows continues up to about the end of September. The succeeding period lasting till end of November is the post monsoon or transition season. The period from December to February is the cold season.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the district are available for 5 stations for sufficiently long periods. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in statement I at the end of the chapter. The average annual rainfall in the district is 1021.3 mm. and it varies from 979.1 mm. at Deogaon to 1060.4 mm. at Azamgarh. The variation from year to year is appreciable. In the 50 years period from 1900 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall in the district which was 158 per cent of the normal occurred in 1938. The lowest annual rainfall amounting to 62 per cent of the normal occurred in 1918. During this period the annual rainfall was less then 80 per cent of the normel in seven years, two of them being consecutive. Considering the rainfall at individual stations two and three consecutive years of such low rainfall are fairly common in the district. Two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred thrice at Jiwanpur, twice each at Deogaon and Ghosi and once at Azamgarh and Mahul. Three consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once each at Azamgarh, Mahul and Muhammadabad and four consecutive years once at Mahul. The annual

rainfall in the district was between 800 and 1300 mm. in 38 years out of 50. A statement regarding the frequency of the annual rainfall in the district in given below for the period 1901 – 50 :

Range in mm.	No. of years
601—700	3
701—800	4
801—900	7
901—1000	11
1001—1100	8
1101—1200	9
120 — 1300	3
1301—1400	2
1401—1500	2
1501—1600	0
1601—1700	1

On an average there are 50 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 48 at Deogaon to 52 at Azamgarh.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 355.6 mm. at Azamgarh on July 21,1868.

'It must, however, be remembered that, so far as the agriculturist is concerned, the seasonal distribution of the rainfall over certain periods of the year is more important than the total amount received, the most critical period being, of course, the rainy season from June to October. Agriculturists reckon during that season by the periods which are known as *maha nakshatrs*, and which they call *nakhats*. There are twenty-seven *nakshatrs* in the solar year, but the only ones which are widely known are those which fall within the rainy season, or immediately precede and follow it. The sixth *nakhat* corresponds roughly to the period between June 19th and the 2nd July and is known as *adra*. The thirteenth is known as *hast* or *hathia* and corresponds to the period between September 24th and 7th October. A favourable season for agriculture begins with a good fall of rain early in *adra* and ends with a similar fall in *hast*. The popular saying is :—

Charhat barse Adra, utrat barse Hast,

Kitno Raja dandi le, sukhi rahe girhast

This means that if it rains at the beginning of *adra* and the end of *hast*, the cultivator will be happy, no matter how much of the grain his landlord takes from him. In the two periods that follow *adra*, namely *punarbas* and *pukh* or *chiraiya*, corresponding to the periods from the 3rd to the 16th and from 17th to the 30th July, continuous heavy rain is deprecated, especially in *pukh*. During *asrekha* and *magha*, from 31st July to 27th August, heavy rain is looked for; but in *purabs* and *uttara* from August 28th to September 23rd, the cultivator longs for sunshine interspersed with days of rain. The rainfall of the *chittra*, which runs from the 8th up to the 20th of October, is not of great importance. On the whole, during the season from *adra* to *hast* neither excessive rain nor drought is wished for; but the danger of drought has apparently to be little feared in Azamgarh'[1].

1. Drake-Brockman D.L : *Azamgarh : A Gazetteer* (Allahabad, 1911)

Temperature

There is a meteorological observatory in the district at Azamgarh and the records of which may be taken as representative of the climatic conditions in the district in general. From February temperature increases rapidly. May is generally the hottest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 41.4°C (106.5°F) and the mean daily minimum at 26.1°C (79.8° F). The summer is intensely hot and the maximum temperature on individual days rises up to over 46°C (114.8° F). With the advance of the mansoon into the district by about the middle of June there is appreciable drop in the day temperature. The nights, however, continue to be as warm as during the latter part of the summer season. In October there is a slight increase in the day temperature but the night temperature decreases rapidly after September. After October both the day and night temperatures decrease rapidly till January which is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 23.8°C (78.9°F) and the mean daily minimum at 9.7°C (49.5°F). In the cold season, in association with passing western disturbances, cold waves affect the district and the minimum temperature occasionally falls down to about the freezing point of water and frosts may occur.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Azamgarh was 47.9°C (118.2°F) on June 6,1960. The lowest minimum temperature was 0.9°C (33.6°F) on December 26, 1961. The details of temperature are given in the Statement II at the end of the chapter.

Humidity

The humidity is high during the monsoon season, after which it decreases gradually. The driest part of the year is the summer season when the relative humidity in the afternoons is less than 40 per cent.

Cloudiness

Skies are heavily clouded or overcast during the south-west monsoon season and for brief spells of a day or two in association with passing western disturbances in the cold season. In the rest of the year the skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds

Winds are generally light throughout the year. During the non-monsoon months the predominant winds are from directions between south-west and north-west. By May winds from directions between south-east and north-east begin to blow and in the monsoon season these predominate.

Special Weather Phenomena

During the passage across the country of depressions in the south-west monsoon season, spells of heavy rain occur in the district. In the hot and early parts of the monsoon season occasional thunderstorms also occur.

STATEMENT I
Rainfall

Reference Page No. 8

Station	No. of years of data	Normals of rainfall: January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual	Extremes of rainfall: Highest annual rainfall as % of normal with year	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal with year	Heaviest Rainfall in 24 hours*: Amount (mm)	Date
Azamgarh	50 a	16.3	21.3	7.1	6.9	14.5	112.3	307.9	295.7	215.4	48.8	8.4	5.8	1060.4	179 (1938)	41 (1918)	355.6	July 21, 1868
	b	1.4	2.0	0.9	0.6	1.3	5.7	13.1	14.1	9.3	2.3	0.5	0.5	51.7				
Deogaon	50 a	16.0	18.8	9.7	4.6	10.2	88.9	266.5	318.2	195.6	44.7	5.6	5.3	979.1	141 (1922)	62 (1926)	284.5	August 12, 1882
	b	1.3	1.8	0.9	0.5	0.8	5.1	12.4	13.4	8.4	2.1	0.4	0.5	47.6				
Nahul	50 a	15.5	18.5	5.8	6.9	10.2	109.2	316.5	306.3	204.0	53.3	5.1	5.3	1056.6	160 (1945)	54 (1907)	288.8	Sept. 17, 1945
	b	1.3	1.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	5.7	13.4	14.0	9.0	2.2	0.4	0.5	50.4				
Jiwanpur	50 a	13.5	19.1	6.9	6.3	19.3	111.5	296.9	289.1	260.9	50.8	4.3	7.1	1025.7	173 (1938)	60 (1918)	248.9	Sept. 15, 1956
	b	1.3	1.8	0.7	0.6	1.3	5.6	12.8	13.1	8.8	2.1	0.4	0.6	49.1				
Muhammadabad	50 a	15.0	18.8	6.8	4.3	14.7	107.7	288.3	290.8	209.1	49.5	4.1	4.8	1004.4	173 (1938)	55 (1907)	269.0	Sept. 23, 1
	b	1.4	1.9	0.7	0.6	1.1	5.8	12.5	13.5	9.0	2.3	0.4	0.4	49.6				
Ghosi	46 a	12.9	20.3	7.9	7.9	18.0	116.1	312.9	277.1	175.0	40.9	6.3	5.6	1001.4	162 (1936)	60 (1928)	194.3	Sept. 27, 1943
	b	1.2	2.0	0.7	0.5	1.2	5.8	13.2	13.0	8.7	2.1	0.4	0.4	49.2				
Azamgarh (district)	a	14.9	19.5	7.3	6.1	14.5	107.6	298.2	295.4	198.5	48.0	5.6	5.7	1021.3	158 (1938)	62 (1918)		
	b	1.3	1.9	0.8	0.6	1.1	5.6	12.9	13.5	8.9	2.2	0.4	0.5	49.7				

a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm or more). *Based on all available data up to 1970,

Statement-II

Temperature and Relative Humidity

Reference Page No. 10

Month	Mean daily maximum temperature (in centigrade)	Mean daily minimum temperature (in centigrade)	Highest maximum ever recorded		Lowest minimum ever recorded		Relative humidity	
			(in centigrade)	Date	(in centigrade)	Date	0830	1730*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	% 8	% 9
January	23.3	9.7	28.9	January 11, 1964	1.6	January 17, 1962	86	63
February	27.2	11.5	35.4	February 28, 1969	2.9	February 9, 1961	72	52
March	33.3	17.0	43.3	March 31, 1949	8.2	March 8, 1966	57	39
April	39.1	21.9	44.4	April 30, 1966	13.1	April 3, 1965	45	32
May	41.4	26.1	45.9	May 14, 1970	17.9	May 2, 1969	52	35
June	38.5	27.3	47.9	June 6, 1960	19.7	June 15. 1966	72	57
July	33.0	26.1	41.1	July 2 and 3 1962	18.6	July 11, 1977	86	80
August	32.5	26.1	39.9	August 1, 1972	20.7	August 28, 1966	87	83
September	31.9	25.3	38.3	September 5, 1951	16.4	September 28, 1966	84	79
October	32.7	21.0	37.8	October 22 1951	11.2	October 27, 1966	75	69
November	29.5	13.3	36.1	November 1, 1951	6.2	November 21, 1960	73	64
December	25.5	9.5	31.1	December 8, 1954	0.9	December 26, 1961	81	69
Annual	32.3	19.6					73	61

*Hours according to Indian Standard Time.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

ANCIENT PERIOD

Azamgarh, one of the easternmost districts of the State, once formed a part of the ancient Kosala kingdom, except the north-eastern part of it which was included in the kingdom of Malla. Kosala figured prominently among the four powerful monarchies of northern India during the time of the Buddha when its prosperity reached its zenith. The kingdom of Kosala, was bounded on the east by the Ganga and the kingdom of Magadha, on the north-east by the territories of Vriji-Lichchhavis and those of Mallas, on the north by the territories of the Sakyas, on the west by Surasena and on the south and south-west by the kingdom of Vatsa with Kausambi as its capital[1]. The district of Azamgarh possesses hardly any remains of much antiquarian value, and of the few that exist neither the origin nor the history are for the most part known. There are some deserted sites, forts and tanks to be seen in every tahsil of this district and they carry vague legends regarding their builders. The early history of the district can be traced only from the extant antiquities.

That the region including this district was inhabited in ancient times is testified by the presence of old indigenous people like Bhars or Rajbhars, Soeris and Cherus who possibly represent the descendants of the aborigines of this area. Vestiges of numerous embankments, tanks, caverns and stone forts are found in this district which still bear out their energy and skill. According to a local tradition, the country of the Bhars, which was included in the kingdom of Ayodhya in Rama's time, was occupied by Rajbhars and Asuras. The Bhars have left behind them large mud forts of which specimens may be seen at Harbanspur and Unchagaon near the town of Azamgarh[2]. The largest of the forts in the district of Azamgarh is that of Ghosi which was built by raja Ghosh but there is a legend that the fort was erected by Asuras or demons, who are also stated to have constructed a tunnel between Narja Tal and the fort of Chaubhaipur and Vrindaban over a mile (1.6 km) distant[3]. None of the architectural remains of any importance are found here but the well preserved ruins of a large mud fort which was discovered in 1838 A.D. lend interest and antiquity to Ghosi.

According to H. Elliot, Soeris and Cherus belonged to one family. Probably the Bhars, Soeris and Cherus together with other aboriginal tribes which have not been so successful in maintaining their identity were in remote period of antiquity were only one race. A Rajbhar chief named Asildeo is said to have lived at Dihaduar in pargana Mahul of

1. *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India, No.* 50 *Sravasti in Indian Literature*, (Delhi, 1935), p, 13
2. Sherring, M.A. : *Hindu Tribes and Castes*, Vol. I, (Calcutta, 1872) p, 357
3. *Ibid.*, Drake-Brockman, D. L. : *Azamgarh: A Gazetteer*, Vol, XXXIII, (Allahabad, 1911), pp, 155-156

tahsil Phulpur of the district; and the old tanks and mounds at that place are said to be signs of his power[1]; but the Bachgoti Rajputs of Arara in *tappa* Nandaon of tahsil Azamgarh claim him as their ancestor, repudiate him for the title of Rajbhar, and according to their opinion he was an officer of a local government[2].

Near the villages of Araon Jahanianpur and Anwank in pargana Kauria there are the ruins of two large mud forts, the first is ascribed to Ayodhya Rai, Rajbhar and the second is pointed out to belong to raja Parikshit[3]. It is supposed that Ayodhay Rai resided in the *kot* of Araon-Jahanianpur, but like Asildeo he is claimed as an ancestor by thePalwar Rajputs; and a smilar claim is made in the case of one raja Garakdeo who lived in Sagri, a tahsil headquarters town, of the district of Azamgarh. According to another tradition, Parikshit, the eldest son of Kuru[4], once occupied the tract, now called Nizamabad and old *kot* (at Anwank) near which a battle was fought between him and the Muhammadans[5]. It is supposed that the headquarters of the Bhars may have been in pargana Bhadaor, which is said to have been called Bharaon originally and were called after them; and the Bhar power may have extended over the parts of Sikandarpur, both this pargana and Bhadaon having been formerly the pargaras of Azamgarh. The former inhabitants of Powai of this district are said to have been Rajbhar or Bhars and to the Bhars is attributed a large mud fort, the remains of which still exist. Traditions of the series are to be found only in Pargana Deogaon, in tahsil Lalganj, to the north of the Gangi river; and those relating to Sengarias in the same pargana to the south of that stream.

One of the ancient sites of the district is situated about 10 km to the north of Chiraiyakot on the banks of a large lake close to the village of Bhatri; it is a place of great antiquity, and is called Garha-ka-Kot or Rajbhar-ka-Kot[6]. The site measures above 730 m. from north to south by about 460 m. from east to west, and the whole ground is covered with fragments of old bricks and pottery. On this site, at a distance of about 400 m. from the northern limit of the traces of ruins, there is an old ruined fort, covered with jungle, which measures 180 m. from north to south by 150 m. from east to west. In this fort there is a ruined conical shaped mound of bricks with a circumference of about 80 m. and a perpendicular height of about 4 km. which could possibly be a ruined *stupa*[7].

The legends and tradition points towards the antiquity of these sites. The above mentioned Garha-ka-Kot was either built or occupied by Bhars; but there seems reason to believe that the foundation of the ancient site might be more ancient than the time of the Bhars even.

1. *Ibid.*, p, 155; *Fuhrer, A.* : *Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North western Provinces and Oudh*, (Varanasi 1969), p, 189
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*, p. 188
4. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar A : *History and Culture of the Indian People, Vedic Age*, Vol. 1, (Bombay, 1965), p. 299
5. Drake-Brockman, D.L., *op. cit.*, p. 155
6. *Carlleyle, A.C.L.* : *Archaeological Survey of India, Report of Tours in Gorakhpur, Saran and Ghazipur in 1877—78—79 and 80* Vol XXII, (Calcutta, 1885), p 106; Further, A., *op. cit*, p. 187
7. *Ibid* ; Carlleyle, A.C.L., *op. cit*.p. 106

A local tradition holds that some persons while digging a well for a sadhu, who lived on the mound, found at the depth of about 11m. a *chulha* (fire-place) and two earthen pitchers one of which was filled with *sawan* and the other with *kodo* (both being coarse food-grains), all charred[1]. A superstitious story is current to the effect that at night some mysterious being, riding on an elephant, comes to the mound and performs a *havan* (fire sacrifice) there, since the resultant ashes and the elephant dung are sometimes found here[2]. Undoubtedly a superstitious myth, the ancient tale indicates that this site was indeed inhabited in the anciet periods.

Chiraiyakot, in tahsil Muhammadabad, as already described earlier, is also a place of great antiquity. Many ancient punch-marked coins have been found here. A square-shaped mound of earth, measuring about 50 m. from north to south, and about 45 m. from east to west, is situated in the middle of the village. There is an old tank to the north of the village, with a mound lying on its southern side. This mound is higher than that in the village. There are two traditions accounting for the name of the place, one connects it with Cherus an aboriginal tribe and another with a Hindu chief whose name was Chiriya[3].

Tradition also gives some support to the idea that this district was included in the ancient kingdom of Ayodhya, for in Deolas of Muhammadabad pargana is a tank with raised ground near it, which is said to have formed the eastern gate of Ayodhya, that city, according to a legend having had four gates all 42 *kos* distant from it[4]. Maharajgarj in pargana Gopalpur of tahsil Sagri, 21 km. north of Azamgarh, possesses the famous old Hindu shrine of Bhairava called Bhairo-ka-asthan or Deotari. The village of Vishnupur, within the bounds of which the town stands, is no doubt an old place, while the name Maharajganj is of comparatively recent origin. The shrine of Bhairava is alleged by its attendant Brahmanas to have been a gate of Ayodhya from which it is nearly 40 *kos*[5].

A mound locally known as Nahusa-ka-Tila in the vicinity of the subdivisional headquarters of Ghosi was explored. The excavations revealed that the site was originally fortified with a mud wall. The remains of gateways were also discovered on the northern, western and southern sides[6]. The ceramics represented at the site included : (*i*) Black and Red Ware, both plain as well as painted, (*ii*) the N.B.P. ware, including the painted variety, (*iii*) Black-stipped Ware; (*iv*) plain Grey Ware and; (*v*) plain Red Ware. Among other finds obtained from the site, mention may be made of terracotta figures both of human and animal variety and a chert flake As no antiquities, later than those of the Kushan period were obtained,

1. *Ibid.*, p. 107
2. *Ibid.*
3. Fuhrer, A : *op. cit.*, p. 187 : Fisher, F. H. : *Statistical Descriptive and Historical Account of the* N.W.P. *of India*, Vol. XIII, Part I *Azamgarh*, (Allahabad, 1888), p. 131
4. *Ibid.*
5. Fuhrer, A. : *op. cit.*, p. 189
6. Lal, B.S. (Ed.), : *Indian Archaeology* 1968—69 *A Review*, (New Delhi, 1971), p. 85

the desertion of the site could be placed around second or third century A.D. This excavation throws light on the civilization of the period from circa 600 B.C. to circa 150 B.C. This period yielded Northern Black Polished Ware besides light Red Ware and a few sherds of Grey Ware. Other important finds included terracotta figurines and bone points.

The early political history of this district can be gleaned from the quasi historical traditions which give a vague and confused outline of its history. The solar dynasty founded by Manu is the earliest known dynasty of the district. The decline and fall of this dynasty was brought about by the victorious campaigns led by Pururavas, Nahush and Yayati of the lunar dynasty, and some of Manu's sons[1]. Pururavas was succeeded by Ayu at Pratisthana and Ayu was followed by a famous king Nahush. The district appears to have been under his authority, for a mound, locally known as 'Nahusa-ka-Tila' in tahsil Ghosi shows its association with king Nahusa. The Mahabharat story of his securing the kingdom of Indra, and of his subsequent fall therefrom on account of his arrogance and ill treatment of Agastya rishi, does not quite tally with local legend and tradition[2]. His son and successor Yayati is mentioned in the *Puranas* and *Mahabharata* as a *samrat* (a great emperor) and a great conqueror who extended his kingdom far and wide. He ruled over entire Madhyadesa, west of Ayodhya, and Kanyakubja and north-west as far as Sarasvati. He also brought under his authority the countries towards the south, south-east and west of his territory.

Ayodhya rose to prominence under many famous kings like Mandhata, Sagar, Dilip II, Raghu and Rama of Ikshvaku dynasty. After six or seven generations from Bhagirath, Dilip II reestablished the single monarchy, and during his days Ayodhya emerged into prominance again and acquired the name Kosala[3]. The above account is based on tradition, from sixth century onwards we have evidence for the reconstruction of its more authentic history.

Of the sixteen Mahajanapadas of Buddha's time, Mahajanapada Malla touched the entire left bank of the Ghaghra and there are reasons to believe that it extended also to the right bank of that river. In the district there is a small tract of land locally known as Malana i.e., the territory of the Mallas around the Madhuban police-station. This name of the area indicates that the Mallas held their sway over it and the people who occupy it presently are perhaps their descendants, who still surname themselves as 'Mallas[4].

In the beginning of the fifth century B.C. Haryankas of Magadh came to power under Bimbisara and Ajatsatru. After the fierce battle between Prasenjit and Ajatsatru Kosala *janapada* which was also included in the Azamgarh district submerged in the rising tide of Magadhan

1. Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 270
2. *Ibid.*, p. 277
3. Majumdar R.C. : *Ancient India*, (Delhi 1964), p. 70
4. Pathak, V.N. : *History of Kosala up to the rise of the Mauryas*, (Varanasi, 1963), p. 285

imperialism, Ajatsatru who had seized the throne by murdering his father Bimbisara, became the founder of the supremacy of Magadh. Ajatsatru and Prasenjit were the contemporaries of the Buddha. Ghaghra, which joins Achiravati near Dharmpur village in tahsil Ghosi was frequented by the Buddha and his disciples and was, therefore, consequently treated as sacred[1].

Mahapadmananda, the son of Mahanandin, the last Sisunaga king and the founder of the Sudra dynasty, defeated and destroyed the far-famed Kshatriya families, such as the Pauravas, the Ikshvakus and the Pradyotas who were ruling in Kausambi, Kosala and Avanti and established the empire which included the greater part of northern India including this district. Mallas also accepted his suzerainty. One of his sons named Dhananand was on the throne in 326 B.C. when Alexandar the great was obliged, by the unwillingness of his army, to abandon his scheme of attacking the eastern nations, then united under the hegemony of Magadha. Soon after Alexander's retirement from India this suzerainty passed from the Nandas to Mauryas.

Chandragupta Maurya ascended the throne of Magadh by uprooting the Nanda dynasty about 326 B.C. Chandragupta Maurya and Bindusara ruled for nearly half a century and in 273 B.C. the throne of Magadh passed on to Asoka, who later became one of the most zealous propagators of the gospel of the Buddha. Azamgarh was under his rule up to 232 B.C. The people of the district and of the surrounding districts were much influenced by the teachings of the Buddha, a fact which is confirmed by the ruins of the *stupa* at the site of Garha-ka-Kot in this district and Narayanpur near this district.

After the fall of the Mauryas, Pushyamitra Sunga, the founder of the Sunga dynasty, came to power and this district came under his rule. The ten kings of the Sunga dynasty ruled for a period of 112 years (185-78 B.C.). Pushyamitras power over this region, including this district, is attested by the inscription found at Ayodhya, describing him as the lord of Kosala.

The history of the district is confused up to the period of the Kushanas. In spite of successive foreign invasions and establishment of the Kushana empire, a large number of indigenous states flourished in northern India during the period from 100 B.C. to 300 A.D. Their existence can be traced from a large number of inscribed coins and a few inscriptions. Some of these states had to submit, for a time, to the foreign invaders, notably the Kushanas.

Dhanadeva, the king of Ayodhya, is represented in an inscription as sixth in descent from Pushyamitra, and he flourished towards the end of the first century B.C. The rulers who appeared to have reigned after the end of Kushana rule in eastern Uttar Pradesh were Satyamitra, Vijayamitra, Devamitra, Ajayarman and Kumudsena. Of these Kumudsena alone is called a raja. It is probably from a successor of this king that the Guptas conquered this region and annexed it to their empire[2].

1. *Ibid.*, p. 73
2. Majumdar R.C. and Pusalkar A.D., *op. cit.*, *The Age of Imperial Unity*, Vol. II, (Bombay, 1960), p. 174

This district came under the Gupta rule in 4th century A.D.During the reign of Chandragupta II Chinese pilgrim Fa-hien travelled over India for more than ten years; but he has not noted in his writings any place of this district. In Budhagupats time the Vakataka king Narendra Sen is said to have established his suzerainty over the lords of Kosala. He was the contemporary of Budhagupta and his invasion might have been primarily responsible for the decline of the Gupta empire[1].

After the downfall of the Gupta empire several powerful feudatory principalities assumed independence; Yasodharman of Malva suddenly rose to power and whole of the northern India came under his sway. His suzerainty was acknowledged in the east up to the Brahmaputra river and the district came under his rule. Afterwards it came under the Maukharis of Kannauj about the middle of the sixth century Maukhari king Grahavarman had married the daughter of Prabhakarvardhana and this alliance no doubt strengthened his position.

After Maukharies this region came under Harshavardhan who was also known as Siladitya in the third quarter of the seventh century A.D. He conquered Magadh and carried his victorious arms through west Bengal as far as Kongoda in the Ganjam district, the southern limit of Sasanka's empire. That the district of Azamgarh was under his rule is attested by the inscribed copper plate which was found in a field near village Madhuban, in pargana Nathupur of tahsil Sagri, 51 km. north-east of Azamgarh. This valuable copper plate inscription discovered in January, 1888 by a cultivator's ploughshare, record in later Gupta characters the grant of the village by Somakundika to two Brahmans, the Samvedi Bhatta Vatasvamin of the Savarnigotra, and the Rigvedi Bhatta Sivadévasvamin of the Vishnuvriddhagotra by king Harshavardhan of Thaneswar for the spiritual welfare of his father Prabhakarvardhana, his mother Yasómati, and his elder brother Rajyavardhana, on the sixth day of the dark fortnight of the month of Margasirsha in Harsha *samvat* 25 (631 A.D.)[2] The Chinese pilgrim Hiuen- Tsang probably passed through the district about 637A.D., on his way from Varanasi to Kusinagar, but he too has told us nothing concerning any place in this district.

In the beginning of 8th century Yasovarman another military adventurer of the type of Yasodharman and Sasanka appear to have reigned over this region. He conquered Magadha, Gauda and Vanga in the east. He is also stated to have built a shrine at Ayodhya[3] and the district of Azamgarh too must have been included in his dominions. After Yasovarman the kingdom of Kannauj came under Dharmapala, the ruler of Bengal and Chakrayudha was placed by him on the throne of Kannauj. In the beginning of the 9th century this district came under Gurjara Pratiharas when Nagabhatta II probably captured Kannauj[1]. Bhoj (836-885 A.D.) consolidated the Pratihara power and reestablished the supremacy of his family[5].

1. Majumdar R.C. and Pusalkar A.D., *op. cit.*, *The Classical Age*, Vol. III, (Bombay, 1962), p. 82
2. Fuhrer, A,. *op. cit.*, p. 189
3. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar, A.D., *op. cit.*, Vol, III, p. 129
4. Tripathi, R.S. : *History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, (Delhi, 1959), p. 219
5. *Ibid.*, p. 288

After the fall of Gurjara Pratihara empire before 1090 A.D. Chandradeva of the Gahadavala dynasty acquired sovereignty over Kannauj[1]. Mahmud Gazni is said to have an ally in Kannauj named Chand Rai, whom he appointed to look after his elephantry there. It is believed that this Chand Rai is no other than Chandradeva of the Gahadavala family who carved out the kingdom of Kannauj, which was under Mahmud Gazni from 1085 A.D.[2] Azamgarh appears to have been included in his kingdom, for a Sanskrit inscription engraved on a stone pillar, found at Dabhaon in *tappa* Chauri of pargana Deogaon in tahsil Lalganj, bears the name of Govindachandra and the date 1201 of the Vikrama era or 1164 A.D. To the north west of the village Dabhaon there is an old dry tank, called Hathiyah-dah, or the elephant's tank with an inscribed pillar standing in the middle of it. This pillar itself is called Hathiyah-dah-ki-Lat, or the pillar of elephants tank. The name of the tank is derived from a large stone elelphant, 1.7 m. in length, and 1.4 m. in height which stands to the north-west of the pillar at a distance of 42 m. Both the pillar and the elephant are formed of a coarse grey sandstone and they have suffered from exposure to the weather, and are now much worn. The pillar is a mere cylindrical block apparently intended for the sole purpose of exhibiting the inscription; its shaft approximately being 3.8 m. in height and 0.5 m. in diameter, both at base and top. The capital is a flat circular slab, slightly rounded on the upper edge and quite plain. The inscription occupies 10 lines; its letters are large and coursely cut. It records the excavation of the tank by several Thakuras, of whom the chief is the Bellan Thakura, the treasurer of Gosala Devi, the queen of Govindchandra of Kannauj, on Thursday, the 5th *tithi* of the waning moon of Ashadha in Vikrama *samvat* 1201 (1164 A.D.) and samvat 1207 as according to A Cunningham[3]. Hathiyah-dah, and Hathiyah-dah-ki-Lat probably belongs to the ancient period of the Asuras and the inscription is of a later date[4]. Govindchandra, the king of Gahadawala dynasty probably did not reign after 1115 A.D. so that the inscription must have been inscribed on the pillar after his death.

It seems from the analogy of the other districts that it was the pressure of the Muslim invasions in the west that caused the Rajput tribes to leave their homes and seek new ones elsewhere. The country across the upper Ganga was unaffected by the Turkish operations in the doab and sheltered a large number of Gahadavala emigrants from the south. The Rajput settlements in Azamgarh may accordingly be ascribed to the eleventh and twelfth centuries with some degree of certainty. The Rajputs were followed in turn by the Muslims. The arrival of Muslims in the district in the early years of the Muslim rule in India seems to be a fact, but there is no detailed historical account available of their establishment.

Few of the Muslim families in the district can carry back their descent beyond the time of the Jaunpur kings, but it is more than probable that quite some Muslims had already settled here, before then.

1. *Ibid.*, p. 301
2. Majumdar, R.C., *op. cit.*, p. 315
3. Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 188
4. Fisher, F.H., *op. cit.*, p. 131

The occupation of Mittupur (from which pargana Qariat Mittu derives its name) by Malik Mittu, of Bahrozpur (hence *tappa* Bahrozpur) by Malik Bahroz, of Maunath Bhanjan by Malik Tahir and Qasim, of Shudnipur in *tappa* Kurahani of pargana Ghosi by Malik Shudni, and of other places by others whose names and tombs are still preserved was according to tradition most probably preceded in point of time the foundation of the Sharqi kirgdom. Maunath Bhanjan is a place of great antiquity, but when it was originally settled is not clear. According to local tradition Malik Tahir, whose tomb still exists in the town, settled here and having exorcized a demon that troubled it, left a memorial of his deed in the name by which the place became known, Maunath Bhanjan meaning land of the expeller of the demon. Maliks still reside in Maunath Bhanjan though none of them seems to be able to prove connection with Malik Tahir by a trustworthy pedigree. The creed of the newcomers seems also to have made progress in those early days, and the conversion of the ancestors of many of the old zamindar communities is assigned to this period. The early occupation by the Muslims was however, not more stable than that by the Hindus, and the traditions of some Hindu tribes point to their having supplanted Muslims in the possession of the land which the former held. The existence in every pargana of the old Muslim place names, the origin of which has been altogether forgotten and with which all trace of the Muslim connection has been lost indicates the same fact. At many places in this district are *shahidbaras* or spots where martyrs had been slain and buried which are in consequence preserved from encroachment. Tradition is silent about the majority of these. Neither the names nor the origin of the slain, nor the circumstances underwhich their slaughter took place are remembered[1].

According to a tradition, some possibly fell during the crescentade of Saiyad Salar Masud Ghazi, a half mythical hero, and sister's son of Mahmud of Gazni. He was one of his bravest warriors[2] who is said to have passed through this district and rested a while at Bhagatpur in tahsil Sagri on one of his expeditions where a fair to celebrate his marriage and death is still held a nually in his honour by all the classes of peoplee in Jyaistha (May-June)[3].

At the close of the 12th century, Jaichandra, the last imperial ruler of the Gahadavala, ruled over a vast region including this district. It is attested by his inscriptions which bear dates ranging from 1170 A.D. to 1189 A.D. and prove that his kingdom included the Gaya district besides the doab, Allahabad, Varanasi and Patna[4].

1. Fisher, F.H., *op. cit.*, p. 182; Drake-Brockman, D.L.; *op. cit.*, p. 157
2. Haig, Wolseley. *The Cambrige History of India, Vol. III, Turks and Afghans* (Delhi, 1958), P. 158
3. Fisher, F. H., *op. cit.*, pp. 182, 151; Drake-Brokeman, D.L., *op. cit.* pp. 157, 207
4. Majumdar, R, C. and Pusalkar A. D. *op. cit.*, Vol. V, *The Struggle Empire* (Bombay, 1966) P. 54

MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

The second battle of Tarain in 1192 A.D. established the Islamic power in India, but the region including the district of Azamgarh does not appear to have gone under the immediate sovereignty of the Muslims. In the battle of Chandwar, now Firozabad, on the Yamuna, between Agra and Etawah, Jayachandra, the last imperial Gahadavala, was defeated by Shihab-ud-din Muhammad Ghuri in 1193 A.D.; and after his death, the region from Varanasi to Gaya[1] including the district of Azamgarh, passed into the hands of the Muslims, but the region was not annexed, and Shihab-ud-din Muhammad Ghuri allowed Harischandra, the son of Jayachandra to rule on his behalf[2]. According to another opinion the government of the newly conquered territory of Gahadavala was entrusted to a responsible officer, but the Muslims could not keep this hold on it for a long time[3]. Harischandra who was only 18 years old at the time of the battle of Chandwar, was in possession of Kannauj, Jaunpur and Mirzapur districts in 1197 A.D.[4]. Shihab-ud-din Muhammad Ghuri was succeeded by Qutb-ud-din Aibak who established the Turkish Sultanate of India at Lahore, which was transferred later to Delhi. Adakhamalla seems to have been Harischandra's successor and Bartu might have been feudatory to Adakhamalla. During the reign of Iltutmish, the son-in-law of Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Bartu fought with him and is said to have killed one hundred and twenty thousand Muslim soldiers. He was overthrown and killed by Malik Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Shah, the eldest son of Iltutmish in 1226 A.D.[5] and finally Kannauj was conquered by Iltutmish. The Ganga-Yamuna doab thus completely passed into the hands of the Muslims in 1226 A.D.

From the establishment of the Jaunpur kingdom to its extinction, most of the tract now included in this district fell under its rule; but no important place in this district of Azamgarh can be mentioned as having been the seat of administration for the surrounding parganas. It is worthy to note that no mention is made of any place in this district by the Muslim historians; for it was a tract politically so unimportant that it attracted no attention while their formidable foes were constantly threatening the territory of Delhi Sultans on every side. Possibly the district of Azamgarh was at times subject to the Muslim rulers of Bengal, but the eastern Sultans do not appear to have controlled Bihar till the time of Lodi emperors, and Azamgarh was much more likely, during the 18th century, to have been debatable ground sometimes owing allegiance to and at other times practically independent of the Muslims.

1. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar, A.D. (Ed.) : The *History and Culture of the Indian people*, Vol. V. *The Struggle for Empire*, (Bombay, 1966), p. 54; Habibullah, A.B.M. *The Foundation of Muslim Rule in India*, IInd edition, (Allahabad, 1961), p. 43; Tripathi, R.S. : *History of Ancient India*, (Delhi, 1960), p. 320
2. *Ibid.*
3. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar, A.D., *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 55
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*

Early in the 14th century an important change took place when a seat of the Muslim power was established near the borders of the district. Bengal for sometime ceased to acknowledge the authority of Delhi. In 1345 A.D. Haji Iliyas, styling himself Shams-ud-din Iliyas Shah, had made himself master of western Bengal, and in 1352 A.D. overthrew Ghazi Shah and established his dominion over the whole of the Bengal. Emboldened by success, and by the indifference of Firuz, who ascended the throne of Delhi in 1351 A.D., Iliyas had rashly invaded Tirhut with the object of annexing the south-eastern districts of the new restricted kingdom of Delhi[1] and gained possession of all the country as far west as Varanasi[2]. Firuz was free to punish this act of aggresstion and in November, 1353 A.D., he made his first expedition against Haji Iliyas and marched from Delhi with 70,000 horse to repel the invader. Iliyas retired before him into Tirhut and thence to his capital Pandua. Firuz preferred an undignified retreat to almost certain disaster and practically recognising Haji Iliyas's independence reached on September 1, 1354. It is said that he took the route to Gorakhpur and Champaran, but probably returned by war of Zafarabad in Jaunpur.

When a second expedition was made in 1359 A.D. against Sultan Sikandar, the son of Shams-ud-din, Firuz Shah was compelled by reason of the rains to halt at Zafarabad. There he was struck with the suitability of the banks of the Gomati, where the road crossed the river, for the site of one of the cities he had a mind to build. Orders were accordingly given for its erection, and between the years 1359 and 1394 A.D. the famous city of Jaunpur was thus built, which long remained the capital of an independant Muslim kingdom, perhaps the richest in Northern India. The fact that this Muslim power was consolidated over the Azamgarh district about the same time is attested by the discovery of a Persian inscription on a stone slab which once belonged to Jami Masjid in the time of Firuz Shah. This slab was discovered at Chakesar in pargana Ghosi of this district, where a large *qasba* once existed, and bears the date 760 H. or 1359 A.D. and the name of Firuz Shah[3].

Zafar, the son of Sultan, was the first governor of Jaunpur; but he reigned for a very short time. In 1376 A.D. when a general change was made in various provinces, Jaunpur and Zafarabad fell to the lot of another son, Shahzada Nasir Khan, otherwise known as Bahroz Sultani, who was possibly Malik Bahroz the founder of Bahrozpur in tahsil Muhammadabad. Next to him came his nephew Ala-ud-din; but with Ala-ud-din's successor, Malik Sarwar, a new era opened. Malik Sarwar was eunuch who rose to be Khwaja Sara, and the governor of the city of Delhi under Muhammad bin Tughlaq[4]. After the death of Firuz on 20th September, 1388 A. D., when prince Muhammad, son of Firuz assumed regal authority with the title of Nasiruddin Muhammad

1. Haig, Wolseley (ed.) : *Chambridge History of India, op. cit.*, Vol. III, *Turks and Afghans*, (Delhi, 1958), pp. 176, 263
2. Elliot, H.M. and Dowson, J (ed.) : *The History of India as told by its own Historians*, Vol. III, p. 254
3. Fuhrer, A. : *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions, in North-Western Provinces and Oudh* (Varanasi, 1969), p. 188; Drake-Brockman, D.L. : *Azamgarh : Gazetteer*, Vol. XXXIII, (Allahabad, 1911), p. 158
4. Drake-Brockman, D.L., *op. cit.*, p. 158; Nevill, H.R.; *Jaunpur: A Gazetteer*, p. 158

Shah, Malik Sarwar was made vizier under the title of Khwaja-i-Jahan. He was displaced by Islam Khan, but regained his lost position in 1392 A. D. and continued in office under Sikandar and Mahmud. In 1393 A.D. Mahmud raised him to a higher post. He, as a minister was placed on the throne of Delhi. "Through the turbulence of the base infidels the affairs of the feoffs of India had fallen into confusion, so Khwaja-i-Jahan received the title of Malik-us-Sharq, or king of east and the administration of all India, from Kannauj to Bihar, was placed in his charge. In May 1394 he went to Jaunpur and by degrees got the feoffs of Kannauj, Karra, Sandila, Dalmau, Bahraich, Bihar and Tirhut into his possession. He put down many of the infidels and restored the forts they had destroyed. The Rai of Jainagar and the king of Laknauti now began to send to Khwaja-i-Jahan the elephants which they used to send (as tribute) to Delhi". He founded an independent kingdom with Jaunpur as his capital. Khwaja-i-Jahan next declared his independence and assumed the title of Atabuk-i-Azam. This was the origin of the Jaunpur kingdom which lasted till 1479 A.D., when Bahlul Lodi defeated its last ruler Sultan Husain and obliged him to flee to Bihar[1], but it would be inappropriate to trace the history of the Sharqi dynasty in detail here step by step.

Khwaja-i-Jahan died in 1399 A.D. leaving his dominions which stretched from Koil in the west to Tirhut and Bihar in the east, intact to his adopted son, Malik Qaranful who adopted the royal style of Mubarak Shah[2]. He declared his independence and assumed the title of Sultan-us-Sharq or the king of the East[3]. Mubarak Shah died in 1400 A.D. and was succeeded by his brother, who assumed the title of Shams-ud-din Ibrahim Shah. During his long reign (1400 A.D. to 1440 A.D.) the sway of Sharqi kings was firmly established over the provinces of Northern India from Kannauj to Bihar and from Bahraich to Etawah. During the period of their sway, all of Azamgarh district except Belbans was dominated from Jaunpur. Azamgarh itself was the seat of administration for the surrounding parganas but contained no place of historical importance. A Hindi inscription on a stone which is built in over the doorway of a small Hindu temple at Kopaganj in tehsil Ghosi and is dated *samvat* 1529 or 1472 A.D., is the only archaeological relic in this district which dates from the period of Jaunpur kings[4]. Muhammadabad and Kharewan (Sarai Mir) were held by the Muslims from the early part of the 15th century. Muhammadabad apparently a dependency of Maunath Bhanjan, possesses, however, no buildings of any historical or architectural interest except the *dargah* of Pir Kashni. Chiriyakot, in tahsil Muhammadabad appears to have received the name of *qasba* Mubarakpur; but this name has long since been dropped. The Abbasi Sheikhs who are the chief inhabitants of the place claim to be descended from one Isma'l Abbasi, who took it from Hindus in the time of Sharqi Sultans of Jaunpur[5]. Ismail Abbasi named Yusufabad, one

1. Lal, K.S., *op. cit.*, p. 151
2. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar, A.D., *op. cit.*, Vol. VI, p. 187; Haig, Wolseley, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. 251; Fuhrer, A., *op. cit*, p. 78
3. *Ibid.*
4. Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 188; Fisher, F.H., *op. cit.*, p. 161; Drake-Brockman, D.L., *op.. cit.*, pp. 159, 241
5. *Ibid.*, p. 209

of the *mauzas*, in which the town stands, after one of his sons, and Mubarakpur, a *mauza* in its vicinity, after another of them[1].

Shams-ud-din Ibrahim, who was as good a master of the pen as of the sword, ruled over Jaunpur for forty years, during which he fought all the time with his neighbours, but still found the time to embellish his capital Jaunpur with magnificent buildings and to patronise the arts and letters[2]. The district formed an integral part of the Jaunpur kingdom and remained practically undisturbed during its rule.

The last ruler of Sharqi dynasty Sultan Husain was driven out of Jaunpur in 1474 A.D. by Bahlol Lodi who ascended the throne of Delhi in 1451 A.D., and he retired towards Bahraich, followed by Bahlol. They met on the banks of Rahab (Kali Nadi) where Sultan Husain was defeated. Bahlol then took possession of Jaunpur. Leaving Mubarak Khan to govern Jaunpur, and Qutb Khan Lodi and Khan Jahan, with some other nobles, in the territory of Manjhauli or Majhauli which is situated on the left bank of the Gandak in Gorakhpur, he himself proceeded in the direction of Badaun. The district of Azamgarh then unquestionably fell in the hands of the Lodi Sultans. The Lodis were ousted by Sultan Husain for a short time, so these nobles left Jaunpur and went to Manjhauli, but their power was soon re-established by Bahlol who, sent his own son Barbak Shah and also followed in person to aid them. Sultan Husain, being unable to do anything, fled to Bihar[3]. With Sultan Husain's flight the time of Sharqi kings of Jaunpur came to an end. Barbak Shah was set up as the Sultan of Jaunpur in 1479 A.D.

After the death of Bahlol, Barbak became an independent king and a potential danger to his brother Sikandar Lodi who succeeded Bahlol in 1488 A.D. as the Sultan of Delhi. In 1492 A.D. the zamindars of the province of Jaunpur, headed by Bachgoti Rajputs, collected a force of nearly 1,00,000 men and deposed Mubarak Khan, governor of Jaunpur. Barbak Shah unable to offer resistance, abandoned Jaunpur. Sikandar Lodi marched to Barbak's assistance and a battle was fought at Katgarh in the Rai Bareli district, in which the rebels were defeated. Barbak Shah was reinstated, but his administration appears to have been weak; for he could not maintain his position against the opposition of the zamindars and was deposed by Sikandar Lodi. Sikandar Lodi bestowed Jaunpur on Mubarak Khan Mujikhail and put Barbak in confinement[4]. The rebellion appears to have broken out in consequence of the intrigues of Husain, after he had been defeated near Varanasi by Sikandar Lodi and pursued into Bihar. Sikandar Lodi is the reputed founder of Sikandarpur which until 1879 A.D. belonged to the Azamgarh district.

Sikandar Lodi died on 21st November, 1517 A.D. and his son Ibrahim Lodi was crowned as a new king of Delhi. Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi at Panipat in 1526 A.D. and became the ruler of Delhi. Afghan nobles of the east strengthened their own power within a short time. During Ibrahim's reign Darya Khan Lohani, the governor of Biher had

1. *Ibid.*
2. Lal K.S., *op. cit.*, p. 106, Haig, Wolseley, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. 259
3. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 90
4. Pande, A.B. : *The First Afghan Empire in India*, (Calcutta, 1952), p. 124

openly rebelled and his son Bahadur Khan assumed the royal state under the name of Muhammad Shah, at the same time ordering the coins to be struck in his name. He commanded a large force of 1,00,000 horse and extended his possessions westwards, defeating and then winning to his side Nasir Khan Lodi, who held Ghazipur. Muhammad Shah was succeeded by his son Jalal Khan Lohani who assumed the name of Jalal-ud-din Shah. Within a short time he was supplanted by his minister Sher Khan who was already powerful, so Jalal-ud-din fled for refuge to the king of Bengal, Nusuat Shah, who sent an army against Sher Khan under his general Ibrahim Khan. Ibrahim Khan was defeated and Sher Khan became the emperor of Delhi under the name of Sher Shah and he also became the ruler of Bihar and Jaunpur, including the district of Azamgarh in 1528 A.D.

Babur took possession of the region extending from 'Bahrah to Bihar' and established his rule over it at the same time in 1528 A.D. Nusrat Shah (1520 to 1538 A.D.) was the king of Bengal, and Sher Khan was recknowed among the number of the Mughal adherents. Babur marched eastwards knowing that Nusrat Shah had encroached on Bihar. Sher Khan instead of joining Babur, joined Mahmud Lodi, son of Sikandar Lodi who styled himself the king of Bihar. The Afghans reached on the north bank of the Ghaghra, while Babur reached Ghazipur by river and then to Chaunsa, landing his army there, marched to the confluence of the two rivers, the Ganga and the Ghaghra. On 6 May, 1529 A.D. the battle was fought at the confluence in which Babur defeated the combined army. The Afghans fled across the Ghaghra in the direction of Lucknow, and were followed by Babur who crossed the Ghaghra in pargana Sagri of the district of Azamgarh. Bengal was then entrusted to Mirza Muhammad Zaman and a treaty of peace was arranged with the king of Bengal[1].

After the death of Babur on 29th January, 1530 A.D., Humayun arrived at Agra and ascended the throne with the support of Amir Nizamud-din Ali Khatifa. At this time Afghans again assumed a position of independence. Sher Khan, though remaining nominally subject to Mahamud Lodi, gradually strengthed his own position, which was secured by Mahmud's abdication and retirement to Patna[2].

Humayun took possession of Gaur, the capital of Bengal, and drove away all the Afghans. Humayun stayed for four months in Gaur, and had no time for any occupation other than pleasure and enjoyment. He got information that Sher Khan, killing 700 Mughals obtained the possession of the fortress of Chunar and also taken the city of Varanasi and also sent forward an army along the bank of the Ganga to take Kannauj. He had further seized the families of several of the officers and sent them prisoners to Rohtas. In 1532 A.D. he came to terms with Humayun. After two years he took advantage of Humayun's absence in Gujarat to bring all of Bihar and Jaunpur, including the district, under his control.

1. Majumdar, R.C., Chaudhari, J.N. and Chaudhari, S. (ed.): *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. VII, (Bombay, 1974), p. 88
2. Nevill, H.R. : *Ballia A Gazetteer*, Vol. XXX, (Allahabad, 1907), p. 145

There is a Persian inscription on a slab in an old mosque at the ruined village of Nigun in tahsil Phulpur dated A.H. 940 or A.D. 1533[1]. This is the only relic of Humayun's reign.

In the early part of 16th century, one Saiyid Ali, a Sufi, known under the name of Shah Aski Khan or Shah Ali Aski Khan, came from Jaunpur where some of his relatives held office in the reign of Sikandar Lodi, and settled in the vicinity of Kharewan in pargana Nizamabad. It is said that a new settlement was made under Saiyid Ali's auspices in 1536 A.D. and was named Murtazabad, but the name did not gain currency and the place became known as Sarai Mir, the town in pargana Nizamabad[2]. Saiyid Ali was according to the local tradition, an intimate friend of Sher Khan, whose advancement he foretold. On the outskirts of the town there is a large mausoleum, built partly of black *kankar* and partly of sandstone, in Pathan style, known as the *dargah* of Lal Khan; but nothing is known of Lal Khan except that of his brothers who were residents in the neighbourhood about the time of Shah Ali or Saiyid Ali. The tomb of Saiyid Ali still exists and a fair is held at it once a year[3].

Nusrat Shah died in 1538 A.D. and was succeeded by his brother Mahmud Shah. Sher Khan seized the apportunity to increase and consolidate his power over all the east. He defeated Mahmud Shah in a battle and took possession of Gaur. Though obviously involved in a conflict with Sher Khan, Humayun resolved to settle affairs in Bihar and Bengal after his return from Gujrat. Sher Khan defeated the army of Mahamud Shah and captured Gaur and from this place he sent a message to Humayun who had then reached Varanasi, proposing to give up Bihar to him on the condition of his remaining the ruler of Bengal. Humayun first agreed but was persuaded by Mahmud Shah to invade Bengal. In 1538 A.D. Humayun reached Gaur, but while he rested there the country behind him fell into the hands of Sher Khan. He was forced to retreat and was defeated first at Chaunsa on the banks of the Ganga and then again at Kannauj in 1540 A.D. He then left India and Sher Khan became the ruler ascending the throne of Delhi in 1540 A.D. which remained under his control and his successor Islam Shah till 1554 A.D.

The fact that the district of Azamgarh remained under his rule and his son Islam Shah is attested by a Sanskrit inscription on a stone sugar-cane press in the town of Azamgarh, which is dated 1553 A.D., the year before the death of Islam Shah[4]. It is the only relic dating from the time of Sur kings found in this district. After the death of Islam Shah in 1554 A.D. during the time of civil war between various claimants to throne, the history of this district remained confused. It appears that Bihar and Jaunpur remained in possession of Muhammad Adil Shah, who reigned in name in the east till his death in the year 1556 A.D. at the hands of Bhadur Shah of Bengal. In the meantime in 1555 A.D. Humayun regained his power at Agra, while in 1556 A.D.

1. Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 189
2. Drake-Brockman, D.L., *op. cit.*, Vol. XXXIII, p. 289; Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 190
3. *Ibid.*
4. Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 187; Drake-Brockman, D.L., *op. cit.*, p. 161

Akbar, the son of Humayun overthrew the Afghans at Panipat and took possession of Delhi and became himself the master of India. Jaunpur remained in possession of the Afghans till 1559 A.D., when Ali Quli Khan, Khan Zaman effected the reduction of Jaunpur and brought this district under the imperial control[1].

The emperor's representative, Ali Quli Khan, was the first governor of Jaunpur including its dependencies Varanasi, Ghazipur, Chunar and Zamania after the reoccupation of India by the mughals. Nizamabad, a town in the district of Azamgarh is said to have been a Hindu settlement previous to the Muslim occupation. The local tradition regarding its present name is that it is derived from a certain Shaikh Nizamud-din, a saint whose tomb is in this town, which bears a Persian inscription, dated A.H. 969, or 1561 A.D.[2]

In 1565 A.D. in consequence of the severe proceedings against Abdullah Khan Uzbek, Akbar had a bad opinion of the Uzbeks. When Akbar was at Narwar, Ashraf Khan Mir Munshi was sent to Sikandar Khan to conciliate him with gracious promises to the emperor's favour, and bring him to court. Ashraf Khan went to Avadh, the jagir of Sikandar Khan, but giving more importance to Ibrahim Khan, Sikandar Khan along with Ashraf Khan went to Sarwar (Surharpur) in Sarkar of Jaunpur which was the jagir of Ibrahim Khan. Then they went to Jaunpur to consult Ali Quli Khan, who was the governor of Jaunpur. After consultation their judgement was adverse to the course proposed and they determined to rebel under the leadership of Ali Quli Khan. They improperly detained Ashraf Khan, and then broke into open revolt. They took over the government of the eastern districts from Akbar's officers posted in those quarters. Ibrahim Khan and Sikandar Khan went to Lucknow, Ali Quli Khan and his brother went to Karra Manikpur and by plundering the neighbourhood of this country they began their revolt. When the emperor marched against Ali Quli Khan, the latter was driven across the Ganga, while imperial forces advanced and occupied Jaunpur. When Ali Quli Khan faced imperial forces at the ferry of Narhan, he sent his brother Bahadur Khan along with Sikandar Khan to the country of Sarwar, in order to stir up a rebellion in that country[3]. The then Sarwar is included in Gorakhpur and Faizabad Divisions. Akbar got this information, he issued orders to several of his chief nobles to march against them. Munim Khan Khan Khanan was sent to take the place of Aeaf Khan in command of the army, which confronted Ali Quli Khan at the ferry of Narhan. Between Munim Khan Khan Khanan and Ali Quli Khan there was an old friendship, and when they thus opposed to each other, a correspondance was opened and it was agreed that Ali Quli Khan should wait upon Munim Khan to discuss the terms of peace. After the four or five months negotiations through Munim Khan, Ali Quli Khan was pardoned and his jagirs were restored upon a condition that he should not cross the Ganga

1. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. V., pp. 259-260; Drake-Brockman, D.L., *op. cit.*, p. 162
2. Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 190
3. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. V., p. 301; Tripathi, R.P.: *Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire*, (Allahabad, 1960), p. 159

without permission while the emperor was in the neighbourhood, and that he should send his agents to court when the emperor returned to Delhi.

In 1566 A.D. having settled this matter, when the emperor had gone to Chunar, Ali Quli Khan crossed the river and went to Muhammadabad and from there sent out parties of troops to occupy Jaunpur and Ghazipur[1]. The emperor marched in person and reached Ghazipur, but the garrison left this place and joined Ali Quli Khan at Muhammadabad by the river Ganga. The body of troops was sent across the river with orders to secure Ali Quli Khan. The forces under emperor occupied the banks of the Sarwar (Saryu) and after searching all the jungles, they found that Ali Quli Khan and gone to Siwalik hills and proceeded first to the fort of Jalupara. The parties of troops sent out to intercept, but after scouring the jungles along the Ghaghra, returned to the royal camp at Maunath Bhanjan.

Mean[2] while Bahadur Khan, Ali Quli Khan's brother went to Jaunpur, where his mother had been confined by the emperor's order, captured the fort by escalade, liberated his mother and made Ashraf Khan a prisoner. He then formed the design of making an attack upon the royal camp at Jaunpur and Varanasi[3]. When the emperor was at Maunath Bhanjan he was informed of this so he gave up the chase of Ali Quli Khan and returned to Jaunpur. Sikandar Khan and Bahadur Khan being informed of emperor's moving, retreated and crossed the Ganga at the ferry of Narhan[4].

In this month of Rajab (May) when the royal camp was near the pargana Nizamabad of this district of Azamgarh, the annual majlis-i-warn was held. According to this custom the ministers and nobles weighed the emperor twice every year on his birthday, both according to the solar and the lunar reckoning, against gold, silver and other things, which were afterwards distributed among the poor and needy. The emperor Akbar marched from Nizamabad to Jaunpur and settled down there. He determined that so long as Ali Quli Khan and his brother should remain in the world, Jaunpur should be the capital of the State. The strong forces were sent out to capture the fugitives. When Ali Quli Khan heard of this, he left Siwalik hills and came to the side of the Ganga. Then he sent a faithful follower named Mirza Mubarak Rizwi (this was the title afterwards acquired. He was at this time called Mirza Mirak) to court with a message. Munim Khan Khan Khanan made intercession for Ali Quli Khan Khan Zaman and the emperor once more pardoned him and reinstated him in all his jagirs.

When in 1567 A.D. Akbar was at Lahore, taking advantage of his absence, Ali Quli Khan and his brother threw off their allegiance and once more were in open revolt. The emperor returned hastily to Agra,

1. Tripathi, R.P., *op. cit.*, p. 195
2. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 306; Majumdar, R.C. Chaudhari, J.N. and Chaudhari, S. (ed.), *op. cit.*, Vol. VII, pp. 118-119
3. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 307; Tripathi, R.P., *op. cit.*, p. 195
4. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 307

collected his army and advanced in person towards Kannauj. When he reached the pargana of Rae Barely, he knew that Ali Quli Khan and Bahadur Khan had crossed the Ganga with the object of proceeding towards Kalpi. This battle was fought on June 9, 1567, at Fathpur Parsoki, seven miles south-east of Karra. Ali Quli Khan was killed and his brother Bahadur was taken a prisoner. Sikandar Khan flea to Bengal. Afterwards he was pardoned by the emperor on the request of Munim Khan and was given the feoff of Lucknow in 1571 A.D. Next year he died[1].

The emperor then went to Varanasi and thence to Jaunpur and from this place he reached the Ganga at the ferry of Karra and Manikpur, where there was a camp. Crossing the river in a boat, he went and rested in the fortress. Then he wrote to Munim Khan, summoning him from Agra. The emperor conferred on him all the jagirs of Ali Quli Khan and Bahadur Khan in Jaunpur, Varanasi, Ghazipur, the fort of Chunar and Zamaniya, as far as the ferry of Chaunsa[2]. Jagir of Jaunpur with all its dependencies remained under the rule of Munim Khan Khan Khanan till 1574 A.D. when he was summoned to take part in the expedition against Daud Khan, the ruler of Bengal and Bihar. When Daud Khan had been crushed, Munim Khan Khan Khanan was appointed governor of Bengal. While on his return towards Agra the emperor halted at Jaunpur and made arrangements for its government. Jaunpur, Varanasi and sundry other parganas, including those of this district' were placed directly under the royal exchequer and the management was entrusted to Mirza Mirak Rizvi and Sheikh Ibrahim Sikri. From this time onwards little is heard of Jaunpur. The historians have mentioned various names who held Jaunpur in jagir, but none of them is important as regards this district and, indeed, Jaunpur ceased to be a place of any importance after the viceregal court was moved to Allahabad in 1575 A.D.

In the territorial administration of Akbar the whole district of Azamgarh, except the pargana of Belbans, fell within the sirkar of Jaunpur in the subah of Allahabad. All the parganas except Mahul, Atraulia and Bela-Daulatabad, are mentioned by name in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, though their limits have since been considerably changed. None of the *mahal* (Pargana), as they existed in 1556 A.D., appear to have been very large as far as the cultivated area is concerned, and some were remarkably small.

The records of Akbar's reign in *Ain-i-Akbari* furnish a certain amount of information regarding the position of Azamgarh at that time, showing the state of cultivation, the revenue, and principal landholders of each pargana.

The administrative divisions of Akbar's reign appear to have been remain unchanged till 1722 A.D. The faujdar of the sarkar resided at Jaunpur. There must have been some subordinate collecting establishment, and appearently *kanungos* and clerks (*mutasaddis*) were stationed at the pargana towns (*kasbas*). Inferior civil judges (*kazis*) also resided there, and were subordinate to the chief judge (*sadr*) who was stationed either at Jaunpur or Allahabad.

1. Tripathi, R.P., *op. cit.*, p. 199
2. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. V, p. 328

In the latter part of the seventeenth and the early and middle parts of the eighteenth century, the management of most of the Azamgarh parganas passed into the hands, as grant, to a local potentate, who received the title of raja of Azamgarh. The rise of this family can be traced from one Chandra Sen, the Gautam Rajput of Mehnagar in pargana Nizamabad of this district. Chandra Sen had two sons, Sagar and Abhiman. Their share in their ancestral village was small, and Abhiman, while still a youth, having been worsted in a dispute with some of the co-sharers, became a Muhammadan, took the name of Daulat Khan and left his home to seek employment elsewhere. He entered the service of a commandar of horse, became a eunch, and by a lucky chance came under notice of the emperor and was taken in imperial service where he rose to be a *nazir* of the household. He had no heirs, but Sagar, his brother, and five sons, Harbans, Dayal, Gopal, Jai Narayan and Khark. Harbans was the eldest of them to whom was transferred most of the wealth and local influence which Daulat's position had gained for him. Daulat's collateral descendants through Harbans allege that he received an imperial grant of zamindari of twenty-two parganas on his conversion to the faith of Islam. The sanad produced to support this contention is a document of doubtful authenticity. The date of sanad is said to have been the 4th year of Jahangir's reign, 1609 A.D. Apart from this there is no evidence that the immediate successors of Harbans occupied a single *mauza* beyond the limits of the pargana Nizamabad. From the title of 'Nawab, Khwaja', it seems that Daulat rose from a subordinate position to one of influence at the imperial court. He reached the climax of his fortunes in the seventh year of Jahangir's reign, or A.D. 1612, when he was made a commander of 1,500 horse and appointed *faujdar* or military governor of Jaunpur. The former office carried with it a substantial salary or jagir and latter made him the *faujdar* in pargana Nizamabad in which his native place was situated. On Daulat Khan's death the influence and most of the wealth and power that he gained in his appointment, was acquired by Harbans in pargana Nizamabad.

It is said that Harbans, following the example of Daulat Khan, also became a Muhammadan. During his uncle's lifetime Harbans, with the money supplied by his uncle, built a masonry fort at Mehnagar and a mausoleum within the fort. He also constructed or repaired the large irrigation embankment known as the Haribandh in the extensive tract of rice country to the south of Mehnagar. It is said that in carrying out these constructive works he was aided by imperial elephants and horsemen, and indeed a building like the fort could not have been constructed without the permission of the imperial officers at Jaunpur or Allahabad. He improved the mud fort at Harbanspur on the south bank of the Tons (Tamsa) in pargana Nizamabad. The bazar is still known as Rani-ki-Sarai or Sarai Rani; the piece of land obtained from the zamindars of Sithwal in pargana Nizamabad was founded by his rani, Ratanjot, a Bais Rajputni of Kharkpur in pargana Belbans.

Tappa Daulatabad derives its name from Daulat Khan, and *tappa* Harbanspur from Harbans Dayal, the brother of Harbans settled a village in pargana Nizamabad at Kathiamau and gave it the name of Dayalpur. Khark took possession of the village of Khutauli then in *tappa* Daulatabad, changing its name to Singhpur. Gopal left his name

in Gopalpur of *tappa* Daulatabad, and Gambhir, one of the sons of Harbans, who lived apart from his father, constructed a fort at Gambhirpur in the village of Bairipur in *tappa* Dayalpur. Harbans was the first of the family who assumed the title of Raja. The date of his death is not recorded, but from an old document he appears to have been alive in 1629 A.D. during the reign of Shahjahan, when pargana Maunath Bhanjan was assigned to Jahanara Begam, the emperor's daughter, and the town received the name of Jahanabad.

From the above narrated account it appears that the successors of Khwaja Daulat Khan were in possession of a large tract of country in Nizamabad and Deogaon in the early part of the seventeenth century. They were known as zamindars or revenue payers. With the death of Daulat the further aggrandizement of the family was stayed. Harbans had two sons, Gambhir and Dharnidhar, but it does not appear that either of them assumed the title of raja, Gambhir died childless, but Dharnidhar had three sons Vikramjit, Rudra and Narayan. Vikramajit aggrandized himself at the expense of his brothers. He does not appear to have adopted the title of raja, but like his predecessors he also embraced Islam. He married a Muslim lady who bore him two sons, Azam Khan and Azmat Khan, the first Muslims born in the family. Rudra's widow carried her wrongs to the governor or the emperor, and a force was sent to assist her. In the end Vikramajit was killed, and Rudra's widow was established in his place. Having no heirs, she adopted Azam Khan.

Azamgarh, the headquarters of this district derives its name from Azam Khan, who founded it on the ruins of the village Ailwal and Phulwaria about 1665 A.D. and he built a fort there which became the chief residence of the family. The only antiquity of this time in this district is the dilapidated fort, which was built by Azam Khan. Azmat Khan also built a fort and settled a bazar of Azmatgarh in pargana Sagri about the same time as that of Azamgarh. At this time Azmatgarh possesses only the ruins of the fort, constructed by Azmat. Adjoining Azmatgarh there is the great 'Salona', Azamgarh Tal, which was named after Azam Khan. There is no evidence that the title of raja was conferred upon them by royal command, but they seem to have been admitted to the revenue management of other parganas besides Nizamabad. Probably they went by the title of raja among their retainers and neighbours, while they held in relation to the imperial governors a semi-official position similar to that which was subsequently acquired by the Saiyids of Mahul. Thus in 1665 A.D. Aliverdi Khan, *faujdar* of Jaunpur addressed Azam Khan, as zamindar of Qariat Mittu; while in 1660 A.D. Ghazanfar Khan, *faujdar*, addressed Azam, as raja Azam, directing him to destroy the fort of Mittupur and to join the *faujdar*. In 1677 A.D. Asad-ullah Khan, vizier of Aurangzeb, addressed Azmat Khan without the title of raja.

It appears from one account that Azam Khan went to court leaving Azmat Khan in charge of the parganas. Then he was sent with some troops to the Deccan and afterwards imprisoned for some unknown offence at Kannauj where he died. On his death his body was carried to Azamgarh and was buried in the village of Baghlakh Raun close to the town.

After holding his parganas with firmness for many years, Azmat Khan allowed his revenue to fall into arrears and refused to pay. In 1688 A.D. an officer named Chabile Ram was sent against him. At first Azmat Khan pretended submission and Chabile Ram and his force were allowed to occupy the fort. The fort was then surrounded and the force shut in, but Chabile Ram managed to convey the information to Himmat Khan, *subahdar* of Allahabad, who seems to have been at Jaunpur at that time, and at once moved to Chabile Ram's rescue. Azmat Khan fled northwards followed by the imperial forces. He attempted to cross the Ghaghra into Gorakhpur; but the people on the other side opposed his landing and he was either shot in midstream or was drowned in attempting to escape by swimming.

During Azmat's life time his eldest son Ikram had taken part in the management of the estates and after Azmat's death he was perhaps left in possession together with Muhabbat, another son. The remaining two sons were taken away and for a time detained as hostages for their brothers' good behaviour. The succession of Ikram finally confirmed the title of his family to the zamindari. Ikram left no heirs and was succeeded by Iradat, son of Muhabbat; but the real ruler all along had been Muhabbat and after Ikram's death he continued to rule in his son's name.

Modern Period

At the beginning of the 18th century, the bulk of the area covered by the present district of Azamgarh was included in the sirkars of Jaunpur and Ghazipur in the subah of Allahabad and was held by Muhabbat Khan, popularly known as the raja of Azamgarh. In his time the prosperity of Azamgarh was at its zenith. The capital Azamgarh was surrounded by a large mud enbankment, which enclosed a circle of territory seven or eight miles in diameter. A number of *thanas* (police posts) protected by small mud forts, were established in the different parganas and occupied by Muhabbat Khan's officials and police. The eastern of these forts was Madhuban in pargana Nathupur and the western was at Gohnarpur in pargana Atraulia. In each *thana* a thanadar was appointed, who collected the revenue from the village zamindars and remitted it to Azamgarh. Within the district the raja's chief opponents were the Palwar Rajputs. But a line of forts was constructed across the Palwar territory from Nauli on the south to Gohnarpur on the north and these forts were held by a redoubtable lieutenant called Nila Upadhya. The period of Muhabbat Khan's subordinate rule, however, was not entirely peaceful[1]. He always avoided the payment of revenue to the imperial treasury as far as possible, and in 1703 Nila Upadhya, attacked and slew in pargana Kauria some troops who had been sent under an officer named Mirza Sheikh to demand revenue from the raja[2].

Soon after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, Kunwar Dhir Singh, a turbulent Rajput chieftain of Shahabad (in Bihar), set out with his followers taking possession of a large belt of territory which extended

1. Drake-Brockman, D.L. : *Azamgarh, A Gazetteer*, (Allahabad, 1911), p. 169
2. *Ibid.*, pp., 169-170

along both the banks of the Ghaghra—a long way to the west of Shahabad, including parts of Sagri, Ghosi and Chakesar in this district[1]. Muhabbat Khan was unable to dislodge the intruder from the territories encroched upon. The belligerent activities of Kunwar Dhir Singh were soon reported to Serbuland Khan, the governor of Allahabad. The latter in 1714-15 organising a large force which was joined by a contingent from Azamgarh headed by Muhabbat Khan, drove Kunwar Dhir Singh to Padrauna (in Deoria district) where he was slain, and Muhabbat Khan's authority was restored in his lost possessions[2].

When Muhammad Shah became emperor in 1719, he gave in jagir to Murtaza Khan (one of his courtiers) the bulk of the present district of Azamgarh together with the sirkars of Jaunpur, Ghazipur, as well as the sirkars of Benaras (Varanasi) and Chunar[3]. Murtaza Khan entrusted the management of these territories to Rustam Ali Khan (a relative) for a consideration of five lakhs of rupees annually, the latter having the right to retain the surplus for himself, but he could not realize the revenue from most of the zamindars of these territories[4]. About 1728 Murtaza Khan leased his jagir to Saadat Khan, the nawab of Avadh for an annual sum of seven lakhs of rupees, who allowed Rustam Ali Khan to continue to manage the estate for eight lakhs of rupees annually[5]. Muhabbat Khan ostentatiously refused payment of revenue to Rustam Ali Khan, and on one occasion, when the latter had come to Azamgarh in person to demand it, allowed him ignominiously to depart empty handed, Saadat Khan was not prepared to put up with such recusancy. He resolved to punish Muhabbat Khan. The latter attempted to appease Saadat Khan and made offers of money; but the nawab, intent on making an example of him, refused all offers and occupied Azamgarh. Muhabbat Khan at first fled across the Ghaghra into Gorakhpur; but he eventually returned and submitted himself to the nawab[6]. He was put into confinement at Gorakhpur where he died in 1731. His son, Iradat Khan, also known as Akbar Shah, was reinstated in the gaddi of Azamgarh[7].

In 1750 Akbar Shah was drawn into the struggle between Ahmad Khan Bangash (the nawab of Farrukhabad) and Safdar Jang (the nawab of Avadh who had succeeded his uncle and father-in-law, Saadat Khan in 1739). A brief reference to the events of that struggle is rendered necessary by the share that Akbar Shah took in them. Ahmad Khan Bangash had defeated Safdar Jang on 13th September 1750, at Ram Chataunl, and the latter had retired to Delhi[8].

For the administration of the conquered territory Ahmad Khan Bangash appointed his wife's cousin, Sahib Zaman Khan (a Dilazak

1. Fisher, F.H. : *Statistical, Descriptive, and Historical Account of the North—Western Provinces of India*, Vol. XIII, Part I—*Azamgarh*, (Allahabad, 1883), p. 136
2. *Ibid*; Drake-Brockman, D.L., *op. cit*,, p. 170
3. Srivastava, A.L. : *Awadh Ke Pratham do Nawab* (Hindi translation of the *First Two Nawabs of Awadh*), (Agra, 1957), p. 47
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid*; Oldham, W. : *Historical and Statistical Memoir of the Ghazeepur District*, Part I, (Allahabad, 1876), pp. 88-89
6. Srivastava, A.L., *op. cit.*, p. 48
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid*, pp. 165, 171

Pathan of Jaunpur), to be his *faujdar* (military commander) in Jaunpur, Azamgarh Mahul, Akbarpur and other places[1]. At that time Balwant Singh, the raja of Benares (Varanasi), was in possession of Jaunpur. Sahib Zaman Khan was ordered to eject Balwant Singh and was joined both by Akbar Shah and Shamsher Jahan, the zamindar of Mahul. An advance was made on Jaunpur by the united forces, and the fort was captured after only six hours' fighting[2]. Sahib Zaman Khan, however, did not feel himself strong enough to operate further against Balwant Singh and after settling matters by negotiation retired to Nizamabad (in this district), where he fixed his head-quarters and remained for sometime[3].

Shortly afterwards, the approach of Safdar Jang with his allies, the Marathas, to avenge his defeat on Ahmad Khan Bangash, gave Balwant Singh an opportunity to demand the restoration of Jaunpur. When his demand was refused, he marched against Sahib Zaman Khan, but Balwant Singh's Afghan leaders refused to fight against the former who was an Afghan. A mutiny, however, among Sahib Zaman Khan's followers compelled him to leave his camp and seek refuge in Azamgarh. Not feeling himself secure there he left for Bettiah[4] (in Bihar) and the district once more returned to the nawab vizir of Avadh. Akbar Shah's relation with Sahib Zaman Khan appears to have been overlooked by Safdar Jang; for Akbar Shah remained in possession of Azamgarh till 1756 when he resigned in favour of his natural son, Jahan Shah. Muhabbat Khan had four sons, Iradat Khan (Akbar Shah), Sufi Bahadur, Jahangir and Husain. The second and fourth had no issue, but Jahangir had two sons, Azam Khan and Jahanyar. Not long after Akbar Shah's death, Azam Khan began to assert his superior right to the estate of Azamgarh over his cousin, Jahan Shah. The dispute was at first settled by a division of Azamgarh, but eventually Jahan Shah drove out Azam Khan, who took refuge in Jaunpur. Jahan Shah then fell into arrears with his revenue and therefore Muazzam Khan, an agent of the nawab vizir of Avadh, was sent to collect the revenue from Jahan Shah. A meeting was arranged between Jahan Shah and Muazzam Khan near Nizamabad and on its failure a quarrel arose in which both lost their lives. Confusion then prevailed at Azamgarh.

Nawab Shuja-ud-daula (the successor of Safdar Jang) of Avadh directed his minister, Beni Bahadur, to visit Azamgarh in person. The result of this visit was, not the confirmation of Azam Khan in Azamgarh, but its transfer to Fazl Ali, the *faujdar* of Ghazipur, who held it for sometime. The rule of Fazl Ali was, however, a most oppressive one and he was, therefore, soon ejected.[5]

For a time Azamgarh was without a head. Arrangements for the collection of revenue were then made with local farmers, Didar Jahan of Mahul, Mir Abdullah of Sarai Mir, Mir Fazl Ali of Muhammadabad, Mittrasen and Turab Iraqi. In 1764 the defeat of Shuja-ud-daula

1. Fisher, F.H., *op. cit.*, pp. 136-137; Srivastava, A.L., *op. cit.*, p. 180
2. Srivastava, A.L., *op. cit.*, p. 180
3. *Ibid.*
4. Fisher, F.H., *op. cit.*, p. 137
5. *Ibid.*

at the battle of Buxar, gave Azam Khan an opportunity to establish his authority in the district, as well as gain favour with Shuja-ud-daula by despatching to Lucknow, some of the property lost by Shuja-ud-daula in the retreat from Buxar. Azam Khan was accordingly permitted to hold Azamgarh estate. But when he learnt that the subahs of Shuja-ud-daula (Avadh and Allahabad) were occupied by the British and the nawab had fled towards Rohilkhand on January 31, 1765, Azam Khan entered into an agreement with the British and he seems to have cast in his lot with them[2].

Azam Khan retained Azamgarh till his death in 1771. On the death of Azam Khan, the nawab Shuja-ud-daula's minister, Ilich Khan, visited Azamgarh. Neither Jahan Shah nor Azam Khan had left any issue; and Jahanyar (Azam Khan's brother) neither cared nor was fit to be made raja of Azamgarh. The estate of Azamgarh was, therefore, consigned to the care of a *chakledar*, and became known as the *chakla* of Azamgarh; and so it remained till the year 1801. By the treaty concluded between the nawab Saadat Ali Khan of Avadh and the East India Company on November 10, 1801[3], much territory was ceded to the East India Company in payment of the arrears due to the Company, and in the ceded territory were included *chakla* Azamgarh, *pargana* Maunath Bhanjan and *taluqa* Mahul, which were estimated to yield a revenue of Rs 8,64,002[4].

On September 18, 1832 Azamgarh district was formed. From that time till the outbreak of the freedom struggle in 1857 there is no history of the district to record except the administrative changes which were introduced from time to time.

The military garrison at Azamgarh in May 1857 consisted of the 17th Native Infantry, some 500 strong. They were brigaded with the 19th and 34th Regiments at Lucknow; and they were under grave suspicion of disloyalty as they were known to have entertained men of the disbanded 19th Regiment in their lines. To meet any outbreak the collector's court-house was fortified, the verandahs being closed up with loop-holed walls, the parapets crowned with sand bags, and the entrance gate commanded by two small guns, covered by a trench, in the charge of Indian gunners and selected men of the 17th Native Infantry as a gun guard. Nothing occurred till June 3 when a company of the 17th Native Infantry and some eighty troopers of the 12th and 13th Irregulars reached Azamgarh from Gorakhpur with Rs 5,00,000 in their charge[5].

In the night of June 3, the Indian sepoys who joined the struggle broke loose, and carried on depredations and their leader Bhondu Singh broke open the jail and released the prisoners. He looted the collector's treasury of Rs 70,000 and proceeded in pursuit of the escort which left Azamgarh at sunset that afternoon in charge of Rs 7,00,000 for Varanasi. This escort was overtaken and its treasure captured by the fighting sepoys. Hutchinson, the interpreter and Quarter Master of the 17th Regiment

1. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, pp. 172-173
2. Srivastava, A.L. : *Shuja-ud-Daulah*, Vol. I (Agra, 1961), pp. 246-247
3. Aitchison, C.U. : *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and neighbouring countries*, Vol. II, (Calcutta), p. 61
4. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 173
5. *Ibid.*, p. 174

Native Infantry, was shot under the porch of the collector's treasury office by Ram Tahal, a sepoy[1].

On June 20 almost all the Europeans except a few non-officials evacuated Azamgarh for Ghazipur[2]. The struggle thus started was taken up by the Palwar Rajputs who throughout this period put up a strong fight against all attempts of Venables, the plantation officer, who was invested by the commissioner with full magisterial powers, to suppress them[3].

The report submitted by Horn (the British officer at Azamgarh) gives an idea of the struggle that was raging there[4]. According to it, the Palwars and the Rajkumars (a Rajput sect) had forgotten their blood feuds to unite against the British[5]. In the Nizamabad tahsil, the government had no power of coercion beyond a few kilometres and for the period from June to August, the whole of it had been subjected to plunder. The villages in the Sagri tahsil were in a very unsettled and disaffected state and were ready for anything. Koel Singh, the zamindar of Nizamabad was on the side of the British for some time, but he soon joined the Palwars and made a common cause with their leader Prithvipal Singh in imposing a levy on the mercantile sections of the populace[6]. The Ghosi tahsil was similarly affected. In Muhammadabad tahsil, great distress prevailed in Maunath Bhanjan and Mubarakpur. The landholders of Deogaon and Chiriakot were very turbulent and remained in an excitable condition. Koelsa and Atraulia were full of refractory Rajputs who could not be tackled until Avadh itself was brought into some sort of order[7]. Originally the British had very great difficulty in taking possession of this part of the country. The disappearance of the British rule left Koelsa entirely under the rule of Madho Prasad, the Palwar chief. But there were other parties who claimed supremacy in pargana Mahul. Jai Lal, the Kurmi raja of Atraulia, put in a claim for the district of Azamgarh But for the time being Madho Prasad held sway and led the Palwars to attack Azamgarh on July 12, 1857. Beni Madho (brother of Jai Lal) professed friendship for the British, but all the while, he collected his men and made preparations for war. The pargana Mahul was lost to the government by the end of June when Muzaffar Khan occupied it and proclaimed himself the raja of Mahul on June 26 and since that time be fortified it and surrounded it with earthworks[8]. The fort at Mahul withstood two companies of troops for a month and guns had to be sent for when the British took the place[9]. Others who participated in the Azamgarh rising were Rajab Ali who attacked the Kotwali with about 4,000 followers and Saiyid Muhammad who declared himself as the *chakledar* of Azamgarh[10].

1. Rizvi, S.A.A. (Ed.) : *Freedom Struggle in Uttar Pradesh*, Vol. IV, (Lucknow, 1959), p, 89
2. *Ibid*; Fisher, F. H., *op. cit.*, p, 138
3. Chaudhuri, S.B. : *Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutinies*, (Calcutta. 1957), p. 153
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
7. *Ibid.* p. 154
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Ibid.* p. 156

On July 28, 1857, the little band of remaining Europeans decided to leave Azamgarh. This step was not taken until the news of the outbreak at Sigauli (in Champaran) and at Dinapur had been received[1]. Soon after the Europeans had left, all the police, except those at Muhammadabad, left their post. A large number of Palwars under Prithvipal Singh now marched into the town of Azamgarh and levied a contribution of Rs 10,000 on the Banias[2]. They remained in Azamgarh from August 9 to August 25, when the arrival of the Gurkhas under Colonel Wroughton caused them to seek safety in flight. The Gurkhas marched into the town on August 26 and occupied it; and on September 3, the magistrate (Horne) came to Azamgarh[3]. The southern and eastern portions of the district now came under the British control and the Gurkhas left Azamgarh for Jaunpur on September 7, but in the northern and western portions the freedom fighters still maintained their hold. Muzaffar Khan was still in possession of Mahul[4]. Beni Madho (the raja of Atraulia) had no intention of patiently awaiting attack from the British side and after hovering in the vicinity of Azamgarh for some days, he announced his encampment with a large force at Mundiari (about 14 km. from Azamgarh) on September 15 by firing a salvo[5]. On September 20 he fought an action at Mundiari against an army of 1,200 Gurkhas led by Captain Boileau but was defeated[6]. Beni Madho took refuge in his fort at Atraulia; but hearing a few days later that the Gurkhas were again advancing, he retreated to Avadh, leaving his stronghold to be occupied by the Indian officials whom he had taken there before as prisoners. On September 27, Wroughton (the British officer) proceeded with a strong force to Mubarakpur, the stronghold of Iradat Khan, who had proclaimed himself *naib nazim* of Jaunpur, took him prisoner and hanged him after trial[7]. Bird (the joint magistrate of Gorakhpur) next led a force towards Mahul, burned the forts of Shamsbad and Baramadpur, the strongholds of Muzaffar Khan and Prithvipal Singh respectively on his way, and finding Mahul itself evacuated reinstated the police. This expedition restored, nominally at least, the British authority over the district[8].

It was not long, however, before the British authority was defied. The Palwars were only half subdued. Pollock, who was then officiating as magistrate, unsuccessfully induced them to submit. Meanwhile, the district was threatened by a serious invasion from the north. In October, the Gorakhpur freedom fighters collected in great force at Barhaj near the Ghaghra, and it was learnt that they were contemplating a descent on Azamgarh. Pollock hurried northwards with all his forces, attacked them, drove them from a strong position on the northern bank of the Ghaghra and even succeeded in cutting off the flotilla of boats that had been collected by them for the passage across the river[9]. This action secured the district from all immediate danger in this quarter and,

1. Fisher, F.H. *op, cit*. p. 139
2. Chaudhuri ,S.B., *op. cit.*, p. 153
3. Fisher, F.H . *op. cit.*, p. 139
4. Darke-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 178
5. *Ibid.*
6. Chaudhuri, S.B., *op. cit.*, p. 155
7. Darke-Brockman, *op. cit.*, p. 178
8. *Ibid.*, pp. 178-179
9. *Ibid.*, p. 179

satisfied with his success, Pollock returned to Azamgarh after charging the leading landholders with the protection of Dohrighat. From Azamgarh, Pollock decided to tour the Palwar territory. Marching with a sufficient force he passed through the Palwar territory dispersing the freedom fighters and destroying their chief strongholds[1].

Early in November 1857 a large number of freedom fighters from Avadh occupied the fort of Atraulia. A call for help was immediately sent to Jaunpur from where a strong force was at once despatched to cope with the freedom struggle[2]. On November 9, 1857 an action was fought between the freedom fighters and the British, when the freedom fighters evacuated the fort of Atraulia leaving behind three guns and removing their wounded. After destroying the fortifications of the place for three days, the British troops under Colonel Longden returned to Jaunpur. For several months things remained comparatively quiet, but in March 1858 the state of affairs underwent a complete change. The bulk of the British troops was then concentrated at Lucknow and the eastern districts of the State were almost denuded of troops. This encouraged the freedom fighters to renew the offensive against the British outposts at Azamgarh in March 1858[3].

This also facilitated the plan of Kunwar Singh (the famous freedom fighter of Shahabad, in Bihar) to pass through Azamgarh with a view to reconquering his lost stronghold of Shahabad. He despatched the advance guard of his main army with several guns assisted by Ghulam Husain to Atraulia which they plundered on March 20. Meanwhile, Milman (the British officer) who was encamped at Koelsa, quitted his entrenchment to attack the advance guard of the Indian sepoys in possession of Atraulia[4]. On March 21 he surprised them in some mango groves and drove them away, but the main body of Kunwar Singh's troops coming up in overwhelming numbers beat Milman to a precipitate retreat. Milman was forced to leave behind him his guns and baggage[5]. Milman being put to flight, first retreated to Koelsa with the pursuing Indian sepoys at heel, and eventually took refuge in the entrenchment at Azamgarh. Kunwar Singh followed up his advantage and gradually advanced towards Azamgarh with 1,000 sepoys and 2,500 followers, and was at Mundiari on March 24[6]. Two days later, he took possession of Azamgarh without opposition[7]. He was then at the peak of his power and actually held the town for a few weeks. The government reports indicate that Kunwar Singh's men had put their guns in position against the entrenchment and were preparing scaling ladders and even attacked the entrenchment[8]. Their number was estimated at 4,000 strong, with four guns, and more than 3,000 were said to be coming up from the rear[9].

The news of the capture of Azamgarh caused grave anxiety in the official circles. Colin Campbell (later Lord Clyde) the comander-in-chief,

1. *Ibid.*
2. *Ibid.*
3. Chaudhuri, S.B., *op. cit.*, p. 325
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
7. *Ibid.*, pp. 325-326
8. *Ibid.*, p. 326
9. *Ibid.*

considered that nothing could be more important than the protection of that rich district and requested Lord Canning (the governor-general) to consent to the movement of a strong brigade of infantry, cavalry and artillery from Lucknow to Azamgarh. The message was sent on March 28 and next day Edward Lugard was despatched from Lucknow for the relief of Azamgarh[1]. Meanwhile, in response to an appeal from Colonel Dames (who commanded at Azamgarh), Brigadier Gordon from Varanasi sent him reinforcements via Ghazipur. But the gravity of the danger lay in the possibility of Kunwar Singh making a raid upon Varanasi and disrupting the line of communication between Calcutta and Lucknow[2]. Mark Kerr was immediately sent from Allahabad to relieve Azamgarh. He reached Varanasi on March 31, and picking up troops from all stations started again on April 2, and pushed forward with such rapidity that he reached Sarasena (about 12 km from Azamgarh) on April 5[3]. When Mark Kerr moved out next morning he discovered that crowds of armed men were lying in ambush in a number of banked ditches on either side of the road, waiting to intercept him. The Indian sepoys were estimated between 3,000 and 4,000 and were commanded with superior skill. They spread out all round and though they could, be cleared by a smart action, the convoy in the rear could not be protected, against the attack of the Indians. The position of the British army was extremely critical but Mark Kerr managed to reach Didarganj in this district on April 6, 1858[4].

The town of Azamgarh was still held by a strong force under Kunwar Singh while the British troops held the entrenchments to the south of the town waiting anxiously for the arrival of Edward Lugard. Outside the borders of Azamgarh, the leaders of Avadh and the neighbouring areas seem to have been making a plan to join Kunwar Singh at Azamgarh, but something occurred to frustrate the plan[5]. Marching on the way to Azamgarh Edward Lugard reached Jaunpur on April 12. Kunwar Singh collected his forces along the banks of the river Tons to stop the advance of British forces, but realising that he had no hope against the combination of Edward Lugard and Mark Kerr, he (Kunwar Singh) evacuated the town quietly with a part of his followers on April 13, 1858[6]. The remainder of his men marched on the next day and so when Edward Lugard entered Azamgarh on April 15, the troops of Kunwar Singh were quitting the town. Even so, at the bridge of boats, which crossed the Tons at Azamgarh, Edward Lugard encountered a portion of Kunwar Singh's army which had been left to cover his retreat. In this great battle at the bridge over the Tons, the Indians fought with determination and it was not before a severe struggle that they were defeated[7]. Though the fighting was merely with the rearguard, the British met with stiff resistance at every step. The Indian troops eventually retreated and

1. *Ibid.*
2. *Ibid.*, pp 326-327.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 327
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*, p. 329
7. *Ibid.*

were pursued for about 18 km. but even while retreating, they maintained good order. Thus Kunwar Singh successfully retreated from Azamgarh to Shahabad[1] though severely wounded in one of his thighs which subsequently lost him his life.

The struggle against the British was, however, continued by Pargan Singh, who had been operating on the north bank of the Ghaghra. He marched into the district at Koelsa which was abandoned by the British. He also marched to Ghosi and retreated to Gorakhpur[2] on the approach of large British forces.

After the struggle of 1857-58 no major event, except the Gaurakshini or the anti-cow slaughter movement of 1893, occurred in the district till the close of the 19th century.

The Khilafat Movement started in 1920 by the Indian Muslims to bring pressure upon Britain to change its policy towards Turkey, also spread in this district. A number of Muslims enrolled themselves as volunteers for the movement and Khilafat offices were set up in important towns[3].

In August 1920, Mahatma Gandhi launched his famous non-co-operation movement, and the people of the district took part in it under the leadership of Suryanath Singh. Some students boycotted government institutions, a few government servants gave up their jobs and shops selling foreign goods were picketed. Many local prominent Congress leaders were arrested[4].

In 1928, when the Simon Commission visited India, demonstrations against it were also organised in the district as elsewhere. Black flags were waved and banners with words "Go back Simon" were displayed[5].

Mahatma Gandhi visited Azamgarh on October 3, 1929, where he received a tumultuous ovation and addressed a meeting of about 75,000 persons at Sri Krishna Pathsala High School. He was also presented with a purse of about Rs 5,000. Mahatma Gandhi spoke on the uplift of Harijans, prohibition and the use of *swadeshi* (Indian made goods). Next day he inaugurated the Khadi Vidyalya at Azmatgarh[6]. The visit filled the people of the district with strong national feelings.

January 26, 1930, was declared the Independence Day by the Indian National Congress and thousands in Azamgarh, as every where else in India, repeated the solemn and inspiring pledge, "We believe that it is the inalienable right of the Indian people to have freedom..... ..... We believe, therefore, that India must sever the British connection and attain *Purna Swaraj* or complete independence". A big procession was taken out which culminated in a largely attended public meeting at Sabzi Mandi[7] (in the town) where the Congress office had been located.

1. *Ibid.*
2. Drake-Brockman, *op. cit.*, pp. 185-186
3. *Swatantrata Sangram Ke Sainik, Zila Azamgarh*, (Hindi text published by the U.P. Information Deptt., Lucknow, undated), p. Cha
4. *Ibid.*, pp. Cha-Chha
5. *Ibid*, p. Chha
6. *Ibid.*, pp. Chha—j
7. *Ibid.*, p. *jha*

In March 1930, Salt Satyagraha which was an integral part of the Civil Disobedience Movement, was started. Such was the enthusiasm of the people of the district that hundreds of volunteers were enlisted. A bateh of volunteers followed by a large number of people marched in a procession to the Elbel Garden to manufacture salt in contravention of the Salt Law. The salt so manufactured was auctioned for Rs 20 per packet. This was followed by the manufacture of contraband salt in other parts of the town.

The arrest of Mahatma Gandhi in that year (1930) caused a great resentment among the people of the district. The students of the local Wesely High School observed strike and about 50 students of this school were expelled. Other institutions also closed down and a huge procession was jointly taken out by the students and the people. The response of the people of Azamgarh to the Civil Disobedience Movement was enthusiastic and wide-spread. British goods were boycotted and bonfires were made of foreign cloth and western style clothes. Liquor shops and other shops selling intoxicants were picketed. Many shop keepers selling foreign cloth willingly allowed Congress workers to seal up their stocks. Those found breaking the seal and selling foreign cloth were tried and fined by peoples' court. Processions and meetings became a deily feature and government offices were picketed. On July 4,1930, Gandhi Day was observed in the district condemning Mahatma Gandhi's arrest by organising *hartal* (closure) and protest meetings. In its endeavour to supress the movement the government banned meetings and processions. In spite of this ban, a procession was taken out in the evening and a meeting held at the Congress office. A number of persons were arrested. The overwhelming majority of the people kept up their non-violent struggle and on July 5, 1930 another meeting was held in the Congress office.

The expelled students of the Wesely High School picketed the school and residence of the head master on July 9, 1930. The head master was compelled to re-admit them. Emboldened by this success the students hoisted the tri-colour flag on the school building which was, however, at the insistenc of the school authories removed and planted in the field appurtenant to the school. When the students found the flag missing they again picketed the school and this resulted in the expulsion of about 110 students. They were re-admitted only after an agreement was arrived at between them and the school manager who allowed the tri-colour flag to be planted.

The flag hoisting ceremony spread in other parts of the town and when a batch of volunteers went to the Civil Lines for the purpose they were arrested by the police and sent to jail. There was also wholesale defiance of the prohibitory orders and inspite of the ban on the Congress, the Congress flag was hoisted on the Congress office and numerous private buildings. The people had to pay heavy fines. A large number of people were arrested and inhumanly treated in jail.

The signing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact and the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1931 gave the government some respite. The ban on the Congress was lifted and the release of political prisoners started. On the failure of the Round Table Conference in 1931, the Civil

Disobedience Movement was resumed. The district political conference was held at Azamgarh and during its sitting those who had suffered imprisonment during the previous year (1930) were eulogised. It was urged to organise political conferences at each tahsil headquarters with the object of propagating the Civil Disobedience Movement to the remotest villages. Such was the enthusiasm of the people of the district that more than 25,000 persons attended the Maharajganj tahsil political conference. The government, alarmed at the mass political awakening, posted a force in Ahrauli where the Phulpur political conference was to be held. The public coming to venue of the conference was intimidated by the police and anti-social elements. In the beginning the people started returning but on learning that there was no official ban on the conference, they jointly rushed to the venue and attended the meeting.

In 1931, no-rent campaign was started in the district. The peasants of the tahsils of Sagri and Ghosi withheld payment of rent to government and distributed anti-government leaflets.

The news of arrest of Mahatma Gandhi and Vallabhbhai Patel on January 4, 1932 reached Azamgarh the next day. There was widespread resentment in Azamgarh where hartals were observed and processions taken out. The government retaliated by imposing section 144 Cr. P.C., issuing the Press Ordinance, the Prevention of Intimidation Ordinance, and the Unlawful Instigation Ordinance and declared the Congress unlawful. The people defied the prohibitory orders and in the evening of January 5, a public meeting was held in the Sabzi Mandi. Four prominent local leaders were arrested and taken to the police station. The crowd when shouted demanding the release of the leaders were brutally lathi charged by the police. The Congress being banned, its offices were raided and sealed and the tri-colour flag was dishonoured and torn. But the Civil Disobedience Movement continued and volunteers poured in from every corner of the district. Numerous arrests were made, lathi charges were resorted to and indignities were heaped upon the freedom fighters but picketing of liquor and foreign cloth shops went on and the movement continued unabated till 1934. The situation was normalised when under the Government of India Act of 1935, elections for the provincial legislatures were held. The first Congress ministry in the State was sworn in 1937 with Govind Ballabh Pant as its premier. The ministry, however, resigned in 1939 on the issue of India's participation in the Second World War.

When Mahatma Gandhi launched the programme of Individual Satyagraha in 1940, the response of the people was once again enthusiastic and all Congress leaders of any consequence in the district were sent to jail.

Azamgarh was in the vanguard of the Quit India Movement which was started on August 9, 1942. On that day, the district Congress office at Azamgarh, was seized; and several arrests were made, the principal one being that of Sita Ram Asthana. All this naturally created excitement in the town.

Next morning (August 10), the news somehow reached that all the Congress leaders had been arrested at Bombay. This led to a strike

in three out of the high schools in the town. The one exception was Shibli George Intermediate College (now Shibli National Degree College), and arrangement were made to prevent picketing there. Processions of students went all over the town and came even into Civil Lines. One such procession was demonstrating near the collectorate, when two constables came along with a political prisoner. Instead of avoiding the crowd, they provokingly tried to get through it. The students separated the prisoner from the constables; and lifted him on their shoulders. The political prisoner, however, disapproved of this, and, when they released him he proceeded unescorted, and surrendered himself to the subdivisional officer. On the 11th the students picketed the Shibli George College (now Shibli National Degree College) which had to be closed down for a week[1].

During the night between the 11th and 12th August, a twenty-foot tract of rail was removed from a point near Sarai Mir railway station[2].

At Maunath Bhanjan there was complete hartal from August 10 to 13. On August 14, students formed a procession and marched towards the railway station. The police made a lathi charge, which provoked the people immensely. The same day in the evening, a very strong mob attacked the notified area office. Next day it marched towards the *thana* with the intention of hoisting the tri-colour flag. The police prevented it from going further and alleged that the people had thrown upon them brick-bats which was denied by the latter. Whatever be the fact it was true that the police opened fire, which resulted in the death of Dukha Ram, and Kalika Prasad. Many persons were severely wounded[3].

The incidence of Tarwa *thana* (police out-post) had its own importance. On the 14th August a large procession proceeded towards the *thana* for hoisting the tri-colour flag. The processionists stopped in front of the Tarwa *thana*. Their leader went to the thanadar and advised him to surrender to the people. Hardly did he arrive at any decision when the people caught hold of the policemen and snatched their guns. The thanedar had, therefore, no alternative but to surrender. The people assumed the control of the *thana* but agreed to hand over to him the personal pistol of the thanadar at his expressed request, because destruction of personal property was not their aim. In this way the *thana* came under the possession of the freedom fighters[4].

The fire of independence had been fully lighted by then throughout the district and its flames were consuming the symbols of British power-police-stations, post-offices, railway stations. The flames of this fire leapt higher while freedom fighters fed it with their lives.

A spark of this conflagration reached village Madhuban (in tahsil Ghosi) where the message that the struggle for freedom had started was spread by the local leaders and ardent patriots vied with each other to

1. Niblett. R.H. : *The Congress Rebellion in Azamgarh, August and September, 1942* (Allahabad, 1950), p. 4
2. *Ibid.*, p. 6
3. Sahai, Govind : *42 Rebellion*, (Delhi, 1947), p. 237
4. *Ibid.*, p. 238

lay down their lives on the altar of freedom. Preparations soon began for organising the people to wage the battle for independence. This work was mainly done by Mangal Deo Shastri, Ram Sundar Pande, Gorakhnath Shukla, Ram Vriksh Chaube, Ram Narain and others[1]. Each one drew inspiration from the other and every village threw up a leader of a suicide squad. A programme was drawn up to capture the Madhuban police-station and post-office, the railway station of Ghosi tahsil and finally the district headquarters of Azamgarh. A public announcement of the programme was made on August 14, 1942, at a public meeting held at village Dubari[2], about 5 km. from the police-station. The date fixed for the capture of Madhuban police-station was August 15, and the time 2 p.m.[3].

The subinspector and constables posted at Madhuban police-station took measures to ensure their own safety. The constables of the nearby police out-posts and their henchmen were collected at the police-station, besides all the chowkidars as well. Before the night was out an urgent message was sent to the district magistrate and superintendent of police to send additional force and arrangements for the protection of the police-station were made at night and word was sent to all the senior officers of the district. By the break of dawn the district magistrate and police officers along with armed police were ensconced in the police-station. On the morning of August 15 information was received that a large crowd singing songs, carrying the Congress flag had set fire to the Rampur police out-post and post-office. Their programme was to loot and set fire Fatehpur post-office (5 km. east of Madhuban) and Madhuban police-station and post office. Their ultimate goal was to attack the Azamgarh headquarters after looting and setting fire to Ghosi railway station, tahsil and post office (16 km away from the police-station), capturing the Muhammadabad tahsil en route. All the chowkidars were called in to protect the police-station. When this work was completed the district magistrate and the deputy superintendent of police of the circle arrived at Madhuban police-station with two armed guards and after hearing the details busied themselves to ensure the safety of the police-station[4]. Even horses were removed from the police-station to a nearby village and women and children sent away from the quarters attached to the police-station[5].

Meanwhile groups of villagers gathered in the maidan of the police-station. The district magistrate was entrenched inside with full force. The assembled crowd surrounded the police-station from all sides and the leaders of the groups, holding aloft the Congress banner, waited impatiently for the word to attack. The armed constables also took up their positions. Muzzles were seen peeping out of window bars and armed guards started patrolling on the roof of the police-station. Positions

1 *Patra Soochana Shakha-Supreme Sacrifice At Madhuban* (issued by the Soochana Vibhag, Uttar Pradesh, dated Lucknow : August 8, 1972), p. 3
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*, p. 4
4 *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5
5. *The Pioneer*, dated August 24, 1942

were taken in all corners of the wall. Scores of guns were pointed towards the crowd. All the show of might and the presence of the district magistrate himself did not deter the crowd. It only strengthened their determination. The cry went up 'Do or Die' and a thousand voices chorused "Arrest the district magistrate—do not miss the chance"[1].

The crowd stirred and was impatient to move ahead. But their leader Mangal Deo Shastri, gave the order to wait. He then with Ram Vriksh Chaube, stepped forward and walked into the courtyard of the police-station which was encircled with guns. He finally warned the police officials to surrender before the blood-bath began. They also proposed to the subinspector to hoist the Congress flag on the police station and to hand over all government papers and property. On getting a refusal, after much discussion they returned. On seeing their representatives returning without success a bearded youth moved forward and holding Mangal Deo Shastri aloft shouted "the order has been given—march forward". The youth was Ram Narain Lal alias Bahadur of village Kathauli[2]. The moment of waiting was over and scores of young men moved forward from all directions to hoist the Congress flag and behind them followed the fearless crowd with shouts of 'Quit India' and *Inqilab Zindabad*' (long live revolution). As the crowd moved forward the district magistrate ordered 'Fire'. Twenty guns boomed simultaneously from the roof and walls of the police-station. One bullet found its mark and Ram Nakshatr Pande fell, he had earned the privilege of being the first martyr. The next round was fired and Ramapati Tewari was the second proud martyr. But where one fell there were scores to carry the flag onward. Indiscriminate firing continued from the police-station.

On the roof of the police-station a dangerous marksman was picking out the leaders of each group. His eyes darted in all directions. He adjusted his gun and aimed it at a young man holding the flag. Suddenly, with a shriek he (the marksman) fell on the roof and the gun dropped from his hand. A young man, staking his life, had climbed on to the roof of the police-station and had attacked him, with a stone. The crowd jubilantly picked up the gun and this was their symbol of victory. The wounded constable was left untouched as this was their pledge of non-violence[3].

With the victory a new wave of enthusiasm swept over the beslegers. The attack was renewed and people clung to the windows and walls of the police-station. The guns inside kept spraying bullets incessantly, while men outside battled against brick and mortar with bare fists and lathis. For two hours the crowd tried to pierce the *thana* while round after round were being continuously fired. Men fell every minute, and hundreds were wounded but unawares they battled on. Realising that it was difficult to break the walls and force open the iron bars of the

1. *Patra Soochana Shakha-Supreme Sacrifice At Madhuban* (Bulletin issued by the Soochana Vibhage, Uttar Pradesh dated Lucknow, August 8, 1972), p. 5
2. *Ibid.*, p. 6
3. *Ibid.*, p. 7

windows, the crowd retreated to regroup and take up fresh positions. The firing had also become intermittent, as stocks of ammunition were fast depleting. And at a safe distance, the crowd was still surrounding the police-station.

As evening approached the people concerned themseleves with removing their dead and wounded to places of safety. The work was carried out throughout the night but watchful eyes maintained their vigil so that the district magistrate could not escape under the cover of darkness. All the roads had been cut and culverts demolished and the frightened inmates of the police-station remained confined indoors. For three days the crowd laid siege to the police-station till the army and fresh police force was able to come and rescue the besieged district magistrate. After lifting the siege, the freedom fighters on retreating also went to the place where the police horses and families had been removed. They captured the horses but did not lay hands on the women and children. Their behaviour with the families of those policemen who had put to eternal sleep their innumerable comrades and wounded hundreds was unparalleled example of a humanitarian, heroic and honourable behaviour representing the highest morality and ethics. But when the army and police arrived at Madhuban a wave of repression and reprisals started. Relations of martyrs and those wounded were tracked down to penalise their families. Repressive forces started looting and setting fire to houses every where they went and innumerable atrocities were committed. Local leaders went underground. A marble slab engraved with the word 'Jai Hind' is fixed as a memorial on wall of the police-station of Madhuban to commemorate the memories of all the freedom fighters.

On August 16, 1942, Madhuban, sanctified with the blood of her brave sons had acquired world-wide fame as a land of martyrs when some foreign countries broadcast details about the heroic struggle[1].

The news of the struggle at Madhuban as well as the numerous exactions made and acts of oppression committed by the manager of the Kajha estate (then held by two European sisters living in England) incited the peasantry to a spirit of revolt. On August 16, the peasants of Kajha and the people jointly numbering 7,000 to 8,000, attacked the estate bungalow and took away everything it contained.

On August 17, the people of Kopaganj attacked the Indara railway station and hoisted the Congress flag. The station master informed the district magistrate who rushed along with British soldiers and opened fire resulting in the death of two persons.

The Maharajpur *thana* was attacked on August 18 by a mob 2,000 to 3,000 strong. The thanadar was present there but the officials under him surrendered to the mob and gave the keys of the *thana* to the leaders. The thanadar himself surrendered later on.

1. *Ibid.*, p. 1

On August 28 a huge meeting was held in village Siyarha Patwadha. The assembly was busy in thrashing out ways and means to defend the village. A lorry full of soldiers arrived. The people thinking that the soldiers had come to attack them surrounded the lorry. The soldiers were completely unnerved. Thus unable to attack the people, they said "we have not come to harm you in any manner. We are going back." "We request you to do so", the people replied. "You go first then we disperse", said the soldiers; but as the people were going back to their respective places they were fired at from behind by the treacherous soldiers. At least 8 persons lost their lives. Almost a similar incident took place at Atraulia on August 23 when 4 persons were killed and many wounded. For many months this type of movement continued. On one dead of night; in November 1942, the people bombarded the Khurhar railway station and damaged its property. It was clear that the government could not suppress the movement despite their heartless repression.

More than 380 persons of the district were detained in connection with the Quit India Movement and 231 were convicted and awarded various terms of imprisonment. The collective fines imposed and released from the people of the district amounted to Rs 1,03,645[1].

By 1945 when the Second World War ended, British public opinion had veered round to complete independence to India. The battle for India's freedom was taken to the council table with the British seriously thinking of leaving India for good.

At last, one August 15, 1947 the country and with it the district shook off the foreign yoke and achieved the long awaited independence The district celebrated the Independence Day in a befitting glee and there was rejoicing in every home. National flag was hoisted on the collectorate building, on almost all private and government buildings and even on residential houses and commercial establishments. Every year the day is celebrated with the same enthusiasm. The district has had its due share in the fight and rejoicings for freedom. 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. The Indian National Congress as well as the Muslim League had accepted partition. The partition was an event of great mourning for the nation. About 530 displaced persons from Pakistan came down to the district and were rehabilitated.

On hearing the news of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi (on January 30, 1948), the whole district went into mourning, the markets and offices were closed and several processions were taken out and meetings held to mourn the tragic and irreparable loss of the Father of the Nation. October 2, 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 life and achievements. The people also renew their pledge to serve the nation and follow his way of life.

1. Sahai, Govind, *op. cit.*, p. 284

With the enactment and adoption of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic. This day was celebrated in the district by taking out processions, holding meetings and illuminating houses, shops and government buildings. This day is observed with enthusiasm every year all over the district as the Republic Day.

An idea of the subsequent political history of the district can be had by the results of the different general elections held in the district, the first one after Independence being that of 1952. The results of subsequent general elections and the hold of various political parties in the district has been described in detail in Chapter XVIII of the Gazetteer.

The nation always venerated those who had participated in the struggle. In 1973, on the occasion of celebration of silver jubilee year of Independence, 472 persons of the district who had taken part in India's freedom struggle or their dependents were favoured with *tamra patras* (copper plates) placing on record the services rendered by them or their forebears. This is a number which any district can boast of, without exaggerating its role.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

Population

The population of the district according to the 1971 census was 28,57,484 with 14,31,267 males and 14,26,217 females, having a sex ratio of 996 females per 1,000 males. The area of the district was 5,744 sq. km. and the density of population was 497 persons (urban 610 and rural 473) per sq. km., as against the State average of 300 persons. Among the districts of the State Azamgarh occupied 20th and 6th positions in respects of area and population respectively.

Tahsilwise density of population per sq. km. was 466 in Sagri, 526 in Ghosi, 563 in Azamgarh, 580 in Muhammadabad, 459 in Phulpur and 414 in Lalganj. The urban density was the highest in tahsil Ghosi, being 14,562 persons per sq. km.

The following statement gives a tahsilwise account of the area and total population in 1971 of the district.

District/tahsil	Area in sq. km.	Males	Females	Total
District total	5,744.0	14,31,267	14,26,217	28,57,484
Sagri tahsil	914.5	2,15,010	2,10,722	4,25,732
Ghosi tahsil	942.0	2,48,966	2,46,190	4,95,156
Azamgarh tahsil	811.2	2,30,565	2,25,750	4,56,315
Phulpur tahsil	1,152.6	2,64,224	2,65,064	5,29,288
Lalganj tahsil	997.7	1,99,044	2,14,396	4,13,440
Muhammadabad tahsil	927.5	2,73,458	2,64,095	5,37,553

Some more details of area and population in 1961 and 1971 are given in Statement I at the end of the chapter.

Growth of Population

The earliest attempt to enumerate residents of the district was made in 1837 when its population totalled 7,79,555, the average density being only 144 to the sq. km. In 1847 the number went up to 11,20,682 the resultant density being 207 persons to the sq. km. but the number was only assumed as the enumeration was done on the basis of persons to a house. No reliance therefore, could be placed either on the returns of this enumeration or on that of 1837. The next enumeration in the year 1853 was conducted by *patwaris* in villages and by *bakhshis* or treasurers in towns, under the immediate superintendence of the tahsildars concerned. This was a far more accurate enumeration according to which population was 14,15,435, total area of the district was 6,512.56 sq. km. and the resultant density was 257 to a sq. km. The figures were calculated from the totals of the parganas, exclusive of Sikandarpur and

Bhadeon which were transferred to Ballia in 1879; but no account could be taken of the villages transferred to Azamgarh in 1904. In 1865 the population was found to be 12,05,169, the decrease being no less than 2,10,266. No clear reason for this decline could be determined though doubtless, some disturbances were caused by the freedom struggle and the unfavourable nature of the seasons that had immediately preceded the census. On the other hand, it might be possible that there was some understatement of the total on this occasion for it was well known that in many districts concealment of the member of females had been practised to a certain extent. The next enumeration of 1872 showed a population of 13,17,626 for the district. The increase in the seven years was 1,12,457 and the average density was 240 persons to a sq. km. This was probably a far closer approximation to the reality that had hitherto been achieved but on this occasion also there was some suspicion that population had been understated.

This suspicion was confirmed at the census of 1881, the population increased to 16,04,654, when resulting density per sq. km. averaged 292 persons. This enumeration was considered far more accurate than any previous one.

At the census of 1891 the population of the district increased to 17,28,625 and the density rose to 315 persons per sq. km.

At the next census of 1891 the population decreased to 15,29,785. Owing, however, to the transfer of 122 villages from the Gorakhpur district to Azamgarh in 1904, the population increased by 13,389 and the area of the district by 171.5 sq. km. The mean density calculated on the area as it existed in 1901 dropped to 277 persons per sq. km.

The decennial growth with variation in population during the period from 1901 to 1971 is given in the statement that follows :

Year	Persons	Males	Females	Decade variations	Percentage decade variations
1901	15,51,654	7,68,052	7,83,602	—	—
1911	14,96,084	7,51,427	7,44,657	−55,570	−3.58
1921	15,31,970	7,77,930	7,54,040	+3,586	+2.40
1931	15,74,982	7,99,683	7,75,299	+43,012	+2.81
1941	18,26,590	9,18,546	9,08,026	+2,51,608	+15.98
1951	21,06,557	10,44,682	10,61,875	+2,79,967	+15.33
1961	24,08,052	11,85,008	12,23,044	+3,01,495	+14.31
1971	28,57,484	14,31,267	14,26,217	+4,49,432	+18.66

Immigration and Emigration

In 1961, of the total population of the district 94.0 per cent were born within the district, 5.6 per cent in other districts of the State and 0.2 per cent in other parts of the country. Out of 938 persons from other countries, 476 were from Pakistan, 221 from Burma, 135 from Singapore and Malaya, 80 from Nepal, 3 from South Africa and 1 from United Kingdom. The duration of residence of only 14.1 per cent of the immigrants was over 10 years. Of the migrants 94.7 per cent were from rural

areas and the remaining 5.3 per cent from urban areas comprising 11.2 per cent males and 88.8 per cent females. The large percentage of females migration may be attributed to marriage. Of the rural population 94.3 per cent were born within the district (including 73.8 per cent born at the place of enumeration), 5.4 per cent in other districts of the State and 0.2 per cent in other parts of the country. Of the urban population 88.5 per cent were born within the district (including 70.8 in place of enumeration), 9.6 in other districts of the State, 1.4 in other parts of the country and 0.4 per cent in other countries. Migrants from other countries are mainly confined in the urban areas.

The number of immigrants from adjoining States and Union Territories shows that Bihar shared the largest number 2,195, followed by Punjab 226, Madhya Pradesh 201, Rajasthan 194, Delhi 59, and Himachal Pradesh 1. Their number from other districts of the State was 1,33,867 (males 17,911 and females 1,15,956).

Distribution between Urban and Rural Areas

In 1971, the district comprised 5 towns and 5,628 villages, of the latter 4,943 being inhabited and 685 uninhabited. The extent of population in the inhabited villages in 1971 was as follows :

Range of population	No. of inhabited villages	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
Less than 200	1,444	1,42,603	71,786	70,817
200—499	1,638	5,47,895	2,72,898	2,74,997
500—999	1,151	8,07,543	4,02,217	4,05,326
1,000—1,999	546	7,29,483	3,63,391	3,66,092
2,000—4,999	153	4,11,107	2,05,768	2,05,339
5,000—9,999	11	69,986	35,851	34,135
Total	4,943	27,08,617	13,51,911	13,56,706

Out of 4,943 inhabited villages 3,082 were of small size, each having less than 500 inhabitants, while medium size villages with a population varying between 500 and 2,000 persons.

The number of towns in 1971 was 5 which comprised 5.21 per cent of the total population, some other details being as follows :

Name of town with category	Tahsil	Area (in sq.km.)	Population		
			Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
Kopaganj T.A.	Ghosi	0.98	14,271	7,261	7,010
Azamgarh M.B.	Azamgarh	10.54	40,963	22,535	18,428
Maunath Bhanjan	Muhammadabad	7.77	64,058	34,071	29,987
Mubarakpur T.A.	,,	1.53	21,253	11,174	10,079
Muhammadabad T.A.	,,	1.04	8,322	4,315	4,007
Urban total		21.86	1,48,867	79,356	69,511

Distribution According to Age-groups

The population in urban and rural areas under different age-groups in 1971 was as follows :

Age-group	District population			Rural population			Urban population		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0—14	12,05,109	5,90,146	6,14,963	11,39,866	5,55,906	83,960	65,243	34,240	31,003
15—19	2,32,055	1,25,396	1,06,659	2,17,231	1,17,398	99,833	14,824	7,998	6,826
20—24	1,86,410	79,933	1,06,477	1,74,037	73,270	1,00,767	12,373	6,663	5,710
25—29	2,10,769	94,672	1,16,097	2,00,434	89,476	1,10,958	10,335	5,196	5,139
30—39	3,09,981	1,45,911	1,64,070	2,92,137	1,36,619	1,55,518	17,844	9,292	8,552
40—49	2,57,555	1,29,687	1,27,868	2,44,876	1,22,723	1,22,153	12,679	6,964	5,715
50—59	1,92,097	1,01,303	90,786	1,84,436	96,895	87,541	7,653	4,408	3,245
60 and above	2,63,433	1,64,170	99,263	2,55,517	1,59,575	95,942	7,916	4,595	3,321
Age not stated	83	49	34	83	49	34	—	—	—
Total	28,57,484	14,31,267	14,26,217	27,08,617	13,51,911	13,56,706	1,48,867	79,356	89,511

Displaced Persons

According to the 1961 census, 476 immigrants came from Pakistan, most of them being displaced persons. In 1971 there were 17 displaced persons from Pakistan and 29 from Burma.

Language

Language of practically the entire population is Bihari form of eastern Hindi; and the particular dialect spoken in this district is known as the Purbi or Western variety of Bhojpuri itself a subdivision of Bihari. The returns of the last census of 1971 showed that the Hindi was spoken by 81.23 per cent of the population and Urdu was spoken by about 10.85 per cent of the people, other forms of language include English, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, but these, of course, were found among immigrants to the district.

Some details of languages spoken in the district are given in Statement II at the end of the chapter.

Script

Devanagri script is used for Hindi and its allied branches such as Garhwali, Kumauni, etc., and that for Urdu is Persian. Other languages generally follow their own scripts.

Religion And Caste

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

Religion	Total			Followers			
				Males		Females	
	Persons	Males	Females	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hinduism	24,41,539	12,20,571	12,20,968	11,85,989	34,582	11,92,617	28,351
Islam	4,03,023	2,04,761	1,97,262	1,60,252	44,509	1,56,311	40,951
Christianity	13,566	5,825	7,741	5,657	168	7,607	134
Sikhism	155	82	73	9	73	12	61
Buddhism	185	18	167	4	14	159	8
Jainism	16	10	6	—	10	—	6
Religions not stated	49	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	28,57,484	14,31,267	14,26,217	13,51,911	79,356	13,56,706	69,511

Principal Communities

In 1971, there were 85.44 percent Hindus against the State average of 83.76 per cent. The percentage of Muslims was 14.07 and the remaining 0.49 per cent comprised Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Jains and others.

Hindu—This major community was originally divided into four branches, viz., Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra. The ancient division was mainly occupational but gradually it developed into a hereditary order. At present in the modern society, due to the impact of progressive social and economic forces, the old caste structure is crumbling, though slowly. It has already lost much of its rigidity though mostly in urban areas.

Majority of the Hindus belong to no definite sect or denomination, the worshippers of the Panchon Pir or five saints, a cult is quite prevalent. The religious belief is probably that the designation of monotheist is intended in general to record belief in one impersonal God in the abstract, apart from the idea of any special impersonation. Besides, there are many Kabirpanthis and Raidasis.

Among the Brahmans, the more numerous are the Sarwarias or Sarjuparis, both names having a territorial origin and meaning Brahmanas of the Sarwar or Sarjupar, that is the country beyond the Saryu and the Ghaghra rivers.

Rajputs who claim to be Kshatriyas, take the foremost place, both as regards their aggregate number and their social position. They belong to a great variety of clans Bais, Bisens, Sombansis, Chandels, Nikumbhs, Dikhits, Chauhans, Rathors, Raghubansis, Sikarwars, Raikwars, Panwars, Parihars , Bhars, Soiris, Koeris, Bhuinhars and Lunias. Among the other Hindu castes their are some which call for mention i.e. Kahars, Banias, Kurmis, Lohars, Kumhars, Telis, Kewats, Pasis, Kalwars, Kayasthas, Dhobis, Nais and Mallahs. The Kahars, engaged in personal service, general labour, and to some extent in cultivation are found in all the tahsils. The Banias are Kandus, a caste which seems to have affinity with Bhar-bhunjas. They often parch grain and also practise many occupations in connection with the preparation and selling of minor articles of ood. Banias are numerous in Sagri but are found in all tahsils. The Agrawal, Barnawal and Kasaudhan Banias, are next to the Kandus; Kurmis are numerous in Sagri and a subdivision of this tribe are the Mat Kurmis who claim descent from Mayur Bhatt.

Among the other castes there are the Barais, Barhais, Gadariyas, Sonars and Khatiks, next to them come Atits, Baris, Dharkars, Halwais, Kankars and Bhats.

The tahsilwise distribution of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in 1971 was as follows :

District/Tahsil	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
District total	6,95,671	3,37,718	3,57,953	1,592	817	775
Sagri tahsil	97,652	48,108	49,544	56	31	25
Ghosi tahsil	1,02,772	50,627	52,145	225	100	125
Azamgarh tahsil	1,14,588	55,410	59,178	86	48	38
Muhammadabad tahsil	1,30,956	64,911	66,045	1,165	601	564
Phulpur tahsil	1,18,891	57,655	61,236	23	16	7
Lalganj tahsil	1,29,810	61,007	68,803	37	21	16

Muslims—Majority of the Muslims in the district belong to the Sunni sect. Among them the most numerous are Julahas or weavers. A majority of them follow their ancestral occupation of weaving country cloth, while in some cases they have also taken to other occupations. They are, however, for the most part, concentrated in the towns of Azamgarh, Mau, Mubarakpur and Kopaganj, the chief centres of cloth weaving in the district. Some Muslims are Rangrezis who are engaged in dyeing of yarn and cloth which is subsidiary to that of cloth weaving.

The Sheikhs occupy the second place, and belong mostly to tahsils Muhammadabad, Azamgarh and Sagri. Of their many subdivisions there are the Siddiquis, Qurreshis, Ansaris, Usmanis and Abbasis Besides, there are the Behnas, Hajams, Faqirs, Jogis, Sains and Kamkalis who are all Muslim ascetics similar to Faqirs.

The Saiyids, who are usually Shias by sects are numerous. Husainis forming the bulk of the sub-caste.

The remaining castes are the Darzis, Qassabs (butchers) Telis, Bhangis, Dhobis, Mughals, Bhats, Kumeras, Dafalis, Kunjars and Nats.

Christians—There were 13,566 Christians in 1971, males and females being almost evenly divided. Generally they belong either to Roman Catholic or to Protestant sects.

Sikhs—The Sikhs numbered 155 including 73 women in 1971. They are mostly immigrants from Pakistan. Most of them are found in urban areas and are engaged in various trades.

The number of Jains and Buddhists is very small being 16 and 185 respectively.

Religious Beliefs And Practices

Hinduism—The Hindu religion here comprises a variety of beliefs and practices, ranging from the transcedental mysticism of the monotheist to polyheism, and includes belief in ghosts, spirits, various minor godlings and diverse superstitions. The principal deities worshipped, particularly by the orthodex, are Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Surya, Lakshmi, Parvati, Krishna, Rama, Sita, Hanuman, Ganesha and nine forms of Devi (Durga), viz, Shailputri, Brahmcharni, Chitraghanta Kusamandini, Skandmata, Katyayani, Mahagauri, Kalratri and Sidhmata. The practice of taking a holy dip in rivers is also common. Temples dedicated to various deities are normal centres of religious congregation and worship. Some people have a separate place for puja in their homes. Many orthodox persons regularly perform morning and evening prayers (*sandhya*), some also make oblations to fire at *Yajnas* held occasionally. Fasts are observed on various week days or according to the dates of lunar months and on important festivals like Nav Durga, Rama Navami, Janmasthmi, Sivaratri, etc. *Kathas* or discourses and recitations from sacred books like the *Vedas*, *Upanishads*,

Gita, Shrimad Bhagavata, Purana, and *Ramayana* or *Ramcharitmanasa,* and (collective singing of devotional hymns) are at times privately or publicly arranged. The illiterate and the more backward sections of the community, on the other hand, indulge in various superstitions and propitiation of ghosts, spirits, etc. *Vedas,* Gita *Srimadbhagavat* and *Ramcharitmanasa* are their main holy books, the last one being most popular.

Islam—Islam enjoins on its followers profession of faith in one God and His prophet, Muhammad; saying of prayers (*namaz*), preferably in a mosque, five times a day; keeping fast (*roza*) in the month of *Ramazan,* proceeding on *hajj* to Mecca; and *zakat* (contribution in cash or kind for charitable purposes). Their holy book is *Quran,* and one who memorises and recites it, is called a *hafiz.*

The Muslims try to offer *namaz* regularly but are more particular about the *namaz* of Friday. On important festivals like Id-ul-Fitr and Id-uz-Zuha, they offer *namaz* collectively at *Idgahs.* Sacrifice of sheep or goats is also a common feature on the occasion of Id-uz-Zuha(Bakr-Id).

Most of the Muslims of this district belong to the Sunni sect, a small percentage to the Shia sect and the remainder to other minor sects. Many Muslims put faith in *pirs*(saints) and hold *urs* (anniversary). The Milad celebrations to commemorate the birth of their prophet in the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal is arranged with greater rejoicings, when the houses are illuminated and religious discourses high lighting the teaching of Islam are held.

Sikhism—Sikhism is a monotheistic religion, which disavows idolatry and has no caste distinction. It enjoins wearing by each adherent of a *kanghi* (comb), a *Kara* (iron bangle), a *Kirpan* (dagger), *Kachha* (shorts) and prohibits the cutting of the *Kesh* (hair). The Sikhs attend congregational prayers in *gurdwaras* (place of their worship) and celebrate birth anniversaries of their gurus when their holy book, the *Granth Sahab* is taken out in procession.

Christianity—The Christians believe in one God and that Jesus Christ is His son and is the saviour of mankind and the *Bible* is their holy book. Congregational prayers are performed in churches and chapels particularly on Sundays.

Buddhism—Buddhists believe in the eight fold middle path of rightcousness, viz., right views, right aspirations, right speech, right conduct, right living, right effort, right mindfulness and right meditation. The path leads to the end of sorrow and to the attainment of peace, enlightment and *nirvana* (salvation). Avoiding the two extremes, life of pleasure and denial of wordly enjoyments this religion advocates the middle path.

Jainism—Jains believe in *tri-ratna* (three gems) right faith, right knowledge and right conduct which lead them to the path of *moksha* (liberation). According to their belief the world has had no beginning and

will have no end and on creator is necessary to explain the nature of the cosmos. After completely annihilating the *karmic* forces and destroying all the shackles of worldly consequences, the soul exists in its supreme purity endowed with qualities of infinite perfection, infinite bliss and infinite power. The pure soul is called Jina and serves as the ideal to be aimed at by those desiring to escape from the cycle of births and deaths. The keynote of the ethical code of Jainism is ahimsa (non-injury to living beings). They worship the images of their *tirthankaras* in the temples.

Manners And Customs

Though the general pattern of life of all the communities is becoming increasingly uniform under the socio-economic stresses of modern living, nevertheless each community has its own particular way of life, distinguished by various manners and customs. Among the Hindus some of the important ceremonies are *namkaran* (christening), *mundan* (the first tonsure of the hair), *janeu* or *upanayana* (sacred thread ceremony), *vivah* (marriage ceremony), *antyesthi* (death rite).

Some of the important ceremonies of Muslims are *akika* (a sacrifice which has two parts, namely shaving of childs head and killing of one or two goats), *bismillah* (taking the name of God), *Khatna* (circumcision), *nikah* (marriage) and death rite.

Inter-caste Relations—As in other parts of the country nearly a generation ago inter-caste relations were very rigid. The members of different castes and sub-castes lived in almost water-tight compartments and inter-caste dining and marriages were either taboo or were sharply looked down upon. The picture has now greatly changed, especially in the post-Independence period. Inter-caste dining is no longer looked upon with disapproval by the people anywhere in the district particularly in towns. Inter-caste marriages though not very common are now more frequent than before and many of the traditional restrictions on marriage based on caste are slowly disappearing as a result of spread of education, influence of western culture, growing equality of sexes and consequent removal of disabilities from which women suffered in the past.

New Religious Leaders and Movement—The Arya Samaj is a protestant and reform movement within the Hindu religion. It was founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1875. In 1981 the number of followers were 130 in the district. Since then the sect has made a considerable progress in the district. Arya Samaj philosophy is monotheistic and professes to be a reversion to the orginal tennents as given in the *Vedas.* The objective of the Arya Samaj is to reform and to remove the perversions and distortions existing in Hindu faith and to accommodate and assimilate masses in a national religion free from obsolete and rigid rituals and customs. It condemns idolatry, *shradha* and early marriage, and is opposed to the prevalent rigid caste system. It gives women a higher status in social life than do the orthodox Hindus.

Radha Soami—There are also some followers of Radha Soami sect which is an offshoot of the *bhakti* cult of Hinduism. It is open to people belonging to any caste, religion, or walk of life. The *satsangis* (followers of the order) believe that the true name of the Supreme Being is Radha Soami, that the universe has three divisions-spiritual, spiritual-material and material-spiritual-and that the four essentials of religion are *sat guru* (true teacher), *sat shabad* (true word), *satsang* (true order or association) and *sat anurag* (true love).

Social Life

Property and Inheritance

The succession and inheritance to property other than agricultural holdings, among the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists are being governed by the Hindu Succession Act, 1956. This enactment confers equal rights on sons and daughters in paternal property. But such property can also be distributed through wills or gifts. The sons who generally live together with their parents and look after the property, often obtain will of their sisters in their favour who are supposed to be members of other families. Transfer through gifts is not so common, as it involves much investment (as court fees) and legal complications. Devolution of agricultural property follows provisions of The U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, which is applicable to all. In respect of other civil property, the Muslims are governed by their personal law of succession and inheritance and the Christians by the Indian Succession Act of 1925.

Joint Family

The institutions of joint family and co-parcenary system through still in existence, are rapidly disintegrating under the impact of various economic and social forces. Family structure both in towns and villages is now losing its solidarity and the common purse, common kitchen and common property in land are gradually losing their place as characteristics of a joint family life, the main causes of the decline being the impact of modern ideas. Younger generation is individualistic in outlook, so when the father dies the sons tend to separate and to seek a division of the family inheritance. The lure of the cities and the towns and the expectation of finding better employment there, encourages the flow of the rural population to the urban areas which tends to split up the village home. The pattern of family in the district is patriarchal and women are mostly dependent on their menfolk for maintenance and protection, only a few are economically independent and earn their own living.

Marriage and Morals

The distribution of the population of the district according to its marital status in 1971 was as follows :—

Marital Status, 1971

Age group	Total population	Unmarried		Married		Widowed		Divorced or separated		Unspecified status	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
0—9	8,31,707	4,01,518	4,30,189	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	3,73,402	1,26,342	92,334	62,271	92,435	—	5	—	—	15	—
15—19	2,32,055	50,334	14,864	74,627	91,825	320	370	100	95	15	5
20—24	1,86,410	18,172	1,132	63,686	1,04,675	840	575	230	95	5	—
25—29	2,10,769	12,283	444	79,574	1,13,919	2,375	1,569	425	165	15	—
30—34	1,60,031	3,715	320	64,968	85,483	2,705	2,415	360	65	—	—
35—39	1,49,950	3,030	125	66,888	71,987	3,950	3,595	285	80	10	—
40—44	1,42,484	2,645	175	63,806	63,885	4,770	7,383	290	80	—	—
45—49	1,15,121	2,175	45	50,211	48,993	5,580	7,797	210	110	—	—
50—54	1,19,165	1,830	50	52,782	41,325	8,715	14,323	100	40	—	—
55—59	72,924	865	15	29,086	26,718	7,875	8,305	50	10	—	—
60—64	1,17,509	1,610	40	55,813	21,842	15,111	23,443	130	20	—	—
65—69	64,150	625	5	34,562	10,311	9,041	9,576	30	—	—	—
70—	81,774	990	—	28,612	9,641	17,566	24,875	80	10	—	—
Age not stated	83	39	34	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	28,57,484	6,21,173	5,39,172	7,28,896	7,82,039	78,848	1,04,231	2,290	770	60	5

Of Hindus—Among the Hindus, marriage is a sacrament and is rigidly governed by the *Dharma-Shastras* and to some extent by custom and tradition. Though variations from caste to caste or even from family to familly within a caste may occur in the performance of various ceremonies the ceremony like *bhanwar* or *saptpadi*, literally seven steps, (going round the sacred fire seven times) and *kanyadan* (giving away the bride) are essential and common ones. Inter-caste marriages are rare but the inter-sub-caste marriages are becoming popular. After the enforcement of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, certain disability like prohibition of marriage between persons of the same *gotra* have been done away with. This Act, however, makes polygamy illegal and invalidates marriages between *sapindas* (an agnate or cognate within seven generations on paternal side and five generations on maternal side) also fixes the minimum marital age i.e., eighteen years for the bridegroom and 15 years for the bride, but if the bride is below eighteen years, the guardian's consent is necessary.

There are a number of ceremonies preceding the actual marriage performance which differ from caste to caste. Generally marriages are arranged by the parents and even in cases when the couple concerned takes the initiative the approval of the elders is considered to be desirable. At the out set the brides family approaches the groom's family, sometimes through a go-between. If preliminary needs of the parties are fulfilled negotiations start. The horoscopes of the prospective bride and bridegroom are also compared by some and if these do not conflict, the marriage is settled. First marriage rite is that of *barricha*, literally, choosing the bridegroom or engagement, which is performed by the bride's people. Next is that of *tilak* or *phaldan* (betrothal) which takes place at the bridegroom's house. When *lagan* (date of marriage) is also communicated by the bride's people to the other party as decided upon by the family priest, and mutually agreed upon. On the appointed day *barat* (marriage party) reaches the bride's house and after *dwarpuja* (reception at the door of the bride's house) along with *bhanwars* (going round the ritual fire) seven times by both bride and groom) completes the marriage ceremony. On the next day the *bhaat*, *kalewa*, and *barhar* takes place. Finally the ceremony of *vida* (departure) takes place when the *barat* returns with the bride.

Among members of the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Classes marriage is considered to be a religious rite. The system of *dola* is also in vogue in some cases. In this form of marriage the bride is taken to the bridegroom's house where the marriage rites are gone through. Certain castes permit the marriage of widows and such type of marriages which are performed with maimed rites, are known as *dharewar*, *karao* and *sagai*. Some castes permit concubinage as legal in so far as the children of such a union are entitled to enjoy the rights and privileges of the caste concerned, and also at times have a restricted right of inheritance.

Of Muslims—Marriage among Muslims is a civil contract and any person who has a sound mind and has attained puberty may enter into such a contract. The *mangni* (asking for bride and settlement of marriage) takes place at the same time. Their religion permits polygamy

to the extent of four wives at a time, but a Muslim, like others in government service, cannot have more than one wife at a time. The important item for a marital contract is settlement of *mehr* (dower). Marriages are usually negotiated and settled by the parents of boy and the girl. *Nikah* or *aqad* (marriage proper)), which is the actual marriage ceremony, is performed at the bride's house by the *Qazi* after obtaining consent of both the contracting parties through their respective agents, who then reads the *khutba* and the marriage ceremony is considered to be completed. The bridegroom is introduced to the relations of the bride and the *ruksat* (departure) takes place. There are certain restrictions on merriage alliances taking places between certain persons such as between brother and sister, half brother and half sister and uncle and niece.

Of Christians—Marriage among the Christians is governed by the Indian Christian Marriages Act, 1872, as amended in 1952. Marriage customs of the adherents of different denominations in the district usually follow the same general pattern as elsewhere. A marriage may be contracted by the concerned parties or arranged by their relatives. After engagement the banns are published three times (once every week) by the pastor of the church, where marriage is to be solemnised to give an opportunity for objections, if any. The marriage is then performed by the pastor in the church. The essential items of the ceremony are taking of vows by the bride and the groom, placing a ring by the groom on the finger of the bride. Some times the two exchange rings, followed by pronouncement of the couple as husband and wife by the priest and signing of marriage register by the couple and the witnesses. Wedding festivities then usually follow at the bride's home.

Of Sikhs—The important ceremonies in a Sikh marriage are recitation of the extract from the *Granth* and going around the holy book several times by the couple. The marriage party also goes in the form of a *barat* (marriage procession) like the Hindus. After offerings at *gurudwara* the invitees are entertained.

Dowry—For removal of this evil from the society, government has enacted the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, which prohibits giving and taking of dowry. But this evil is hard to abolish without active support from all sections of the society.

Civil Marriage

The Special Marriage Act, 1954, provides for the performance and registration of marriages by a marriage officer in the district. Religion and caste difference make no restrictions in civil marriages and the formal rites or ceremonies are also not required. Very few people however, take recourse to such a marriage, even though the procedure is simple and is the only option for inter-religious alliances.

The number of such marriages performed during the last 5 years is given in the following statement :

Year	No. of marriages
1971—72	14
1972—73	4
1973—74	6
1974—75	7
1975—76	15

Widow Marriage

Despite the provisions of the Hindu Widow's Remarriage Act, 1856 (Act 15 of 1856) remarriage of Hindu widows, particularly among the so called high castes, has not become popular. However, the members of the Schedul d Castes and the Other Backward Classes adhere to the old custom of allowing the widows to remarry, generally with the younger brother of the deceased. Among the Muslims and the Christians widow remarriage was always permitted and is comparatively more popular.

Divorce

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

Details of divorce cases decided in the district during the past 5 years are given below :

Types of cases	Number in :				
	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Divorce referred to court	5	2	2	5	3
Divorce permitted	3	2	—	4	1
Applications filed by men	2	1	1	2	2
Applications filed by women	3	1	1	3	1

Economic Dependence of Women and their Place in Society

Women occupied a high position in the Hindu society in ancient times. Manu, the ancient law-giver had ordianed that gods reside in the households where women are respected. The husband, who casts off his innocent wife, was punished by the king. The wife, likewise, was supposed to worship her husband as god and to remain faithful to him. Status of women, however, declined after the advent of the Muhammadans rule in the country, when seculusion or *purdah* came into vogue, perhaps as a measure of safety and protection. The practice continued thereafter, particularly among the Rajput chiefs and the Zamindars as a mark of social prestige. Their women folk remained confined to the four walls of their homes. The seclusion was stricter in villages than in towns, and was greater among Muslims than among Hindus. But things have changed much in last few decades.

Despite a marked change in economic status of women in recent years, the number of economically independent women is very small and in most cases they still continue to be dependent on men, for most of the women regard marriage and motherhood as the most important and ever sacred culmination of their existence. However, the number of those who, for reasons of economic necessity and individual convictions, seek employment is rising specially with the spread of education. The professions in which a larger number of such women are found are teaching and nursing, though they are also entering in other professions in recent years. With the liberalized law of inheritance, economic status of women in the society has generally improved. Introduction of universal adult sufferage and taking of special interest in the advancement of women by the State are the factors contributing to the uplift of women as useful members of modern society.

Among the poorer classes, women work in large numbers as daily labourers, both in agriculture and industry and cases of the economic dependence of men on such women are not altogether rare.

Prostitution and Traffic in Women

The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls' Act, 1956, was enforced in May 1956, in the district. With the enforcement o the Act this evil trade has declined to a large extent although this trade still exists in some parts of Muhammadabad tahsil.

The following statement gives an idea of the prosecutions and contraventions for the last 4 years :

Tahsil	1973		1974		1975		1976	
	Prosecution	Convicted	Prosecution	Convicted	Prosecution	Convicted	Prosecution	Convicted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Muhammadabad	1	—	10	—	11	2	22	—
Lalganj	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
other tahsils	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Gambling—The Public Gambling Act, 1867, (Act No. 3 of 1867) as applicable to the State under the Uttar Pradesh Public Gambling Act of 1952, and 1961 prohibits gambling in the district.

The number of prosecutions launched during the last 5 years is given in the following statement :

Tahsil	1976		1975		1974		1973		1972	
	Prosecution	Convicted	Prosecution	Convicted	Prosecution	Convicted	Prosecution	Convicted	Prosecution	Convicted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Muhammadabad	6	2	25	9	16	—	16	6	14	4
Ghosi	10	3	10	5	6	3	5	2	6	3
Sagri	10	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1
Phulpur	5	1	6	2	3	1	2	2	3	
Lalganj	3	—	6	5	6	—	1	—	2	—
Azamgarh	6	1	22	17	19	—	15	4	6	1

Home Life

Households

In 1971 there were 153 houseless households having 310 males and 243 females. Of the total, 132 households were in rural areas and 21 in urban.

The tahsilwise break up of houseless population is given in the following statement :

District/Tahsil	Houseless population			
	No. of household	Persons	Males	Females
District Total	153	553	310	243
Sagri tahsil	27	87	44	43
Ghosi tahsil	6	35	18	17
Azamgarh tahsil	36	141	100	41
Muhammadabad tahsil	17	89	47	42
Phulpur tahsil	26	79	42	37
Lalganj tahsil	41	122	59	63

Institutional population in 1971 was 2,326 (2,159 males and 167 females), the number of households being 203, including 166 in the rural areas.

The tahsilwise distribution of institutional population is given in the following statement :

District/Tahsil	Institutional population			
	No. of household	Persons	Males	Females
District total	203	2,326	2,159	167
Sagri tahsil	36	397	376	21
Ghosi tahsil	9	120	110	10
Azamgarh tahsil	68	586	474	112
Muhammadabad tahsil	75	1,036	1 023	13
Phulpur tahsil	9	131	130	1
Lalganj tahsil	6	56	46	10

Houses in Cities

Many of the buildings in the crowdd parts of the city generally do not follow any set architectural pattern and are generally single storeyed. Although there are a number of double storeyed buildings in the urban areas, *kutcha* houses are occupied by the poorer section of the population. Houses, in general, donot contain much decoration except some *Jali* work, projecting ariel windows and over hanging eaves and op nings in their front portions. Big houses, mostly occupied by rich persons, contain separate drawing room, dining room, bedroom, kitchen, storeroom, bathroom, latrine, etc. But such accommodation is restricted to only a few families. The open space in the middle of the house, being known as *aangan* and latrine is a common feature of practically every house, but separate urinals have not been provide in majority of the houses. Public latrines have also been constructed for those houses which do not contain such facilities.

Houses in Villages

Houses in the rural areas are generally built of mud or unbaked bricks are usually one storeyed although many double storeyed brick houses have also been built in villages. The *kutcha* houses roofed by wooden beams and covered with planks, thatching grass or tiles are eight to ten feet in height. An open courtyard and the *dalans* (verandah) are the characteristic features of rural houses but separate kitchens are rate. Latrines in such houses are not provided. Some improvements introducing ventilators better drainage, improved cattle sheds, etc., are now to be found in many villages, where people have taken interest in community development schemes. In *khadir* areas, where floods are common, the houses are still built mainly of thatching grass, shaped into a hut and surrounded by spacious *gheras* made of the same materials.

In 1971 the district contained 4,46,830 households (group of persons ordinarily living together and taking meals from the same kitchen), of whom 4,23,870 were in rural and 22,960 in urban areas. The average size of a household in the two areas was about 7 and 6 persons respectively. About 13.4 per cent households were living in one-room tenements, 22.5 in two-room, 20.4 in three-room, 14.3 in four-room and 29.4 in five-room tenements. In the district, the majority of persons i.e. 97.8 were found to be residing in their own houses and 2.2 in rented ones.

The following statement gives the number and classification of households by their size and tenure status.

District (total/rural/urban)	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 persons			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			10
District total	Total	4,46,830	16,955	25,315	35,990	52,730	61,390	2,54,095			355
	Owned	4,37,035	14,755	23,845	34,945	51,430	60,375	2,51,400			285
	Rented	9,795	2,210	1,460	1,045	1,300	1,015	2,695			70
Rural	Total	4,23,870	15,530	23,460	34,045	50,025	58,590	2,41,885			335
	Owned	4,19,710	14,185	2,280	33,620	49,540	58,225	2,41,050			280
	Rented	4,160	1,345	650	425	485	360	835			55
Urban	Total	22,960	1,425	1,855	1,945	2,705	2,000	12,210			20
	Owned	17,325	560	1,045	1,325	2,150	2,150	10,350			5
	Rented	5,635	865	810	620	815	650	1,860			15

Furniture and Decoration

Use of furniture is very much linked with the economic condition and the standard of living of the people. The well-to-do have well decorated drawing-room dining-tables, chairs, almirahs, dressing table, beds, etc., while the less affluent usually manage with *takhts* (wooden divans) *murhas* (reed chairs), cane chairs, a small table or so, etc.

In the rural areas poor people have string cots, and a few wooden chairs; some people have a few more articles of furniture such as *takhats* (wooden, divan) chairs stools and tables. There are hardly any furnishings or decorations worth the name but the walls are often decorated both inside and outside with crudely painted figures of deities, animals, human beings, etc. Clay toys, clay and metal idols made locally are often seen in rural dwellings of the Hindus. Another form of decoration is a print of an open palm generally made on walls, door-ways, wells, trunks of trees and cattle. This is regarded a sign of good omen and is considered a means to ward off evil.

When taking their meals in the kitchen people generally sit on the floor or on wooden boards or small carpets (*asans*) and use metal utensils, the educated and less orthodex using tables and crockery which is gradually becoming popular particularly among the towns folk.

Dress

The usual dress of both, Hindu and Muslim males is a shirt or *kurta* (loose shirt) and *dhoti* or pyjama. While going out, however, the use of trousers and coats, shirts or bush-shirts, etc., is becoming common. These garments have become the dress of the working people in recent years. Once back home they revert to their usual dress. On formal occasions men wear coats, *sherwanis* or *achkans*, *churidar* (tight pyjamas) or even loose pyjamas. In villages men still wear turbans or put on caps. The normal dress of women consist of the *sari* and blouse or *choli*, i.e. short blouse. Women (Muslims and Punjabis), however, put on *salwar*, *kurta* and *dupatta*. Some Muslim women still wear *churidar* (tight pyjamas) pyjamas or *gararas* with *kurta* and *dupattas* (long scarf). In the towns young girls are seen wearing shirts, slacks, *salwar*, *garara* or *sharara* with *kurta* and *dupatta* and more recently bell-bottom pyjamas with tops are also being worn. The use of *lahanga* (full long skirt) till lingers among the women of the villages or on ceremonial occasions in the Hindu families.

Ornaments

Men usually do not wear ornaments except ring on finger or sometimes gold or silver chain (around neck). Some people of lower castes also put on ear-rings.

The jewellery worn by women is usually made of gold(by those who can afford it), silver or nickel, and generally comprises *bunda* or *jhumki* (ear-rings) *kara* or *payal* (anklets), *keal* and *nath* (nose-stud and nose-rings), *hansuli* (heavy necklace), *kardhani* (gold or silver waist band), *bichhia* (toe-ring), *anguthi* (ring); and *pachhaila* (wristlet). Bichhia, among Hindus has religious significance.

Food

The staple grains and cereals consumed by the people of the district are wheat, rice, *bajra, jowar* and maize. The pulses consumed are *arhar, urd, gram,* masur, *moong* and *latri.* Most of the Hindus of the district are vegetarian by habit and preferance. Muslims, Christians and Sikhs are generally non-vegetarians. Two major meals a day are taken. Breakfast drinks usually consist of milk or Matha but tea is now also preferred by many. Rice is taken in plenty and the poorer class usually substitute their midday meal with *sattua* made of barley and gram or pea. Parched gram, pea or wheat is another favourite of the people which is usually taken with *rab* (molasses) or *gur* (jaggery). Among edible fats ghee and vanaspati, mustard and linseed oils are commonly used. Spicey diet is preferred and chillies both green and red, are taken in large quantities. Mone of the delicacies preferred by the rural folk are *makuni malpua, thokwa, nimona dal puri* and *bakheer.*

Festivals And Amusements

Hindu—As elsewhere in the State, fasting and feasting are the special features of Hindu festivals, which are spread throughout the year, a short account of the principal ones follow.

The period of first nine days of the Hindu calendar or the Vikram Samvat, beginning with the first day of the bright half of Chaitra, is called the Navratri. On the eighth day falls the Sheetala Ashtmi when Devi, particularly in the form of Sheetla is worshipped. The next day, Ram Navami, marks the birthday of Lord Rama when the Hindus generally fast and the temples of Lord Rama are specially decorated and illuminated and the *Ramayana* is recited at temples and homes.

The 10th day of the later half of Jy aistha is called the Ganga or Jeth Dasahra, when certain Hindus bathe in rivers and give alms to the Ganga-putras (those Brahamanas who live on the offerings made to the river). These acts are believed to wash away their sins.

Nag Panchmi is celebrated in the district as elsewhere, on the fifth day of the bright half of Sravana to appease the *nagas* or serpent gods. As looking at a snake on this particular day is considered to be auspicious, replicas of snakes made of flour on wooden planks or with cowdung on walls are worshipped by some familes. Live snakes are also brought to houses by snake charmers for this purpose who are given alms and milk for feeding the snakes they carry.

Raksha Bandhan falls on the 15th day of the bright half of the same month. Rakhis (threads, symbolising protection) are tied by sisters around the wrists of their brothers, and by Brahmanas priests to their patrons to invoke protection to them from evil during the coming years.

Janmastami, the fastival celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna, falls on the eighth day of the dark half of Bhadra. In the district, as

in other parts of the country, devotees fast the whole day and break their fast only with the eating of *prasad* at midnight when many worshippers throng the temples and the small shrines. Cradles are specially installed in homes and other places which are decorated and illuminated to commemorate the deity's birth to have *Jhanki* (glimpse) of the representation depicting the auspicious event. A special feature of this festival is the singing of devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna in shrines and homes. The *chhati* (sixth-day ceremony after birth) of the deity is also celebrated by some persons.

The last day of the first half (dark half) of Asvina is the Pitra Visarjan Amavasya, when manes are propitiated. During this period festivities of any kind are avoided.

The period of first nine days of the bright half of Asvina is also known as Navratri and is devoted to the worship of Durga. The temples of this deity are decorated on this occasion, and are visited by crowds of people who perform rituals in the temples, visiting one on each day as they do during the earlier Navratri of Chaitra. The 10th day is Dasahra or Vijaya Dashmi, which is celebrated also to commemorate the victory of Rama over Ravana. Ram Lila celebrations are held in various parts of the city and all over the district.

Dipavali(or Divali), the festival of lights is celebrated on the last day of the dark half of Kartika when the houses of Hindus are illuminated and the godess Lakshmi is worshipped. Festivities start two days earlier with Dhanteras (when metal utensils are purchased as an invocation of prosperity), followed by Narak Chaturdashi when a few earthern lamps (*diyas*) are lit as a preliminary to the main day of the festival. For the traders and business men Dipavali marks the end of a fiscal year when they pray for prosperity for the new year. There is no fasting on this occasion as Dipavali is regarded as a festival of feasting. The next day is celebrated as Annakut (or Govardhan Puja) in memory of Lord Krishna's protection of the cows and cowheads of Gokul (Mathura) from the wrath of Indra, the rain god known as Yama Duitiya or Bhaiya Duj when sisters put *roli* mark (*tika*) on the forheads of their brothers.

Ganga *Snan* (Kartika) is a big bathing festival which is held on the full moon day of Kartika as the Hindus believe that taking a bath in the river on this particular day washes, away their sins. Fairs are held at different places in the district.

The Sakat Chauth falls on the 4th day of the dark half of Magha when in certain Hindu families the male children cut the figure of a goat made of *til* and their mothers keep fast.

Makar Sankranti coincides with the transit of sun from *Dhanu* to *Makara* and is celebrated as a bathing festival usually every year on January 14th and not depending on lunar movement.

Basant Panchmi, which falls on the 5th day of the latter fortnight of Magha, is devoted to the worship of Saraswati, the goddess of learning. Sivaratri falls on the 14th day of the dark half of Phalguna in

honour of the wedding of Lord Siva when the Hindus fast throughout the day and worship Siva lingam. The temples of Siva are specially decorated and illuminated and large numbers of devotees offer water, flowers and *belpatra* (leaves of *Aegle marmelos* the *bel* tree) to icons and images of Siva and sing devotional songs in his praise. Big fairs are held on this occasion.

Holi, the festival of spring, is the last major festival of the Hindu calendar which falls on the full moon day of Phalguna. People in the rural areas sing *phaags* (songs of Phalguna) at night long before the actual day of the festival. Bonfieres are lighted on cross-roads at a fixed time to symbolise the destruction of the forces of evil. Cow-dung cakes are burnt in the Holi fire and ears of wheat and barley are roasted as offering to the Gods. Wide spread rejoicing marks the following day of the festival when till about noon, people squirt coloured water and coloured powder on each other, visiting friends and relatives in the evening.

Muslim—The number of festival among Muslims is not large. Their festival starts with Muharram which falls on the 10th day of Muharram, the first month of the Muslim calendar. It is a festival of mourning which commomorates the tragedy of Karbala and the martyrdom of Imam Husain (the grandson of the prophet Muhammad) and his companions. Although the occasion has special significance for the Shias, the Sunnis also take part in some of the observances. *Imambaras* are illuminated on eighth and ninth day of the month, *majlises* (religious assemblies) are held from the first to the ninth day and *tazias* are taken out in procession separately by Shias and Sunnis on the 10th day of Ashra.

Chehellum falls on the 20th of Safar and marks the end of the period of mourning.

Barawafat, the birthday of prophet Muhammad, is celebrated on the 12th day of Rabi-ul-Awwal when alms are distributed and Muslims gather to listen to discourses on the prophets life and mission.

Sab-e-barat, falling on the 14th of Shaban, is festival of rejoicing. It is marked by a display of fireworks, distribution of sweets and reciting of *fateha* (prayers) for the peace of the souls of the dead.

Ramadan (commonly known as Ramzan) is the month of fasting and considered to be the most important month in the Muslim year. Many Muslims fast during the daytime for the whole of this month. Islam enjoins on its followers that this time be spent in moditation and prayer. The month closes with the visibility of *id-ka-chand*, marking the end of the month of fast. The festival of Id-ul-Fitr is celebrated on the next day, i.e., Shawwal Ist by offering *namaz* in *Idgahs* and mosques where thanks giving prayers are said collectively.

The Id-uz-Zuha (Bakr-Id) is celebrated on the 10th of the month of Zilhiz, to commemorate the occasion when prophet Ibrahim resolved to treat his son Ismail as an offering to mark the highest form of sacrificial spirit which was blessed by God, the merciful, with no injury to Ismail but a lamb sanctifying at the altar instead.

The important fairs held in the district are the *urs* celebration of some important pirs (Muslims saints), who flourished here at one time or the other.

Sikh—The important festivals of the Sikhs are the birthdays of Guru Nanak and Guru Govind Singh, when processions are taken out, congregational prayers are held in *gurudwaras* and extracts from the holy *Granth* are recited. Their other festivals are Baisakhi, and Lohri. Local fairs are held at *gurudwaras* on each occasion.

Christian—The festivals of the Christians are Christmas, falling on December 25th marking the birthday of Jesus Christ, Good Friday, commemorating his crucifixion and Easter in memory of his resurrection. The New Year's Day (1st of January) is also celebrated by them and Christmas celebrations usually end with the New Year.

Jain—They celebrate the birth and the nirvana anniversaries of the last tirthankara, Mahavira, the former on the 13th day of the bright half of Chaitra and the latter on the Depavali day. The Paryushan or the Dashalakshana *parva* during the last days of Kartika, Phalguna and Asadha, are the periodical holy days when the devotees observe fast and perform worship in temples.

Buddhist—The principal festival of the Buddhists is the Buddha Purnima which is celebrated on the full moon day of Vaisakha and marks the birthday of Lord Buddha as well as the day of his nirvana.

Communal Life

Festivities

A number of fairs are held in the district in almost each case they are religious in origin. Some details of religious fairs have already been given in the preceding pages and some other important ones, attracting both the Hindus and the Muslims, are described here. Durbasa, a place at the junction of the Manjhi and Tons, derives its name from a Hindu saint, Durvasa Rishi, who is said to have lived there. A large fair is held on the full moon day of Kartika in this connection. The *dargah* at Kolluban is alleged to be the scene of one of the forty-day fasts of Saiyad Ahmad Badpa generally known as Miran Shah. The festival held in his honour lasts for six weeks, and is celebrated on seven consecutive thursdays beginning with the last thursday of Jyaistha. Lalari Chhatth, Deola fair and Govind-Sahab-ka-Mela are other fairs which deserve mention.

Some details regarding certain important fairs is given in Statement III at the end of the chapter.

Dances and Other Recreations

There is hardly any communal dance worth mentioning except folk-dance prevailing in the interior of rural areas of the district. The village folk generally look for recreation during rainy season, and

winter nights. They sing folk-songs called Kajri, Barahmasi, Chaumasa, Holi or Phaag, etc., and devotional songs to the accompaniment of handy musical instruments like *dholak, khartal, majira,* and harmonium etc. *Birha* and *kaharva* are famous among Ahirs and Kahars. The people with a religious bent enjoy *kathas* and *kirtans* and musical recitation of *Ramcharitmanasa.*

Cinema and radio are the most popular means of entertainment in the district which has eight cinema halls with a total capacity of 4,624 seats.

Radios have become the most popular mass-media for entertainment and news. The All India Radio also broadcasts special programmes for the rural listeners especially the agriculturists. There were 37,475 radio sets in the district in 1975-76. Record playing of film music and religious songs has become a craze in recent years especially on ceremonial or festive occasions. Documentaries and mobile cinema shows are also arranged in the rural areas by field publicity units of the State and the Central Governments. Dramatic societies and circus also visit the district now and then. Dangal (wrestling matches), *nautankis* (indigenous open air dramatic performances) *bhajan* and *qawaali* programmes, *kavi-sammelans* and *mushaira* (poetic symposium) are also arranged at different places from time to time particularly on the occasion of big religious fairs. At the local fairs, swings, giant wheels, children's carnival, magic shows, etc., are also arranged. Ramlila and Krishnalila provide entertainment in their own way. Besides, dances are also organised by the village folk. The *jogis* who are itinerant ministerials sing hymns. They are also fond of *vocalising* the *poignant* lives of important or famous men. *Bhands* usually sing hilarious songs whenever there is a family gathering to celebrate a birth or marriage ceremony.

The common games among the rural folk are *dangals, kabaddi, kushti, gulli-danda* kite flying, *gendi* and *bar gotia.* However games like volley-ball and foot-ball have also gained some popularity among them. *Bandar-ka-naach* (monkey dance) and *bhalu-ka-naach* (bear dance) are performed by *mandaris* for the entertainment of the rural people.

The district contains several recreational clubs, the more important ones being the Jailoirath club, Rotary club, Junior Chambera club and Police-lines club. Besides, there are a number of libraries and reading-rooms which also serve the purpose of pastime.

Common games and sports in the urban areas areh hockey, cricket, basket-ball, foot-ball, valley-ball, badminton, table-tennis, tennis, etc. The annual sports and games meet are organised in schools and colleges and also at the district level.

Impact Of Zamindari Abolition On Social Life

The U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 (Act I of1951), which came into operation in 1952, brought about many significant changes in social and economic life of the peasants. The rural

elite,consisting mainly of the zamindars, who had been exploiting actual tillers of the land for several centuries, have been replaced by a community of progressive farmers owing land and cultivating it with full vigour, adopting modern methods of agriculture. Not only the per capita availability of farm produce has increased but the general prosperity of the people has improved mainfesting itself in better food, dress, dwelling and other habits.New educational institutions are coming up rapidly through the voluntary effort of the people to combat the forces of ignorance which had impeded the mental growth of the rural society which is undergoing a fast transformation to meet fresh challenges of life successfully.

New Trends

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

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STATEMENT I

Area and Population

Referenice page No. 49

District and tahsil	Area in sq. km.		Population					
			1971			1961		
	1971	1961	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
District Total	5,744.0	5,745.7	28,57,484	14,31,267	14,26,217	24,08,052	11,85,008	12,23,044
Rural Total	5,722.2	5,723.8	27,08,617	13,51,911	13,56,706	22,92,879	11,23,748	11,69,131
Urban Total	21.8	21.9	1,48,867	79,356	69,511	1,15,173	61,260	53,913
Sagri Tahsil								
Total	914.5	914.5	4,25,732	2,15,010	2,10,722	3,51,434	1,74,258	1,77,176
Ghosi Tahsil								
Total	942.0	942.2	4,95,156	2,48,966	2,46,190	4,14,053	2,04,242	2,09,811
Rural	941.0	941.2	4,80,885	2,41,705	2,39,180	4,02,895	1,98,836	2,04,059
Urban	1.0	1.0	14,271	7,261	7,010	11,158	5,406	5,752
Azamgarh Tahsil								
Total	811.2	811.2	4,56,315	2,30,565	2,25,750	3,95,161	1,96,724	1,98,437
Rural	800.7	800.7	4,15,352	2,08,030	2,07,322	3,62,770	1,78,238	1,84,532
Urban	10.5	10.5	40,963	22,535	18,428	32,391	18,486	13,905
Muhammadabad Tahsil								
Total	927.5	927.5	5,37,553	2,73,458	2,64,095	4,44,416	2,21,929	2,22,487
Rural	917.2	927.1	4,43,920	2,23,898	2,20,022	3,72,792	1,84,561	1,88,231
Urban	10.3	10.4	93,633	49,560	44,073	71,624	37,368	34,256
Phulpur Tahsil								
Total	1,152.6	1,152.6	5,29,288	2,64,224	2,65,064	4,49,057	2,18,924	2,30,133
LalganjTahsil								
Total	997.7	997.7	4,13,440	1,99,044	2,24,396	3,53,931	1,68,931	1,85,000

NOTE :— 1. There has been no jurisdictional change in the district during the decade. The difference in area figures is due to revised calculations of area done by the Board of Revenue

2. According to the Central Statistical Organisation the area of the district in 1971 was also 5,744.0 sq. km.

STATEMENT II

Languages, 1971

Reference page No. 53

Languages	Persons	Males	Females
All Languages	24,08,052	11,85,008	12,23,044
Assamese	1	1	—
Bengali	315	207	108
English	93	79	14
Gorkhali	1	1	—
Gujarati	84	56	28
Hindi	21,50,299	10,60,259	10,90,040
Malayalam	7	1	6
Marathi	20	9	11
Nepali	6	—	6
Punjabi	762	520	242
Sanskrit	7	7	—
Tamil	2	—	2
Telegu	8	1	2
Urdu	2,66,452	1,33,867	1,32,585

STATEMENT III

Fairs

Reference page No. 71

Place	Name of fair or its association with	Date	Approximate attendance
1	2	3	4
		THASIL SAGRI	
Achhebat	Bhaironji	Every Purnima	4,000
Bhagatpur	Sohbat	Ist Tuesday of Vaisakh	1,000
Ajgara Masharqi	Kartiki Purnima	Kartika, *sukla* 15	2,000
		Tahsil Ghosi	
Madapur Sanshghat	Ram Naumi	Chaitra, *sukla* 9	3,000
Dargah	Mira Saheb	Asadha	5,000
Belauli Sobarsa	Laxmanji	Sravana, *Krishna* 5	10,000
Madhuban	Shaheed Mela	August 15	2,000
Dohrighat	Dasahra	Asvina, *sukla* 10	
Amila	"	"	5,000
Kopaganj	"	"	5,000
Indhara	"	"	7,000
Jajhauli	"	"	10,000
Neemdand	"	"	2,000
Ghos	"	"	2,000
Kalanpur	"		1,00
Suggi Chauri	Kartika Purnima		1,000
Dohrighat	"		
Kathghra Shanker	Shivratri	15	15,000
Rasulpur	Shivratri		10,000
		TAHSIL AZAMGARH	
Sidhari	Ram Naumi		2,000
Ora	Dasahra	Asvina, *sukla* 10	1,200
Dadra	"	"	1,500
Garhar Buzurg	"	"	1,100
Muzaffarpur	"	"	2,000
Pallni	"	"	1,000
Buluwars	Dasahra	Asvina, *sukla* 10	2,000
Hira Pallni	"	"	1,000
Ailwah	"	"	2,000
Jagdispur	"	"	1,000
Khatauli	"	"	1,000
Anwek	Awartikapuri	Kartika, *sukla*	1,51,000
Durbasa	Rortika Purnima	"	80,000
Bhanwarnath	Shivratri	Phalguna, *krishna* 13	1,000

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1	2	3	4
		TAHSIL MUHAMMADABAD	
Sonabar	Ram Naumi	Chaitra *sukla* 9	1,050
Saltion	,,	,,	1,000
Awaom	,,	,,	—
Rampur	,,	,,	6,000
Bhujahi	,,	,,	1,000
Kasari	,,	,,	1,000
Sathiaon	Dasahra	Asvina *sukla* 10	1,000
Shahgarh	,,	,,	1,000
Mubarkpur	,,	,,	5,000
Baniapur	,,	,,	4,000
Baldpur	,,	,,	3,000
Itaura Chaubepur	,,	,,	1,000
Bara	,,	,,	2,000
Barhalganj	,,	,,	1,200
Adadih	,,	,,	1,000
Rakwardh	,,	,,	1,500
Jahangirabad	,,	,,	1,000
Dumraon	,,	,,	10,000

Chak Jafri	Kartika Purnima	Kartika, *sukla* 15	10,000
Deokali Deolas	Deolas	Kartika *sukla*, 15	20,000
Banianpur	Govind Dashmi	Agrahayana, *sukla* 10	3,000
Walidpur	Dargah	Twice a year	2,000
		TAHSIL PHULPUR	
Sarauja Ratrarey	Ram Naumi	Chaitra, *sukla* 9	10,000
Usur Kurhwa	Bhairon Baba	Jyaistha, *sukla*	25,000
Chitara	Dasahra	Asvnia, *sukla*	1,000
Sikaur	,,	,,	5,000
Matlocbpur	,,	,,	10,000
Didarganj	,,	,,	3,000
Pouk	,,	,,	5,000
Palthi	,,	,,	3,000
Birhar	Durvasa	Kartika *sukla* 13	20,000
Mahuwara	Kartika Purnima	,,	50,000
Amari	Govind Saheb-ka-Mela	Agrahayana, *sukla* 10	2,00,000
Gaura	Mandilaha	Chaitra *sukla* 9	4,000
Sidhauna	Sdhauna	,,	15,000
Lahaun Khurd	Pathana	,,	10,000
Chawar	Dasahra	Asvina *sukla* 10	1,000

[Contd.

1	2	3	4
Lalganj		Asvina *Sukla* 19	4,000
Mehnagar		,,	6,000
Paska	Paska	,,	6,000
Gaura	Madilaha	Kartika, *sukla* 15	6,000
Chak Bhautar	Bhautar	Agrahayana, *sukla* 10	18,000
Gaura ...	Shivratri	Phalguna *krishna* 13	500

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Land Reclamation And Utilisation

The district had a total geographical area of 5,74,559 hectares in 1971, of which 4,42,872 hectares was utilised for agricultural purposes. The statement below compares the land utilisation in the district during 1901 with that of 1971 :

Utilisation purpose	1901		1971	
	Area in thousands		Area in thousands	
	Acres	Hectares	Acres	Hectares
Area under forest	—	—	0.5	0.2
Uncultivated area	326	132	237	96
Other uncultivated area	186	75	40	16
Current fallows	184	74	30	12
Total cultivated area	983	398	1,401	567
Net cultivated area	776	314	1,095	443
Area cropped more than once	207	84	306	124

Cultivated Area

In 1837, when the Settlement under Regulation IX of 1833 was carried out, the total area of the district was 12,51,740 acres of which 5,42,967 acres or 43 per cent was under the plough. At the Settlement of 1877, the area under the cultivation was 7,64,755 acres out of a total of 12,66,341 acres . This formed a proportion of over 56 per cent and represented a marked rise over the returns of 1837. The detailed statistics are available from 1884-85 onwards but even these exclude the area which was transferred from Gorakhpur in 1904. Between 1885 and 1888 the cultivated area of the district averaged 8,34,853 acres or over 60 per cent of the whole district, while in the ensuing decade this area fell to 7,99,923 acres or 58 per cent of the total. During the first half of this period the average was fully up to that of the preceding period and it was not until the year 1895-96 that a large decrease took place. In the disastrous year of drought (1896-97) only 5,93,967 acres were under the plough, the lowest figure even recorded. The acreage under cultivation quickly recovered from this low and in 1908 about 8,38,188 acres were under cultivation, the proportion to total area being again over 60 per cent .

The following statement gives the decennial cultivated area and its percentage to the total area from 1931 to 1971 :

Year	Cultivated area (in thousands)		Percentage to the total area
	Acres	Hectares	
1931	924	374	65.3
1941	960	388	67.8
1951	1,037	420	73.2
1961	1,065	431	75.0
1971	1,095	443	77.0

Double-cropped Area

Between 1885 and 1888 the area twice-cropped in the year amounted to 1,61,143 acres. From 1889 to 1898, such area averaged 1,96,230 acres while during the four years from 1905 to 1908 the area under it averaged 1,94,824 acres. The data given in the following statement show the double-cropped area in the district in the different decades from 1931 to 1971 :

Year	Doube-cropped area (in thousands)		Percentage to net cultivated area
	Acres	Hectares	
1931	231	94	25.0
1941	245	99	25.5
1951	246	100	23.7
1961	266	108	24.9
1971	306	124	27.9

Culturable Area

In 1901, the culturable area, excluding the current fallows amounted to 1,85,842 acres (75,207 hectares) or about 13.4 per cent of the whole district. In 1911, the area registered an increase of 19,674 acres (7,961 hectares) actual culturable area being 2,05,516 acres (83,169 hectares). In 1921, the culturable area decreased to 1,90,705 acres (77,175 hectares) which was 13.4 per cent of the whole district. The following statement gives the culturable area and its percentage to the total area of every ten years from 1931 to 1971 :

Year	Culturable area excluding current fallows (in thousands)		Percentage of the total area
	Acres	Hectares	
1931	184	74	13.0
1941	164	66	11.5
1951	133	54	9.3
1961	104	42	7.3
1971	40	16	2.7

Current Fallow

In 1901 the total current fallow land in the district was 1,84,346 acres (74,602 hectares). In the year 1911 it decreased to 72,643 acres (29,397 hectares) and it further dwindled to 58,721 acres (23,762 hectares) in 1921 and 46,823 acres (18,948 hectares) in 1931. It increased to 49,825 acres (20,162 hectares) in 1941 but again decreased to 40,551 acres (16,409 hectares) in 1951. But again in 1961 it registered an increase when it was 61,930 acres (25,061 hectares). The total current fallow land in the district in 1971 was 28,736 acres (11,629 hectares).

Land not Available for Cultivation

The land under this head consists chiefly of sterile *usar* plains and the sandy tracts broken by ravines along the banks of rivers. Other areas include those occupied by sites, roads, buildings, water and that under other non-agricultural uses. The areas not available for cultivation or each census year since 1931 are given in the statement that follows :

Classification of uncultivated land	Year (Area in thousand acres/hectares)				
	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971
Under water	98/40	93/38	80/32	77/31	—
Under buildings and roads	41/17	42/17	45/18	46/19	—
Under non-agricultural uses	112/45	108/44	81/33	65/26	—
Total	251/102	243/99	206/83	188/76	237/96

Land Reclamation

The soil-erosion problem mainly exists in the catchment area of the Ghaghra, Choti Saryu, Kunwar, Tons, Mangai, Besu and Ganga rivers. The total area of 52,000 hectares of land is affected by soil erosion problem. Though this problem exist in all the parts of the district but Phulpur, Azamgarh and Muhammadabad tahsils are much affected by it. To control soil erosion a scheme was started in the district in 1965 and under it about 452 hectares of *usar* lands were reclaimed till 1967. The soil conservation unit in 1967 took up the work of demarcation and levelling on the cultivators field.

The department of soil conservation has also undertaken the work of construction of kutcha and pucca irrigation channels, drains and *chak* roads in the Kalava command area of Sharda Sahayak Canal and about 24 km. kutcha and 3 km. pucca irrigation channels have been constructed so far. Till 1975 about 8,894 ha. of land was improved and made good for cultivation.

Irrigation

The district is well provided with means of irrigation. Actual figures of irrigation are available from 1885 onwards. For ten years ending

in 1894 the average area irrigated was 4,91,267 acres (1,98,809 hectares) or 58.27 per cent of the net cultivation, the maximum being 5,19,550 acres (2,10,254 hectares) or 60.71 per cent in 1891-92, and the minimum 3,79,220 acres (1,53,465 hectares) or 45.43 per cent in 1886-87. For the succeeding decade from 1895 to 1904 the irrigated area averaged 4,65,332 acres (1,88,318 hectares) or 61.31 per cent of the area cultivated. Though the area irrigated was less but its proportion to cultivation had risen mainly due to the decrease in the cultivated area.

The following statement gives the data of total irrigated area in the district in some of the years between 1901 and 1971 :

Year	Irrigated area (in thousands)		Percentage to the cultivated area
	Acres	Hectares	
1901	474	192	61.0
1911	455	184	58.0
1921	497	201	55.5
1931	491	199	53.1
1941	514	168	53.5
1951	532	215	51.3
1961	548	222	52.8
1971	608	246	55.5

Means of Irrigation

Canals—The Sharda canal system is the chief source of irrigation by canals in the district. Total length of this canal system is 228 km. from which about 16,527 hectares of land was irrigated during the year 1975-76. As there was shortage of water, therefore, Sharda Sahayak Pariyojna was framed to augument the supplies in them and also to extend the irrigation facilities in the district. Under this scheme the existing channels were remodelled for greater discharges and new channels of 800 km. were constructed. The approximate command area of these channels before the Sharda Sahayak Pariyojna was started, was 34,254 hectares. It is proposed to bring 1,72,000 hectares of additional area in the Sharda Canal command area. Besides, the Dohrighat canal which has been taken out from the Ghaghra river near Dohrighat town on the right bank of the river has a total length of its system (channels) of 180 km. The system irrigated about 16,527 hectares of land during the year 1976-77. Under a project for increasing the capacity of this canal 20 km. of new channel has been made which irrigated an area of 3,200 hectares in 1976-77. Under a scheme Dohrighat link channel will link Dohrighat canal to Sharda Sahayak canal through Tanda canal. This project envisages irrigation facilities to additional 18,000 hectares, north of the Tons river in the Sagri and Ghosi tahsils by addition of 300 km. of new channels.

Tube-wells—Irrigation is also done by the tube-wells. The number of tube-wells and the area irrigated by them during the last three years is given below :

Year	No. of tube-wells	Area irrigated in hectares
1973—74	454	21,173
1974—75	479	23,862
1975—76	481	28,224

Under a new scheme about 106 new tube-wells are to be constructed in the district which will irrigate an area of about 10,600. hectares.

Wells—Wells can be constructed in most parts of the district and the only matter that causes difficulty is the sandy nature of the subsoil in portions of the *bangar* and in the *kachhar* tract. The depth at which water is found varies in different portions of the district. In the northern *bangar* tract water is generally found at 4.5 m. from the surface of the ground, though it lies at a greater depth in the land near the main streams. In the *kachhar* the average depth is not more than 3 m. while in the southern tract water is met with at 5.4 m. from the surface. Wells are worked after several different methods. The most common is that known as the *dhenkul* or lever and somewhere *charki* or persian wheel is also in use. In 1975-76 the number of government and private wells was 37,194 which irrigated an area of 42,618 hectares.

Tanks or Lakes—Like all other eastern district here, too, there are a number of lakes and artificial tanks for irrigation purposes. The hollows in and near sites made by removing earth for building purposes are also used for irrigation. There are many old tanks with surrounding pucca walls. The water is generally raised from the tank to the field by means of *dauri*, a round shallow basket made of wicker or bamboo matting. Another mode of irrigation employed in swamps and tanks is known as *don*. The *don* consists of the trunk of a tree hollowed out into a trough, one end being blocked and the other open. It is placed on ridge with the closed end projecting over the water and attached to a lever by rope. The labour sinks the closed end till it fills with water and then helping the lever to raise it, discharges the water into the waterway. It is found only in certain areas and is not very common. The total area irrigated by the tanks and lakes was 19,419 hectares in 1975-76.

Minor Irrigation Works—For small farmers minor irrigation works have been introduced in the district. A brief description of minor irrigation works and the area irrigated by them is as follows :

Plans	No. of masonary wells	No. of *rahats*	No. of pumping sets	Private tube-wells	Area irrigated in hectares
I	2,372	141	—	—	3,052
II	1,215	760	38	—	3,355
III	10,046	7,632	364	14	25,382
Yearly Plans 1966-67 to 1968-69	7,388	7,708	1,684	3,670	49,781
IV	1,958	1,706	924	6,752	60,814
V 1974-75 to 1975-76	323	245	717	4,379	37,910

Under a scheme sponsored by the World Bank for the minor irrigation works of the district amount of Rs 1.30 crores was sanctioned for the year 1976-77. The amount was to be spent on 64 masonary wells, 39 wells with *rahat*, 706 pumping sets and 1,209 private tubewells. On the completion of propsed minor irrigation works an additional area of 12,074 hectares is expected to be irrigated.

Agriculture Including Horticulture

Soils

There exist different kinds of soils in the district which are known by different names. The clay which is the predominant soil in the southern portion of the district is divided into three classes. The clean grey clay which contains little organic matter is the prevalent variety and is known as *matiara*, while that which lies in the depressed rice-lands and assumes a blackish colour from the admixture of organic matter is known as *karail*. In the vicinity of the raised waste tracts, the soil is lighter both in texture and in colour and is called *kabsa*. It contains larger amount of saline matter than either *matiara* or *karail* and it is less fertile. It also dries soon and cracks but little, whereas *karail* shrinks greatly under the influence of drought. *Matiara*, on the other hand, is a fertile plastic clay which grows all varieties of crops. In the northern portion of the district the proportion of sand in the soil is greater than in the south, and the prevailing earth becomes a loam, known locally as *balsunder* and a very sandy variety is called *balui*. Clay soils and rice-lands, however, are also met in and near the swamps and lakes. Besides these natural divisions, artificial distinctions are also recognised by the people and considered with reference to their crop-bearing capabilities. The soils of the district may be divided into two great classes-the rice-lands called *kiari*, *dhanao*, or *dhankar* and those bearing spring and other crops which are known as *harjins*. In the *harjins* area the people draw a further distinction between the land which is near the village and hence receives the best manure, and the out-lying fields. The former is known as *per* and the latter as *palo* an anology being drawn from a tree, the trunk of which is called *per* and the outlying branches *palo*. These terms are not applied to *harjins* land. In the south of the district, the *harjins* land is generally called as *per* and the other term *palo* is applied to the rice-lands. *Per* corresponds to the *bara*, *gaukan*, *goenr* or *goind* of other districts in the State.

Harvests

The three harvests of the district are known by their usual names-Rabi, Kharif and Zaid. The Kharif of rainfed crops are sown in June and July and harvested in September-October while Rabi or irrigated crops are sown in October-November and harvested in February-March. Of the two main harvests the main crops of the Kharif are rice, maize and *mandua* and those of Rabi are the wheat, barley, gram, *arhar* and peas.

Principal Kharif Crops

Paddy—The largest area covered by any crop in the Kharif harvest is that occupied by paddy. The paddy grown in the district is

of different varieties and about 58 per cent consists of the late or transplanted paddy, known generically as *jarhan* or aghani which is of superior quality to the early paddy, called *bhadain*. Early paddy is generally sown broadcast when the rainy season has fairly commenced in June or July. The varieties known as *satha*, *bagri*, *selha*, *deola* and others with short fine stalks are grown chiefly on lands that are not liable to much flooding and have not a very stiff soil. *Koranga* and *dudha* are sown in stiff clay soils which are moderately flooded, while long-stalked varieties such as *bhainsalot* and *mansara* are grown in the depressions and old abandoned channels in the *kachhar* tract where inundation frequently occurs. The early paddy which is grown in the sandy stretches of the Ghaghra is known as *sokan*. On the first fall of showers in the hot weather the land is ploughed up, sown with *sokan* and then harrowed. The seed germinates as soon as the rains come and the crop ripens in September. In favourable seasons it gives a good yield. In a few lakes and swamps, notably in Salona Tal, a paddy called *dhusin* is grown. The hot weather marsh paddy, known as *boro*, is grown in some parts of the district, where the requisite slimy soil is found in the beds of lakes or *nalas*. The chief places are Salona Tal, Narja Tal, Patach and Ratoi Tals. The seed is sown during December and January and transplanting is done in February. In May the crop is harvested. In 1971 the total area under paddy was 2,13,617 hectares.

Maize—Maize is very important staple crop in some parts of the district. It flourishes on the higher lands. The crop is generally sown on a good soil, in which there is a plentiful supply of manure. It has the great advantage of reaching maturity at an early date, so it is less affected than other staples by a premature cessation of the rains. It is known in the district by the names of *junhari*, and *makai*. In 1971 it covered an area of 20,629 hectares.

Jowar and Bajra—Next in importance among the Kharif staples are jowar and *bajra*, both of which rank high among the principal food-grains and also afford excellent fodder for cattle. They are mostly grown in combination with *arhar*. It flourishes in all parts of the district and often is very dense and tall. In 1971 jowar covered 263 hectares and *bajra* 728 hectares. The cultivation of jowar and *bajra* have of late gained a spurt as a result of the popularity of various high-yielding varieties leveloped in the state at Pantnagar and other places.

Other Crops—The other main cereals are *mandua*, *sawan*, and pulses like *urd* and *moth*. The areas covered by the first two in 1971 were 435 hectares and 14,086 hectares respectively and that of the last two 376 hectares and 149 hectares respectively.

Principal Rabi Crops

Barley—Of the Rabi crops the important is barley which covers a large area. In 1971 it covered 98,145 hectares. Barley is grown in all parts of the district and grows in light as well as in ordinary soil. It frequently flourishes without irrigation. It is commonly sown after early rice. It is grown separately as well as with other crops.

Wheat—Wheat is more valuable but at the same time more expensive crop. It requires a rich and well manured soil and is mainly

confined to the *goind* land where it can obtain the abundant irrigation that is necessary. It is sown in kartika on land that has been ploughed more often than for barley, sometimes as often as twenty times. It is watered in December, January and February, unless that is rendered unnecessary by abundant winter rains, and is harvested in the end of March and beginning of April. In parts where the soil is very rich, wheat is grown as a second crop after early rice or after jowar and *bajra* when these are grown alone. The area covered by wheat was 56,406 hectares in the year 1971.

Gram—It is also an important Rabi staple. The area of its cultivation has increased considerably. This extension is due to the increase in the practice of double cropping as now it is generally sown along with peas. Gram is generally sown on the fields from which rice crop has been taken. It is also sown in ground flooded in rainy season, where they are sown after the flood recede. In 1971 the area under the gram alone and mixed was 22,561 hectares.

Pea—Pea is a favourite food crop and is the earliest to be reaped of all the Rabi staples, as the harvest is over by the end of February. Peas are usually watered once, and do not require much manure. These are grown both in the best lands where the fields have been prepared to receive them by lying fallow during the rains, as also in inferior land, after rice, maize or jowar. In 1971 the area of pea extended to 48,841 hectares.

Other Crops—Of the Rabi pulses, *arhar* is the most important and it covered an area of 21,520 hectares in 1971. It is sown with main kharif crops but is harvested after most of the Rabi crops. This is perhaps, why it is rarely combined with jowar or *bajra* which are harvested by November-December, leaving it standing alone in the fields. It is to be seen in almost every village and apart from its popularity as a staple combination in the diet of the people with rice it is also preferred as a leguminous crop which best alternates with a cereal crop in the fields.

Non-food Crops

The main non-food crops of the district are sugar-cane, jute, sunhemp (fibre) and oil seeds of different types.

Suger-cane is an important crop. In 1971 it was grown in 39,688 hectares both in loam and clay soils. There are three varieties grown, known as *kuswar*, *mangun* and *sarauti*, the choice of any of these being a matter of preference on the part of the cultivators.

Sun-hemp is grown both for its fibres and as green manures in the fields. It was sown in area of 3,598 hectares in 1971. The same year oil-seeds covered an area of 353 hectares which included 116 hectares of mustard, 175 hectares of linseed. Ground nut was cultivated in 62 hectares.

Improvement of Agriculture

It was realized that with the traditional methods of cultivation the rapidly increasing demand for food-grains could not be successfully met. Improvements and changes in the patterns and techniques of cultivation were, therefore, adopted after the country gained independence. Development of agriculture occupied an important place in all the Five-Year Plans. Improved methods of growing wheat and barley and the Japanese method of paddy cultivation were popularized among the cultivators of the district. These methods include proper tillage, sufficient and timely manuring, sowing seeds of improved varities and high yielding crops, sufficient and timely irrigation and protection of crops against pests and diseases. The sixties of this century saw the ushering in of the 'green revolution' in the country, under which programmes of intensive cultivation and sowing of high yielding varities of crops have been implemented. This is done through agricultural compaigns-Kharif, Rabi and Zaid-which are taken up every year in the district. During the campaign period the workers and progressive cultivators are imparted training in different agricultural works. Much stress is laid for taking recourse to the various methods of development such as plant protection measures, use of improved agricultural implements and storage of grains, etc. The agriculture department gives *taqavi* and other loans to the cultivators for purposes like the purchase of chemical manure, agricultural implements, improved variety of seeds, pesticides and bullocks.

Seed Distribution—There are 59 seed stores of agriculture department in the district which supply improved seeds to cultivators. The total quantity of seeds of different cereals distributed during the last three years is given below :

Year	Quantity of seeds distributed (in quintals)
1973–74	15,899
1974–75	4,228
1975–76	6,101

The agriculture department also distributes loans for agriculture purposes. The amount distributed during the last five years is given below :

Year	Amount distributed (in Rs)
1972–73	62,64,652
1973–74	2,70,000
1974–75	2,24,928
1975–76	1,12,555

The co-operative department has also their seed stores for the distribution of improved variety of seeds. The total number of co-operative seed stores in 1976 was 54 out of which only 27 were working and the rest were defunct. The details of quantity of seeds distributed for Rabi and Kharif crops during the last five years is given below :

Year	Amount of seeds distributed (in quintals)	
	Rabi	Kharif
1972—73	3,913	[illegible]
1973—74	3,439	[illegible]
1974—75	3,316	[illegible]
1975—76	3,152	[illegible]

The amount of loan given by the co-operative department during the last five years is given in the following statement :

Year	Amount distributed (in Rs)
1972—73	85,67,703
1973—74	1,15,51,051
1974—75	1,12,77,033
1975—76	1,15,46,000

Horticulture

The horticulture department has two nurseries which supply fruit plants and seeds of vegetables to the cultivators. About 82,253 fruit plants and 8.3 lakh vegetable seedlings were supplied by the department in 1976-77. It also supplied 3,832 kg. of vegetable seeds to the cultivators in 1976-77.

Rotation of Crops and Mixed Cultivation

The farmers of the district have been growing different crops by rotation in the same field for centuries. But in the past their knowledge about the advantages of practice of growing crops in rotation was empirical rather than scientific. The agriculture department now makes the results of the latest researches regarding the rotation of crops available to the cultivators. They are, therefore, much more enlightened and try to adopt newer rotations of crops. Different rotations of crops in the district depend upon soil types and availability of irrigation. The common rotation in the irrigated fields is wheat or *masur* and gram after paddy. In the unirrigated fields gram or *masur* after paddy; wheat, gram

linseed after jowar are the main rotations. Leguminous crops like *moong* and *urd* provide nitrogenous ingredients to the soil and are thus mixed with *arhar*, jowar, til or groundnut.

Mixed Cultivation—The practice of growing more than one crop in a field simultaneously gives additional harvest, besides increasing the fertility of the soil. Usually the pests, diseases and adverse weather conditions also do not affect all the crops equally. Accordingly, *arhar* is sown mixed with *bajra* or with jowar and *urd* both, maize with *arhar* and *urd*, barley with gram or peas, and potato with wheat.

Agricultural Diseases and Pests

There are four main enemies of crops in the district, viz. animals, birds, insects and diseases. Monkeys, rats, squirrels, wild animals, bats, parrots and some others damage the crops badly, besides a number of plant diseases which differ from crop to crop. The usual method of protection normally provided by the cultivators are fencing, keeping watch and destruction of animals and birds, whereas pests are killed by insecticides. The following statement gives the common diseases and insects with which the main crops are generally affected :

Crop	Common insect	Common disease
1	2	3
Paddy	Gundhy, bug, Paddy stem borer, Rise hispa, Army worm, Root weevil	Khaira, Bacterial, blight, Bacterial streak, Blast, Tungrovirces
Jowar and *bajra*	Red hairy catter-piller, Leaf roller, stem borer	Green ear disease of *bajra*
Wheat	Gujia and termite	Rust, Smut, Blight of wheat
Pea and arhar	Pod borer	Powdery mildew, Downey mildew
Potato	—	Blight of potato
Sugar-cane	Pyrilla, Stem borer, Gujia and Termite, Sugar-cane white fly	Red rat of sugar-cane
Mango	Mango hopper, Mango mealy bug	Powdery mildew of mango, Black tip of mango

There are various insecticides and pesticides like Aldrin, BHC and DDT which are sprayed and dusted over the crops to control pests and diseases. To save the crops from seed borne diseases the seeds are dried in the sun and also treated with certain chemicals before sowing. There are also various leafy growths and weeds which are harmful to the crops. These are usually overcome by systematic and timely weeding, interculturing and the deep ploughing of the fields. The plant protection staff posted in the district gives free advice to the cultivators for raising healthy crops, including those of fruits and vegetables. They also provide insecticides, spraying and dusting machines and services of trained staff at moderate charges.

Animal Husbandry And Fisheries

Animal Husbandry

The animal husbandry department looks after the veterinary and animal husbandry work in the district and is concerned with the development of cattle, poultry breeding, sheep breeding and allied schemes and prevention and treatment of various animal diseases.

Development of Live-stock—The agricultural improvement is impossible without cattle development. The cattle provides the required motive power for various agricultural operations including ploughing, harrowing, sowing, irrigation, etc., besides providing the farm yard manure and milk. The bullocks play an important role as draught power for pulling carts which are still the chief means of rural transport. Development of cattle both for milk yield and draught capacity is, therefore, very necessary. Due to the increase of cultivated land the waste land and pastures are decreasing. Grazing facilities are provided by the government and *gaon* panchayats. These are also allowed, in private groves and in harvested or fallow fields and within the precincts of the railways. The main fodder crops sown in the district are M.P. chari, Lobia, Barseem and Mithi Jowar and the total area under them was 271.51 hectares in the year 1975-76.

Stud bulls and cattle of good breed are being imported in the district from Haryana and Punjab. To improve the breed of cattle the government has also started artificial insemination scheme in the district. There are 19 artificial insemination centres in the district where cattle are artificially inseminated. The total number of stockman centres in the district is 43. Besides this, there are 33 veterinary hospitals and 4 dispensaries in the district. The following statement gives the number of animals treated and vaccinated against various diseases, castrated and artifioial inseminations done during each Plan period.

Plan period	No. of animals treated	No. of animals castrated	No. of animals vaccinated	No. of animals inseminated
1	2	3	4	5
I Five-year Plan	49,876	9,872	38,439	656
II Five-year Plan	55,311	11,479	62,368	4,984
III Five-year Plan	1,03,463	24,891	2,12,023	4,213
IV and V Five-year Plans upto 1976	39,947	7,665	3,98,060	31,818

Agriculture by tractor is not very popular in the district as the farmers have small holdings. The ordinary cattle of the district are small and inferior in strength as compared to those of the western districts in the State. Animals of the better class are still few. The vast majority of animals are fed on *pual* or rice straw probably one of the poorest kind of fodder on which plough cattle subsist anywhere. The statement given below shows the figures of live-stock population in the district according to the census of cattle conducted during the year 1971-72:

Live-stock	Number
1	2
Cows	1,62,848
Calves	1,28,518
Buffaloes	2,40,404
Sheep	56,730
Goats	2,00,346
Pigs	37,937
Others	7,139

Sheep and goats are generally reared with the object of obtaining their hide and flesh. Goats are of a small and inferior type, yielding little milk and requiring scanty attention. Sheep provide coarse wool which is used by the villagers.

Cattle Diseases and their Treatment

The most common cattle diseases in the district are rinderpest, haemorrhagic septicaemia, Ranikhet disease and foul pox. Besides these black quarter and anthrax also attack the animals, though their incidence is comparatively lower. The treatment of animals and their vaccination against various diseases is now done in veterinary hospitals, dispensaries, and stockmen centres. The farmers have now become concious of the efficacy of the modern methods of prevention and treatment of cattle diseases and the old superstitious practices are not taken recourse to any longer by the rural folk. The statement above gives an idea of the popularity of the modern methods.

The three important cattle fairs of the district are held at Fharia, Madhuban and Raunapar of the Muhammadpur, Madhuban and Haraiya development blocks respectively.

Poultry

The main breed generally found here is *desi* (indigenous) but improved breeds are also becoming popular. About 33,553 a day old chicks, 452 a month old chicks and 528 two months old chicks and 444 grown up birds of the improved variety were distributed in the district in 1975-76. The 1971-72 live-stock census recorded 2,37,750 birds under this head.

Fisheries

Fish of the different varieties are found in the district. Fish are caught with nets of various kinds and with line and rod. The main activities of the fisheries department are development and exploitation of reservoirs for pisiculture and supply of fingerlings to private breeders and Gram Samajs. The statement below gives the details of collection of seeds and production of fingerlings during the last five years:

Year	No. of seeds collected	No. of fingerlings produced
1	2	3
1971—72	25,05,200	1,06,560
1972—73	1,28,000	63,425
1973—74	17,88,000	1,73,950
1974—75	11,24,400	1,27,750
1975—76	8,06,620	85,000

In the district there is a tank of fisheries department known as Lakhrav where fingerlings are developed. Besides this, there are two other fish farms at Hajipur and Azmatgarh. The Hajipur fish farm has been established with the object of producing fish seeds and the maximum distribution of fingerlings. It is a good reservoir of country and foreign fishes. About 92,750 fingerlings were distributed in 1974-75 and 39,000 in 1975-76. At Azmatgarh fish farm up to 1975 there was stock of only country fish. In 1974-75 about 35,000 fingerlings were distributed from this farm to the pisiculturists. In 1975-76 the work of rearing foreign fishes has also been started in this farm. The rate of supply of fingerlings of the country fish was Rs 40 per thousand while that of foreign fish Rs 100 per thousand in 1976.

Natural Calamities

With a stable rainfall and excellent means of irrigation Azamgarh has seldom been visited by famines of any great intensity, though it has not wholly escaped the more serious calamities of this nature which have fallen elsewhere upon the State. Of early famines there are no records extant. The district was affected by drought in 1783 when some people lost their lives in Mau. One Mirza Ata Beg was *chaklauar* of Azamgarh at the time, and a mosque and wells in the town of Kopaganj are pointed out which he had caused to be made in order to give employment to the poor of the place. In 1868-69, the out turn of the Rabi was between one-half and three-quarters of the average. High prices ruled in 1869 and it caused some distress, as a result of which it was found necessary to open poor-houses and dispense charitable relief. Some distress among the poor in Azamgarh and other towns was produced by the scarcity of 1873-74 but the district escaped as usual for more lightly than its neighbours, and the only measure of relief called for was the distribution of charitable relief.

There was great distress in Azamgarh during the famine of 1877-78, but the condition was not so bad as in other districts. The failure of the Kharif crops was severly felt in Azamgarh especially in Sagri, Mau, Ghosi and Muhammadabad, as prices rose to an unprecedented height, but the distress did not become acute until the beginning of January, 1878. On January 13th, 1878, relief works were opened. The periods of greatest distress were January and February, the daily average of

persons attending the works being 1,440 and 3,603 respectively. All relief works were closed in April. At the end of May signs of distress again made their appearance and work was recommenced on June 3rd, while a poor-house was opend at Azamgarh on June 25th. When the weather had become favourable for agricultural operations in July all relief works were closed. Altogether 1,38,294 units were relieved between January and April and 38,435 between June and September on relief works; while 53,328 were gratuitously relieved in the poor-houses.

The famine of 1896-97 was severely felt in parts of the district, and the acuteness of the distress was increased by the fact that bad seasons had prevailed during the three preceding years. Several test works were opened in October, but only one attracted a large number of workers. This was due in part to the fact that a branch line from Turtipar to Azamgarh on the Bengal and North-Western railway (now North-Eastern Railway) was under construction and was giving employment to between six and eight thousand persons. The total number of units relieved on works under the control of the public works department was 9,39,573. Poor-houses were opened at various places which provided relief to the persons. Gratuitous relief to the people in their home was also distributed. Severe famine prevailed over a large part of the State in 1907-08, but Azamgarh was not much affected. No large relief works under the control of the public works department were found necessary, but some small works were opened under the management of civil authorities, relief was distributed to the poor in their homes and a poor-house was established. Altogether Rs 1,00,158 were spent by the government in direct measures of relief, but Rs 2,95,165 of the Kharif instalment of land revenue were suspended and Rs 1,00,442 remitted, while not less than Rs 4,66,965 were advanced in loans for the purchase of seed and cattle and the construction of wells.

The district again experienced floods in 1916 and 1948.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

The district has a good agricultural base and a reasonably good infra-structure of various facilities. But the industrial base is still very weak, resulting in a low income to the district. The dominating agriculture and weak industrial base together appear to leave a gap, which can be effectively bridged by a co-ordinated approach to enrich the economy of the district. Industrially the district has been one of the backward districts of the State. For want of chronicles, it is not possible to trace out the development of industries, avocations and the level of excellence achieved in the past. But it is certain that in ancient times and also in Mughal period, many villages of this region constituted self sufficient economic units producing their own cloth, crude agricultural implements and other necessities of life. It is, however, believed that during the peaceful reign of the first four Mughal emperors, some industries and handicrafts prospered and received considerable encouragement from the rulers and local chieftains.

The old-time manufactures of the district were of some importance and afforded employment to a number of persons. The main were indigo, sugar, refined sugar, cloth, pottery and saltpetre. Indigo was the most important manufacture of the district and occupied a prominent position. The manufacture of indigo for export started from the early days of British rule. Crommelin, the commercial resident at Azamgarh and Maunath Bhanjan, along with two gentlemen named Stewart and Scott, started the first indigo concern in Azamgarh. Seven more factories were erected in 1807 at different places and in 1808, a factory was established at Nizamabad with three branches. After some time more small factories were erected at various places. Till 1857 this trade was mainly in the hands of Europeans and by 1860, Indians began to take interest in the trade. Till 1877 number of factories came up to 415. Afterwards this industry started declining and all the factories whether owned by Europeans or Indians became victim of evil days. As in other districts, natural indigo was unable to compete with synthetic indigo. Now this industry is no more in existence. Sugar was one of the principal exports of the district during the British period. It was one of the commodities in which investments were made for the East India Company by the commercial residents of the district. In 1877 there were 1,567 sugar refineries spreading all over the district specially in Nizamabad, Muhammadabad, Sagri and Ghosi.

There were two kinds of crude sugar made in the district. One of these was called *gur*, *bheli* or *dhosa* (a solid dry mass) while the other was *rab* which was refined to a certain extent. It was the basis of the refined sugar manufactured in the district which was known as *kachchi chini*, *shakkar* or *pakki chini*. Cultivators did not manufacture *pakki chini* or fully refined sugar, this was made either by traders or industrial units owners. At Phulpur the method of refining sugar differed some-

what from that was followed in the rest of the district. Here refined sugar was made only from *shakkar*. Phulpur sugar was very granular and sweet and sold at a higher price than that manufactured elsewhere in the district.

Azamgarh has long enjoyed a celebrity for the manufacture of cloth and although the trade at present is in a somewhat depressed condition, it is still an important industry. In former days not only was the whole population of the district clad in cloth of local manufacture, but also large quantities of different kinds were exported to other parts of the country. The important centres of the industry were the towns of Maunath Bhanjan, Muhammadabad and Kopaganj, where cloth of a very fine texture with silk admixture was made and the weavers were mostly Muhammadan. In 1876, the number of looms in the district was 13,058 and according to the census of 1872 the number of weavers above the age group of 15 was 12,700. In 1901 there were 60,394 persons who derived their livelihood from cotton weaving and allied industries. In Mubarakpur the chief product was a silk and cotton union like satin the fabrics being known as Sanqis and Ghaltan. Sanqi derived its name from the fact that two warp threads were treated together as one thread in weaving. A wavy line, called *khanjan*, ran along the whole width of the fabric and was produced by the requisite manipulation of the weft thread. The characteristic form was green or yellow warp with red weft and the cloth was a favourite one with all classes of population especially Muslims. The name *ghalta* was derived from the Persian *ghaltidan*, to roll probably with reference to its smooth glazed surface. Though an admixture of silk and cotton, the upper surface of *ghalta* was so well pressed and calendered that the presence of cotton could hardly be identified, while the back showed very little silk and almost all cotton. The characteristic pattern on a *ghalta* was checks bounded by one, two or three lines and the portion between the lines running in one direction filled in with silk of a different colour from the rest of the fabric, hence there was a combination of checks and stripes. The raw material used was both mulberry and *tasar* silk imported from Bengal. *Ghaltas*, were woven with white yarn and then dyed with chemical dyes. Owing to trade depression in the later days, many of the weavers in Mubarakpur were compelled to resort to the weaving of cotton handkerchiefs and *pagris*. At Maunath Bhanjan weavers started manufacturing *dakhhini pagri*, for the Marathas. Dhotis and saris for local use as well as for the southern districts were woven in large numbers. The yarn was supplied at Mau by dealers who imported it from Kanpur and Calcutta and dyed it at home with aniline dyes for inferior articles. The finished cloth was usually sold in the open market to dealers, who had shops at Kanpur, Pune, Hyderabad and Calcutta.

Fancy pottery was made at Nizamabad. It is said that the art came from Gujarat, whence the ancestors of the potters accompanied Abdul Farah Nizamabadi in the reign of Aurangzeb. The pottery was black or reddish brown ware, ornamented with designs in silver foil. The articles produced were chiefly teapots, sugar-boils, candlestick stands, vases and the like. These were generally very cheap in price,

Saltpetre was manufactured in all parganas except Muanath Bhanjan and Atraulia. There were two saltpetre refineries in the district at the end of the last century, the one at Kopaganj in pargana Muhammadabad and the other at Gajaipur in pargana Nathupur. The refined saltpetre was sent to Calcutta for export to Europe. Carbonate of soda, which was known as *sajj* was exported to Patna and other places in the east for use in the manufacture of soap and glass.

These industries declined and their market dwindled with the availability of mill made goods at cheaper rates.

Power

Electric power is available from the U.P. Grid, and the district has 12 power sub-stations at present.

The consumption of power in various sectors of the economy in the district in 1973 was as follows :

Sector	Number of connections
Light and fan	21,618
Domestic power	248
Industrial	1,267
Agriculture	6,929

Rural Electrification

Only 119 villages, being 2.1 per cent of the total revenue collecting villages were electrified till 1970 . By 1973 the number had increased to 220 villages.

Large-scale Industries

The district has only two large scale units, one for cotton yarn at Maunath Bhanjan and the other a co-operative sugar mill at Sathiaon.

Textile Mills, Maunath Bhanjan—This unit is engaged in producing cotton yarn and cotton vest. The capital outlay of this unit was Rs 201.10 lakhs and the cotton yarn and cotton vest produced worth Rs 2,57,093 lakhs in 1974. The raw material consumed is mostly imported from Bombay, Kanpur and Ahmedabad and was valued locally besides being exported to Basti, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Allahabad, etc. The managements has a plan for its expansion.

The Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills, Ltd., Sathiaon, Azamgarh—The mill is situated at a distance of about 45 m. (in south) from the railway station, Sathiaon. It was established only a few years back. The first consignment of sugar went out only in December 31, 1975.

The capital outlay of this unit was Rs 1,81,89,562, while the value of raw material consumed was approximately Rs 2,56,000 till March 31, 1975. The mill produced only 256 quintals of sugar in 1975.

Small-scale Industries

Agricultural implements, mechanical engineering goods, textile and allied products, chemicals and allied goods, plastic and rubber goods, electrical goods, glass wares, food and allied products are produced in a large number of small-scale industrial units, which are mainly located in the urban areas.

The following statement gives comparative figures of different units of small scale industries in the district in 1956 and 1976 :

Particulars	1956	1976
Total number of units	347	229
Total number of persons employed	11,586	1,037
Total investment (in Rs)	29,92,000	6,51,67,410
Total value of raw material consumed (in Rs)	16,16,000	1,17,58,879
Total production (in Rs)	46,53,000	2,38,28,911

The above statement shows that the investment and the value of production of goods in this sector has gone up since 1956 and it appears that now these industries have become more capital intensive.

Agricultural Implements—Ploughs, crushers, buckets, thrashers, chain pumps and pans (for making jaggery) are produced in 30 units, majority of which are located at Phulphur, Azamgarh, Maunath Bhanjan, Lalganj, Ghosi, Captainganj, Thekman and Rani ki Sarai. The units are operated by electricity and use iron and coal as raw material.

Mechanical Engineering Goods—Spare parts of machinery, rolling shutters, steel boxes, sheets, bars pistons couplings, flanges, liners, water pumps and nails are produced in 28 units, which are mainly located at Azamgarh and Maunath Bhanjan. General repair work is also done by some of these units. These units have good prospects for expansion as the number of tubewells and the use of improved implements are increasing fast in the district.

Textile Based Industry—Sizing, calendering, wrapping is done in 26 units. These units manufacture cotton yarn as well. This industry is chiefly located at Maunath Bhanjan, Kopaganj and Khairabad. These industrial units are also engaged in job work.

Chemicals and Allied Goods— Candles, Ayurvedic medicines, soap, perfumed oil and paints are manufactured in 21 units, located at Azamgarh and Phulpur. These units use wax, colour, caustic soda, etc. as raw material.

Plastic and Rubber Goods—Plastic badges, containers, cycle, tyres and tubes and polethine bags are manufactured in 13 units, mainly located at Maunath Bhanjan, Azamgarh and Muhammadabad. The main raw material consumed by these units is imported but some items are locally available.

Electrical Goods—The manufacture of miniature bulbs and allied articles is done by 8 units, mainly located at Maunath Bhanjan. These units are purchasing the entire requirement of raw material from the open market. The entrepreneurs of this industry have been advised by the industries department to start the manufacture of auto bulbs in view of the fast growing demand of the products.

Glass and Ceramics—Optical lenses, small glass, bottles, cups and plates and other crude glass articles are manufactured in 7 units, mainly located at Azamgarh and Alinagar. Glass, sand and allied articles are used as raw material in these units.

Food and Allied Products—Biscuits, toffee and other confectionery articles are produced in 4 units, located at Azamgarh and Dohrighat. Sugar, maida, soojee and ghee are used as raw material in this industry.

Medicated Oil—The famous Noorani Tel (oil) is manufactured by an industrial unit, Indian Chemical Company, Maunath Bhanjan, established in 1939. The oil is medicated and is used to treat many ailments. The total capital of the unit is Rs 5 lakhs and annual production varies between Rs 27 lakhs to 39 lakhs. About 20 persons are employed in this unit. The oil is exported to Nepal also.

Other Industries—Aluminium utensils, steel furniture, automobile parts, building material, printing, ice-candy and bricks are produced in more than 90 units, scattered throughout the district. Most of these units employ labours on monthly or daily basis but some of them also pay wages on piece rate basis also.

The following statement gives the total investment, value of raw material consumed, value of goods produced and number of persons employed in the registered industrial units of the district in 1974-75 :

Industries	Total Investment (in Rs)	Value of raw material consumed (ih Rs)	Total production (in Rs)	Number of persons employed
Agricultural implements	5,00,000	6,75,000	8,00,000	121
Mechanical engineering goods	8,15,000	2,85,000	5,00,000	140
Textile and alied products	5,96,10,000	90,00,000	1,84,14,911	105
Chemicals and allied goods	6,00,000	72,000	1,03,000	81
Plastic and rubber goods	18,50,000	16,87,000	30,00,000	52
Electrical goods	2,00,000	70,000	85,000	32
Glass wares	3,11,410	2,29,877	3,50,000	28
Food and allied products	2,68,000	1,50,000	2,25,000	16
Others	17,50,000	14,00,000	50,00,000	450

Village and Cottage Industries

The village and cottage industries include mostly the handicrafts handed down from generation to generation. The persons who are engaged in these industries generally supplement their income from other sources. Handloom and power-loom cloths, leather goods, pottery, khadi weaving, woolen articles, leather tanning, *gur* making and blanket making fall under this group of industries, which are manned and owned by particular section of the community.

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

Total number of units	70,000
Total number of persons employed	1,72,000
Total investment (in Rs)	Rs 224.71 lakh
Total value of raw materials used (in Rs)	Rs 439.34 lakh
Total value of goods produced (in Rs)	Rs 772.71 lakh

Handloom and Power-loom Industry—This constitute the most important industry in the district affording maximum employment and is responsible for 60 per cent of the value of industrial production in the district. Usually it is a subsidiary occupation for some 1.5 lakh of the rural population. It is a village household industry with looms set up in most of the rural households. The production process is traditional. There are as many as 3.335 power looms also in the district. The weavers are generally very proficient possessed of innate skill, and use mill made yarn. It is first dyed in their own houses or by a local dyer. The yarn is usually obtained in the form of ranks and as such it has to be loosened and unwound before it is wrapped and sized. Unwinding, wrapping and sizing is usually done by the members of the weavers household. The dyed yarn is then operated into the pit fly shuttle loom and weaved into cloth or saris or *lungis*. Though this industry is scattered throughout the district, but for powerlooms Maunath Bhanjan, Khairabad and Kopaganj, are famous, while for handloom Ghosi, Kopaganj, Khairabad, Muhammadabad, Chiriakot, Jahanaganj, Mubarakpur, Amila, Nawada, Mahrajganj and Maunath Bhanjan are the main centres. In 1975, there were 37,055 handlooms, out of which 20,878 were in co-operative sector and the rest 16,177 in private sector. This industry has come in the fold of co-operative societies and the majority of the weavers have joined them. In 1975 the number of Central Weavers Co-operative Societies was 4 and the Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies numbered 383 and their membership was 314 and 18,788 respectively. The working capital of these societies was Rs 4,86,000 and Rs 64,88,000 and paid up share capital was Rs 78,000 and Rs 22,69,000 for Central and Primary Co-operative Societies respectively. As many as 10,000 persons were employed in power-loom and 74,110 in handloom sector in 1975.

The total value of raw material consumed by the handloom sector was about Rs 22 crores and the production amounted to Rs 35.5 crores while the value of raw material consumed by the power-loom sector was approximately Rs 10 crores and the production amounted to approximately Rs 14 crores in 1975.

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This industry is getting incentive from the State government and there is a plan to change handloom into frame-looms.

With the objects of giving financial assistance, arranging raw material at reasonable price giving technical training, and arranging a proper market for the produced goods an intensive handloom development project has been started Maunath Bhanjan in February 1977. Under the control of this project about 3,000 handlooms are engaged in producing Janta Sarees at cheaper rates. About 5,000 sarees are purchased every day and are sent to different sale depots in and outside the State.

Besides, about ten power-looms are engaged in producing *markin* (plain unbleached coarse cloth) and dhotis; and about twenty handlooms are manufacturing model cloth for shirts and *lungis*.

Leather Goods—The manufacture of shoes and allied articles is an age old industry depending mostly on traditional skill and workmanship. The shoes made conform mostly to indigenous designs and utilize locally tanned leather. Though this industry is scattered in whole of the district but 23 co-operative industrial units are engaged in it which are mainly located at Madhuban, Ghosi, Rajapur, Lalganj, Bachhaur, Aurangabad, Nizamabad, Jairamgarh, Jagdishpur, Baragaon, Mehnagar, Koelsa, and Faizullapur. The total investment was Rs 41,000, while the raw material consumed was valued at Rs 1,20,500 and the articles produced were worth Rs 1,45,500 in 1975. As many as 120 persons were engaged in this industry in the same year.

Pottery—One of the oldest industries of the district, pottery, still contributes substantially to the economic life of the people. The fancy pottery made in Nizamabad has a long history. The potters of this place still make tea pots, sugar boils and other decorative articles. Besides these, earthen wares and statues of gods and goddesses particularly of Ganesh, Laxmi, Shiva, Durga and Saraswati are also made. These products fetch rich market during fairs and festivals. Smooth black clay commonly used is plentifully available in the district. There were only 4 registered co-operative industrial units, located at Nizamabad, Husainabad, Sahraja and Baragaon, engaged in this industry though many unregistered units are scattered throughout the district. The total investment of registered units was Rs 2,500 in which the raw materials consumed valued at Rs 10,000 and articles produced were worth Rs 13,500 in 1975. As many as 60 persons are employed in these units in the same year.

Government is now giving incentive for the development of this industry and in near future a Pottery Development Centre is going to be established at Nizamabad.

Khadi Weaving—There were 5 registered co-operative industrial units, located at Madhuban, Pharsara, Gonjanpar, Bhairopur and Pakari Buzurg, engaged in this industry. These units produce khadi cloth and the total investment of such units was Rs 1,40,000 while the raw materials consumed were valued at Rs 1,45,500 and the goods produced were worth Rs 1,60,500 in 1977. As many as 130 persons were engaged in this industry.

Woolen Articles—Woolen cloths and other articles are manufactured by 5 registered co-operative industrial units, which are located at Parsamanpur, Mehnazpur, Rahuar Baidauli and Piruthspur. The articles produced are moslty crude and rough. The total investment of these units was Rs 2,500 while raw materials consumed were valued at Rs 4,500 and the articles produced were worth Rs 5,500 in 1975. As many as 15 persons were employed by these units.

Leather Tanning—Azamgarh district has a concentration of tanning units and there are about 100 units engaging about 300 persons. Though there is no registered co-operative industrial unit, but the units are based on old families. Concentration of tanning units are found in Maunath Bhanjan, Sarai Mir, Rajapur, Jianpur and Mohiuddinpur. The fixed investment on these units are on lime pits, tanning pits, knives and wooden equipment, the value of which on an average varies from Rs 20 to 50 per set. Artisans carry on their production on traditional and outmoded lines. The tanning materials commonly used are leaves of Amla Mathua, Bakula and Singri trees and the bark of the babul trees. This process is known as vegetable tanning process. The tanned hides are sold to local shoe makers. Total value of hides processed and sold per year was on an average of Rs 2,00,000 in the district.

Gur Making—Next to handloom industry, *gur* making is the most important subsidiary industry of the rural economy. There are more than 28,000 unregistered units engaged in this industry, giving employment to more than 80,000 persons and producing goods worth a little more than Rs 2.5 crore annually on the average. Most of the persons engaged in this industry are part-time employees, generally they are cane growers. The traditional method is still used in the manufacture of *gur*.

Blanket Making—This industry is scattered all over the district and about 225 unregistered units providing employment to more than 600 persons are engaged in this industry. The artisans are generally Gadarias, who also rear sheep, do a little of cultivation and also weave blankets during the winter season. This industry is mainly located at Loniyadili, Pyarepatti, Nadauli, Bimalpatti and Kiria. Major portion of the investment is in the form of fixed capital. The raw material used is raw wool which is available in the district and the product has only a local market. The total value of the goods produced is about Rs 2.00 lakhs annually against capital investment of nearly Rs 45,000.

In the rougher variety, woolen *pattis* are made and afterwards sewed togather to make blankets. Wool is spun by the women and the blanket is woven by the male members.

The other cottage industries existing in the district are box manufacturing, bin making, smoking tobacco making, stone crushing, *rasibatai* and basket making, most of them in the rural areas.

Industrial Estate

There are two Industrial Estates—the Small Industrial Estate at Azamgarh and the Rural Industrial Estate at Ghosi. The former has 11 sheds, but only 9 industrial units have been making production. These units produced goods worth Rs 22,00,000 and employed 130 persons in 1975. The latter has 5 sheds but only 2 industrial units have been functioning. These units produced goods worth Rs 10,000 and gave employment to 8 persons in 1975. Workers engaged in these units were on piece rate wages and these units were not functioning regularly.

Aid to Industries

Azamgarh is one of the industrially under developed districts of the State and 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, but since there is a dearth of entrepreneurs in the district, the credit facilities are not being fully utilized.

These industries are availing the assistance from the U.P. Small-Industries Corporation, Kanpur and U.P. Financial Corporation, Kanpur on the recommendations of the Directorate of Industries U.P. The nationalized banks are now the major source of financial assistance to small-scale units in the district.

Central Financial Institution—The 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 per cent 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 scheme under which the loans are advanced on behalf of State government, are known as Liberalized Loan Scheme and Ordinary Loan Scheme. Under the former scheme, loans are advanced at reduced rates of interest and for longer periods extending up to 15 years. The corporation has been authorised to carry on and transact various types of business. At present it has confined its activities to the granting of loans to industrial concerns, issue deferred payment, giving guarantee 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 Loans Scheme to the extent of Rs 80 lakh in the case of private and public limited companies or registered co-operative societies and Rs 15 lakhs in the case of proprietorship concerns. The rate of interest is 11.5 per cent per annum with a rebate of 2 per cent for prompt repayment. The loans under the Ordinary Loan Scheme and Liberalized Loan Scheme are considered for amounts ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000. The applications of loans under the schemes are channelised through the district industries officer, Azamgarh. 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 instalments. The number of instalments are increased in the case of Liberalized Loan Scheme. The following statement gives an idea of the loan assistance provided by the U.P. Financial corporation during financial year 1974 :

Scheme	Number of units	Loans disbursement as on 31.3.74 (in lakhs of Rs)
Corporation Loan Scheme	10	12.30
Liberalized Loan Scheme	10	4.50
Ordinary Loan Scheme	15	2.06

The U.P. Small-scale Industries Corporation, Kanpur and nationalized banks of the district also give assistance to industrial units. The U.P. Small-scale Industries Corporation gave help to 6 small-scale units by giving them machinery on hire and purchase basis. These units were given machinery worth Rs 1.35 lakhs in 1971-72. Among nationalized banks, the State Bank of India, through its branches at Maunath Bhanjan, Muhammadabad, Gohana, Azamgarh and Phulpur, has sanctioned credit limits to 63 industrial units amounting to Rs 35.65 lakhs in 1971-72. The Banaras State Bank, Azamgarh and Maunath Bhanjan also sanctioned credit limits to 16 industrial units amounting to Rs 22.53 lakhs in the same year. The Union Bank of India, the lead bank of the district, advanced loans to 4 small-scale units of the value of Rs 7.50 lakhs in 1971-72 and the Punjab National Bank financed one unit with the sanction of a credit limit of Rs 65,000. The State government is also helping the industry through the handloom industry scheme, the khadi development scheme, the intensive development scheme, the credit and grant scheme 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 much better base for industrial development. The prospects for establishing new industries in the district are analysed on the basis of available resources and the existing and anticipated demand for various manufactured items in the district. Since there are only two large-scale units in the district, there is scope for the establishment of few more and also for setting up ancillary industries.

In a developing economy, means of communications play an important role because they enable a quick movement of finished goods to the markets and the raw materials to production units. Azamgarh is in the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh and lies on the meter guage. The district is located near important trade centres such as Varanasi, Ballia, Ghazipur, Faizabad and Gorakhpur. There is a net work of roads, connecting the district headquarter with all the important places within and outside district.

The industries are classified under two major heads, resource based industries and demand based industries. Under the former certain industrial units can be established to utilize the availabe resources of the district. About one lakh of hides are available in the district and are sent to Kanpur and Calcutta for tanning. A tannery can be set up in the district with a capacity to tan 100 hides per day. The district has the requisite facilities of land, water and cheap labour. Outskirts of Azamgarh proper is considered to be suitable location for the proposed enterprise as the river Tons which flows besides the town will offer perennial source of water. The district occupies an important position in collection of bones and the availability of bones is about 125 tonnes per month. Hence a bone unit at Azamgarh can also be established. Crushed bones have a good export market and bone meal is a good fertilizer. The unit can be started outside the municipal areas where land can be acquired easily. There are about 32,000 pigs in the district and pig-hair is a good raw material for brush-making. Considering the demand, a few units can be set up in this field. The district is the largest grower of barley in the State followed by Jaunpur district. More than 1,20,000 tonnes of barley is produced every year and it is an important raw material for beer brewing. So there is a scope for the establishment of such a unit in the district. Azamgarh is an important paddy growing area and the total annual yield is more than 2.00 lakh tonnes per annum, but the rice milling on modern lines has yet to develop. The existing process of milling rice is inadequate and crude with the result that most of the grain is sent out for processing. A modern rice mill in the Lalganj tahsil can be opened with a processing capacity of 1.2 tonnes per hour. Sun hemp is grown in an area of about 10,000 acres and the total annual yield is about 4,000 tonnes. This product can be utilized for the manufacture of rope and carpet making, and an industrial unit can be easily set up in the district. At present the entire quantity of this important raw material is exported to Varanasi. A potato chips plant can be established in the district as more than 40,000 tonnes of potato is produced here annually. A small-scale manufacturing unit for cardboard can also be established at Azamgarh, as paddy, wheat and maize, husk, the raw material of this industry is available in plenty in the district. A few units for fruits and vegetables preservation can also be easily established here. The district produces about 90,000 tonnes of green peas and as people enjoy eating it in off season as well, so there is scope for the establishment of a plant for making dehydrated peas. At present the flour is generally milled by *atta-chakkis*. With the increasing demand for *maida* and soojee a roller flour mill with a capacity of 30 tonnes per day can be opened. There is a scope for opening of a few *dal* mills also.

The major factors affecting demand for consumer goods are population (size of market), purchasing power (levels of income and disposable income), degree of urbanizat on, educational standards, family size, habits and outlook of consumer all of which determine the scope for demand based industries. With the advancement of modern medical aid and expansion of hospitals and primary health centres, the demand for dis illed saline and glucose water has increased, and some manufacturing units can be easily set up to meet the demand. Besides, these units for the manufacture of agricultural implements, handpumps, cycle parts, builders hardware, steel furniture, rolling shutters, conduit pipes,

electric good, hosiery items, readymade garments, polythene sheets and bags, plastic novelty items, soap, candle, stationery items and sports goods, can also be set up in the district. There is scope for the establishment of a few more cold storages. Cottage industries especially those with a local tradition deserve serious attention and efforts need to be made in order to revise them.

Labour Organization

There were 6 trade unions registered in the district in 1974-75, with a total membership of about 3,360 workers. The main objects of these trade unions are to ensure fair wages, good living and working condition, proper medical and educational facilities for labourers and their general welfare. They also help in creating healthy relationship between the employers and the employees. There is also a labour welfare centre at Maunath Bhanjan. The details of labour welfare organizations and activities have been given in Chapter XVII of this volume.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

History of Banking

It is difficult to trace the history of indigenous banking in the area now comprising the district, but since early times it has had flourishing trade with the adjoining districts of Varanasi, Ballia, Ghazipur and Faizabad. Although there was lack of proper means of communications, internal trade was flourishing and the transactions were financed by traders and money-lenders called *mahajans*. The *hundi* system of indigenous banking was in vogue and treasuries were established by the rulers of the day for collection and disbursement of money.

The British established their treasury at the district headquarters after taking over the administration of the district in 1801. Subsequently sub-treasuries were established at the tahsil headquarters. At the beginning of the present century money-lenders (mostly high caste zamindars) charged higher rate of interest. The money-lenders of rural areas were more grasping than the urban ones and were always exploiting the misfortune of borrowers, whose valuable articles such as jewellary and land were pawned with them. The rates of interest in the district varied widely with the amount and nature of the loans. The nominal rate of interest on debts secured by bond but not connected with agricultural produce, varied from 12 to 36 per cent, according to the value of the security. But in addition to the nominal interest most of the money-lenders recovered additional charges under such names as *nazrana* and *dalali*. In mortgages in which possession was given to the mortgagee, the ordinary rate charged was 12 to 18 per cent. Four and a half per cent was considered a fair return by money-lenders who invested their money in land. The most common loans took the form of advances of seed corn. These were repaid at harvest time with the addition of interest calculated at one fourth of the principal, and the system was known hence as *sawai*.

There was no village bank in existence but a branch of the Kayastha Bank was established in the first decade of the present century in the district. But the history of regular modern banking starts with the opening of a district co-operative bank in 1923 followed by the State Bank of India in 1940. Other banks came in later. The Punjab National Bank, Ltd., Mau was started in 1951 and there has been a continued spurt in this direction since then.

General Credit Facilities

A new policy is being adopted by the commercial banks in matters of advancing loans. Formerly the credit was confined to big industrialists and traders only, but the emphasis has now shifted to agriculturists, small traders, artisans, transport workers, students and self em-

ployed persons also. The six commercial banks in 1976 had together 45 branch offices in the district, the District Co-operative Bank having in addition 15 more branches.

Rural Indebtedness

The main occupation of the people of the region covered by the present district was agriculture and the land tenure system had a direct bearing on its economic condition. The position of the agriculturists was far from satisfactory and the holdings were very small. Frequent visitation of natural calamities badly affected the economic condition of the agriculturists who always struggled with poverty. Constant multiplication of owners and subdivision of land contributed in no less a measure to their sadplight. During the First and Second World War, a large number of cultivators benefited with the rise in prices of Agricultural produce, but even this could not change their financial condition, because the receipts were substantially set off by the high prices which had to be paid by them for other items like cloth, live-stocks and implements.

After Independence also the situation did not materially change soon and the traditional financial difficulties of the cultivators remained the same, due to increase in population and practically little dispersion of the population to other professions.

There has been no survey to assess the incidence of indebtedness in the district, but it appears that it is almost a general feature in the economy of an average family. People take loans at the times of sowing and social functions. 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 for Rs 265.65 and the assets amounted to Rs 16037.15 while that of an agricultural labourer family was in debt for Rs 161.07 and the assets amountd to Rs 1212.13.

Urban Indebtedness

Persons serving different establishments and industrial workers residing in the urban centres are also generally indebted. Rising prices were the main cause of urban indebtedness. The Reserve Bank of India survey referred to above in the region estimated in 1971 that the family of an average artisan was indebted for Rs 125.11. The family assets amounted to Rs 2,545.16.

Debt-relief Legislation

To regulate the terms and conditions of money-lending certain legislative measures have been adopted since the first quarter of this century.

The courts, under the Usurious Loan Act, 1918, were authorised to examine transactions in which they had reason to believe that the interest charged was 'excessive' and the transaction between the parties was consequently 'unfair'. This aimed at relieving the debtor of all liability in respect of any 'excessive' interest. Through an amendment

made in 1926, this Act was made applicable to all the parties seeking relief from mortgage but it did not provide clear definitions of the terms 'excessive' and 'unfair', which created a difficulty for the courts. An amendment was again made in 1934, by which the Act was made applicable to all debtors and debts, and it provided definite limits of 12 and 24 per cent on secured and unsecured loans respectively beyond which the rate of interest had to be declared as 'excessive'.

The United Provinces Agriculturists' Relief Act, 1934, gave some relief to agriculturists as it provided *inter alia* for payment of debts in instalments at a low rates of interest. The U.P. Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Act, 1937, provided unconditional stay of proceedings for the execution of decrees againsts tenants and those proprietors whose land revenue did not exceed Rs 1,000 a year. The United Provinces Debt Redemption Act, 1940, provided for the accounting of interest at low rates and protected the person and property of debtors from being proceeded against. But the majority of the peasants were illiterate and therefore they could not derive any substantial advantage. Money-lenders manipulated the documents and generally succeeded in litigation. The U.P. Government decided to introduce further reform in 1975 and the U.P. Regulation of Money-Lending Act, 1976, has come into vogue. The act provides relief to small farmers, agricultural labourers, village artisans and other weaker sections of the society. The law is also expected to control 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 who 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 this Act is that the money-lender will have to make payment through cheques for loans for Rs 1,000 or above. The government has been given the powers to fix rates of interest on loans and the money-lenders must issue receipts for every payment made to him. Commercial loans 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 not within the jurisdiction of the Act.

Role of Private Money-Lenders and Financiers

In both the urban and the rural areas of the district local money-lenders and other agencies provide credits to the needy. Some of these money-lenders are traders, commission agents and old landlords, generally the money is advanced under the 'ugahi' system and the lenders recover an amount of Rs 12 for every sum of Rs 10, loaned the debtor paying a rupee each month and clearing the debt in 12 months. The government, the co-operative societies and the nationalized banks have made efforts to eliminate money-lenders but they still continue to play an important part in the economy of the district.

Government Loans

It has been the practice of the rulers in the past to extend monetary help to the agriculturists at times of flood famine or other calamities.

The British continued to follow the practice and upon the recommendations of the Famine Commission, the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883 (Act XII of 1883) and the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884, (Act XIX of 1884) were passed. Both these Acts empowered State Government to frame rules governing the grant and disbursement of loans to agriculturists. The policy of keeping up the morale of agriculturists in distress by making suitable provision of funds and materials is being followed by the government with greater vigour since Independence. Now money is advanced not only for distress, but also for the development of agricultural economy. The loans are known as *taqavi*. The *taqavi* distributed in 1971-72 amounted to Rs 65 lakhs and in 1972-73 to Rs 63 lakhs.

Co-operative Movement

With a view to alleviate the condition of the masses suffering at the hands of indigenous bankers, the co-operative movement was initiated in the district, with the establishment of 2 primary agricultural co-operative societies in 1906. In the beginning the growth was very slow and the number increased to only 13 in 1920. There was no central bank for co-operative societies in the district till 1922. The district Co-operative Bank Ltd. Azamgarh, was established in 1923, and the co-operative movement came to assert itself as more money began to be advanced now to the agriculturists. After the end of the third decade of this century in 1931, there were 48 co-operative societies in district, while in 1941 the number increased to 202. The co-operative movement has assumed new dimensions after Independence. The number of such societies increased to 945 in 1951 and went up to 2,586 in 1961. Attempts are being made to constitute large societies by amalgamating smaller societies. The rate of interest on loans advanced by the agricultural co-operative societies has also increased in the last 30 years. It was 4 per cent per annum in the twenties and thirties, 6.7 to 8.75 per cent per annum in forties, fifties and sixties and is 14.5 per cent per annum in 1974-75.

The following statement gives the progress of the co-operative movement in the district since 1966-67.

Year	No. of societies	Membership	Amounts of loans advanced by the societies (in lakhs in Rs)
1966—67	896	1,41,262	126
1967—68	842	1,49,752	108
1968—69	842	1,56,622	82
1969—70	839	1,68,226	103
1970—71	839	2,21,655	80
1971—72	838	2,35,518	65
1972—73	834	2,44,442	97
1973—74	834	2,51,980	124
1974—75	834	2,67,336	118

OTHER CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTION

District Co-operative Federation, Azamgarh

This federation was set-up in 1948 with a view to link the various local co-operative marketing institutions with the Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Federation, Lucknow. The main function of this federations is to make arrangements for the supply of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, etc. It has sponsored two cold storages, one at Burhanpur and other at Dohrighat in the district. The capital investment of this federation was Rs 45,68,418 in 1976.

Co-operative Marketing Societies

There are three marketing societies in the district, located at Kopaganj, Nizamabad and Ghosi. Food-grains, oil seeds, fertilizers and other consumers 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. In 1976 these societies had a capital investment of Rs 1,89,500.

Central Co-operative Consumers' Store

This consumers' store was established in 1966, and in 1976 it had 6 branches, all of them were located at Azamgarh. The aim of this store is to provide goods of daily use at cheap rates. The capital investment of this store was Rs 58,253 in 1976. There were 92 Central Co-operative Societies, 23 Co-operative Farming Societies, 4 Large-size Societies, 8 Shram Sambida Sahkari Societies, 20 Salary Earners' Co-operative Societies, 1 Dugdh Utpadak Sahkari Sangh and 34 Primary Consumers' Co-operative Societies in existence in the district in 1976.

U.P. State Land Development Bank

It is the most important agency of rural credit, especially for long-term loans for minor irrigation works. Loans from this bank are obtained at 8.25 per cent interest for the irrigational facilities like wells, tubewells, pumping set, etc., for improvement on land and improved techniques of cultivations for heavy agricultural machinery, like tractor etc., for setting up orchards, for repayment of old loans and for the purchase of adjoining lands in order to consolidate land holdings and to make these economic units of cultivation.

Loans are obtainable on easy terms and conditions. An individual can obtain a loan of minimum of Rs 500 and a maximum of Rs 15,000. The maximum limit for a co-operative farming society is Rs 50,000. An individual can obtain loans upto 50 per cent of the value of the *bhumidari* land and upto 40 per cent of the *sirdari* land.

A loanee has to purchase shares of the bank for 5 percent value of the amount sanctioned to him so that the loance obtains the loan to the exent of 20 times the value of his shares. A loanee will be sanctioned a loan within the limits of his repaying capacity.

The following table shows the amounts disbursed by the bank, between 1965—66 and 1969—70.

Year	Loan Disbursed (in lakhs of Rs)
1965—66	4
1966—67	4
1967—68	3
1968—69	7
1969—70	37

Total loans outstanding as on June 30, 1969 were Rs 81.25 lakhs.

The position of demand and recovery as on June 30, 1970 is indicated as under.

Total demands	Rs 4,24,479.50
Total recovery	Rs 3,47,829.83

District Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Azamgarh

This bank was established in 1923. It finances the co-operative institutions of the district and also provides banking facilities to its members. Unlike the commercial banks, this 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 had 15 branches located in the six tahsils of the district. The total investment of this bank was Rs 16,96,708 in 1976. The rate of interest charged on advances made by the branches of the bank is between 7 and 10 per cent per annum.

Commercial Banks

State Bank of India was the first Commercial Bank opened in the district in 1953, followed by a branch of the Banaras State Bank, Ltd. in 1963. In the year 1969, there were 19 branches of different banks in the district, and the number rose to 26 in 1972, and in 1976 the number went up to 45. The following statement gives the location and the year of establishment of each branch of each commercial bank in the district.

Commercial Bank	Location of Branch	Date of Establishments
1	2	3
Union Bank of India	Mubarakpur	7.10.1967
	Azamgarh	24.6.1970
	Sagri	24.6.1970
	Maunath Bhanjan	22.3.1971
	Bilanaganj	27.5.1971
	Captainganj	22.12.1971
	Koelsa	22.12.1971

[contd.

India. A branch was opened in 1959 with a branch manager as incharge of the office. Maunath Bhanjan has also one branch of the corporation. In 1960, 5,916 persons were insured and a sum of Rs 2,88,87,500 was assured. The following statement illustrates the popularity of insurance after nationalization.

Year	No' of lives insured	Total business (in Rs)
1	2	3
1973—74	3,059	2,60,23,500
1974—75	3,357	2,77,23,250
1975—76	3,827	3,35,56,700

State Aid to Industries

The subject has already been discussed in detail in Chapter V (Industries) of this volume.

Currency and Coinage

As far back as the sixth century B.C. dust or ingots of gold and silver served as currency. The actual coins i.e. pieces of metal or regular shape, whose weight and fineness was guaranted by a recognized authority, became legal tender when these were issued by merchants, guilds and corporations besides the government of the day. These coins were known as punch marked coins, because one or more figures were marked as symbols of the issuing authority. However, they bore no names and no legends. The imperial Guptas issued a series of coins which are considered to be of high artistic standard[1].

The weight of the earliest coins was 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 *dhurana* and weighed 32 *ratis*.

In the medieval period there were mainly three types of coins, the *dam*, the rupee and the *mohar*. A rupee comprised 40 *dams* and 10 rupees were computed as equal to gold *mohar*.

The *ganda* (four) was the unit with which villagers worked in money. Formerly the Lucknow rupee was generally used; it was known as the Sicca. Such coins were used before the British rule. With the establishment of British rule the English rupee came to be used and it was called the *Latsahi*. This rupee was issued by Britishers and its weight was of 180 grain. A rupee comprised 16 annas and an anna was subdivided into 4 paisa and a paisa into 3 pies.

The decimal system of coinage was introduced on October 12, 1958. The rupee has now been divided into 100 paisa. There are coins of 1 paise, 2 paisa, 3 paisa, 5 paisa, 10 paisa, 20 paisa, 25 paisa and 50 paisa in circulation. However, the old coins of 8 annas and 4 annas are still in vogue in the district.

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

The currency of India consists of one rupee notes and coins, issued by the Government of India and the bank notes are issued by the Reserve Bank of India. However, the distribution of one rupee notes and coins is undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India as the agent of the central government. In October, 1969, a restricted number of ten rupees Mahatma Gandhi's century silver coins were issued.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued notes of the denominations of rupee two, five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, one thousand, five thousand and ten thousand. Currency and coinage are made available to the district through the branches of State Bank of India in the district. These branches are fed by the branch of the Reserve Bank of India at Kanpur. Each bank is provided with a currency chest which stocks new or reissuable notes and are stored along with ruppee coins.

Devaluation—As agreed by the International Monetary Fund, the revaluation of gold in terms of rupee took place in September, 1949, and again in June, 1966. In other words the rupee was devalued. In September, 1949, one tola of gold became equivalent to Rs 62.50, while before this period it was equivalent to Rs 21.24. In June, 1966, there was further devaluation of the rupee by 36.5 per cent and a tola of gold was now equivalent to Rs 98.44. Thus the value of the gold held in the issue department of the Reserve Bank increased in 1949 and 1966. The revaluation profits are transferred to the reserve fund of the banki.

Devaluation was the result of unfavourable balance of trade for India. It increased exports as the Indian goods became cheaper. On the other hand price of imported foreign goods increased.

Trade And Commerce

Course of Trade

Trade in past was limited and the trade routes of importance being generally the rivers. After the establishment of British rule new metalled and unmetalled roads were constructed. The main items of export were sugar, molasses, lin-seed, indigo, opium, saltpetre and cloth. Among articles imported were English made cloth, cotton and cotton yarn, silk, metals and hardware, drugs and leather goods. None of the old highways passed through the district and even by the beginning of the present century, the roads that existed owed their origin for the most part to the river borne traffic, serving as feeders to connected the local markets of the interior with the principal wharfs. The chief river side parts on the rivers were Azamgarh, Muhammadabad and Maunath Bhanjan. The traffic on the waterways was, however, supplanted to a large extent by various railway lines which came to traverse the district. The railways gave tremendous impetus to trade as the faster rail wagons replaced the bullock-carts, the main means of road transport in the past. The construction of the railways doubtless increased the pace of the trade but the benefits mainly accrued to only certain places of the district. The railways especially enabled the export of grains from the important *mandis* of the district.

After Independence the roads have been considerably improved and new roads and bridges have been constructed during the Five-year Plans. The construction of bridges has adversely effected the river borne traffic which has now almost died out. The district is linked with metalled roads with the adjoining districts of Ballia, Ghazipur, Varanasi, Faizabad and Jaunpur. A fleet of trucks is always available for the transport of goods.

The pattern of trade has now changed, but even now, the agricultural products, and handloom are the main items of export, while general merchandise, cloth and other consumer goods constitute the bulk of imports. With an increase in the population of the district in the last fifty years, the size of exports has decreased, whereas the size of imports has increased. The bulk of imports come from neighbouring districts.

Railways import and export agricultural commodities, general merchandise, cloth, coal and kerosene oil in the region. The important stations for trade are Maunath Bhanjan, Ghosi, Kopaganj, Dohrighat, Muhammadabad and Azamgarh. The agricultural produce of the region are collected at different trade centres of the district and from these places the produce is again exported to other regions by road and rail.

Wheat, rice, gram, barley, arhar, Maize, peas, mustard oil, cement, general goods, coal, fertilizers and kerosene oil are the main items of import of the district.

Exports

The exports of main commodities in 1976 from the district were as follows :

Commodity	Quantity (in quintals)
Gur	3,500
Paddy	7,000
Mustard seed	5,600

Imports

The figures of import of important commodities during 1976 are given below :

Commodity	Quantity (in quintals)
1	2
Wheat	38,587
Rice	19,134
Gram	6,500
Barley	9,815
Arhar dal	2,875
Arhar	45,511
Maize	1,800
Peas	1,200
Mustered oil	500

Trade Centres

The district has numerous trade centres for distributing goods, whether imported or locally produced, spread over each tahsil, where markets are held once or twice a week. Broadly speaking there are three types of *mandis* (markets) primary, secondary and terminal. Primary markets function mostly as produce assembling markets and a large part of the produce comes from neighbouring villages. Secondary markets are regular whole-sale markets which mostly assemble produce from primary markets or distribute it among them or perform both of these functions. Terminal markets function mostly as produce distributing markets, a large part of the produce coming from secondary markets.

Azamgarh is a secondary and consuming market. This market is also of the combination type viz. occasional as well as a regular *mandi*. The name of this market is Anaj-ka-Gola Azamgarh. Some two centuries back the food-grains market of Azamgarh proper used to take place in the 'Gola' of Radhe, but after some time this 'Gola' became famous by the name of "Krishna-ka-Gola." Krishna-ka-Gola was situated at a distance of 5 or 6 furlongs from the present 'Anaj-ka-Gola'. The place of present 'Gola' was a jungle which was cut by Jwala Prasad who took some loan from Sikari Chand and erected an inn type of building and this place began to be called a 'Sarai'. Krishna Prasad the owner of 'Gola' charged unjustified amount of money as dues from shop keepers of that place as a result all the foodgrain merchants proposed to shift their shops from that 'Gola' and to keep them in the 'Sarai' of Jwala Prasad. Jwala Prasad sold his Sarai to Sikari Chand and hence the merchants went to Sikari Chand to obtain permission to bring the shops to the Sarai. The permission was obtained and the food grain market which previously was in the 'Gola' migrated to this Sarai. Shops were first housed in thatched houses and later on pucca and Kachcha godowns were constructed. Anaj-ka-Gola was the name given to this Sarai later on. This market is connected by metalled roads with Maunath Bhanjan, Kopaganj. Mubarakpur, Muhammadabad, Dohrighat, Rani-ki-Sarai and Phulpur. The Azamgarh market is catered by rail and road transport. This *mandi* mainly deals with the food-grains viz rice, dal, mustard, wheat, jowar, *bajra* etc. It is also a good market for fish and substantial quantities are exported to Calcutta. Mau is another important market for handloom and power-loom clothes, mustard and food-grains. Handloom clothes are exported to Kanpur, Lucknow, Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and some districts of Assam, while mustard is exported to Kanpur and Varanasi. Mau is a railway junction and much of trade is done through railways. It is connected with Azamgarh, Varanasi, Faizabad and Baelia. Mubarakpur is another important market for cotton and silk handloom clothes. The sale purchase turnover of these articles is about Rs 2 crores per year. Rani-ki-Sarai is a famous market for the trade of bones, hides, sun hemp, *sutli* and earthen wares. Bones are exported to Mangarwara and Calcutta and earthen ware are sent to Lucknow, Allahabad and Varanasi. Dohrighat is famous for trade of dal, mustard, bones and hides. Besides, Kopaganj, Muhammadabad, Lalganj, Phulpur and Sarai-Mir are important trade centres of the district, which are well linked with road transport.

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 markets. In the rural areas the bazars are known as *hats*. These *hats* are held on fixed days of the week, for supply goods of every day use to the villagers. Food-grains, cloths, vegetables and salt are sold in the *hats*. Gradually consumer goods e.g. soaps, cosmetics, torches, readymade garments, utencils and common agricultural implements have also become generally available. There are 148 *hats* in the district. The following statement gives the number of *hats* held in each tahsil of the district :

Tahsil	Number of *hats* held
1	2
Ghosi	44
Phulpur	33
Sagri	32
Muhammadabad	14
Lalganj	7

State Trading

Fair Price Shops

In the wake of the Second World War, the prices of all commodities increased. In order to arrest their further rise to give relief to the consumers, chiefly in the urban areas, the prices of a large number of commodities were controlled and their supply to the consumers was rationed. Some of the more important commodities thus controlled and rationed were food-grains, cloth, matches etc. Dealers in these commodities had to take licences from the government. Various schemes for rationing of food-grains, chiefly wheat and its products, gram, rice, sugar and kerosene oil have, however, persisted since then with varying applicability. In 1975, there were 657 fair price shops in the district. Sugar, wheat and rice are available at these shops but the consumers prefer to buy the later two from the open market, where the prices have declined.

Fairs

Several fairs are held in the district, but the cattle fairs at Ghosi, Dohrighat, Kopaganj, Muhammadabad, Azamgarh, and Lalganj are the more important ones from the commercial point of view. Govind Sahib Ka Mela is a famous fair of the district, which is held at Amde village. A brisk trade takes place and substancial commercial transactions are carried out at this fair. Besides these, several small local religious fairs and gatherings are held almost in all the towns and in many larger villages of the district, particularly on the occasion of festivals of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, such as Holi Dewali, Dasahra, Id, Guru Nanak's birthday, Buddh Purnima and so on. A list of such fairs is appended at the end of chapter III.

Weights and Measures

In the first decade of present century, a variety of weights and measures were in use. Their use had several peculiarities and it was different from those in vogue in the western districts of U.P. The government standards were very frequently employed and their use became genral with the improvement of communications, but the people of the district were very conservative and were attached to the old customs with great tenacity. The units with which villagers worked was the *ganda*, that signified four. Thus they spoke of four *gandas* of *kauris* that was, sixteen *kauris* or five *gandas* of rupees, that was, twenty-five rupees, and they spoke of pice as selling at so many *gandas* to the rupee. The *ganda* of rupee was the unit of weight. A ser of so many *gandas* therefore meant a ser which was equivalent to so many sets of four rupees. Hardware, metal, cotton thread, spices and similar articles were commonly sold by a local ser which contained 21 or 22 *gandas*, that was equivalent to 84 or 88 tolas. Grain was sold retail either by a local ser of 24, 26 or 26.25 *gandas*. While grain was sold wholesale, local sers of 28, 29.50, 30 and even 32 *gandas* were employed. The wholesale weight used in the sugar trade was a ser of 26. 25 *gandas*. The standard revenue bigha in all the temporarily settled parts of Azamgarh, excluding *tappas* Shahpur, Kuba, Shah Salempur and Chaudhri of pargana Deogaon contained 2,730.0625 square yards of .564 of an acre. The chain or *jarib* was made up of 20 *lathas*, each *latha* being 94 1/20 inches in length. Formerly the Azamgarh *jarib* was divided into 19 *lathas* of 99 inches each in length, but this was changed into 20 for convenience of calculation. In the permanently-settled estates and in the *tappas* already mentioned the bigha in use was the regulation bigha of Benares provinces and contained 3,136 square yards or .648 of an acre, the *jarib* being divided into 20 *lathas* of 100.8 inches each. Owing to the great subdivision of land in Azamgarh, the fractions of rupee used to express proprietary interest were very numerous and minute. It is impossible to give an exhaustive list of these, but the system on which shares were calculated is here indicated. Where the *bighadam* system was adopted the bigha was subdivided into 20 *biswas*, the *biswa* into 20 *dhurs* and the *dhur* in 20 *phens* Reid enumerated 65 different methods of expressing the extent of proprietary interest in land, the smallest being the subdivision of the rupee into 972,000,000 *ruas*.

The metric system of weights and measures was introduced with effect from October 1, 1960 in the district. For the proper enforcement of the new system, the U.P. Government established an office in the district with a senior inspector incharge of the work and he works under the supervision of the district supply officer. Every trader has to submit his weights and measures for inspection and every such unit is stamped after being found accurate. Camps are held in different *mandis* and traders are able to obtain accurate weights and measures. Every year in December, a publicity week is held in the district, in which the new measures are publicised through films, playcards, hoardings and pamphlets. Traders are advised to seek the cooperation and guidance of the officials of the department of weights and measures. However, many traders still use such weights and measures which are in inaccurate and do not conform to the metric system. A list of conversion factor giving equivalent of old weights and measures in metric system is given in the Appendix section at the end of this volume.

CHAPTER VII
COMMUNICATIONS

Old Time Routes And Roads

The references about tolls and ferry duties and the works of public utility like road, irrigation etc. prove that road building activities commenced since ancient times. Attention was paid on communications for purposes of imperial defence as well as for the convenience of people.

Azamgarh being the part of Kosala kingdom and then under Mauryas, Sungas, Kusanas, Guptas, Vardhanas, etc. probably had means of communications as roads and rivers.

Azamgarh was visited by many learned and regal personages during the Buddhist *era*. The places visited by Buddha himself were interconnected by roads used mostly by the caravan traders, in whose company the religioue of ancient India usually travelled for the sake of food, safety and other conveniences, as the monks also were not immune from the hands of highwaymen. The Chinese pilgrim Huien Tsang, probably passed through the district about 637 A.D., on his way from Varanasi to Kusinagar. But he tells nothing about the places of the district.

In the mediaeval period, road building was initiated by the Sur ruler Sher Shah and was followed by the Mughals for public convenience. Sher Shah planted shade giving trees on both sides of the established roads and constructed *sarais* or rest houses in different parts of his kingdom. Separate arrangements were provided for the Hindus and the Muslims. They served the purpose of post-houses, and through them news came to the empire from the remotest parts of his empire.

Metalled roads gradually started coming up, under the British rule.

By 1909, the district was well provided with means of communications, chiefly owing to facilities provided by the rail-road link, though considerable difficulty was still experienced in transporting merchandise from the village to the chief trade centres.

The most important unmetalled roads included those running from Azamgarh to Faizabad, from Didarganj to Bardah, and from Belwait to Phulpur.

The following statement gives the length of each type of road that existed in 1909 :

Type of road	Length (in km.)
Provincial (metalled)	136
Local	
First class metalled roads	171
Second class unmetalled roads	173
Third class unmetalled roads (only banked and surfaced without being drained)	456
Fourth class metalled roads (not surfaced and partly bridged and drained)	192

Road Transport

At the time of Independence, the district had 502 km. of metalled roads, out of which 288 km. were under the charge of the public works department and 214 km. under the charge of the district board, now the Zila Parishad.

During the period from 1947 to 1963, construction of 66 km. of new metalled roads, and reconstruction of 96 km. of local metalled roads was completed by the public works department, besides the construction of 264 km. of new metalled roads by other departments. In addition to this 330 km. of new metalled roads, constructed by voluntary labour, were also taken over by the public works department for maintenance.

At present the district has 45 km. national highways, 143 km. state highways, 879 km. major or district roads connecting tahsils, village roads and maintained by the Zila Parishad. The public works department maintains the national and state highways and the district roads and also some other roads transferred to the department by the Zila Parishad for the purpose. The local bodies and other departments maintain the remaining roads under their respective control. The district has 1,067 km. metalled and 56 km. unmetalled road.

The details of the present highways and other roads are given in the following statement :

Nature and name of road	Approximate length (in km.)
1	2
Metalled Roads	
National highway	
Varanasi -Gorakhpur	45
State highway	
Lucknow-Ballia	96
Faizabad-Azamgarh	47
Roads connecting tahsils	
Varanasi-Azamgarh road	32
Muhammadabad-Chiriakot road	17
Azamgarh-Sarairani-Jaunpur road	47
Azamgarh-Dohrighat road	46
Ghosi-Madhuban road	16
Madhuban-Beithara road	14
Ghazipur-Azamgarh road	35

[*Contd.*

1	2
Ghosi-Muhammadabad road	18
Ghosi-Majhwara road	16
Azamgarh-Vilriaganj road	15
Jianpur-Azmatgarh-Nadwa Sarai road	17
Jianpur-Vilriaganj-Mahrajganj road	25
Village roads and roads under Zila Parishad (of length 5 km. or more)	
Mau—Yusufpur road	10
Sathian— Mubarakpur road	6
Rajipur— Pindhuwal road	6
Tahvarpur— Fariha road	12
Didarganj— Sikraura road	10
Kopaganj—Kasra road	6
Sikraura—Sarai Mir road	6
Burhanpur—Didarganj road	32
Surajpur—Madhuban—Dubari road	15
Jivuli—Devgaon road	18
Vindrabazar— Kamharia road	22
Mahul— Pawai—Belwai road	15
Chiriakot—Jarwa—Mehnajpur road	37
Dohrighat— Surajpur road	10
Vilriaganj— Raunapur road	11
Captain ganj— Tahbarpur road	8
Azmatgarh— Amila road	14
Barhuwan Godam—Kajha road	5
Mauranipur—Sultanipur road	5
Deogaon—Mehnajpur road	5
Captain ganj—Aura road	6
Ahrauli—Gorahara road	5
Ahraula— Captain ganj road	20
Kotila—Magravan road	10
Mau—Ktaura road	10
Phulpur—Mahul road	7

(*Contd.*

1	2
Phulpur—Durbasa road	7
Ahraula—Captain ganj road	20
Deogaon—Mehnajpur road	11
Atraulia—Ahraula road	7
Rani Ki Sarai—Nizamabad road	7
Madhuban—Tahbarpur road	8
Rani Ki Sarai—Di Ha Mehnagar road	12
Kotila—Mangrawa road	10
Chandesar—Kunharia road	24
Mau—Sultanipur road	17
Mau—Itaura road	10
Sarsena—Kajha—Fatehpur road	11
Khurahat—Ranipur road	10
Rashapur—Titra road	8
Muhammadabad—Mubarakpur road	11
Kopaganj— Mathkol road	18
Sarsena— Bisaipur road	5
Sarai Mir— Surahia road	5
Jahaniganj— Karaut Bhojai road	6
Jairamgarh— Nakhat road	8
UN-METALLED ROADS	
Bargahan—Barai—Martinganj road	32
Mubarkpur—Shahgarh road	24

Modes of Conveyance

From the earliest time till the arrival of the railways, carts and pack animals were the principal means of land transport in the district. The ox, the buffalo, and the camel have always been the usual beasts of burden in the district. Horse bred in the district were of poor physique and were seldom used either for riding or for drawing carriages. Most of the traffic between the villages and the local bazars was carried by means of pack-bullocks and ponies. The rich also kept horses and elephants, whereas ekkas and tongas served the needs of the common people. *Dolis* (litters) and palanquins were used by those who could afford such conveyances. Side by side with the improvement in the means of communications brought about mainly by the construction

of metalled roads which could be used throughout the year, mechanised transport also came into vogue. Of late the traditional iron rim of the wheel has been replaced by rubber tyres. Cycle-rickshaws have made their appearance in the rural areas, too, and the number of ekkas is rapidly decreasing with the improvement in conditions of roads. Bi-cycles are now a very common sight in the villages. Tractors, besides being immensely useful for cultivation, are often found being used to transport goods and people in the rural areas. Boats are used generally only to cross rivers, carrying passengers, cattle and goods, the riverine trade of old having all but died out.

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

The following statement gives the number of vehicles of different kinds registered with the municipal board of Azamgarh in 1974-75.

Kinds of vehicles	Number of vehicles registered
Cycle-rickshaws	2,078
Ekkas	3.2
Carts	11
Bi-cycles	25 (although the actual number is many times more indeed)

Mechanical Vehicular Traffic

Till 1947 motor vehicles-mainly lorries and trucks were few in number as most of the roads were not fit for heavy transport vehicles. With the development of roads in the last three decades, their number has greatly increased and now they crowd practically all the main routes of the district.

After Independence the volume of goods traffic has increased considerably. Consumers goods, agricultural products, building materials, and other articles are moved chiefly by trucks. The freight is usually settled by the parties and varies from one to two rupees per km. An average sized truck carries 74 quintals of weight. Car taxies and buses are now the main mode of transport for passenger traffic by road.

The following statement shows the various kinds of vehicles plying in the district :

Type of vehicle	Number of vehicles registered	Number of vehicles plying on road
Moter-cycle	259	504
Motor-car	7	160
Jeep	5	205
Station wagon	—	35
Taxicab	25	66
Truck	4	85
Bus	2	—
Tractor	142	335
Trailor	79	100
Pick-up	—	2
Total	523	1,492

U.P. State Road Transport Corporation

The U.P. Government Roadways, reorganized as the U.P. State Road Transport Corporation with effect from June 1, 1972, started running passenger buses in the district in 1949. The operation began on Azamgarh-Dohri, Azamgarh-Faizabad, Azamgarh-Mau, and Azamgarh-Sultanpur routes.

Along with the development of roads and increase in passenger traffic, the bus service have also been expanding and by 1976 the following 32 routes carried 60,60,408 passengers in buses :

Name of route	Number of buses operating	Length (in km.)
Azamgarh– Bahraich	2	271
Faizabad– Ballia	4	263
Azamgarh– Faizabad	4	147
Azamgarh– Mehnagar– Tarwa	3	53
Atraulia– Shahganj	2	50
Atraulia– Azamgarh–Belwai	7	28
Azamgarh–Jalalpur	1	77
Azamgarh–Sultanpur	10	133
Azamgarh–Nizamabad	1	17
Azamgarh– Lucknow	1	269
Azamgarh– Farrukhabad	3	487
Mau–Kanpur	2	392
Azamgarh– Rae-Bareli-Kanpur	1	342

(Contd.)

1	2	3
Dohri—Kanpur	2	391
Belthara road—Kanpur	2	442
Azamgarh—may-Kopa	7	77
Azamgarh—Chapra—Sipah	3	60
Azamgarh—Muhammadabad—Chiriakot	2	59
Amila—Majhwara	2	66
Azamgarh—Ranipur	1	43
Azamgarh—Ujiarghat	1	121
Azamgarh—Gorakhpur—Bansi	3	236
Gorakhpur—Allahabad	1	296
Azamgarh—Vindhyachal	1	148
Azamgarh—Belthara	4	98
Muhammadabad—Varanasi	2	122
Tarwa—Varanasi	2	106
Surajpur—Varanasi	4	158
Azamgarh—Mehnajpur	1	59
Azamgarh—Billaria—Raunapur	9	32
Azamgarh—Faddopur	1	41
Azamgarh—Jaunpur	2	45

Private buses also operate in the district. The statement below gives the details of the routes of private buses and the number of buses operating on it :

Name of route	Number of buses operating
Mahrajganj—Phulpur via Captainganj—Ahraula	1
Mahrajganj—Kherudinpur via Ahraula—Mahul—Pawai	2
Jahana ganj road—Kasimabad via Mubarkpur—Muhammadabad—Sultanipur—Mau—Bahadurganj	4
Chandesar—Mehrajpur via Kamharia	4
Kasimabad—Mehrajpur via Chiriakot—Ranipur—Sultanipur—Mau—Bahadurganj	6
Ghosi—Kamharia via Muhammadabad—Chiriakot	4
Bhojai—Jahanaganj road via Jahanaganj—Rajapur—Karha—Muhammadabad—Mubarkpur	3

Railways

The chief improvement in transportation was brought about by the railways. In the beginning there were three district lines of railway in Azamgarh, all of which belonged to the Bengal and North-Western system. The first railway line to be opened was that from Turtipar (in Ballia) to Mau, in 1898. Of this branch 12 km. lay in the district, and there were two stations at Indara and Mau. In the same year a branch from Mau to Azamgarh was also opened with stations at Khurhat, Muhammadabad, Gohna and Jahanaganj Road. In 1899, a line was completed between Indara station and Ballia, and the branch from Turtipar to Mau was extended to Varanasi. In 1903, Azamgarh was linked with Shahganj (in Jaunpur). The line from Mau to Shahganj formed a portion of the Ballia-Shahganj branch, while that from Turtipar past Mau and Pipridih stations formed part of the Bhatni-Varanasi branch. The remaining line was that which runs from Indara junction to Dohrighat on the Ghaghra. It was commissioned in 1904 and covered about 35 km. There were stations on this line at Kopaganj and Ghosi. There are altogether about 150 km. of railway at present in Azamgarh district.

At present the lines passing through the district are under the North Eastern Railway. The following statement shows the railway stations of the district and their distances from the district headquarters :

Name of railway station	Distance from district headquarters (in km.)
Khanja Halt	48
Didarganj Road	41
Khoransan Road	35
Sarai Mir	25
Sanjarpur Halt	20
Phariha	14
Rani Ki Sarai	7
Azamgarh	—
Jahanaganj Road	13
Muhammadabad Gohna	22
Khurahat	31
Mau Junction	44
Indara junction	52
Dohrighat	87
Amila	78
Ghosi	70
Kopaganj	59

Role of Railways in Economic Life

After the advent of railways a new phase in the economic life of the people of the district began. Consequently trade and commerce of the district increased in leaps and bounds and facilitated the export and import problem of the district.

It has accelerated agricultural and industrial development by providing transport facilities for the carriage of raw material and finished products. Apart from serving industries the railways also contributed largely to the movement of agricultural produce and other commodities.

Rail Road Competition

In respect of passenger traffic there is no competition between rail and road. Overcrowding is a normal feature both in trains and buses.

However, it seems that the railways are affected by road competition concerning goods traffic. The roadways have an edge over the railways in carriage of goods in as much as they offer advantages in respect of speedy transport, particularly for perishable goods and direct service from point to point whether from field or factory without elaborate packing.

Bridges And Ferries

Bridges

There are 18 bridges under the Zila Parishad and a few under the Public Works Department.

Ferries

The number of ferries has considerably decreased after Independence due to the construction of several bridges. At present there are 15 ferries maintained by the Zila Parishad, 7 on the river Ghaghra and 8 on the river Tons.

Travel Facilities

It is mentioned in the *Jatakas* that in the past roads were not dangerous for travelling and in the Mauryan period there were rest houses and wells on the main roads. The Mauryas had a separate department to look after roads and transport and it provided a number of amenities to travellers. Sher Shah Sur and Mughal emperors, particularly Jahangir, took much interest in reducing hardships of travel by planting trees building sarais and wells, along the main roads.

Boarding and lodging facilities are available in the urban centres of the district. Travellers can come by rail, bus or taxi and will find dharmsalas, rest houses, post and telegraph offices at the district and tahsil headquarters.

The inspection houses, rest houses and dak bungalows in the district are maintained by the different departments of the government and are meant chiefly for the use of their own officers, but officers of other departments, members of the public and tourists are also lodged on payment, if accommodation is available.

A list of dharmsalas and hotels and another of inspection houses appear at the end of the chapter in Statements I and II. The dharmsalas are all privately managed and have lodging facilities only.

Post, Telegraph and Telephone

It was not until 1817 that a district postal service was established. This was under the control of the district magistrate, and as the original intention of its establishment was to facilitate communication with outlying police-stations, dak offices were established at the police-stations, letters were at first conveyed by runners, who were provided by the Zamindars, but in 1833 a postal cess was introduced to pay for the runners and the postal staff. The next step forward was taken in 1815 when the use of district dak was thrown open to the public. Paid letters for the district were handed over from the imperial post-office to the *nazir* or dak *muharrir* of the collector's court who arranged for their transmission to the district dak offices attached to the police stations. On arrival at these, paid letters were delivered to public by village watchmen, while unpaid letters were delivered by head-constables, the receipt and dispatch of letters devolving on the police *muharrirs*, who were remunerated with a commission. The system was troublesome to police, and in 1864 the entire management of the district dak was taken over by the postal department. Regular offices were then established, and each was supplied with a staff of postmen for the delivery of letters. At the beginning of the present century, in addition to the head-office at Azamgarh there were 24 sub-offices and 22 branch offices in the district. The postal division of Azamgarh was created in 1955. At present the district has 2 head post offices, 65 sub-offices, and 408 branch post offices under the administrative control of the superintendent of post offices, Azamgarh.

In 1976 there were 4,422 villages in the district which were served daily.

STATEMENT I

Dharmsalas, Hotels, etc.

Reference page No. 131

Location	Name
	TAHSIL AZAMGARH
Azamgarh City	Raghunandan Dharmsala
,, ,,	Agrawal Dharmsala
,, ,,	Telia Dharmsala
,, ,,	Marwari Dharmsala
,, ,,	Muslim Musafirkhana
,, ,,	Khalik Shah Musafirkhana
,, ,,	Matharganj Gurdwara
,, ,,	Harlaudh Kala Bhawan
Bindra Bazar	Bindra Sahu Dharmsala
Jagdishpur	Burhiya Hai-ki-Dharmsala
	TAHSIL GHOSI
	Nil
	TAHSIL LALGANJ
	Nil
	TAHSIL MUHAMMADABAD
Muhammadabad	Bornwal Dharmsala
Mubarakpur	Bornwal Dharmsala
Mau	Bornwal Dharmsala
,,	Malik Tahir Raiya Musafirkhana
,,	Singapur Hotel (Boarding and Lodging)
	TAHSIL PHULPUR
Atraulia	Ganga Shah Dharmsala
	TAHSIL SAGRI
	Nil

STATEMENT II

Inspection Houses, etc.

Reference page No. 131

Village/town	Name	Managing department
	TAHSIL AZAMGARH	
Azamgarh	P.W.D. Inspection House	Public Works
Azamgarh	Irrigation Inspection House	Irrigation
Azamgarh	Railway Inspection House	Railways
Azamgarh	Roadways Rest House	U.P. State Roadways Transport Corporation
Azamgarh	Hydel Rest House	State Electricity Board
	TAHSIL GHOSI	
Dohrighat	Canal Rest House	Irrigation
Dohrighat	P.W.D. Inspection House	Public Works
Ghosi	Canal Rest House	Irrigation
Madhuban	Canal Rest House	Irrigation
	TAHSIL LALGANJ	
Baradah	Dak Bungalow	Public Works
Deogaon	P.W.D. Inspection House	Public Works
Lalganj	Inspection House (Tube-well)	Irrigation
Mehnagar	Canal Inspection House	Irrigation
Mehnagar	P.W.D. Inspection House	Public Works
Thekma	P.W.D. Inspection House	Public Works
Thekma	Dak Bungalow	Irrigation
	TAHSIL MUHAMMADABAD	
Mau	P.W.D. Inspection House	Public Works
Mau	Dak Bungalow	State Eectricity Boards
Sarsen	P.W.D. Inspection House	Public Works
	TAHSIL PHULPUR	
Ahirula	P.W.D. Dak Bungalow	Public Works
Atraulia	P.W.D. Dak Bungalow	Public Works
Phulpur	P.W.D. Dak Bungalow	Public Works
	TAHSIL SAGRI	
Jianpur	P.W.D. Inspection House	Public Works
Captainganj	P.W.D. Inspection House	Public Works

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

All economically active persons who are neither cultivators nor agricultural labourers, are deemed to be engaged in miscellaneous occupations. Their number was 1,78,000 in 1961 and 1,44,358 in 1971. An idea of how the non-farm workers were distributed among major categories of miscellaneous employment may be had from the following statement :

Occupation	1971
Mining and quarying, live-stock, forestry, fishing , hunting and plantation, orchards and allied activities	4,077
Industry and manufacturing	71,551
Construction	1,681
Trade and commerce	21,173
Transport, storage and communications	8,331
Other services	42,595
Total	1,44,358

Public Services

In 1961, persons who filled the various ranks of the public services numbered 5,478. They were distributed in the following manner:

Category of public employment	Number of employees		
	Total	Males	Females
Administrative departments and offices of the Central Government	900	899	1
Administrative departments and offices of the State Government	3,276	3,257	19
Police	861	859	2
Administrative departments and offices of quasi-government organisations, municipalities, local boards etc.	441	433	8

The statement below gives the number of establishments and number of employees in 1973 and 1974 :

Type of establishment	No. of establishments		No. of employees			
	1973	1974	1973		1974	
			Men	Women	Men	Women
Central Government	2	2	1,230	2	1,233	2
State Government	94	97	18,797	1,761	18,808	1,761
Quasi-government (Central)	20	26	359	2	414	5
Quasi-government (State)	8	8	3,403	5	3,432	4
Local bodies	26	26	1,016	247	1,021	240

With the introduction of several socio-economic development schemes, the number of employees in public services has considerably increased, even though as members of the fixed income group they are much more prone to the debilitating effect of rising costs. The comparative position of the Central Government employees is slightly better financially than of those working under the State government or local bodies. Dearness allowances is admissibles to all classes of such employees at varying rates. Facilities like provident fund, free medical treatment, free or subsidized residential accommodation, conveyance allowance, and loans on liberalised terms are available to government servants and to some extent to employees of the local bodies also. Encashment of earned leave for a month in a financial year is permitted by the State government under certain conditions. Permanent pension rules have been so liberalised to cater to the needs of the family in the event of premature death of the government employee. The age for seeking voluntary retirement has been reduced. Leave rules have been revised to reduce disparity between temporary and permanent staff. Non-practising allowance is paid to certain doctors whose posts have been excluded from the best offices carrying benefits of private practice. Gallantry awards are given to members of the police force and honoraria is distributed among all outstanding devoted and meritorious staff.

The employees are allowed to form associations or unions under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 for the protection and promotion of their service interests.

Government servants of the State working in the district are members of the State employees joint council or the ministerial employees association, Azamgarh, affiliated to the State level organisations. Those serving under the local bodies are members of the local authorities employees association; and the employees of the State road transport corporation are members of the employees road transport corporation joint councils.

Learned Professions

Education

Teachers, principals, administrative officers, etc., of the education department fall in this field. With the opening of a large number of educational institutions after Independence, the number of such employees has increased considerably. The statement below gives the number of teachers in various categories of institutions in 1961:

Teachers	Total	Male	Female
University	86	86	—
Secondary schools	903	893	10
Middle and primary schools	3,329	3,037	292
Nursery and kindergarten schools	8	8	—
Others (not elsewhere classified)	504	430	74
Total	4,780	4,404	376

The total number of teachers in 1971 was 9,579 which included 1,081 women teachers. Since 1964, the triple benefit scheme has been extended to the State-aided institutions run by the local bodies or private persons, bringing the advantages of contributory provident fund, compulsory life insurance and retirement pension to members of the teaching staff. Payment of salaries to the teachers working in the institutions which received grant from the government, is made through cheques drawn jointly by the manager and a nominee of the district inspector of schools.

Teacher's wards are entitled to free education up to intermediate standard. Needy and disabled teachers receive financial help from the national foundation for teachers welfare fund and those suffering from tuberculosis may avail free facilities of treatment at the Bhowali Sanatorium (district Naini Tal) where a few seats have been earmarked for them.

The teachers in the district have joined one or the other association devoted to their welfare. The Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh is meant for teachers of the higher secondary schools and the Prathmik Shikshak Sangh for their counterparts working in the primary and junior high schools of the district. These associations are affiliated to the State-level apex bodies. Many teachers are the members of the executive of the managing committees of several institutions and the membership of the State Legislative Council has been thrown open to them through the formation of separate teachers' constituencies.

Medicine

The medical and health services in the district are State managed. The largest number of doctors belong to the allopathic system followed by the Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and other systems.

The following statement gives the numbers of physicians, surgeons and dentists in the district in 1961 :

Name of system	Total number	Males	Females
Allopathic physicians and surgeons	32	31	1
Ayurvedic physicians	149	149	—
Homoeopathic physicians	108	107	1
Dentists	5	5	—
Other physicians, surgeons and dentists (Not elsewhere classified)	153	149	4

In addition there were 56 nurses, 107 midwives and health visitors, 118 nursing attendants and related workers, 163 pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians, 25 vaccinators, 41 sanitation technicians and 25 medical and health technicians. In 1971 the total strength of doctors in the district was 1,310 which included 10 women doctors. Besides there were 441 nursing attendants and other medical and health technicians which included 191 female members.

A branch of the Indian medical association with laudable objectives like the promotion and advancement of medical and allied services is functioning in the district, besides a P.M.S. officers' association for the same purpose.

Law

The district had 444 legal practitioners and advisors in 1961. However, there was no lady lawyer in the district. In 1971 the number of legal practioners rose to 455. From among the lawyers the government has appointed district counsels separately for conducting civil, criminal and revenue cases on behalf of the State. A panel has also been constituted to share the work load of these functonaries.

The legal profession has become more competitive in recent years. The lawyers generally play an important role in the public life of the district, particularly in the educational and political spheres.

Engineering

The role of engineers and allied workers in the district is very important. They plan various projects regarding buildings, bridges and roads and help in beautifying the district. The following statement gives the number of engineers and allied workers in the district in 1961 :

Categories of engineers	Numbers
Civil engineers	70
Mechanical engineers	7
Electrical engineers	3
Architects, engineers and surveyors (not classified elsewhere)	2

Mostly persons in this class are employees of government and local bodies. In 1971, the total number of engineers was 80 and that of engineering technicians 85 in various government departments.

Domestic And Personal Services

These services, rendered by domestic servants and cooks, were freely available in the past. Most of these workers lived with their masters and acted like multipurpose workers. In the rural areas they cooked their meals separately but in urban areas they received their meals generally from the family kitchen. They worked during the pleasure of their employers and mostly eked out a miserable living. There was little security of job, and often they had to remain idle. The socio-economic changes which have taken place, mainly sinec Independence, in the life of the people, have considerably changed the situation. This class of workers have started seeking and procuring jobs in institutions, both government and non-government, and the domestic employers have been forced to increase wages and provide other facilities. There were 8,217 domestic and personal servants in the district which included 1,214 women in 1961.

Barbers

In 1961, the number of barbers, hairdressers, beauticians and related workers was 3,149 of whom 165 females. Those working in the villages had to perform certain customary duties on special occasions such as *mundan* (first head shaving ceremony), marriage and last rites, in the houses of their patrons, in addition to regular services, although participation in extraprofessional activities also now gradually diminishing. In 1971 there were 2,829 barbers and hairdressers in the district.

Washermen

There were 7,726 washermen in the district in 1961. Of these 4,090 were males and 3,636 females. In 1971 the total number of washermen was 4,855 which included 1,337 women.

The growing popularity of synthetic fabrics has adversely affected the economic activity of the traditional washerman but has brought fortune to dry cleaners pressers. Consequently they have been forced to take some other jobs resulting in such large decrease of their numbers.

Tailors

In urban areas tailoring is considered to be an art and requires specialised training. Big tailors use the scissors themselves but employ a number of workers on daily or monthly wages for stitching and sundry jobs. In the rural areas the entire work of cutting and stitching is done by a single individual. *Kurtas* (loose collarless shirt) and pyjamas continue to be the chief items of tailored dress in rural areas, where the women folk hardly find time to sew their own or children's garments at home. In 1961 there were 2,958 tailors, dress makers garment makers in the district.

Other Occupations

Among those pursuing certain other occupations in the district in 1961 there were 48,293 spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers 2,166 hawkers, pedlars and street vendors; 5,163 basket weavers and related workers; 1,010 brick layers, plasteres and masons; 5,662 crushers, pressers and related workers; 7,642 potters and related clay formers; 1,569 bakers, confectioners, candy and sweetmeat makers; 917 salesmen and shop assistants; 1,129 fishersmen and related workers; 183 *khandsari*, sugar and *gur* makers; 16 log fellers and wood cutters; 1,803 jewellers, gold of smiths and silver-smiths; 36 plumbers and pipe fitters; 1,021 tobacco preparers and products makers; 3,217 house keepers, cooks and maid servants; 757 cheroot, cigar and *bidi* makers; 11 photographers and related camera operators; 96 furnacemen, kilnmen and ovenmen; 558 shoemakers and show repairers; 234 dancers and related workers; 53 musicians and related workers; 418 gardeners (*malis*); 2,127 drivers and road transporters; 37,023 drawers and weavers; 66 hunters and related workers; 72 precision instrument makers, watch and clock makers and repairers; 82 sawyers and wood working machinists; 1,931 carpenters, joiners, cabinet makers and related workers; 70 stone cutters, stone carvers and stone dressers.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

Workers and Non-workers

The percentage of workers and non-workers, in 1961 in the district was 39.0 and 61.0, the corresponding figures for the State being 39.1 and 60.9 respectively. Of the total workers, agricultural labourers comprised 81.0 per cent, those engaged in household industry and other manufacturing concerns 11.1 per cent and those in trade and commerce 2.4 per cent. In other categories the number of workers was small. The extent of female participation in work as 31.7 per cent as compared to 22.1 per cent of the State. It is remarkable that the percentage (31.7) of female participation in both the agricultural and the non-agricultural activities in the district was the same but it was lower than that of the males in all the categories of work except agricultural labour, where it was 53.3 per cent. There was little variation in the percentages of workers and non-workers in the rural and urban population when considered separately. Of the total of 8,94,954 workers in 1961 in the rural areas agricultural workers comprised 84.91 per cent and non-agricultural ones 15.09 per cent.

As elsewhere in the state there was preponderance of non-agricultural workers in the urban areas who claimed 95.0 per cent of the total urban workers.

The following statement shows comparative position of certain data of 1961 with those of 1971 :

Year	Total population	Total workers	Percentage of workers to total population			
			Agricultural workers	Non-agricultural workers	Total workers	
					District	U. P.
1961	24,08,052	9,40,130	31.6	7.4	39.0	39.12
1971	28,57,484	8,18,824	23.6	5.0	28.6	30.94

The statement apparently indicates a decrease in the working population reflecting unemployment even amongst the already employed persons of 1961. This is an anomaly which has cropped up due to change in the definition of 'worker' in 1971. The us of the term 'worker' was so comprehensive at the 1961 census that a person doing as litte as one hour's work in a day was also treated as a worker. Accordingly, a woman, who mostly attended to household duties, was also classified as worker,

if at all, she merely took food on the field, tended the cattle or did some such other work. At the census of 1971 a man or woman, who was engaged permanently in household duties such as cooking for ones own household was removed from the category of 'worker' even of the person helped in the family's economic activities as a part time worker. Would hence the decline in the percentage of workers in 1971.

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 :

Categories of work	Total	Males	Females	Percentage to total workers	Percentage to total population
1	2	3	4	5	6
Cultivation	4,45,637	4,13,522	32,115	54.4	15.6
Agricultural labourers	2,28,829	1,48,152	80,677	27.9	8.0
Live-stock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities	3,673	2,945	728	0.44	01
Mining and quarrying Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs	404	375	29	0.05	—
Household industry	56,972	40,151	16,821	7.0	2.0
Non-household industry	14,579	13,426	1,153	1.8	0.5
Construction	1,631	1,559	72	0.2	0.1
Trade and commerce	21,173	20,128	1,045	2.6	0.7
Transport, storage and communications	3,331	3,309	22	0.41	0.1
Other services	42,595	38,623	3,972	5.2	1.5
Total workers	8,18,824	6,82,190	1,36,634	—	28.6
Non-workers	20,38,660	7,49,077	12,89,583	—	71.40
Total population	28,57,484	14,31,267	14,26,217	—	100.00

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

(a) Full time students

(b) Those attending to household duties

(c) Dependents and infants

(d) Retired persons a

(e) Persons of independent means
(f) Beggar and vagrants
(g) Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions
(h) Others

General Level Of Prices And Wages

Prices

Prior to its formation as an independent district generally the rates prevalent here were indentical with those in Ballia and Ghazipur. In this district, as elsewhere, a distinct rise in prices took place shortly after the freedom struggle of 1857 or about 1860, and that this rise continued for a period of some 15 years. From 1869 to 1870, the rice was sold on an average at 16 seers, wheat at 17.32 seers, barley at 19.52 seers and gram at 20.29 seers for the rupee compared with 15.29 seers for rice, 17.28 seers for wheat, 25.16 seers for barley and 21.69 seers for gram between 1879 and 1888. Apart from temporary fluctuations caused by the variation in the nature of the seasons, the prices remained practically stationary, or even declined between 1875 and 1885. Around 1885 prices rose to a marked extent throughout northern India, the phenomenon being ascribed to wide spread economic causes, among which the fall in the value of silver, the development of communication and the growth of export trade together, figure prominently. This rise, though sudden at the beginning was progressive and continued with occasional fluctuations. Between 1889 and 1898 the average price of rice was 12.25 seers to a rupee, of wheat 12.71 seers, of barley 17.41 seers and of gram 16.46 seers. The period was marked for the famine of 1896—97, which had a great effect on local prices and consequently the average was somewhat vitiated. The upward tendency was checked to some extent by subsequent years of prosperity, but the last period on record, that from 1899 to 1908 had been marked by no less than three seasons in which either scarcity or famine prevailed over portions of the province, and the average had thus been much disturbed. The figures for the ten years ending in 1908 were rice 10.83 seers; wheat 12.73 seers; barley 17.95 seers; and gram 15.85 seers to the rupee. A comparison of these figures with those obtaining between 1859 and 1868 showed that the prices of the common food-grains had risen some forty per cent during the last forty years.

The improvement in communications through more rapid and cheap means of transport, through the extension of the railways, coupled with the world-wide demand for wheat made its price quite independent of the requirement of the district. The price of wheat was no longer governed by the success or failure of the Rabi crop in the district but by the abundance or deficiency of the wheat harvest of the entire country.

Around 1911 the normal rates per rupee for the district were reckoned to be 14.8 seers for wheat, 10.8 seers for rice, 20.8 seers for gram and 18.12 seers for dal *arhar*.

With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 a, series of changes in prices including a considerable rise in the cost of food-grains, were witnessed. The price level in the district as compared to that of 1911 was higher by 57 per cent in 1916 and by 94 per cent in 1928.

A world wide economic depression was started in 1930 and continued with increased severity in the years that followed, Consequently from 1930—31, the rates registered a downward trend and the price level in 1934 went down by about 67 per cent and 30 per cent as compared to those of 1928 and 1916 respectively. But by 1939 the prices registered a rise of nearly 33 per cent again 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 of stocks in anticipation of further shortage, 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. The price control measures were then vigorously enforced which included fixation of prices (as modified from time to time) launching of prosecution to check profiteering and licensing of food-grain traders. Even then the prices continued to go up when they registered a rise of 250 per cent in 1944 over those of 1939.

It was clear, however that effective control of prices was not possible without corresponding check on supplies. Hence in January, 1943, partial rationing was introduced, when wheat, rice and certain coarse grains were made available at controlled rates from the government shops to nearly 25 per cent of the population comprising the poorer section of the society. Partial rationing was converted into total rationing in 1945. It remained in force for nearly three years, upto May, 1948. After the abolition of total rationing, prices started going down at first. The basic overall shortage, however, reasserted itself and the price soon assumed on upward trend and its seemed as the markets would go beyond control unless definite steps were taken to arrest the rise in prices. People also demanded the restoration of rationing and control. 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 again 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 the rising trends in prices. Towards the end of 1953, the prices per kg. were about Rs .47 for wheat Rs .37 for gram and Rs .60 for rice tended to come down a little. The normal forces of demand and supply once again started to assert themselves and affect the prices. Neither the cultivator was sure of getting a fixed minimum price for his produce nor the trader was assured

of his commission. The uncertainty led to a decline in prices in whole of the State in 1954 which fell further in 1955. This fall in price was a country wide trend, which required to be checked to stabilize the economy and sustain the growth of agriculture. The government, therefore, took measures in 1954 to support agricultural prices. The results were also conducive to production. The prices from 1951 to 1960 were as follows :

Year	Prices (per maund or 37.3 kg. in Rs)		
	Wheat	Gram	Rice
1951	15.36	10.97	23.63
1952	15.36	12.80	23.63
1953	20.00	16.00	24.00
1954	17.00	12.00	19.00
1955	16.00	7.50	20.00
1956	17.25	10.25	18.00
1957	20.00	17.00	21.50
1958	18.00	10.00	23.00
1959	—	—	25.25
1960	—	12.25	—

The prices thereafter began to show an upward trend and continued to moveup. The retail prices for certain commodities in 1975 and 1976 were as follows :

Commodity	Prices in Rs per kg.	
	1975	1976
Wheat	1.96	1.37
Barley	1.43	1.08
Rice	2.50	2.16
Gram	2.49	1.80
Gur	1.98	1.93
Sugar	4.90	4.44
Ghee Desi	21.18	22.56
Mustered Oil	10.15	6.40

Wages

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century there had been a gradual but considerable increase in the wages of skilled and unskilled labour in the district. The increase in wages was attributed to the rising trend in prices of food-grain but the former has scarcely been proportionate to the latter and has been greater in the case of the skilled artisan then of the unskilled labourer. In 1882, Kahars and carpenters received 2.5 to 4 annas; blacksmiths and masons 2.5 to 4 annas; coolies 1.5 to 3 annas and diggers 2 annas. In 1910, coolies obtained the same wage, but diggers obtained on an average 5 annas; the wages of bearers varied between 2 and 5 annas; wh le those of skilled labourers, such as carpenters, masons and blacksmiths, varied from 3 and 5 annas a day or to an even higher rate if they were specially skillful.

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

Year	Wages in Rs per day	
	unskilled	skilled
1	2	3
1906	0.11	0.28
1911	0.9	0.34
1916	0.12	0.32
1928	0.15	0.56
1934	0.12	0.34
1939	0.12	0.37
1944	0.25	1.00

As the result of the First World War, a marked all round rise in wages occurred. The fall of wages in 1930 and later years was due to a world wide economic depression, as reflected by the wage census of 1934. After this the wages began to rise again and by 1944 a steep rise had been recorded both for unskilled and skilled labour. It was attributable to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, and to the resultant rise in prices, Wages, thereafter have not come down and have continued to move upwards as would appear from the following statement :

Year	Wages (in Rs) per day	
	unskilled labour	skilled labour
1	2	3
1970	3.12	5.25
1975	4.28	8.02

In 1976 wages for various agricultural occupations e.g. weeding, reaping, ploughing etc. were about Rs 4.00 per day for eight working hours.

The approximate average wages paid to the workers at district headquarters in 1976 for certain occupations were as follows:

Occupation	Unit of quotation	Wages (in Rs)
1	2	3
Gardener	Per month (whole time)	150.00
Chowkider	Per month	150.00
Wood-cutter	Per 40 kg. of wood turned into fuel	0.50
Hordsmen	Per cow per month	3.70
Porter	Per 40 kg. carried for about 1 km,	3.38
Casual labour	Per day	5.25
Domestic servent	Per month with food	30.00
Carpenter	Per day	9.00
Blacksmith	Per day	9.50
Mid-wife	For a delivery	15.00
Barber	Per shave	0.40
	Per hair cut	0.90
Seavenger	Per month for house with one latrine for one cleaning per day	2.00
oter driver	Per month	350.00
Truck driver	Per month	375.00

General Level Of Employment

Employment Trends

The statement given below shaws that there had been a considerable increase in the number of persons employed both in the public sector and the private sector during the years 1970-74. The data relate only to a few selected establishment which were subjected to enquiry conducted by the employment exchange authorities.

Year	No. of establishment			No. of employees		
	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1970	131	96	227	5,244	20,175	26,119
1971	139	117	256	5,565	21,587	27,152
1972	168	130	298	6,419	22,777	29,196
1973	184	149	333	7,005	24,805	31,810
1974	194	159	353	7,307	24,908	32,215

The number of persons employed in 1973 and 1974 may be further classified according to work categories in the following manner.

Nature of activity	Number of reporting establishment		Number of employees 1973			Number of employees in 1974		
	1973	1974	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total
Agriculture, Live-stock forestry, fishing and hunting	5	5	—	505	505	—	525	525
Manufacturing	49	44	2,163	22	2,185	2,056	35	2,091
Construction	10	11	35	1,627	1,662	26	1,734	1,760
Electricity, gas, water and sanitary services	8	8	—	2,114	2,114	—	2,136	2,139
Trade and commerce	27	36	150	359	509	188	401	589
Transport, storage and communication	4	3	6	2,557	2,563	—	2,562	2,562
Services (public, legal, medical etc.)	230	246	4,610	17,616	22,226	5,041	17,511	22,552

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.

Number of reporting establishments	353
Number of women employees in public sector	2,012
Number of women employees in private sector	337
Total number of women employees	2,349
Percentage of women employees in private sector of total employees in private sector	4.5
Percentage of women employees in public sector of total employees in public sector	8.0

The proportion of women workers in educational services was 12 per cent, in medical and public health 26 per cent and the rest in other services.

Un-employment Trends

The number of men and women who sought employment in different spheres as on 31 December 1974 were as follows:

Educational Standard	Men	Women	Total
Post-graduate	92	2	94
Graduate	1,563	33	1,596
Intermediate	3,390	21	3,411
Matericulate	4,155	106	4,261
Below High School	4,819	182	[illegible]

In December 1974, the employment exchange was required to recommend candidates for 117 posts. The Central Government needed

5 candidates. State government 47, quasi government 12, local bodies 4, and private sector 49. The district experienced shortage of stenographers (Hindi and English) and technical hands. Persons without previous experience and technical training were available in large number.

Employment Exchange

Azamgarh, employment exchange was established in 1960. to provide employment assistance to employers and employment seekers in the district, giving training and apprenticeship facilities to applicants, to offer vocational guidance to students and employment seeker through literatures and talks and to undertake occupational research work.

The following statement gives an idea of the assistance rendered by the employment exchange during the years 1970 to 1974.

Year	Vacancies notified by employers	Number of persons registered for employment	Number of live registered	Number of persons provided with employment
1970	770	10,125	5,580	439
1971	1,772	13,561	7,765	1,445
1972	1,618	13,571	12,705	1,262
1973	1,816	17,888	16,783	1,332
1974	1,363	14,075	14,363	1,147

The employment market information scheme has been functioning in the exchange since 1961. 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 ameliorative in nature and seemingly motivated by political expediency. They largely consisted of improvements 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 several 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 a 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 the 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 supervising execution of Five-year Plan schemes and projects, its role, however, continued to be advisory. The development blocks were the basic 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 objectives of raising the standard of living of the people and for opening out to them opportunities of a wider and more varied life. 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 schemes and peoples participation in development activities. Earth work of buildings and village-roads, digging of soakage pits, etc. were done by voluntary labour known as *shramdan*. Improved methods of agriculture and use of compost were also introduced, tube-wells and other means of irrigation were augmented.

Ghosi was the first community development block of the district opened on October 2, 1952 followed by Lalganj on January 26, 1955 and Doharighat on October 2, 1955.

The scope of the Second Five-year plan (1956—61) was enlarged to include industrialisation, with a stress on the development of heavy industries and on the enlargement of 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 of chemical and green manures, were taken up. The whole district was divided into 29 development blocks for implementation of the plan schemes.

In 1957, 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. (now designated as district development 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 Kshettra Samiti is responsible for all the development activities within the block. The block development officer is the executive officer of the Kshettra Samiti and looks after the development activities in his block. He is assisted by specialists called assistant development officers separately for agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operatives, panchayats, etc. At the village level, there is a multipurpose worker designated as Gram Sewak (village level worker) who work for all the development departments. The district has 29 development blocks certain details about these are being given below;

Tahsil	Name of block	Date of inauguration	Number of Gaon sabhas	Number of Nyaya panchayats	Population as in 1971
1	2	3	4	5	6
Azamgarh	Palhani	2.10.62	102	10	1,30,070
	Raniki Sarai	1.7.57	89	9	76,700
	Tahbar pur	2.10.58	103	12	85,830
	Muhammadpur	2.10.62	79	8	76,059
	Mirjapur	2.10.62	99	10	87,656
Lalganj	Thekwa	2.10.62	97	16	90,857
	Lalganj	26.1.55	116	19	1,80,048
	Tarwa	1.4.58	117	20	1,07,879
	Mohnagar	1.4.59	111	21	1,06,661
Phulpur	Phulpur	1.7.57	96	12	92,727
	Koelsa	2.10.62	99	10	87,599
	Ahraula	2.10.59	113	12	95,469
	Atraulia	2.10.62	99	10	82,148
	Pawai	1.4.60	116	12	91,103
	Martinganj	1.4.61	78	10	80,242
Muhammadabad	Sathiaon	1.4.61	85	9	1,11,689
	Jahanaganj	1.4.58	80	9	82,795
	Muhmmadabad	26.1.57	93	10	1,01,694
	Ranipur	1.4.60	100	13	98,897
	Pardah	2.10.60	71	8	1,42,978
Ghosi	Ghosi	2.10.52	83	9	83,377
	Kopaganj	1.4.56	81	10	1,15,151
	Patehpur Mandaon	1.4.61	107	13	1,10,691
	Badraon	2.10.56	86	9	91,958
	Dohrighat	2.10.55	87	9	98,979
Sagri	Bilariaganj	2.10.58	117	18	1,28,599
	Haraiya	1.4.61	101	17	94,499
	Maharajganj	2.10.62	103	16	91,429
	Azmatgarh	1.7.57	122	20	1,11,214

The Third Five-year Plan, unlike the previous ones was aimed mainly towards reducing the disparity in economic and social lives of the people and securing a minimum standard of living for every family Programmes of introducing intensive methods of cultivation, leading to a self reliant and self generating economy were taken up. A few special programmes such as those relating to use of improved variety of seeds particularly of the dwarf varieties and crop protection measures were also taken up in hand. By 1962, the economy of the country had become so strained that the process of planning and development had to be considerably pruned during this Plan period.

The next three years from April 1966 to March, 1969, did not form part of the next Five-year Plan, instead annual plan for these three years were therefore, formulated with the following broad objectives.

(*i*) A gorwth rate of 5 per cent in the agricultural sector and 8 to 10 per cent in industry.

(*ii*) An annual growth rate of 6.5 per cent in production of food-grains to achieve self sufficiency.

(*iii*) To maximise employment opportunities; and

(*iv*) To redross imbalances arising from a high rate of population growth and in adequate expansion in agricultural production by reducing the fertility rate to 25 per thousand in shortest possible time.

The Fourth Five-year Plan (1969-74) endeavound to define more precisely the wider and doeper social goals. It was stressed that the structure of socio-economic relations should be so planned that it results not only in an appreciable increase in the national income and employment but also in lesser in equality in incomes and distribution of wealth. It sought especially to enlarge the income of the rural population and to achieve self reliance both in agriculture and in industry. Consequently new small industrial units in the districts were established, besides providing increased facilities for sanitation, transportation and health services, with special emphasis on improving the condition 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 however, largely because of the sudden esuption of Indo-Pak conflict of 1971.

Removal of poverty and attainment of economic self reliance have been defined to be two basic objectives of the fifth Five-year Plan; the expansion of employment apportunities 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 standards of living, providing better wages and living conditions all round and helping the general economic growth of the district.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Azamgarh is one of the four districts of the Gorakhpur Division of the State and comprises a somewhat irregularly shaped tract of country lying South on the Ghaghara river. The area of the present district was included in 1801 in the district of Gorakhpur. In 1820 a part of it was transferred to Jaunpur and another part to Ghazipur. Three years later a sub-collectorate of Azamgarh was formed out of the Jaunpur parganas and in 1832 a separate district of Azamgarh was constituted, to which for many years a part of the present district of Ballia was also attached.

Commissioner's Division

The commissioner's Division in which the district lies has undergone many changes since the creation of the district. In 1829 nine Divisions were created by the East India Company for the decentralisation of land revenue and law and order. Each Division was in the charge of a commissioner. He was the link between the collectors and the supreme government of Calcutta. When the post was created it was designated commissioner of revenue and circuit and the Gorakhpur Division roughly corresponded to the present Division. The commissioner was then vested with criminal and judicial powers and exercised supervision over judges, magistrates and collectors in the district and was responsible for various branches of the administration then carried out on behalf of the East India Company. He was to act under the Sudder Board of Revenue at Fort William, Calcutta. The commissioner handed over criminal work to the district judge in 1881 and the latter handed over his magisterial work to the collector in 1882.

Gorakhpur Division was abolished in 1835 and the districts included in it were transferred to the Benaras (now Varanasi) Division. It was, however revived in 1858. In 1947 the commissioners were relieved of their judicial work and also of their routine duties. Consequently their number in the State was reduced from nine to five. The Benaras (now Varanasi) and Gorakhpur Divisions were amalgamated with headquarters at Varanasi. In August 1952, their number was reduced to three, so that the Lucknow, Faizabad and Gorakhpur Divisions were amalgamated into one with headquarters at Lucknow. In 1954 Varanasi and Gorakhpur Divisions were again placed under a commissioner and finally in October 1955 a separate Division of Gorakhpur was created comprising the districts of Gorakhpur, Deoria, Azamgarh and Basti.

In 1951, in the interests of decentralisation, some of the powers of the commissioner were delegated to the collector, who was authorised to deal directly with the government. In 1954 the commissioner was entrusted with the work of supervision of planning and development in the district, as also co-ordination and supervision of the various branches of public administration, including law and order. He was, there-

fore, required to tour for about 20 days every month. He was also to guide district officers, solve inter-departmental problems and assess the work of officers of various departments. While it had earlier been decided that the commissioner would not function as an intermediary for the correspondence between the district officer and the government it was later decided that where the district magistrates corresponded direct with government, copies of all important communications would be sent to the commissioner, who could forward his own comments to the government, if necessary. No significant changes in the duties and functions of the commissioner were subsequently made except that since October 1,1962, the issue of licences for semi-automatic fire-arms no longer required the concurrence of the commissioner and that in 1967, after the separation of judiciary from the executive, judicial officers were transferred to the charge of the high court of judicature at Allahabad and the supervision over the work of additional district magistrates (judicial) and judicial officers was withdrawn from the purview of the commissioner and transferred to the district judge. On the judicial side his jurisdiction extends to hearing appeals and revisions under the U.P. Land Revenue Act, 1901, the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 and several other enactments. For this work he is generally assisted by additional commissioner.

District Administration

District Officer

The head of the civil administration in the district is the district officer who is designated collector and district magistrate. His office has always occupied a key position in the administrative set-up since the British days.

An important legacy of the British rule in India was the propounding of the ideal pertaining to the rule of a district officer. The principle behind this idea was rather well explained by Warren Hastings, who opined that the East India Company would be remembered by the virtue and not the ability of its officers.[1] The institution thus founded, was best expressed in terms of the system improvised by the British for district administration in India.

The system which developed in the course of the time, resulted in establishing the status of the district officer as a guardian of public interest in his district, the executive, judicial (with the exception of capital punishment), and development functions inevitably and naturally blending into his duties.

Until Azamgarh was formed into a separate collectorate on September 18, 1832, the position of the district included in Ghazipur remained directly subordinate to the collector of that district. Thomason was the first collector nominated in 1832.

1. Woodruff Philip : *The Men Who Ruled India*; *The Guardian's* pp. 360, 361

In 1861, the magistrate-collector, as he was then known, ceded some of his powers to the superintendent of police, making the latter responsible for the maintenance, supervision and discipline of the police force. The system on the whole worked well in accordance with the fundamental principles underlying its structure throughout the duration of the British empire in india.

The advent of Independance necessitated some changes in this system. Though the district magistrate is still the highest executive authority and the pivot of the entire general administrative machinery in the district, he is simultaneously required to make maximum effort for public welfare. He is assisted by the magistracy and the police in the maintenance of law and order, and execution of the policies laid down by the State Government.

In his capacity as collector and also as principal revenue officer he is responsible for collection of land revenue and other governmental dues recoverable as arrears of land revenue, maintenance of the land records of the district, resumption and acquisition of land and extending assistance on calamitous occasions. He also recommends suspension and remission of land revenue, whenever necessary. The district treasury, under a treasury officer, is also in his ultimate charge.

In his capacity as district magistrate (and head of the revenue and criminal administration) he supervises, and controls the law and order situation in the district. The entire magistracy and the police administration is integrated under his authority to combat riots and disturbances or any such situation.

In his capacity as head of the district administration he also functions as a co-ordinator, normally not interfering with the internal administration of the various development departments functioning in the district, each department enjoying a certain degree of autonomy, its district level officer managing the affairs subject to the control and direction of his superiors at the State or regional level. Consequently all the departments engaged in development work such as agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operatives, panchayats, minor irrigation, etc., were brought under the administrative control and overall direction of the district magistrate. In this work he is assisted by a district development officer at the district level and block development officers at block level.

In his capacity as ex-officio district election officer, he organises elections to the Central and State Legislatures. Necessary certification in respect of claimants to old age or political pensions, payment of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 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., implementation of schemes relating to census, Van Mahotsava, wild life preservation, national savings, raising of loans for th State Government, augmenting sale of lottery tickets and family planning programmes are also some of his manifold duties.

Six subdivisional magistrates/officers and an extra magistrate assist and act in subordination to the district magistrate.

Sub divisions

For effective administration the district is divided into six units known as the subdivisions. They are Azamgarh, Sagri, Ghosi, Muhammadabad, Phulpur and Lalganj in each of which now is located the headquarters of a subdivisional officer who is the executive head of his subdivision. His functions and responsibilities in his subdivision are akin to the district magistrate in the district. The subdivisional officer acts as a deputy or assistant collector in revenue matters and subdivisional magistrate in matters concerning law and order. The subdivisional officer now resides at subdivisional headquarters in order to effectively control the law and order situation and for the convenience of litigants and speedy administration of justice he holds his court there.

Tahsils, Parganas and Kanungo and Patwari Circles

The tahsils of the district are coextensive with their respective subdivisions each being under the charge of a resident tahsildar who acts as magistrate in addition to being an assistant collector. He presides over the tahsil court and is head of the tahsil office. His main duties include collection of government dues, upkeep of land records, helping where necessary in the maintenance of law and order, disposal or cases and follow up of public welfare programmes. He is also called out for relief operations as and when necessary and is in charge of the tahsil sub-treasury under him. He is assisted by a *naib* tahsildar kanungos (one for each kanungo circle), a register kanungo and 5 to 8 assistant registrar kanungos. The *naib* tahsildar primarily supervises the work relating to land records, collection of revenue and other matters connected with revenue administration. For the convenience of revenue administration a tahsil has further been subdivided into parganas, kanungo circles, lekhpal circles and villages, their number in each tahsil is given in the following statement.

Tahsil	Kanungo circles/ Lekhpal circles	Parganas in each tahsil	No. of villages in each pargana
Sadar	4/117	Nizamabad	924
Muhammadabad	4/100	Maunath Bhanjan	52
		Karyat Mitter	68
		Chiriakot	281
		Muhammadabad	595
Ghosi	4/95	Ghosi	519
		Nathpura	327
Sagri	4/99	Sagri	708
		Gopalpur	265
Lalganj	5/120	Deogaon	443
		Bela Daulatabad	228
		Belhabans	179
Phulpur	7/205	Mahul	525
		Kauria	144
		Atraulia	871

Police

The police organisation of the district is under a superintendent of police. He is in over-all charge of the police force and is responsible for its efficiency, discipline and performance of duties. He is assisted by an additional superintendent of police, one assistant superintendent of police, three deputy superintendents and a number of subordinate officers. The district magistrate, as head of the criminal administration, controls, guides and supervises the district police through the superintendent of police.

Judiciary

The judicial organisation of the district is headed by the district and sessions judge with headquarters at Azamgarh. He is the highest authority for administration of justice in civil and criminal maters for the district. On the civil side, as district judge, he is empowered to decide first appeals up to the valuation of Rs. 20,000. He grants probate and succession certificates, decides land acquisition cases and hears rent, revenue and miscellaneous appeals. As sessions judge he presides over sessions trials, where he can award capital punishment. He is assisted by three additional district judges (for civil and criminal work both), a civil judge, an additional civil judge, two assistant sessions judges, a chief judicial magistrate, five munsifs, (two of them being additional) and six judicial magistrates.

Other District Level Officers

The following are the other district level officers each being responsible to his own head of the department :

Assistant District Panchayat Raj Officer
Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies
District Agriculture Officer
District Cane Officer
District Employment Officer
District Harijan and Social Welfare Officer
District Industries Officer
District Information Officer
District Inspector of Schools
District Live-stock Officer
District Statistical Officer
Sales Tax Officer
Chief Medical Officer
Executive Engineer, Canals
Executive Engineer, Irrigation
Executive Engineer, P.W.D.
Executive Engineer, Tube-wells.

Central Government Offices

Income-tax

The income-tax office, Azamgarh, works under the administrative control of the inspecting assistant income-tax commissioner, Gorakhpur and consists of two wards, known as A and B, each under the charge of an income-tax officer. The appellate authority is the appellate assistant commissioner of income-tax, posted at Gorakhpur.

Central Excise

The whole of the district is under the charge of a superintendent central excise (multi officer's range) with headquarters at Azamgarh. The district is divided into six ranges, each under the charge of an inspector, except Azamgarh town where four inspectors are posted, two being exclusively for office work.

Indian Posts and Telegraph

The postal division at Azamgarh is in the charge of a superintendent of post-offices, who is assisted by an assistant superintendent and a complaints officer. The district is divided into three subdivisions each being under an inspector of post-offices. There are two head post-offices one at Azamgarh and the other at Maurath Bhanjan. The sub-post-offices in the district number 65 and the branch post-offices 408.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal History

The fiscal history of the region covered by the present district of Azamgarh can be traced back to antiquity, when it formed part of the domains of the Rajbhars and Soeris or Cherus. In conformity with the general pattern of revenue administration followed during ancient days, the king received tribute in return of protection of life and property of the inhabitants and maintaining machinery of the administration. The tributes were generally paid in the form of food grains and other necessities of life[1].

The tract was subjected to the popular system of revenue administration, the ownership of land vesting in the State and subjects paying a portion of thier produce to the ruling authority. The State's share in land tax seems to have varied according to the *Smritis* (law books) from one-third to one-sixth[2]. In addition to land tax, duties on sales of goods and extra cesses for special purposes were also levied[3].

In the early phase of the Muslim conquest of India, few references to this region are to be found in contemporary records. Apparently they accepted the system in vogue except that perhaps the proportion of the revenue compared with the produce was increased for the greater part of the fifteenth century. This region was included in the Sharqi kingdom of Jaunpur and was in the charge of the governor of the Sharqi sultans. In 1474 A.D., Bahlul Lodi defeated Husain Shah, a Sharqi ruler and the last king of Jaunpur, the region passing into the hands of the Delhi sultans. Under Sher Shah Sur (1540—45 A.D.) the method of revenue collection on the basis of an estimate or division of crops was replaced by one based upon measurement of land, calculation of the average yields of crops in the good, middle, and inferior classes of soil, assessment of revenue being fixed at one-third of the average yield of various classes of land. The system continued to function with minor changes till the time of Akbar, when this tract formed part of the sirkar of Jaunpur and the subah of Allahabad. All the parganas now existing except Mahul, Atraulia and Bela-Daulatabad find a place in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, though the present boundaries of these are hardly conterminous with those existing then. In Muhammadabad, the largest *mahal* had an area of 56,350 *bighas*, and paid a revenue of 32,29,063 *dams*[4]. The *mahal* of Mau was assessed to a net demand of 2,09,067 *dams* on an area of only 2,645 *bighas*; Qariat Mittu being assigned an area of 8,991

1. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar, A.D. (Ed.) : *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, (Vol. I.), pp. 358-437
2. Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar, A.D. (Ed.) : *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. II, p. 330
3. Majumdar, R.C., Raychaudhari, H.C. and Datta, K. : *op. cit.*, *An Advanced History of India*, p. 104.
4. One rupee is equal to 40 *dams*

bighas and a revenue of 55,141 *dams*, Ghosi, mentioned as having 18,913 *bighas*, being assessed to a demand of 10,37,934 *dams*. Sagri was assessed to 12,74,721 *dams* over an area of 19,792 *bighas* and Gopalpur had an area of 3,266 *bighas* and paid a revenue of 18,643 *dams*. Nathupur had an area of 4,948 *bighas* and paid a revenue of 2,73,472 *dams* Chakesar, (now absorbed in Ghosi) paid a revenue of 2,86,586 *dams* over an area of 5,415 *bighas*. Nijamabad, a small *mahal* of 6,074 *bighas*, paid 6,02,592 *dams* in revenue; Deo Gaon with an area of 44,524 *bighas* had a net demand of 25,83,205 *dams*; while in Chiriakot 8,07,848 *dams* were assessed on 14,153 *bighas*. Of the *mahals* that now make up tahsil Mahul, the only one that is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbari* is Kauria, Mahul and Atrauliya having been subsequently formed. Kauria had an area of 5,764 *bighas* and a revenue demand of 3,41,890 *dams*. Mahul and Atraulia represent single pargana of the *Ain-i-Akbari*, having been carved out of Tilahani, Ungli, Nigun and Surhurpur. Pargana Belhabans belonged to Ghazipur *sirkar*, having an area of 12,306 *bighas*, paying 65,236 *dams*.

The principles on which the system was based were broadly the correct measurement of land and of the cultivated area, the classification of the soil, calculation of the average yield and assessment of revenue in terms of the average price of the produce. Taking the figures as they stand in the *Ain-i-Akbari* the cultivated area of the district in 1556 appears to have been 1,06,003 acres and the revenue payable, amounted to Rs 2,52,643. Akbar professedly took one-third of the average value of the gross produce of the land, but payment were made in cash, and the burden of the demand must have been rendered quite severe by the necessity of finding money in place of grain. However, lack of knowledge of the domestic history of the rural population of those days makes a meaningful comparison difficult today.

Of the parganas now existing only two, Mahul and Atraulia, are not found in the *Ain-i-Akbari*. The present areas necessarily differ from the parganas of the same name that existed in 1596 A.D. The existence of Mahul as a separate fiscal subdivision dates from the middle of the eighteenth century. At that time a large number of *tappas* and estates chiefly in parganas Nigun, Ungli and Surhurpur had come into the hands of the Saiyid family of Mahul. These estates were initially known under the collective name of the taluqa Mahul, the latter being designated as pargana early after its cessation in 1801 to the East India Company. The present pargana of Atraulia owes its origin to the efforts made by the Palwar families to establish *taluqas*. One of these succeeded in acquiring a sufficiently large tract to be made into a pargana. The modern pargana of Atraulia represented this family's *taluqa* and is referred to as Tilahani in old official records. This was so as the *taluqa* was mainly carved out of the *Ain-i-Akbari* pargana of Tilahani. Pargana Chakesar of the *Ain-i-Akbari* was merged in the present pargana of Ghosi. In the early British Settlements, a third subdivision of Ghosi and Chakesar is referred to as *taluqa* Surajpur in 1909. Mahul, included portions of Surhurpur, Ungli and Nigun; and Deo Gaon owing to collections made at the fifth Settlement and underwent considerable alterations as compared to its boundaries in 1596 and 1807. The pargana of Bela Daulatabad was carved out of Nizamabad as late as 1874. Besides the 15 parganas (which formed

part of the district in the first decade of the present century), the district contained at its creation in 1832 two other parganas of Bhadaon and Sikandarpur, which were known as "the permanently settled parganas of Azamgarh". These were removed from Azamgarh on November 1, 1879, and added to the old Ballia subdivision of the Ghazipur district to constitute the present district of Ballia. However, Azamgarh has contained since the fifth Settlement, a number of permanently assessed villages. These did not originally belong to the two parganas now included in Ballia but were incorporated with Azamgarh at the time of that Settlement, when pargana boundaries within the district and between it and the district of Jaunpur and Ghazipur were rectified. The villages were then 177 in number. No less than 102 belonged to pargana Nathupur, having been transferred to it from pargana Sikandarpur. Of the ramainder, 32 were in Deo Gaon, 26 in Muhammadabad, 15 in Mahul and, one each in Ghosi and Maunath Bhanjan. The fiscal history of these villages was the same as that of other permanently settled tracts of these provinces. The revenue on these was assessed when they belonged to the then Banaras province under the superintendence of Jonathan Duncan in 1789—90 and was declared permanent with effect from March 27, 1795. The revenue fixed by Duncan varied to some extent since the permanent Settlement owing to alluvion diluvian, resumption and similar causes, but for all intents and purposes, it remained unchanged till 1908, when the demand on these villages stood at Rs 54,782.

First Settlement

In 1801, Britishers took charge of the parganas forming the new district of Gorakhpur from the *amils* of the Avadh government. Among these were included Chakla Azamgarh, Maunath Bhanjan and Mahul. The demand for the year 1801—02, as estimated from the papers of the *amils* and qanungos, amounted to Rs 6,93,767 but of this sum apparently the collector was unable to realise more than Rs 5,89,264. The surviving correspondence of this period reveals that the tract had been misgoverned, resulting in the depression of both agricultural and trading interests. The general system pursued in the formation of Settlements was the same as followed in the ceded provinces. It laid down that a Settlement be concluded for three years with effect from 1802-3 to 1804—5; and at the conclusion of this period, the new engagements should be taken for another period of three years from 1805—6 to 1808—9. This was followed by the third Settlement for four years and on its expiry the estates that had come sufficiently under cultivation were to be settled in perpetuity. Settlement was to be made with the zamindars in possession of estates, if they offered a fair and equitable *jama* (deposit), and filed security to the amount of one-fourth of their annual payments. The revenue was to be 90 per cent of the estimated assets of each estate after deduction of the expenses of the managements, ten per cent of the assets being allowed to the zamindars as profits. In case the zamindars declined to engage, it was laid down that they should receive an allowance according to the custom of the former government, and that Settlement should be made for three years with headmen of villages or other respectable persons. The revenue was made payable in eight instalments, and to assist in gathering information for its assessment, and afterwards to collect it, tahsildars were appointed. They were remunerated for their labour and for all expenses with an allowance of ten per cent on their collections.

Routledge was engaged in carrying out the Settlement of his district during the summer and autumn of 1804. That for Azamgarh and Mahul was concluded at Dohri Ghat and it was reported for sanction along with the Settlement of the rest of the collectrate of Gorakhpur on December 28, 1802. According to Routledge's own account he took, "as a ground for forming the ascertained assets of the previous year, the produce expected from the extended cultivation and the expected annual improvement therein calculated by the zamindars and mustajirs according to their own resources and the capabilities of the lands". The assessment was a progressive one and was sanctioned on December 16, 1802, but it met with misfortune almost from the very outset. Remissions were subsequently granted in the demand of 1803-4, and subsequently, 13 mahals, which had fallen into arrears, were sold by auction in April, 1805.

Second Triennial Settlement

Ross, the successor of Routledge, took over charge in 1803 and carried out the second triennial Settlement. Ross applied for and obtained permission to abate the existing demand whenever it appeared to press too heavily, and to raise it where it seemed to be unfairly light. In April 1805, he directed the tahsildars to repair to any *mahal* within their jurisdictions, to examine the patwari's accounts in conjunction with the qanungos and to inspect the lands. He proposed to check the returns obtained from tahsildars by means of established rent-rates for each pargana as furnished by the qanungos, by the averages of the revenue that had been realised during the last ten years of the nawab vizirs, and by the return of the cultivated land in each estate made in 1801-2 by the *patwaris*. The Settlement was satisfactorily concluded and was reported for sanction on February 15, 1806. The result was a considerable abatement on the demands of the previous year; but the necessity for this was acknowledged by the government and sanction was accorded to the sssessment on May 15, 1806.

Third Settlement

Preparation for the third Settlement began in the summer of 1807 by the appointment of a board of commissioners for the ceded and conquered provinces. On this occasion, the government had in view the formation of a more accurate assessment and hoped to fix it in perpetuity. It was laid down that the average annual demand of the preceding Settlement should be taken as a basis and that three fourth of the produce of the extended cultivation of its most favourable year should be added to it. As some estates might show a decrease in cultivation, the assets of all estates were to be ascertained. With this object *dauls* or estimates of the produce were to be furnished by the tahsildars and these were to be checked with the information which the collector was supposed to possess or might enquire through local and personal enquiry. From the assets five per cent was to be deducted for the expenses of collection and management and ten per cent for the subsistence of the proprietors the balance became revenue payable to the government. In no case, however, was the demand of the last year of the second settlement to be abated by the collector without full justification, and security amounting to one-fourth of the annual land revenue was to be furnished by those with whom Settlement was made. The term of the Settlement was fixed at four years, with the stipulation that if the proprietors agreed, if the court of directors gave them sanction, and if no special reason in-

terfered, the demand of the last year should be fixed in perpetuity. The Settlement was carried out by Balfour and the papers were not submitted to board till 1810. At the end of 1808, the old establishment of tahsildar was abolished and new men on fixed salaries were appointed. These new men could not be forced to pay up balances, which they could not realise and partly for this reason and partly on account of the recusancy of the people themselves the newly assessed demand could only be partially collected in 1808—9. Even in the following years of the Settlement the collection of the demad never really got in hand. The security system did not work; many estates were from time to time put up for auction and sold, frequently for small sums; and other were formed or held in direct management.

Regulation X of 1807 made a promise that the demand would be fixed in perpetuity after the expiry of the third Settlement. But the court of directors refused to confirm the promise, rightly judging the fixation of a permanent demand inexpedient in the existing state of the country, and regulation X of 1812 prescribed a revision of the existing revenue. The revenue revised under the latter Regulation was only to be extended to such estates as "might be in a sufficiently improved state of cultivation to warrant the measures and on such terms as government should deem fair and equitable". For these estates which did not come up to these conditions a temporary Settlement for three or five years was decided upon and the term was ultimately fixed at five years for the whole province; that is from 1812—13 to 1816—17. It was subsequently extended for a further period of five years or till 1821 by Regulation XVI of 1816.

Fourth Settlement

The fourth Settlement of the district was begun by Grant and Forde and concluded by Christian and Forde, the proceedings of the first two officers were very dilatory. In January 1813 the Board issued a new form of *daul*, which required first references being made to the tahsildars, so that very small progress was made in 1812-13. The revenue of the district fell heavily into arrears and the collector with the sanction of the Board proceeded to sell estates. He was however, soon faced with the objection that, not being under engagement after 1811-12, the landlords were not liable for any specific amount of revenue for 1812-13 and that their estates could not be sold. Precepts were issued from the civil courts staying sales and forbidding auction-purchasers being put in possession. Christian assumed charge of the district in 1814, and he applied himself with energy to the completion of settlement and collection of the revenue. He obtained permission from the board not only to assess estates still under Settlement, but to revise demands which had erroneously been fixed too low. Pending a final adjustment of the demand, temporary engagements were taken from the landholders, which prevented the interference of the civil court. By February 1815, very little remained to be done.

Fifth Settlement

The period of the fourth assessment was terminable in 1822, and preparations for the fifth Settlement began in that year. The principles

on which the Settlement was to be conducted were laid down by Regulations VII of 1822. Orders were issued to the effect that not only the assessment of the revenue be examined and revised, but that a large mass of information touching the system of agriculture and the rights of people be collected. At the end of 1821, the board of commissioners directed the collectors of Ghazipur and Jaunpur to begin operations experimentally in two or three villages in every tahsil. In the beginning the progress of Settlement was very slow, and after the promulgation of the Regulation it became necessary to arrange for assessment of the revenue pending the completion of the Settlement. In the other parts of the ceded and conquered provinces the government extended the period of the fourth Settlement for five years, but under the conviction that the early Settlements of Azamgarh and Gorakhpur had been very defective and that a large increase of revenue might be looked for there, it provided that a general agreement should be taken from the landholders to pay the existing demand till a new Settlement had been formed. E.A. Reade began regular operations in Nizamabad in 1823, and settled 477 villages. Camming settled forty six villages, E.A. Reade one hundred and sixteen, and Thornton, one hundred and seventy one. A proclamation was issued in 1823 declaring Mahul under Settlement operations but none seemed to have been carried out there. In 1825, Chippindale commenced work in Deo Gaon, but made little progress. In the Ghazipur portion of the erst while district Barlow settled but 99 *mahals* out of 1371 and his successor Bayley assessed 14 more, but it was not till 1832-33, that Montgomery completed the work which those officers had begun in Sagri. Meanwhile in 1830, the government called upon the collectors of Jaunpur and Ghazipur to report the progress of operations; but they were obliged to admit that they could not furnish the information an admission which provoled a sharp rebuke from Charles Metcalf. The whole subject of Settlement, however, was revived with the reference and Thomason was appointed collector with a view to the completion of the Settlement. Before he arrived, not only had a new Azamgarh district been formed, but Regulation IX of 1833 been passed.

Thomason joined the district in 1834 and the Settlement was completed in 1837. It was conducted under the famous Regulation IX of 1833. The features which distinguished this Settlement as well as later Regulation VII of 1822, were the demarcation of village boundaries and the survey of each village. The fixation of revenue for a period of twenty years, a period which was afterwards increased to thirty and the formation of a record of rights and tenure in each village. In the Settlements which were made in other districts under Regulation VII of 1822, the assessments were mostly made upon regularly prepared rent-rolls, or estimates of the actual assets. In the operations under Regulation II of 1933, the cultivated area of Azamgarh seems generally to have been classified into rice land and *harjins* land. Average rates were assumed for these classes, and an assumed rental was obtained by multiplying the arrears of these assumed rates. The demand was fixed at a proportion of the actual or supposed assets, and varied between 50 and 66 per cent. The sum assessed in the temporary settled estates was 33 /12 per cent, more than the highest *jama* of the fourth Settlement. But upwards of one fourth of the increase was due to the assessment of revenue

upon villages which had previously been revenue free and Taufir and the enhancement upon the old revenue paying estates amounted to only 23.5 per cent. That it was a fair and equitable assessment, there is no doubt. Owing to the destruction of records during the first struggle for Independence, it was impossible to discover what coercive processes were employed for the recovery of the demand; but it is believed that not more than a single estate or part of an estate was exposed for sale for arrears of revenue, and that of the very few estates which were held under direct management or farmed, none were alienated from the proprietors for more than three years; and that in every such case, not the revenue but enternal dissensions were the cause of the arrears. From 1837 to 1874, when a new Settlement was carried out, 2,30,380 acres of land had been sold according to the returns in the temporarily settled portions of the district. Half of the sales occured in the period after the freedom struggle of 1857. However, the fact that land had increased in value is shown by the large rise in the price paid for it. Between 1837 and 1847 the price was Rs 13-9-0 per acre of land sold at private sales, from 1859 to 1874 was Rs 30-6-0.

Sixth Settlement

The sixth Settlement began in October 1866 with the survey of Deo Gaon and the records were finally completed and deposited in March 1877. Reid, who joined the district in August 1868, remained in charge of the operations till conclusion. The entire work of inspection and assessment was done by him with the exception of the pargana of Mahul, which was assessed by Rogers. The revenue of this pargana was announced in May, 1875. The system followed the general outline of these operations as carried out in other districts, but had a few district features of its own. It was discovered that natural soils played but a small part in the agricultural economy of the district, and there they did not fit in with the classification of soils recognised and made use of by the people. Any attempt to record them was accordingly abandoned. The various parganas were divided into circles according to the main topographical divisions of the district. Within these circles the cultivated land of each village was first divided into rice and *rabi* or *harjins* land. Each of these two kinds of land was then subdivided into classes, the rice generally into four and the *rabi* into six. The rice land was graded according to the quality of its natural soil and the facility of access to and the control of water supply, *behnaurs* or seed nurseries being treated as paying no rent.

The *rabi* land was divided into zones according to its distance from the inhabited sites, these zones being modified where necessary according to the natural quality of the soil. In neither case were all the classes or even the greater number of them ordinarily used in the same village. For the rice land four grades were constituted for the pargana or circle. Standard rates for application to assumption areas and for utilisation as area test of average tenant rentals were next sought for; the existing rent rates of rented fields being recorded in the survey *khasra* (field-book) and were produced before the Settlement officer at the time he went round each village to inspect it. The rent rates were tested and corrected

by what he saw and heard, and "ultimately he was able to pick out from among the varying rent-rates, those (which personal and caste considerations being set aside), were commonest and seemed fairest in each of the subdivisions of the cultivated land which he had been led to make". The valuation of the whole cultivated area in the temporarily settled portion of the district, which was, of course alone under Settlement, worked out at Rs 4-12-3 per acre. On the other hand, the incidence of the recorded rents was Rs 4-1-10 for all tenants and as much as Rs 4-14-8 for low caste tenants. The worst and most precarious land was not held on cash rents, and the variation was higher in proportion to the rents than the figures would indicate. The valuation of the low caste tenant area, too, was higher than the recorded rents. As however, there was undoubtedly some concealment, his rates appear to have been fair current rates which were actually being paid at the time for land by the bona-fide tenants. The demand fixed by Reid exceeded the expiring revenue of the fifth Settlement by 33 per cent and was a full one. Allowance was, undoubtedly made for the lower rents paid by high caste tenants, but no deductions were given on account of proprietary cultivation and very little for improvements. As a rule, a full half-assets demand was taken, except where land was precarious or when the number of proprietors was unusually large. The assessments, however, were framed with the greatest care and judgement and the demand was very accurately graduated to the capacity of the various villages. In no case was any interference with the asessments called for throughout the period of the Settlement.

The revenue throughout was collected with as little difficulty as could be expected with so large a body of payers and so complicated and minute a system of accounts as prevailed in the district.

Operations with a view to resettlement began with the survey of tahsil Deo Gaon and a part of Azamgarh in 1898-99. C.E. Crawford joined the district as Settlement officer in November 1900, the actual work of asessment commencing between 1902 and 1905; but the preparation of records and the settlement of various disputes regarding them and other matters were not finally disposed of till October 1908. From March 1905 to the latter date, Crawford continued to supervise settlement operations in addition to his duties as officiating collector of this district. The classification followed, both as regards soils and circles that of Reid. The only alteration in Reids system consisted in the introduction of separate circles for suburban and alluvial villages containing both *banjar* and *kachhar* land. For the selection of rates the rents of high caste tenants were altogether discarded as also were those of low caste and non-occupancy tenants. The former were discarded because they were considered to be priveleged and the latter because they were not the rents of holdings capable by themselves of supporting permanent and responsible tenants. It was considered that rates which would be suitable for determining the rents of low caste occupancy tenants would also be suitable for the valuation of the assumption area; and it accordingly became necessary to first determine the proportionate values of various soils in each circle and to arrive at the low caste occupancy rental.

As regards the proportionate value of the various soils, the settlement officer was guided by the quoted soil rates, the fixed rates at last settlement and his own opinion based on the appearance of the land at the time of inspection. Tentative rates were then framed and tested by comparison with the recorded rentals of the area held by low caste occupancy tenants. From those tentative rates the most common were selected as likely to be useful as standard rates.

The rental from occupancy of the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Classes of the district was then analysed into the rental of holdings of which the rents had not changed since the previous Settlement of holdings, of which the rents had been enhanced during the currency of the Settlement, of holdings in which occupancy rights had been recently acquired, and other holding. By other holdings was meant holdings in which occupancy rights had been acquired partly at the previous Settlement and partly at a subsequent date. The selected rates were then applied to each of these classes and modified accordingly as the results of the valuation suggested. The object was to pitch the valuation at the level of the rents of new occupancy holdings and of those holdings the rents of which had been enhanced since Settlement. Any special circumstances which might render deviation from this rule desirable was of course taken into consideration.

The next step in assessment was to determine the area that might be properly assessed. In the case of cash rented land where the rents were inadequate or excessive, the whole area was assessed, any allowance that was necessary being made in the form of a deduction from the rental. It was only in cases where the rents were rejected on grounds of inadequacy that an allowance in the area assessed was required. In the case of assumption areas, where the cultivated area of the year of survey exceeded the survey area there was a question whether the survey area or the average or some intermediate area should be accepted as the basis of assessment. The decision depended on the condition of the village at the time of inspection. In the *kachhar* tract the average exceeded the survey area, but the latter was accepted because the culturable area was very poor and unlikely to come again under cultivation in the immediate future. In tahsil Muhammadabad, the survey area was found at inspection to be clearly under the mark and either the average area or some intermediate figure was taken as the basis of assessment.

The recorded rents were then compared separately for certain classes of tenants as occupancy and non occupancy, with the valuation of circle rates or at these rates modified to suit the special circumstances of each village. The privilege actually enjoyed by certain classes of occupancy tenants was fixed, after consideration of the recorded rents at about 16 per cent in all parganas except Atraulia and Kauria, In these owing to the predominance of a certain section of the populace and that most of the Rajput tenants were ex-proprietors, 25 per cent was found necessary. Where the occupancy of the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Classes was approximately equal to or exceeded the valuation by a moderate amount, the rental was accepted; when it was below the valuation was substituted unless the enhancement of

revenue was already as much as it was necessary to take, or unless the inadequacy was made up for by excess in the non-occupancy rental. The rental in cases of certain sections of caste occupancy was similarly treated after comparison with the valuation reduced by the admitted privilege. When rents, both occupancy and non-occupancy, were much above the valuation, deduction were made for instability. The grain -rented area was for the most part, like proprietary cultivation and the rent-free area, valued at the circle rates or modified circle rates. Finally a full deduction of 25 per cent was given on all proprietary cultivation except sublet *sir* and a substaintial allowance was made for improvement.

The valuation of the tenants cash rented area exceeded the recorded rental by Rs 85,907 or less than 4 per cent and the area assessed was 99.64 per cent of the holdings area in the case of assumption areas. After all modifications had been made, the most accepted assets of the temporarily settled area amounted to Rs 40,11,239. On this the revenue originally proposed was Rs 18,86,901. Reductions totalling Rs 9,944 were subsequently made by the board of revenue leaving the finally sanctioned demand at Rs 18,76,958.

This sum represented 46.79 per cent of the assets and an incidence of Rs 2.36 per acre on the cultivated area. The incidence of the expiring demand on the cultivated area of the previous Settlement was Rs 2.31. But of the whole sum, Rs 9,476 was the nominal assessment of the revenue free area, so that the net realizable demand was Rs 18,67,482. This represented an increase of Rs 1,87,491 or 11.6 per cent on Reid's demand as it stood in 1902—05. In a number of *mahals* where the enhancement was large the full demand was to be reached by progressive steps and was not to be realized till ten years had elapsed since the declaration of the assessments. So far as could be judged from the experience of the last few years, the enhancement was collected without difficulty. With the coming of the Congress Government in power in 1937, the United Provinces Tenancy Act, 1939 (Act XVII of 1939) was passed which made the law regarding tenancies uniform in the whole State.

There was a sharp rise in the price of food-grains during the Second World War (1939-45) which as everywhere else, benefited the agriculturists of this district also. But the landlords made a corresponding enhancement in the rent payable by non-occupancy tenants and tried to eject them for non-payment of rent at increased rates. Consequently the non-occupancy tenants of this district also started campaigning for security of tenure and reduction of rent. It was felt that a radical change in the system of land tenure was called for. The popular government which again assumed power in 1947 appointed a committee to go into the question of abolition of zamindari. It submitted its report in 1948. The U.P. Agricultural Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Act, 1949(Act X of 1949), granted immunity from ejectment to a tenant and reduced his rent to half if he paid ten times the annual rent of his holdings to the government.

Abolition of Zamindari System

Rural—The U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 (U.P. Act I of 1951), abolished the zamindar intermediaries and replaced the multiplicity of tenures existing in this district, as elsewhere, by (only three types): the *bhumidhar*, the *sirdar* and the *asami*. Every intermediary whose right, title or interest in any estate was acquired by government under the provisions of the Act became entitled to receive compensation according to a scale laid down in the Act.

Up to 1975—76, the total amount of compensation assessed amounted to Rs 1,50,56,998 of which a sum of Rs 84,90,100 was paid in bonds, Rs 2,4 ,015 being paid in stock certificates and Rs 63,83,748 paid in cash to 4,45,791 intermediaries. Zamindars with comparatively smaller holdings were entitled to receive a rehabilitation grant as well. Up to 1975-76, rehabilitation grants amounting to Rs 2,04,48,726, of which a sum of Rs 21,34,626 was distributed in cash, to 60,350 intermediaries.

Under the provisions of this Act, intermediaries became *bhumidhars* of their *sir* and *khudkasht* lands and groves. Certain other tenure holders also acquired the same status in land under their cultivation provided they fulfilled cer in specified conditions. A *bhumidhar* possesses permanent, heritable and transferable rights in his holding from which he can not be ejected. Certain other categories of tenants who did not acquire *bhumidhari* rights became *sirdars* of the lands in their cultivation. A *sirdar* has permanent and heritable interest in his holdings but can not transfer it. He may use his land only for purposes of agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry. He can, however, acquire *bhumidhari* rights in his holdings by paying to the government a sum representing a specified multiple of his annual rent. Certain *bhumidhars* and *sirdars* are entitled to sublet their lands, for example, those employed in the armed forces or disabled persons. An *asami* is a lessee of a *bhumidhar*, a *sirdar* or the *gaon sabha*. He has heritable but not transferable rights and is liable to ejectment for void transfer or on the extinction of the rights of the *bhumidhar* or *sirdar* concerned, or for contravention of any other provision of the Act. In 1975—76, the approximate numbers of tenure holders and holdings with their total areas were as follows :

Tenure holders	No. of tenure holders	Area in hectares
Bhumidhars	2,64,560	1,99,855
Sirdars	12,02,575	2,80,044
Asamis	1,856	1,658

Bhumidhars and *sirdars* have been made jointly and severally responsible for the payment of land revenue to which the entire village is assessed. But they shall not be compelled to pay any arrear of land revenue unless the State Government applies the afore said provision to

any specific area by notification in the gazette. On July 1, 1952, Zamindari was abolished in an area of 5,74,354 ha. and this effected about 66.512 intermediaries in the district. The Act also established *gaon samajs* for the management of lands not comprised in any holding or grove, forests within the village boundaries, tanks, ponds and fisheries, *hats*, bazars and *melas* and other sources of income vested in the *gaon samaj*. Every *gaon samaj* was a corporate body with all adults in the village as its members and had a land management committee to look after its property according to rules. The functions of the *gaon samaj* are now performed by the *gaon sabhas*, through the land management committees.

Urban—The U.P. Urban Areas Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1956 (U.P. Act IX of 1957), was first enforced in the district in 1961, and affected 3,71,332 persons. A compensation of Rs. 1,59,165 has been paid to 6,945 persons in the urban areas of the district.

Collection of Land Revenue

After the abolition of zamindari, land revenue is collected directly from the *bhumidhars* and *sirdars* by the government through *amins* whose work is supervised in the district by *naib* tahsildars and other higher revenue officers. In 1975-76, i.e. Fasli in 1383, the net demand of land revenue was Rs 56,26,054.

Land Reforms

Relations between Landlord and Tenant

The present status of the tenant in the district has evolved in stages spread over a long period. It does not appear that in ancient times there was any intermediary between the raja or king and the cultivator. The king took a part of the produce of the village and in turn ensured protection and peace to the village community. With the passage of time, the number of rajas and kings increased and when the Muslims invaded the country and conquered, part of it, the rajas appeared to have to pay fixed tributes to the conquerors in order to retain their possessions. They collected their shares from the cultivators, and paid from the collections so made the tribute due to the suzerain and became intermediaries between the cultivators and the sovereign power. In course of time the state came to realise land revenue in cash.

Sher Shah Sur made certain important changes which were improved upon by Raja Todar Mal under Akbar. The cultivators were given a measure of stability at a fixed amount of revenue payable to the state. Akbar did not favour the farming of revenue as it led to oppression. He appointed collectors who negotiated with the cultivators rather than with the headmen of the villages. Under his successors, however, the system deteriorated. The practice of granting jagirs to courtiers and officers for maintenance and upkeep of troops for the service of the sovereign, brought into being another class of intermediaries who became virtual owners of the jagirs, which soon enough became hereditary These jagirdars were the forerunners, of the landed gentry who later came to be known as local potentates popularly known as rajas of Azamgarh.

With the decay of Mughal authority, local subedars and jagirdars including the *chakladar*,(who was in possession of this tract, till its cessation to the East India Company in 1801), collected from the talukadars under him, revenue which was paid directly into their treasuries. In course of time, the main interest of the nawab came to be limited to securing an assured income from the contractors of revenue whose activities they could not and therefore, did not control.

The contract or *mustajiri* system, produced a class of professional contractors, hardly having any sympathy with the cultivators. They offered high bids, for which they were more than re-imbursed themselves, by exacting as much as possible from the people. The *chakledar's* office became more or less hereditary and these officers assumed the role of landed barons and as they were allowed to build forts (garhis) and maintain troops, they coerced not only the small zamindars and cultivators, but also assisted the authority of the sultans. The more unsettled the conditions grew, the larger became the members of troops engaged by them, and the greater their exactions from the cultivators for maintenance their private armies.

Consolidation of Holdings

The U.P. Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1953, (Act V of 1954) provides for the consolidation of scattered and small holdings. It was enforced in the district in March 1955 with the commencement of these operations in tahsil Azamgarh covering 899 villages with an area of 78,666 ha. In October, 1960, these proceedings were started in tahsil Muhammadabad covering 927 villages over an area of 86,879 ha. These proceedings were next started in 1964 in tahsil Lalganj covering 528 villages and further in July 1968 in 230 villages of tahsil Sagri. Operations under this scheme were enforced in 1972 in tahsil Ghosi, the total number of villages covered being 650 with an area of 68,486 ha. The tahsil of Phulpur came under the review of this scheme in October, 1969 over 1,037 villages with an area of 98,195 ha.

The U.P. Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1952

The Bhoodan movement initiated in 1951 in Uttar Pradesh by Acharya Vinoba Bhave, aimed at obtaining gifts of land for redistribution among landless.

The area donated for this purpose in the district was 3,352 ha. The State Government has passed the U.P. Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1952 and an area of 3,344 ha. of land has been distributed to landless persons under the provisions of this Act.

Imposition of Ceilings on Land Holdings

The U.P. Agricultural Income Tax Act, 1948, was passed in excess of Rs 4,200 per annum. The tax was not payable by a land holder if he did not cultivate more than 30 acres (12 ha.) of land. This Act was replaced by the U.P. Large Land Holdings Tax Act, 1957, which imposed a tax on all land holdings the annual value of which exceeded Rs 3,600. A land holder who did not cultivate more than 30 acres (12 ha.) of land

was exempted from the payment of tax under this Act also. The tax was levied on a graduated scale so that larger the holding the greater the incidence of the tax.

As a step towards social and economic justice by way of providing land to the landless and the agricultural labourers and distributing the land more equitably, the Uttar Pradesh Imposition of Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1960, was enforced in the district in 1961. It replaced the U.P. Large Land Holdings Tax Act, 1957. Under this Act, the maximum area of a holding was fixed at 16.19 ha. of fair quality land. If, however, the number of members of the land holder's family was more than five, he was allowed to retain, for each additional member, an area of 3.25 ha. of land, subject to a maximum of 9.72 ha. of such additional area. All the surplus land held by a tenure holder in excess of the ceiling area was vested in the State Government, the tenure holders being entitled to receive compensation. The number of land-holders affected by the provisions of the Act was 139, and an area of 859 ha. of land was declared surplus. An amount of Rs 10,874 was paid as ceiling compensation of which a sum of Rs 5,200 was in bonds. An area of 663 ha. of land has been settled with landless persons in the district.

Administration Of Other Taxes

In this district as elsewhere in the State, the other main sources of revenue are excise, sales tax, stamp duties, registration, tax on motor vehicles, income-tax , etc.

Excise

Since the beginning of British rule, in the district the right to produce and sell country spirit, hemp drugs and other intoxicants was leased out annually to contractors and the receipts formed part of the revenues of the government. In 1861 the system was altered with the introduction of the ordinary distillery system in the district. The system continued till 1876-77 when the modified distillery system was introduced. The latter replaced the former system, wherein central distilleries were set up at certain places, usually at tahsil headquarters, for licenced distillers, who manufactured liquor in these distilleries under government supervision and paid a fixed still head duty. Under the modified distillery system on the other hand, single licences were granted for the monopoly of manufacture and vending of liquor within specified tracts, but all the liquor had to be manufactured in a government distillery under the same rules as under the ordinary distillery system. In 1833, however the modified distillery system was once more replaced by the ordinary distillery system, four distilleries being established at Azamgarh, Mahul, Sagri and Muhammadabad. No change of system had taken place in Azamgarh since that year, though the local distilleries had been abolished and replaced by large central distilleries at fixed centres. Here liquor was manufactured by licenced distillers, the buildings being secured by police guards and under the supervision of excise inspectors. The bulk of the country liquor consumed in Azamgarh was supplied from the central distillery at Jaunpur, the still head duty on liquor issued for consumption in the district being Rs 2.50

per gallon of London proof spirit and Rs 1.87 per gallon of spirit 25 under proof. For the convenience of licenced vendors in the district, a bonded warehouse was established at Azamgarh, to which liquor could be conveyed under bond from a central distillery and sold to the shop keepers in the vicinity on payment of duty. Initially, during the present century, the power of the collector was delegated to a senior deputy collector in respect of excise revenues of the State, designated as district excise officer. However, since 1973, a superintendent of excise supervises the work in the district.

Central Excise

For purposes of Central excise administration, the district falls in the range of the assistant excise commissioner, varanasi. The district is divided into three circles : circle I comprising tahsils Azamgarh and Phulpur, circle II comprising tahsil Muhammadabad and Lalganj; and circle III included tahsils Ghosi and Sagri. Each of these circles is supervised by an excise inspector.

Liquor—Liquor is supplied to the district under the central supply system. These supplies are made through bonded warehouses located at Azamgarh which receive the supply from distilleries. Plain liquor is priced at Re 0.40 per bulk litre and spiced liquor at Re 0.46 per litre. There are 58 liquor shops in the district.

The consumption of country liquor from 1964-65 to 1975-76 was as under :

Year	Quantity (in A.L. Gallons)
1964—65	1,79,280
1965—66	1,99,089
1966—67	1,37,197
1967—68	1,45,284
1968—69	1,50,440
1969—70	1,46,417
1970—71	1,46,134
1971—72	1,62,225
1972—73	1,72,763
1973—74	1,97,818
1974—75	1,98,928
1975—76	2,04,681

Opium—Opium is used by addicts and is also used for medicinal purposes. In the past it was also smoked in forms called *chandu* and *madak* but now smoking of opium is an offence punishable under the U.P. Opium Smoking Act, 1934. The open sale of opium has been prohibited in the State from April, 1959. The sale was permissible only to those who held a certificate from the chief medical officer of the district. In 1975—76, there was no registered addict in the district.

Hemp Drugs—Hemp drugs known as charas ganja and bhang constituted items of excise revenue in the past. The consumption of charas was however, stopped in the distrct and presently it has no shops selling charas. The supply of bhang is received from various parts of the district where collection is allowed by the excise department. It is received in the district under the contract supply system in bonded warehouses. Licenced vendors receive their supplies from the bonded warehouses after depositing the price and duty money in sub-treasury. Retail sale is done at the licenced shpos settled under the auction system. In 1975-76 there were 38 shpos selling bhang in the district of which 9 were located at Azamgarh 8 in Phulpur, 5 in Lalganj, 9 in Muhammadabad, 11 in Ghosi and 7 Sagri. The following statement shows the consumption of bhang in the district from 1964—65 to 1975—76 :

Year	Consumption of bhang (in kgs)
1964—65	2,444
1965—66	2,681
1966—67	2,879
1967—68	3,182
1968—69	3,222
1969—70	2,880
1970—71	2,902
1971—72	2,888
1972—73	2,951
1973—74	2,801
1974—75	2,984
1975—76	3,388

Ganja was being sold at 11 shops in the district, of which 5 were located at Azamgarh, 3 at Phulpur and 3 at Ghosi. The consumtion figures of ganja from 1964—65 to 1967—68 was less than 10 kg. in each year. It was 3 kg. in 1972-73 and no consumption in all other years between 1964—65 and 1975—76.

Excise Revenue—The excise revenue from 1964-65 to 1975-76 is shown in the following statement :

Year	Revenue (in Rupees)			
	Country spirit	Foreign liquor	Drugs	Tari
1964—65	15,32,604	—	81,959	3,20,835
1965—66	17,37,992	4,917	75,082	83,814
1966—67	22,30,788	8,026	84,270	4,28,114
1967—68	26,97,176	2,722	95,727	4,34,394
1968—69	31,98,781	2,343	99,254	4,74,383
1969—70	33,59,830	2,886	1,02 260	4,81,955
1970—71	36,94,389	1,796	1,07,381	5,03,155
1971—72	40,30,936	2,120	1,12,604	5,07,324
1972—73	42,62,864	7,373	1,12,447	4,83,844
1973—74	47,24,115	14,382	1,13,567	5,07,306
1974—75	60,53,280	28,560	1,09,056	5,12,849
1975—76	71,80 640	34,906	1,28,654	6,35,225

Sales Tax

Sales tax is levied under the U.P. Sales Tax, Act, 1948, and also under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1957. The former has been amended from time to time to make certain changes in the limits of taxable turnover. Cloth, sugar and tobacco have been exempted from sales tax since July 1, 1958. For purposes of administration of this tax, a sales tax officer is posted at Azamgarh.

The number of assessees and the amount of tax collected in respect of important commodities in 1975—76 are given in the following statement.

Commodity	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (in rupees)
Food grains	120	3,26,674
Kirana	62	2,29,590
General merchandise	63	5,560
Cloth	234	n.a.
Silk yarn	38	2,69,800
Iron and Steel	48	1,53,230
Coal	31	23,600
Timber	13	5,220
Ornaments	78	30,510
Medicine	99	1,45,301
Brassware	12	6,360
Machine tool parts	59	1,21,220
Cotton thread	202	29,27,926
Bricks	169	2,59,660
Sweet-meats	20	19,260
Oilseed	20	20,222

The following statement shows total amount of tax collected in the district from 1968—69 to 1974—75:

Year	Amount (in rupees)
1968—69	20,43,768
1969—70	25,94,862
1970—71	27,14,527
1971—72	31,97,042
1972—73	44,43,850
1973—74	46,20,713
1974—75	60,28,541

Entertainment Tax

Entertainment tax in the district is realised from cinemas, circuses, *nautankis*, (indigenous open air theatrical performances), etc. The district magistrate is responsible for the enforcement of the U.P. Entertainments and Betting Tax Act, 1937. The Act authorises the levy of tax on a graduated scales according to the value of the payment made for admission to any entertainment. Provision has also been made for exemption of those items of entertainment, the proceeds of which are devoted to objects which are of an educational, cultural or scientific character. The entertainemt tax officer, under the control of the district magistrate, is in charge of realising the tax which is collected through an entertainment tax inspector.

The collection from this source between 1970—71 and 1974—75 was as under:

Year	Amount (in rupees)
1970—71	6,43,424
1971—72	8,25,886
1972—73	10,03,834
1973—74	10,78,776
1974—75	15,03,717

Stamp

Stamps are classified as judicial and non-judicial, under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899. The former are affixed where court fee is to be paid and the latter on bills of exchange, receipts involving a sum of more than Rs 20 and documents in respect of which stamp duty is payable. Income from this source also includes fines and penalties realised under the Act.

Receipts under this head during 1971–72 and 1975–76 were as follows :

Year	Sale (in rupees)	
	Judical	Non-judical
1971—72	7,25,585	3,14,890
1972—73	6,57,361	2,54,819
1973—74	7,13,845	2,56,692
1974—75	6,02,830	2,44,337
1975—76	4,66,885	2,50,667

Registration

Documents such as instruments of gifts, sale or lease of immovable property, instruments relating to shares in a joint-stock company, and wills, have to be registered under the Indian Registration Act, 1908. Since 1975 an additional district magistrate (finance and revenue) is the district registrar. Registration is done at the headquarters of each tahsil where a sub-registrar is provided for the purpose. The number of registrations and income from these between 1970–71 and 1975–76 were as follows :

Year	No of registrations	Income (in rupees)
1	2	3
1970—71	18,377	4,82,530
1971—72	21,711	4,68,159
1972—73	11,104	3,84,029
1973—74	17,212	6,63,842
1974—75	18,561	7,92,241
1975—76	16,671	9,15,090

Tax on Motor Vehicles

Taxes on motor vehicles in the district are levied under the U.P. Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1935 (Act V of 1935), and the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (Act IV of 1939). The regional transport officer, Gorakhpur region with headquarters at Gorakhpur, is in charge of this district. In 1975–76 a sum of Rs 59,24,343 was realised under this head in the whole region.

Under the provisions of the U.P. Motor Gadi (Yatri-Kar) Adhiniyam, 1962, tax was imposed on passengers travelling in public or private motor vehicles plying on hire. In 1975–76 a sum of Rs 13,24,[illegible] was collected under this head in the region. The Motor Gadi (Mal-

Kar) Adhiniyam, 1964, provides for the levy of a tax on goods carried by motor vehicles and in 1975—76, a sum of Rs 15,71,881 was collected in the whole region including the district from this source.

Income-tax

This is one of the most important of the Central Government taxes. For purposes of collection of the tax the district has an income-tax officer, assisted by an income tax inspector.

The following statement shows the number of assessees and the amount collected from them as income-tax between 1971–72 and 1975–76 :

Year	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (in lakh rupees)
1	2	3
1971—72	2,765	11,06
1972—73	5,018	26,21
1973—74	4,350	55,54
1974—75	4,446	41,21
1975—76	5,195	30,50

The taxes imposed under the provisions of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957 and the Gift Tax Act, 1958, are also collected by the income-tax department. The following statement gives the numbers of assessees and the amounts of wealth-tax and gift-tax collected in the district between 1971-72 and 1975–76 :

Year	Wealth tax		Gift tax	
	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (to the nearest thousand Rs)	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (to the nearest thousand Rs)
1	2	3	4	5
1971—72	51	29,000	19	5,000
1972—73	75	70,000	33	9,000
1973—74	119	85,000	109	15,000
1974—75	103	74,000	43	15,000
1975—76	105	88,000	47	12,000

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

LAW AND ORDER

Early History

In ancient times, the inhabitants of the region covered by the present district were colectively responsible for the maintenance of peace and prevention of crime in their localities. *Rakshaks* (guards) were appointed in each village to guard the public property and in case of failure, they were held personally liable to make the loss good to the loser. With the growth of feudal institution the responsibility for maintaining peace devolved on the landlords, though the institution of *rakshak* was retained. During the Muslim rule, *kotwals* (chiefs of police) were appointed in the towns and were paid monthly allowance to meet the expenses on their staff of chowkidars and peons. In the 16th century, it was the duty of the *faujdar* to maintain peace, keep the roads free from robbers and to enforce imperial regulations. To assist him thanadars were appointed. During the 17th and 18th centuries when the rajas of Azamgarh were in their heyday, a number of *thanas* (outposts) protected by small mud forts, were established in the different parganas and occupied by the raja's police officials. The most eastern of these *thanas* was Madhuban in Pargana Nathupur and the most western was at Gohnarpur in pargana Atraulia. In each *thana* a thanadar was appointed who besides performing the duty of maintaining peace, also collected the revenue from the village zamindars and remitted it to Azamgarh.

After the cession of Azamgarh district by the nawab of Avadh to the East India Company at the end of 1801, Azamgarh presented many problems concerning law and order. The commonest form of crime prevalent in the district was theft. Another most remarkable form of crime was the prevalence of offences against the public tranquillity and criminal trespass. This was due partly to outbreaks of religious fanaticism between the Hindus and Muslims particularly in the Muhammadabad tahsil, and partly to disputes regarding landed property. The landholders of the district were particularly tenacious of their rights and were quick to resent any supposed or real encroachment. Offences affecting life were not uncommon, and some cases of violent crime such as robbery and dacoity were noticeable. A considerable number of persons, however, had to be bound over to keep the peace or to be of good behaviour. Much of the petty theft and house burglary was committed by the Bhars and Doms.

In early times the practice of female infanticide was very prevalent in Azamgarh. In 1836 the first repressive measures were taken after the introduction of Act VIII of 1870. Under the provisions of the Act a few families residing in the district were proclaimed as belonging to clans

suspected of practising female infanticide, but no comprehensive steps were taken to deal with the whole matter of female infanticide until 1888. By 1891 the practice of female infanticide disappeared in the district.

After Independence, crime figures recorded considerable increase partly due perhaps to better reporting of cases by the police, checking of miscellaneous crimes by intensive patrolling, close surveillance of bad characters and recourse to preventive measures bringing more offenders to book. Public meetings, processions, demonstrations, strikes and students agitations which are constant fratures of a domocratic society also keep the district police and magistracy busy. The panchayats' elections and general elections also occupy the attention of the authorities. Before every election, the activities of all political parties, viz., processions, meetings, etc., often pose fresh problems to the police. The situation has been successfully handled at every occasion since 1952.

The statistics of serious offences committed in the district between 1972–76 are given in the following statement:

Offences	Number of persons convicted in				
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
1	2	3	4	5	6
Against public tranquillity	1,852	2,950	601	3,367	3,465
Affecting life	91	166	112	173	132
Grievious hurt	113	359	163	273	388
Rape	—	2	—	1	2
Cattle theft	20	52	48	57	61
Criminal force and assault	—	2	6	4	—
Theft	191	240	140	275	302
Robbery and dacoity	10	79	58	77	73
Receiving stolen property	—	1	—	—	—
Criminal trespass	101	178	92	267	260

Organisation of Police

In the earliest days of British rule no proper police force existed. In the regulation which prescribed the arrangements for the first Settlement it was laid down that the zamindars who paid their revenue direct into the collector's treasury, should be responsible for maintaining an efficient police in their estates. The same enactment provided that the tahsildars should be bound to maintain an efficient police force within their respective jurisdictions from a ten per cent allowance on their collections. The police arrangements of the cities and large markets, however, the government took upon itself. This arrangement remained in force till

1807, when the *dahyak* tahsildars, as they were called, because of the ten per cent allowance, were abolished. Regulation XIV of that year provided that the charge of the police should be rested, subject to the control of the magistrates, in special officers to be appointed by the government and in subordination to them in the landholders and farmers. The district was then first divided into compact police jurisdiction, police establishments being set up, both in the cities and villages, consisting of a darogha and a staff of jamadars, *barkandazes* and chowkidars. Regulation XX of 1817 first laid down rules and orders governing the conduct of officers in charge of police-stations and their subordinates, and their powers and duties in respect of offences committed within the limits of their jurisdiction. The system adopted in 1817 was retained with few modifications until 1861. The struggle for freedom of 1857 caused a general break-up of the whole police force, which was afterwards reconstituted on a new basis. The district police became a provincial body and was placed under a superintendent. Since that time circles have been increased in number and their boundaries rearranged with a view to securing better control over crime.

As constituted in 1881 there were 23 police-stations and 4 out-posts in Azamgarh district. The former comprised Azamgarh, Sarai Mir, Gambhirpur, Nizamabad, Mehnagar, Bardah, Tarwa, Deogaon, Ahraula, Atraulia, Pawai, Didarganj, Kandharapur, Maharajganj, Sagri, Raunapar, Mau, Muhammadabad, Jahanaganj, Chiriakot, Dohri, Ghosi and Madhuban. The out-posts were located at Mubarakpur, Kopaganj, Rani Ki Sarai and Koelsa. But this arrangement did not remain in force for long. In 1905 a scheme for reallocation of the police circles and rearrangements of boundaries was proposed. Mubarakpur was new police-station replacing the old out-post. Mehnagar circle was merged in the circles of Gambhirpur, Pawai and Nizamabad. The Sagri circle was divided and attached to two circles of Dohrighat and Mubarakpur.

In 1908 the regular civil police force comprised 56 subinspectors, 36 head constables and 294 men. Of this force 50 subinspectors, 23 head constables and 220 men were distributed at various police-stations, while 6 subinspectors, 13 head constables and 74 men were in reserve at Azamgarh. The armed police were comprised of a force of 137 men of all grades; of these 9 head constables and 35 men were on fixed guards and other duties at the various stations, while one subinspector, 6 head constables and 86 men were held in reserve at headquarters. Besides these, there was a municipal police force at Azamgarh, consisting of 6 head constables and 30 men, who were eventually absorbed in the civil police. The strength of chowkidars was 2,219.

The political, communal, criminal and other type of situations arising from time to time in the district have taxed the resources of the local police and magistracy heavily. As a result of which additional posts of officers have been sanctioned and new police-stations have been opened. All police-stations have now been linked with radio and telephone to increase the inter-communication facilities.

At present the district is included in the police range Gorakhpur under the charge of a deputy inspector general of police with head-quarters at Gorakhpur. The district police administration is headed by a

superintendent of police, who is responsible for its efficiency, discipline and proper performance of its duties. His jurisdiction extends to the whole of Azamgarh district. Besides him there are an additional superintendent of police, an assistant superintendent of police and three deputy superintendents of police.

Details of police circles, police-stations and out-posts are detailed below :

Police circle	Police-station	Outpost
Kotwali	Kotwali	Sidhari Paharpur Badarka Elwal
	Nizamabad	—
	Kandharapur	Mubarakpur
	Mubarakpur	Gajhera
Sadar	Gambhirpur	—
	Deogaon	Lalganj
	Tarwa	—
	Chiriakot	Jahanaganj
	Muhammadabad	Muhammadabad
	Mehnagar	—
Ahraula	Ahraula	Phulpur
	Pawai	Ambari
	Sarai Mir	—
	Atraulia	—
	Maharajganj	Captainganj
	Bardah	—
	Didarganj	—
Mau	Ghosi	Amilaj
	Mau	Sarhu
		Sarai Lakhansi Dakhintola Khiribagh
	Madhuban	Bellauli Dubari
	Dohrighat	Surajpur
	Jianpur	—
Kopaganj	Raunapar	—

The police force is divided into two broad divisions, civil police and armed police. The present strength of police personnel in the district is given in the following statement.

	Inspector	Sub-inspector	Reserve sub-inspector	Head constable	Constable
Civil Police					
Permanent	2	45	—	64	571
Temporary	—	34	—	19	167
Armed Police					
Permanent	1	1	—	34	149
Temporary	—	—	—	4	1

Prosecuting Unit—There is a prosecution branch which has been separated from the regular police and placed under the charge of the district magistrate since April 1, 1974. The duty of the prosecution staff is to conduct criminal proceedings on behalf of the State before the magistrates and also to advise the investigating officers on legal matters, arising in the course of investigation of crimes.

Details of prosecution staff in the district are given below :

Prosecution staff	Prosecuting officer	Assistant prosecuting officer	Head constable	Constable
Permanent	1	8	10	3
Temporary	—	2	—	—

There is one unit named the special investigation section in the district. It conducts investigations of such criminal cases, which are entrusted to this unit exclusively by the superintendent of police. Besides the above, there is one anti-corruption officer equal to the rank of deputy superintendent of police at range headquarters at Gorakhpur This district falls under his jurisdiction and he conducts enquiries of cases of corruption of police department.

Village Police

The village chowkidars, who are part-time servants, are the only police agency in the villages. Their main duty is watch and ward, but they are also required to help during investigation. They are appointed by the district magistrate, while the control and supervision over them rests with the superintendent of police. There were 1,416 village chowkidars in the district in 1976.

Pradeshik Vikas Dal

This disciplined body of volunteers was set up in the district originally under the name of Prantiya Rakshak Dal to mobilize manpower, carry out youth welfare activities in the rural areas and prepare village

people for self defence. It also performs civil defence duties like guarding, assisting police in traffic control, preventing looting, fire-fighting, etc.

The paid staff in the district consists of a district organizer, one physical training teacher and 29 block organizers. The unpaid staff comprises one *halka sardar* (circle leader) in each *nyaya* panchayat circle, one *dalpati* (group leader), one *toli nayak* (section leader), ten *rakshak* (guards) and one block commander in each *gaon sabha* area. The strength of Yuwak Mangal Dal is 2,831.

Village Defence Societies

These organization are purely non-official and have been set-up to protect villagers especially against dacoits. The members are trained to stand up against undesirable elements in society in defence of life and property. In 1976, there were in the district 4,080 village defence societies, of which 411 were formed in that year. So far, on 18 occasions the members of village defence societies resisted the dacoits in the villages with the result that 12 dacoits were killed on the spot and 22 injured. In these encounters 5 members of the village defence societies were also killed by the dacoits and 38 were injured.

Government Railway Police

The government railway police is a part of a separate State police organisation, working under a deputy inspector general (railways) at the State level. Its main duty is to maintain order at railway stations and in trains, control railway passenger traffic, assist the special railway magistrate in the prevention of ticketless travel, control and investigate crime within railway precincts, deal with cases of accidents and attend to security arrangements when required. The government railway police station at Mau railway station and outpost at Azamgarh railway station are under the administrative control of a superintendent of police designated as section officer (railways) of the government railway police of the Gorakhpur section with headquarters at Gorakhpur. The staff at Mau comprises two subinspectors, one assistant subinspector, one head constable and 16 constables. The Azamgarh outpost is manned by one subinspector, one head constable and nine constables.

District Jail and Lock-ups

District Jail—The institution of jails is a part of the judicial system. The district jail is located at Azamgarh and is under the charge of the superintendent, extra duties being assigned to deputy chief medical officer. Other staff consists of one jailor, who is in charge of office, one deputy jailor, three assistant jailors, one assistant medical officer, one compounder and one education teacher. The inspector general of prisons, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow is the administrative head of the department.

The district jail has provision for accommodating 319 prisioners. Its average daily population from 1970 to 1974 is given below :

Year	Daily average population	
	Convicts	Under trial prisoners
1970	78	254
1971	88	235
1972	90	227
1973	57	352
1974	58	426

The main industrial work carried on in the jail in which the inmates are employed are making of moonj-mats and *moonj*-bedding. The inmates are also engaged in the jail garden. The prisoners were previously classified in 'A','B' and 'C' classes. In 'A' and 'B' classes prisoners of high status were kept. Ordinary prisoners were kept in 'C' class. Now this classification has been converted into superior and ordinary classes only.

Welfare of Prisoners

The living conditions of the prisoners have improved since Independence. Regular wages are paid to them for their labour. They take part in constructive activities and are supplied newspapers and other periodicals. They are provided recreational and medical facilities too. All the prisoners are provided special diets on main festivals. Sick prisoners are looked after by the medical officer who prescribes them special diet also during the period of illness. There is panchayat system in jail. *Panchas* are selected by them from amongst themselves. They look after the cleanliness, and preparation of food in kitchen.

Visitors

The ex-officio visitors of the jail are the director of medical and public health services, U.P., the commissioner of the Gorakhpur Division, the district and sessions judge and the district magistrate.

Non-official Visitors

All the members of State legislature belonging to this districts are the members of the standing committee on the jails. The chairman of the central committee of the Uttar Pradesh Apradh Nirodhak Samiti, chairman of the municipal board and the Adhyaksha, Zila Parishad are the non-official visitors of the jail.

Lock-ups

There are two judicial lock-ups one is located in collectorate and the other in the civil court compound. Prosecuting officer is the in charge of both lock-ups. About 30 under trials are accomodated in each

lock-up. Under trials brought from jail to attend courts for hearing of their own cases are kept in lock-ups. At the headquarters of each tahsil, there is a revenue lock-up, usually a small room, to detain persons arrested for non-payment of government dues. Such defaulters may be detained for a maximum period of 14 days at a time.

JUSTICE

Early History

The administration of justice under Hindu monarchy remained always separate from executive and mostly independent in form and spirit. In Vedic period the law courts were known as Sabhas. The Mauryan period fills a gap between two great epochs of law making activity in ancient times, namely, that of the principal Dharma Sutra and of the Arthshastra codes of state law on the one hand and that of Manu's code on the other hand. The few references of Magasthnese's work about the penalties for offences current in Chandra Gupta's times breathe the spirit of the penal law of the period. One of the means of ascertaining guilt was the ordeal used in both civil and criminal cases. Mutilation of the offending limb was a common penalty for many crimes. Besides Dharma, there were other bases of Law, Contract, custom and royal ordinance. The judges were appointed from amongst the Brahmanas and were fairly above the influence of the king. Records of cases were kept. Many years before the British introduced their own laws, the Muhammadan law of crime was enforced in this region as in the other parts. The *qazi* (judge) was the administrator of Islamic law, both civil and criminal, based on Quranic principles. By the close of the 19th century sufficient uniformity in the substantive and procedural laws of the country was achieved by the passing of the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the like.

Executive Magistrate

In the pre-Independence period the district was in the charge of magistrate and collector, who was under the control of the Divisional Commissioner with headquarters at Gorakhpur. The sactioned magisterial and revenue staff consisted of six subdivisional officers. This number increased, in due course of times, to eight officers —one joint magistrate and seven deputy collectors—with first class magisterial and revenue powers. In addition there were six tahsildars who exercised second or third class magisterial powers and second class revenue powers in their respective tahsils. Apart from this, there were 11 honorary and special magistrates, nine honorary assistant collectors and a second class bench at Azamgarh. The number of honorary magistrates fluctuated from time to time and recently these posts have been abolished.

Civil Justice

The civil courts are functioning in the district from before 1857. In the first quarter of the 19th century the district comprised the judgeship of Azamgarh with one sub-judge and three *munsifs* (city *munsif*, *munsif* Tawali and *munsif* Mahmudabad). Later on one sub-judge and two *munsifs* were further added in the sanctioned strength. There-

after, there has been gradual increase in the number of civil courts. The present staff for civil work consist of a district judge who is also the administrative head of the district judicial courts, three additional district judges, a civil judge, three munsifs and two additional *munsifs*.

The position of case work in the civil courts in the year 1974 was as follows :

Cases	Number
Pending at the beginning of the year	4,611
Instituted during the year	2,028
Disposed of during the year	1,768
Pending at the end of the year	4,871
Number of suits instituted for immovable property	462
Number of suits instituted for money or movable property	1,042
Number of mortgage suits	2
Matrimonial suits	14

The number of suits instituted in 1974, according to valuation were as given below :

Valuation	Number of suits
Not exceeding Rs 100	50
Exceeding Rs 100 but not exceeding Rs 1,000	1,878
Exceeding Rs 1,000 but not exceeding Rs 5,000	348
Exceeding Rs 5,000 but not exceeding Rs 10,000	172
Exceeding Rs 10,000 but not exceeding Rs 20,000	44
Exceeding Rs 20,000 but not exceeding Rs 5 lakhs	30
Exceeding Rs 5 lakhs	6
The total value of suits instituted in 1974 amounted to Rs 64,88,836	

Details of the modes of disposal of suits in 1974, were as follows:

Manner of disposal	Number of suits
Dismissed for default	509
Otherwise decided without trial	217
Decreed *exparte*	243
On admission of claims	17
On compromise	287
On reference to arbitration	2

The position of regular civil appeals instituted and disposed of in 1974 in the district was as given below :

Nature of appeal	Instituted	Disposed of
Regular civil appeals	362	554
Miscellaneous civil appeals	172	150
Regular rent appeals	19	8
Miscellaneous rent appeals	—	—

Criminal Justice

At present the district and sessions judge constitutes the chief criminal court of the district. He is assisted by three additional sessions judges, two assistant sessions judges, three *munsif* magistrates a chief judicial magistrate and six judicial magistrates each exercising his jurisdiction in one of the six tahsils of the district.

Details of criminal cases committed to the sessions in the year 1972, 1973 and 1974 are given below :.

Nature of offence	Year		
	1972	1973	1974
Affecting life	103	146	284
Kidnapping and forcible abduction	8	4	15
Hurt	8	4	24
Rape	2	1	9
Unnatural offences	—	—	—
Extortion	—	—	—
Robbery and dacoity	58	74	157
Other cases	12	44	72
Under Arms Act	2	16	16
Under Prevention of Corruption Act	1	1	1

Some details of persons tried and sentenced in the criminal cases in sessions and lower courts from 1972 to 1974 in the district are as under :

Sessions Courts

Persons tried/sentenced	Year		
	1972	1973	1974
Persons tried	641	977	1,306
Capital punishment	3	—	3
Life imprisonment	49	54	170
Rigorous imprisonment	123	220	286
Simple imprisonment	—	—	—
Fined only	3	21	19

Lower Courts

Persons tried/sentenced	Year		
	1972	1973	1974
Persons tried	16,804	16,874	18,374
Rigorous imprisonment	304	187	171
Simple imprisonment	406	61	14
Fined only	2,826	2,168	1,159
Other punishments	177	259	285

The position regarding cognizable crimes under the Indian Penal Code and the special Acts from 1972 to 1976 was as follows :

Year	Cases reported to police	Cases investigated	Cases sent to courts	Cases pending in courts at the beginning of year	Cases disposed of		
					Convicted	Discharged	Compounded
1972	4,667	5,217	1,578	2,760	228	856	121
	115	1,233	1,155	1,030	382	142	—
1973	4,773	5,652	1,759	3,633	488	654	161
	1,504	1,555	1,415	1,661	871	207	—
1974	5,211	6,310	1,736	4,089	200	410	147
	1,384	1,481	1,355	1,998	976	217	—
1975	5,279	6,488	1,884	4,966	490	635	250
	1,958	2,045	1,891	2,160	1,053	479	—
1976	4,630	5,164	1,728	5,475	612	750	237
	2,035	2,151	2,045	2,519	1,098	158	—

N.B.—The numerator represents numbers of offences under the I.P.C. and the denominator that of offences under special Acts.

The number of cases relating to important crimes like murder, dacoity, robbery, etc., with details of convictions and acquittals from 1972 to 1976, were as given in the following statement :

Crime		1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Murder	Reported	88	101	88	92	82
	Convicted	12	28	23	29	23
	Acquitted	22	88	20	33	20
Dacoity	Reported	178	174	221	222	142
	Convicted	—	15	8	17	13
	Acquitted	8	34	13	50	43
Robbery	Reported	176	183	205	209	178
	Convicted	2	7	6	10	22
	Acquitted	9	24	15	26	34
Riot	Reported	441	450	535	523	553
	Convicted	28	134	54	88	100
	Acquitted	37	81	59	66	91
Theft	Reported	1,595	1,580	1,762	1,754	1,330
	Convicted	47	67	85	17	123
	Acquitted	83	101	96	121	189
Burglary	Reported	1,222	1,239	1,269	1,236	958
	Convicted	43	79	38	80	136
	Acquitted	50	85	56	88	138
Kidnapping and sex crimes (under sections 376 and 377, I.P.C.)	Reported	21	32	47	50	60
	Convicted	3	3	—	7	1
	Acquitted	5	13	6	13	12

The following statement shows the cognizable crimes investigated by the police in the district and result thereof from 1972-1976 :

Year	Number of cases investigated by police			Number of persons		
	Suo motu	By order of magistrate	Sent up for trial	Tried	Acquitted or discharged	Convicted
1972	4,331	27	1,578	8,231	2,342	2,904
1973	4,675	35	1,759	8,792	2,881	3,105
1974	5,059	46	1,336	8,578	2,572	2,327
1975	5,118	51	1,884	9,367	2,757	3,085
1976	4,427	73	1,728	8,477	2,672	3,196

The collector of the district exercises first class magisterial powers under the designation of the district magistrate and as the head of the district, he has jurisdiction and control over the executive magistrates. The six subdivisional magistrates and an extra magistrate also exercise first class magisterial powers.

Statistics of cases in these courts and persons involved in them from 1972 to 1976 are as follows :

Nature of offences	1972		1973		1974		1975		1976	
	Cases instituted	Persons involved	Cases instituted	Persons involved	Cases instituted	Persons involved	Cases instituted	Persons involved	Cases instituted	Persons involved
Cases under Cr. P.C.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,893	5,716	2,060	88,762	3,080	12,232
Cases under special and local Acts	3,190	5,688	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,980	2,080	650	1,436	1,207	2,359

The following statement gives the number of persons tried and the nature of sentence awarded by the courts under the district magistrate from 1972 to 1976 :

Nature of sentence	Persons tried and sentenced				
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
1	2	3	4	5	6
Total number of persons tried	11,277	11,216	5,853	6,624	8,236
Rigorous imprisonment	5	4	2	1	—
Simple imprisonment	66	47	1	—	—
Fined only	1,767	1,794	927	183	414
Other punishments	348	381	137	89	214

Separation of Judiciary from Executive

The scheme of separation of judiciary from executive in the district was enforced on October 2, 1967. As a result of which the judicial magistrates were no longer subordinate to the district magistrate as before, and they were placed under the subordination of the district and sessions judge. They tried all cases under the Indian Penal Code. This process received its culmination with the enforcement of the new Code of Criminal Procedure on April 1, 1974, which ensures an absolute separation of the judiciary from the executive. The new Code makes far reaching changes, among others, in the classification, nomenclature and powers of the courts. It also provides for simplifying the procedure with a view to speed up the course of trials and attempts to give a fair deal to those generally placed disadvantageously in trials before criminal courts. With the enforcement of the above Code the designation of the additional district magistrate (judicial) has been changed as chief judicial magistrate and along with other judicial magistrates, he has been placed under the control of the district and sessions judge. This has naturally added to the present strength of the courts under the district and sessions judge. Thus one chief judicial magistrate having territorial jurisdiction in the whole of the district and six judicial magistrates each exercising his jurisdiction in one of the six tahsils of the district, are now administering justice under the control of the district and sessions judge.

Nyaya Panchayats

For the purpose of associating people with the administration of justice and to facilitate cheap and quick justice to rural public, the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, established Panchayati Adalats on August 15, 1949. They were subsequently named as *nyaya* panchayats. The jurisdiction of a *nyaya* panchayat usually extends over an area of 5 to 10 Gaon Sabhas depending on the population of the constituent villages. Following are the tahsilwise numbers of the *nyaya* panchayats :

Tahsil	Number of *nyaya* panchayats
Azamgarh	49
Muhammadabad	49
Ghosi	50
Sagri	71
Phulpur	66
Lalganj	76
Total	361

Nyaya panchayats try cases under some specific sections of the Indian Penal Code, Cattle Trespass Act, U.P. Primary Education Act, Public Gambling Act, etc. They can also try petty civil cases.

The *panchs* of the *nyaya* panchayats are nominated by the district magistrate with assistance of an advisory body from amongst the members of the Gaon Panchayats. These *panchs* elect from amongst themselves the *sarpanch*, who is the presiding officer and a *sahayak* (assistant) *sarpanch*. The *panchs* are honorary workers and hold office for a period of five years. Their term can be extended by the State Government. A *nyaya* panchayat consists of one *sarpanch*, one assistant *sarpanch* and 10 to 25 *panchs*. The cases are heard by benches consisting of five *panchs* each. The presence of, at least three *panchs* including *sarpanch*, at each hearing is essential.

The *nyaya* panchayat also try civil suits up to a valuation of Rs 500 and revenue cases if parties concerned agree in writing to such a course. They are not authorised to award sentence of imprisonment and can impose fines only up to hundred rupees. Revision applications against their decision in civil, criminal and revenue cases lie to the *munsifs* and the subdivisional magistrates.

The number of cases instituted in the *nyaya* panchayats and disposed of by them during 1971 to 1975 are enumerated below :

Year	Cases pending in the beginning of the year	Cases instituted during the year	Cases disposed of
1971	251	155	286
1972	197	79	66
1973	337	11	26
1974	322	350	225
1975	522	323	456

District Bar Association, Azamgarh

Originally an association of bar in the collectorate court at Azamgarh was formed in the beginning of 1915 just after passing the Indian Companies Act(Act No71 of 1913). The memorandum of Association with the rules framed therein were sent for registration, but on 13th March 1915 the registrar, joint stock companies, U.P. Lucknow, objected with the remark that "It shall be registered with liabilities with the addition of the word 'limited' to its name". Again a fresh memorandum and rules were sent for registration which were registered on October 9, 1915 the and association was incorporated as a company, with limited guarantee and liabilities, but without the addition of the words limited to its name "the Bar Association of Azamgarh Collectorate Agra and Awadh".

In those days pleaders, mukhtars and revenue agents were practising in law and there were 32 directors of the said registered association and a chief executive director. As there was an open shed on pillars for sitting of the practitioners, and no proper building of the association was there, hence the office of the association was kept in town at the house of one of its members. After a couple of years a building with a hall and 16 rooms was constructed which is situated in the collectorate premises. The association is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Act No,. XXI of 1860) since September 19, 1953. At present there are 347 members of the association including advocates, pleaders and mukhtars.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Departments of the State Government dealing with general administration, revenue administration and law and order and justice, have already been dealt with in chapters X, XI and XII respectively and details of several other departments have been described at their proper places. The organizational set-up of some the departments like agriculture, soilconservation, animal husbandry, co-operatives, forest, horticulture, industries and public works is briefly discussed below:

Agriculture Department

The main functions of the department are to increase agricultural production besides training farmers in modern scientific techniques and to ensure adequate supply of requisite inputs such as improved seeds, chemical fertilisers, modern implements, insecticides and pesticides against cash or *taqavi* loans.

Customary services are also now arranged by way of hiring out tractors, threshers, etc., to the cultivators on nominal charges, Demonstrations are held at government and private farm centres to impart the latest know-how to cultivators. Short-term courses are also held periodically at the development block and village levels to disseminate knowledge of improved techniques of production. In the event of or outbreak of epidemic of any agricultural disease, the department takes necessary measures to combat the same rapidly.

For administrative purposes the district falls under the control of the deputy director of agriculture, having his headquarters at Gorakhpur. At the district level the district agriculture officer is in charge of the department, and is assisted by six additional district agriculture officers.

The activities of this department at the block development level are supervised by 30 assistant development officers (agriculture), responsible for agricultural development programme, like intensive cultivation, using improved seeds and manures, provision of technical support to various programmes, supervision of seed-stores and distribution of fertilisers, besides recovery of dues. He works under the supervision of the block development officer.

The district has 59 seed stores, located in the 29 blocks of the district, and one buffer godown at the district level. The assistant agriculture inspector in each seed store is responsible for the supervision of the seed store, besides his duties include supplying of seeds to cultivators and maintenance of accounts and records.

The oil-seeds extension inspector, assisted by three oil-seeds inspectors, and three oil-seeds supervisors, is responsible for oil-seeds, development work, supply of oil seeds, fertilisers and pesticides in the district.

They also render assistance in regard to demonstration of oil-seeds to popularise the newer varieties of seeds amongst the cultivators.

The jute development inspector, assisted by three assistant jute development inspectors along with nine jute *kamdars*, (labourers) supervises the extension and demonstration of jute cultivation, distribution of jute seeds to cultivators, and demonstration of crop cutting in the district.

Soil Conservation

Soil conservation scheme was started in the district in 1965 when two soil conservation units the Sarda Sahayak Prakshetra I and the Sarda Sahayak Prakshetra II were established.

The soil conservation units are under a soil conservation officer. He is assisted by five soil conservation inspectors, 25 assistant soil conservation inspectors and four survey mates. Every year new areas are selected for the purpose of soil conservation. The soil conservation officer prepares estimates of the income and expenditure of the new areas, the details of work to be undertaken and familiarises the cultivators with the programme.

The five soil conservation inspectors are responsible for planning, budgetting, measurement, evaluation and programmes in their respective sub-units. Besides the assistant soil conservation inspectors assist in the execution of masonry work and survey within their jurisdictions. Some junior engineers of the department are engaged in the preparation of plan estimates and execution of masonry work. Various other duties under the soil conservation scheme are construction of contour bunds and check dams, escapes, afforestation, etc., are also carried out by this department.

Animal Husbandry Department

The district falls under jurisdiction of the deputy director of animal husbandry posted at Gorakhpur. The district live-stock officer is incharge of this department at the district level, being responsible for improvements in breeds of cattle, poultry, prevention and treatment of their diseases, controlling possible out-breaks of epidemics among animals, implementation of plan schemes, helping in the execution of applied nutrition programme, and arranging for loans for poultry farming. He is assisted by one artificial insemination officer. At each block headquarters here is one veterinary hospital in the charge of an assistant surgeon. In addition to these there is one veterinary hospital located in the Azamgarh town which is in the charge of a senior veterinary assistant surgeon.

Co-operative Department

This department deals with the organisation, registration, supervision and working of various co-operative societies in the district, besides attending to administrative and statutory functions like supervision and control over departmental staff, and inspection of co-operative establishments.

The deputy registrar co-operative societies Gorakhpur, is the regional head of the department. At the district level the work is looked after by an assistant registrar co-operative societies, who exercises control over the staff of the department and supervises all activities pertaining to co-operative undertakings in the district.

Each of the 29 development blocks of the district has an assistant development officer (co-operatives), to supervise the co-operative activities inside the block. There are also three co-operative inspectors who are secretary-cum-managers in the marketing societies and four other inspectors are attached to the district office to look after the work relating to the societies running in the town.

The *gram sewak* (farming) and two farming supervisors are posted in the 24 co-operative farming societies. They render technical advice to the agriculturists and supervise the activities of the farming societies. There are 93 co-operative supervisors in the district of these 27 are posted at seed stores. Their duties include distribution of improved seeds, insecticides, fertilisers, agricultural implements etc., to agriculturists. As many as 59 co-operative supervisors are posted at credit circles to look after the credit activities of the societies; four are posted at large size societies as secretary-cum-managers and the remaining three are working as accountants in the marketing societies.

Forest Department

A new forest divisior has been created in Azamgarh since September, 1976, which is in the charge of a deputy conservator of forests, assisted by an assistant conservator, two range officers and nine forest guards. The new forest division has been set-up to implement the scheme of afforestation in barren lands of the *gaon sabhas* (village committees) and for plantation of trees along the road constructed by the public works department.

Horticulture Department

The department (originally affiliated to the department of agriculture) initially undertook the task of rejuvenation of old orchards through improved methods. It is now a separate department under a director at the State headquarters. The main functions of the department now are implementation of various horticulture schemes in the district, such as growing of nurseries on scientific lines. supply of plants, vegetable seeds, seedlings and providing technical guidance to horticulturists and vegetable growers. The department also supplies insecticides and pesticides for this purpose.

At the district level a senior horticulture inspector is responsible for the various horticultural schemes in the district. He is assisted by a senior potato development inspector, a district horticulture inspector, an assistant horticulture inspector and other staff. They supervise the layout of orchards, plant nurseries, supply vegetable soeds and seedlings and give technical guidance to cultivators.

Industries Department

The district falls within the Gorakhpur zone which is under the charge of a joint director of industries.

At the district level the department is headed by a district industries officer. He is assisted by a superintendent (utilization and recovery), two industries inspectors and other office staff.

The Government Pilot Workshop, Bhawar Nath, Azamgarh, has a training centre, which imparts training to electricians, mechanists, lather workers, fitters, moulders, motor mechanics, carpenters, and blacksmiths. The duration of the courses is two years. During the Fourth five-year Plan period 277 persons received training and 51 new units were set-up.

Handloom Industry

Handloom industry which was so far a subject dealt with by the directorate to of industries was also being looked after by the district industries officer. Since a separate directorate for handloom and textiles, has been created at the State level at Kanpur, the activities of this sector are now supervised by the director, handloom and textiles, Kanpur. At the regional level he is assisted by an assistant director and superintendent of production both having their headquarters at Mau. At the district level there are two textile inspectors, 10 supervisors and a power loom inspector, all stationed at Mau.

Public Works Department

The district forms part of a provincial division of the public works department which is placed under the charge of an executive engineer. The latter's jurisdiction extends to the whole of the district except the Varanasi-Gorakhpur National highway, which falls within Ghazipur division. The department is responsible for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and government buildings.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Azamgarh was part of the successive dominions of the Kosalas, the Nandas, the Mauryas, the Guptas and other Hindu rulers before it came under the Muslims. The Hindu polity always endeavoured to give considerable autonomy to local institutions like panchayats and functionaries like Gramika (village headman) and Gramavad in are mentioned in the ancient texts. It is reasonable to conclude that viable units of self-government functioned in villages and towns until, under the Muslim sway, they faded out for want of State patronage. In the absence of any specific reference regarding the existence of these institutions in this district it is not possible to delineate the earlier rise and fall of these institutions in this region. However, their growth after the British occupation of this region can be traced with some accuracy from the material contained in earlier gazetteers and other contemporary records.

The events of 1857, had an eye-opening influence on the British rulers and the subsequent years saw numerous steps being taken for decentralisation to usher in local self-government institutions in the rural and urban areas. The first provision for the rural areas was made after the passing of the N.W.P. and Oudh Local Rates Act, 1871, followed by the Local Boards Act of 1883, which also provided for the establishment of district and tahsil boards. The N.W.P. and Oudh Municipalities Act, 1883, gave greater autonomy and financial powers to the municipalities allowing them to contribute towards education from their own funds, in addition to their functions as before relating to sanitation, drainage, lighting, public health and regulation of markets. The most outstanding feature of the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, was the introduction of the system of communal representation in the municipal boards, separate seats being allotted to Muslims and Scheduled Castes. Women were also made eligible. But the control of government over the municipal boards including their dissolution and supersession remained intact. There was no major change in the constitution, powers and functions, etc., of the municipal boards till the achievement of Independence in 1947. By an amendment made in the Act in 1949, communal representation in the municipal elections was abolished, leaving only two categories namely the General and the Scheduled Castes, and the method of election was democratised through adult franchise. Another amendment, in 1953, changed the nomenclature of chairman of the board to president and provided for his direct election on an experimental basis. Later on, indirect elections were reintroduced and the municipal area was divided into wards which elected the members. This was followed by the U.P. Nagar Mahapalika Adhiniyam, 1959, which empowered the State Government to frame rules for centralisation of any post in the *mahapalikas* (corporations) and municipal boards.

The municipal board looks after the work of sanitation, water-supply, street lighting and public health besides the registration of births and deaths.

In 1975-76 there were 3 municipal boards, 8 town areas, 29 Kshetra Samitis, 2,330 *gaon* (village) panchayats and a Zila Parishad in the district.

Municipal Boards

Azamgarh

This municipal board is the oldest board of the district. This was the first municipality constituted on June 23rd, 1870, under Act VI of 1868. The U.P. Act I of 1900 vested further control in the board. At present it is administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, as amended from time to time. The board has 18 members elected through direct elections from 6 wards of the town. The members elect a chairman through a majority vote from amongst themselves for a period of 5 years. The area of the town at the 1971 census was 10.54 sq. km. with a population of 40,963 persons.

Water-supply—Piped supply of water was made available to the town in 1956. There is a tube-well with a storage capacity of 1,95,000 litres of water which is supplied for 14 hours daily to the residents. Total length of pipelines laid in 1974-75 was 54.95 km. about 1,57,64,886 litres of water was supplied in 1975-76, and a sum of Rs 2,27,663 was spent under this head.

Street-lighting—The town was electrified in 1937. There are 254 tube lights 1,321 electric lamp posts and 323 kerosene oil-lamps on public streets and lanes of the town. This work is looked after by an electrical inspector. A sum of Rs 91,979 was spent in 1975-76.

Public Health and Sanitation—The board has a staff of 181 persons who are in charge of the public health activities of the board. A sum of 8,83,345 was spent in 1975-76.

Parks—The board maintains 5 parks.

Library—The board maintains the Sri Hari Audh reading room.

The income and expenditure of the board from 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statements I (a) and (b) at the end of the chapter.

Maunath Bhanjan

The provisions of Act XX of 1856 were extended to this place in 1860. It remained subject to that Act till April 1st, 1908, when it was raised to the status of a notified area. In the year 1949 the place was further upgraded to the status of a class IV municipality. At present it is administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act 1916, as amended from time to time. The board has 25 elected and 5 nominated members elected from 10 wards of the town. The members elect a chairman

[illegible]

through a majority vote from amongst themselves for a period of 5 years. The area of the town at the 1971 census was 7.77 sq. km. with a population of 64,058 persons.

Water-supply—Piped supply of water was made available to the town in 1964-65. There is a tube-well with a storage capacity of 4,54,000 litres of water. Water is supplied to the residents at the rate of 59 litres per head per day, for 14 hours daily. The number of public and private water taps in the town was 102, and 1,644 respectively. About 7,61,918 kl of water was supplied in the said year. Length of pipelines laid by the board was 23.715 km. in 1975-76.

Street-lighting—The town was electrified in 1953. There were 670 electric and 500 oil lamps on public streets and lanes of the town in 1975-76.

The town has a total length of 72.71 kms. of drains within the municipal limits which serve an area of 7.77 sq. km. and 61 km. are flushed daily.

Municipal Library—The board maintains one library named Nagarpalika Pustakalaya run by the funds of the municipal board.

The income and expenditure of the municipal board from of 1967-68 to 1976-77 under various heads is given in Statements II (a) and (b) at the end of the chapter.

Mubarkpur

The provisions of Act XX of 1856 were extended to this place in 1860 and it remained subject to that Act until April 1st, 1908, when it was raised to the status of a notified area. On August 15, 1974, the town was further upgraded to a municipality. At present it is administered under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, as amended from time to time. The municipal committee in 1976 stood superseded. The area of the town at the 1971 census was 1.53 sq. km. with a population of 21,253.

Street-Lighting—The town was electrified in 1961. There were 386 electric street lamps on the streets and lanes of the town in 1975-76. A sum of Rs 14,150 was spent on street lighting in the said year.

Public Health and Sanitation—This work is looked after by sanitary inspector besides some other staff who assist him, including a vaccinator. A sum of Rs 1,72,496 was spent on this account in 1975-76.

The income and expenditure of the municipal board from 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statements III (a) and (b) at the end of the chapter.

Town Areas

Amila

The town was constituted a town area in 1924 under the U.P. Town Areas Act 1914, as amended from time to time. During the last municipal elections held in 1971, the town elected nine members for a term of 5 years.

These members in turn have elected a chairman from amongst themselves to manage the affairs of the local body. The town area has a population of 2,533 according to the 1971 census which is distributed over an area of 0.61 sq. km.

Water-supply scheme in the town area was completed in the year 1972 and till 1975-76, about 3,930 m. of pipelines was laid. The town has 5 public and 66 private water connections.

Electricity was made available to the town in 1961 and since then the committee has installed 51 electric street lamps. The expenditure incurred by the committee on this head of public utility service in 1975-76 was Rs 645.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statement IV at the end of the chapter.

Atraulia

The town was formerly being administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856, since 1860. At present it is administered under the provisions of the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914. The town has an area of 0.8 sq. km. with a population of 4,296 persons.

There are nine members in the committee of the town area which manages the local affairs and looks after the civic facilities in the town. These members are elected through adult franchise for a term of five years. These members in turn elect a chairmen from amongst themselves.

The place is electrified and in 1975-76 there were 85 electric and 5 kerosene oil lamps. Expenditure incurred on this item of public utility amounted to Rs 725.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1967-68 to 1975-76 is given in Statement V at the end of the chapter.

Dohrighat

This town was administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856, since 1864. At present the place is administered under the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1941. The town has a population of 5,396 distributed over an area of 1.72 sq. km.

The committee has 10 members to manage the local affairs and look after the civic facilities in the town. These members are elected through adult franchise for a term of five years. These members in turn elect a chairmen from amongst themselves.

Water-supply scheme in the town was completed in the year 1973 and till 1975-76 there were 41 water connections.

Electricity became available to the town in 1961-62 and since then the committee has installed 63 street lamps. The expenditure incurred by the committee on this head of public utility in 1975-76 was Rs 5,866.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from the year 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statement VI at the end of the chapter.

Kopaganj

The town is now being administered under the provisions of the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914, but formerly it was administered as an Act XX town since 1860. The town has a population of 14,271 persons distributed over an area of 0.98 sq. km.

There are 13 members in the committee which manages the local affairs and looks after the civic facilities in the twon. These members are elected through adult franchise for a term of five years. These members in their term elect a chairman from amongst themselves.

Electricity was made available to the town in 1956 since then the committee has installed 20 electric street lamps, and a sum of Rs 5,000 was spent under this head.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statement VII at the end of the chapter.

Nizamabad

This town was constituted as a town area in 1953, and is administered under the provisions of the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914.

The total area and population of the town according to the census of 1971 was 0.5 sq. km. and 4,141 respectively.

The town is managed by a committee consisting of 9 members and is directly elected for a term of five years through adult franchise.

Electricity was made available to the town in 1956, by 1975-76 there were 67 electric street lamps for lighting the roads and streets of the town. A sum of Rs 1,200 was spent on street lighting.

There is a vaccinator appointed by the committee for vaccination purposes. In 1975-76 above the number of persons vaccinated was 2,187.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statement VIII at the end of the chapter.

Muhammadabad

The place is being administered as a town area under the provisions of the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914, prior to which it was administered as an Act XX town since 1864.

The total area and population of the town according to the census of 1971 were 1.04 sq. km. and 8,322 respectively.

The town is managed by a committee consisting of 10 members and a chairman elected directly for a term of 5 years through adult franchise.

Electricity was made available to the town in 1968. In 1975-76 the town had 134 electric street lamps.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statement IX at the end of the chapter.

Phulpur

The town was administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856 since 1860; at present it is administered under the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914.

The town according to the census of 1971 had a population of 3,819 spread over an area of 0.4 sq. km. During the last municipal elections 9 members were elected for a period of 5 years. These members turn elect a chairman and manage the affairs of the local body.

Electricity was made available to the town in 1957 and since then the committee has installed 70 electric street lamps. The expenditure incurred by the committee in 1975-76 on this account amounted to Rs. 6,000.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statements X at the end of the chapter.

Sarai Mir

The town is being administered under the provisions of the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914, Prior to which it was being administered as an Act XX town since 1860.

The affairs of the town are managed by a committee of 10 members and a chairman who are elected directly by the residents through adult franchise for a period of 5 years.

The town has a population of 5,314 spread over an area of 1.68 sq. km. according to the census of 1971.

The town is electrified and in 1975-76 there were 69 electric street lamps.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statements XI at the end of the chapter.

Panchayati Raj

In ancient times, the panchayats which used to be bodies of village elders, exercised administrative and judicial powers over the community. With the Muslim rule these self governing units lost their importance considerably but they were allowed to exist till such time they did not come into conflict with the super-imposed Muslim system of law and order in the villages.

During the British rule these panchayats lost their residual importance though they continued to survive and control the social life of the village. But the alien rulers soon realised that they could not do away with these traditional institutions and some encouragement was given to them by

recognising their importance. But these panchayats lost some of their traditional features, and the new panchayats created under the U.P. Gram Panchayats Act, 1920, blended the traditional with some western democratic features.

The first real reawakening in this direction was, however, only made in the year 1947, when the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947 was passed. The Act was applied to Azamgarh district in the year 1949, when *gaon sabhas* and *gaon* panchayats started functioning in this district.

The national extension service blocks, envisaged for community development work, came into being gradually. They had block development committees, which were advisory bodies of local elected people set up to help and advise the official staff posted as the blocks for better implementation of the Five-year Plan schemes. Their structure was transferred under the U.P. Kshettra Samiti and Zila Parishad Adhiniyam, 1961 when these *samitis* (committee became statutory bodies with wide executive and financial powers. With the passing of this Act, the three tier organisation viz; *gaon* panchayats at the base (village level), the Kshettra Samitis in the middle (block level), and the Zila Parishad at the apex (district level) of local government finally emerged. The organisation and working of these different levels is as follows.

Zila Parishad

The district board (now Zila Parishad) first come into existence in 1884, when it was established under the Local Boards Act, 1883, The board then consisted of 24 members of whom 19, remaining members were appointed. The work entrusted to the board was of multifarious nature and included the management of the local roads and buildings, cattle pounds and ferries and supervision of medical, educational and veterinary works, in the rural areas of the district.

The U.P. District Boards Act of 1922 together with a number of amendments from time to time, governed the working of the district board till the passing of the Antarim Zila Parishad Act of 1958. For a period the district boards worked as Antarim Zila Parishads. With the passing of the U.P. Kshettra Samitis Zila Parishad Adhiniyam, 1961, the word Antarim was dropped and the Zila Parishad finally came into existence.

The Zila Parishad which has now been reconstituted is an indirectly elected body with membership consisting of Pramukhs and representatives of Kshettra Samitis, presidents of the municipal boards, members of Central and State Legislatures and certain representatives of cooperative institutions, members nominated by the government including those from amongst women and Scheduled Castes members of the district. The present strength is 97, members representing various bodies as follows, 29 members belonging to the category of block *pramukhs* and representatives of Kshettra Samitis, 2 chairmen from the municipal boards, the managing director of the co-operative bank, President of the district co-operative federation, one members from the co-operative institution, 14 members of the legislative assembly, 3 members of the Lok sabha, 2 members of the Legislative Council and 2 belonging to the Rajya Sabha and 3 member

nominated by the government. Besides this certain district level officers and some persons interested in the development work are also members of the Parishad.

The members elect an Adhyaksha (president) for a period of 5 years and an Upadhyaksha (vice-president) every year.

The functions of the Zila Parishad are almost akin to those of the old district board, but they also include co-ordination of the activities of *vikas-khands* (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, etc., as well as repairs of roads, bridges and ferries, cultural activities and welfare o children, 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 fairs, etc. Details of income and expenditure of the Parishad from 1965-66 to 1974-75 are given in Statements XII (a) and (b) at the end of the Chapter.

Medical and Public Health—The services of the entire health department of the Zila Parishad have now been transferred under the supervision of a deputy chief medical officer. The chief medical officer has the overall charge of the entire district. The Zila Parishad looks after the vaccination facilities in the rural areas. For this purpose the Parishad has employed one chief vaccinator and 32 vaccinators. Besides this, the Parishad is running an Ayurvedic and an Unani dispensary. The number of patients treated in 1976-77 were 8,402 and 11,572 respectively.

Public Works—The Parishad maintains both metalled and unmetalled roads throughout the district.

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 in 1968 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. The number of these Samitis was 29 in 1976-77, one for each development block. The term of Kshettra Samitis is normally 5 years but can be extended by the government for one year. The members of the Kshettra Samitis consist of all the *pradhans* of the *goan sabhas*, and chairman of the town area committees within the block, and all elected members of the Central and State Legislatures representing or residing in any part of the development block or Kshettra. The *samities* also co-opt persons interested in planning and development work, representatives of women and persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

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 Samiti which is responsible for formulation and execution of the plans of the *gaon sabhas* relating to the development of agriculture, horticulture, live-stock, fisheries, minor irrigation works, opening maternity and child welfare centres, prevention and control of epidemics, production of village industries and co-operative institutions, etc.

Every Kshettra Samiti constitutes a *karya karni* (executive), *utpadan* (production) and a *kalyan* (welfare) *samiti* headed by the *pramukh* and 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 Samiti. 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 1469 *gaon* panchayats were constituted in the district. In 1975-76 their number rose to 2,330. The panchayat is the executive body of the *gaon sabha*, the latter consisting of the adult population of the area. A fixed number of members and a *pradhan* and an *up-pradhan* are elected by members of the *gaon sabha* usually 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*.

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. They are also eligible to borrow money from the State Government, corporations, scheduled banks, co-operative, and other financing bodies.

The statement below given an account of the work done by the *gaon* panchayats during the last Five-year Plan periods.

Name of projects	First Five-year Plan	Second Five-year Plan	Third Five-year Plan	Fourth Five-year Plan
1	2	3	4	5
Construction of pucca roads (in km.)	27	3	10	19
Construction of kutcha roads (in km.)	707	393	231	225
Kharanja (brick laid lanes) (in km.)	2,000	3,537	2,397	1,987
Culverts (No.)	82	112	193	1,987
Drinking water wells (No.)	236	270	187	248
Pakka drains (in km.)	167	114	108	110
Panchayat *ghars* and community development blocks (No.)	17	71	33	20
Handpumps (No.)	357	513	996	783

The total income and expenditure of the panchayats during the last 5 years is as follows :

Year	Income (in Rs)	Expenditure (in Rs)
1	2	3
1970—71	6,32,954	6,25,459
1971—72	6,82,153	5,63,351
1972—73	7,18,836	6,91,286
1973—74	8,71,935	7,81,395
1974—75	12,85,730	15,06,348
1975—76	14,81,496	8,61,725

STATEMENT I (a)

Municipal Board, Azamgarh

Receipt (in rupees) for last ten years

Reference Page No. 200

Year	Government grants	Receipt from taxes	Miscellaneous	Total of receipt
1	2	3	4	5
1967—68	1,28,306	6,56,088	3,24,447	11,08,841
1968—69	1,49,524	5,37,970	7,67,090	14,54,584
1969—70	2,46,057	4,72,396	4,35,781	11,54,234
1970—71	2,57,317	4,61,018	8,17,384	15,35,719
1971—72	2,59,266	5,08,197	5,45,411	13,12,874
1972—73	1,09,370	5,88,790	8,58,167	15,56,327
1973—74	91,920	6,02,914	7,32,695	14,27,529
1974—75	770	5,86,872	9,51,892	15,39,534
1975—76	36,270	10,18,530	7,14,515	17,69,315
1976—77	50,770	15,23,537	4,95,442	20,74,809

STATEMENT I (b)

Municipal Board, Azamgarh

Expenditure (in rupees) for last ten years

Reference Page No. 200

Year	General Administration and collection charges	Public health and convenience	Public works	Miscellaneous	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6
1967—68	1,35,022	3,41,007	57,930	6,14,316	11,48,275
1968—69	1,38,567	3,20,114	51,976	9,29,666	14,40,323
1969—70	1,41,445	3,14,945	1,06,535	5,89,245	11,52,170
1970—71	1,39,913	3,33,599	64,150	9,86,045	15,23,707
1971—72	1,55,747	3,71,024	80,635	6,11,476	12,18,882
1972—73	1,91,459	4,48,649	1,53,765	8,60,118	16,53,991
1973—74	2,20,565	6,45,717	63,534	4,88,960	14,18,776
1974—75	2,36,022	7,38,186	38,640	2,24,660	12,37,517
1975—76	2,62,727	8,83,345	1,15,721	8,46,130	21,07,933
1976—77	3,02,533	9,36,395	54,151	6,25,466	19,68,545

STATEMENT II (a)

Municipal Board, Maunath Bhanjan

Receipt (in rupees) for last ten years

Reference Page No. 201

Year	Government grants	Receipt from taxes	Miscellaneous	Total of receipt
1967—68	2,42,375	6,23,739	1,26,147	9,92,261
1968—69	2,92,847	6,37,618	49,334	9,79,799
1969—70	4,12,735	6,55,518	4,375	10,72,628
1970—71	3,29,463	7,88,663	8,040	11,26,166
1971—72	3,40,897	9,72,562	1,10,794	14,24,253
1972—73	2,31,767	10,77,830	12,086	13,21,683
1973—74	2,20,315	10,31,692	7,583	12,59,590
1974—75	2,13,566	13,92,310	2,55,425	18,61,301
1975—76	2,01,512	15,49,788	6,887	17,58,187
1976—77	2,02,209	12,06,021	17,899	14,26,129

STATEMENT II (b)

Municipal Board, Maunath Bhanjan

Expenditure (in rupees) for last ten years

Reference Page No. 201

Year	General Administration and collection charges	Public health and convenience	Public works	Miscellaneous	Total expenditure
1967—68	98,687	3,25,416	3,39,134	2,83,435	10,46,672
1968—69	96,843	3,54,614	2,02,966	2,90,039	9,44,462
1969—70	98,547	4,02,951	1,68,711	4,11,840	10,82,049
1970—71	1,01,957	3,91,315	2,41,758	4,27,268	11,62,298
1971—72	1,10,844	3,92,948	96,453	5,14,596	11,14,841
1972—73	1,36,540	5,24,703	4,51,380	4,21,880	15,34,503
1973—74	1,53,876	5,49,273	3,26,451	1,92,821	12,22,421
1974—75	2,20,012	10,08,546	3,63,324	2,52,713	18,44,595
1975—76	2,35,678	11,11,922	3,10,567	2,41,083	18,99,251
1976—77	2,16,928	8,75,214	1,48,346	1,94,646	14,35,134

STATEMENT III (a)

Municipal Board, Mubarkpur

Receipt (in rupees) for last ten years

Reference Page No. 201

Year	Government grants	Receipt from Taxes	Miscellaneous	Total of receipt
1967—68	—	21,163	10,572	31,735
1968—69	35,000	36,000	30,000	1,01,000
1969—70	40,000	40,191	25,036	1,25,227
1970—71	10,000	42,000	26,852	78,852
1971—72	11,000	84,662	15,897	1,11,559
1972—73	10,000	72,400	65,163	1,47,563
1973—74	10,000	35,127	85,414	1,30,541
1974—75	10,000	56,434	1,12,726	1,79,160
1975—76	—	1,69,514	58,003	2,27,517
1976—77	20,000	91,985	86,970	1,98,955

STATEMENT III (b)

Municipal Board, Mubarkpur

Expenditure (in rupees) for last ten years

Reference Page No. 201

Year	General Administration and collection charges	Public health and convenience	Public works	Miscellaneous	Total expenditure
1967—68	7,839	41,022	—	5,500	54,361
1968—69	4,018	41,584	23,925	2,342	71,869
1969—70	9,825	23,833	40,000	1,000	74,658
1970—71	4,655	33,300	23,090	1,813	62,858
1971—72	3,000	37,000	20,000	5,000	65,000
1972—73	9,350	56,490	23,000	6,000	94,840
1973—74	4,819	63,238	6,180	625	74,862
1974—75	7,783	1,13,923	10,000	8,882	1,40,588
1975—76	27,008	1,72,496	13,911	18,965	2,32,380
1976—77	29,750	1,52,032	12,949	1,94,781	3,89,462

STATEMENT IV

Receipt and Expenditure in rupees of town area Amila for last ten years

Reference Page No. 202

Year	Receipt (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1967—68	30,375	2,844	1,340	34,559	2,413	4,215	5,500	1.00	12,129
1968—69	37,186	4,279	1,745	43,210	2,925	8,526	3,351	—	44,502
1969—70	43,185	4,714	1,201	49,100	3,112	8,583	42,540	—	54,235
1970—71	28,708	6,528	1,695	36,926	3,698	9,213	16,407	119	29,437
1971—72	12,996	6,550	1,438	20,983	2,624	8,675	29,250	50	40,599
1972—73	23,994	6,005	2,051	32,050	2,580	10,795	18,908	400	32,683
1973—74	21,480	2,479	5,404	29,363	3,445	15,893	3,947	84	23,869
1974—75	15,269	10,649	4,497	34,415	5,719	22,077	13,353	2,000	43,149
1975—76	15,337	4,895	3,642	23,874	3,096	11,719	7,000	—	21,815
1976—77	15,335	8,121	6,405	29,861	4,500	19,375	10,090	49	34,014

STATEMENT V

Receipt and Expenditure in rupees of town area Atraulia for last nine years

Reference Page No. 202

Year	Receipts (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1967—68	7,876	2,792	22,783	33,451	1,201	4,650	26,000	—	31,851
1968—69	43,638	2,857	3,162	49,657	1,826	6,541	5,000	75	13,442
1969—70	20,158	6,842	37,739	64,739	2,337	5,759	38,000	316	46,412
1970—71	13,478	8,220	22,721	44,419	2,138	7,724	21,535	785	32,182
1971—72	16,790	5,830	14,246	36,866	2,338	10,487	9,205	2,586	24,616
1972—73	31,701	6,196	16,845	54,732	3,100	17,824	2,420	1,193	24,537
1973—74	19,742	6,290	15,836	41,868	6,603	25,419	6,264	1,888	40,174
1974—75	22,271	6,996	10,196	39,463	5,936	24,313	5,000	1,779	37,128
1975—76	22,237	13,704	10,234	46,177	12,928	22,147	5,532	1,183	41,790

STATEMENT VI

Receipt and Expenditure in rupees of town area Dohrighat for last ten years

Refcrence Page No. 202

Year	Receipts (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and Collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1967—68	38,436	1,263	16,554	56,253	4,034	17,857	5,872	250	28,013
1968—69	1,23,038	423	6,969	1,30,430	2,735	18,412	1,38,702	250	1,60,099
1969—70	1,30,972	5,026	14,119	1,50,117	6,626	25,082	73,454	—	1,05,162
1970—71	1,04,749	5,107	6,332	1,16,188	5,140	52,501	45,000	1,200	1,03,841
1971—72	16,524	62,936	—	79,460	1,180	43,369	38,670	1,500	84,719
1972—73	27,450	64,487	—	91,937	12,189	21,486	35,000	24,797	93,473
1973—74	40,260	80,955	6,101	1,27,316	17,765	33,284	—	441	51,490
1974—75	31,405	74,410	939	1,06,754	48,489	74,287	62,783	4,868	1,90,427
1975—76	68,611	27,892	11,659	1,08,162	21,781	36,174	18,400	845	72,200
1976—77	52,575	31,275	2,774	86,624	19,173	56,881	32,500	917	10,971

STATEMENT VII

Receipt and Expenditure in rupees of town area Kopaganj, Azamgarh for last three years

Reference Page No. 203

Year	Receipts (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1973—74	20,000	22,098	64,730	1,06,828	22,000	80,000	—	1,000	1,03,000
1974—75	60,000	17,532	34,252	1,11,784	30,000	89,000	50,000	1,500	1,69,000
1975—76	38,000	20,335	24,035	4,28,660	31,000	82,000	2,68,250	3,800	3,85,050

STATEMENT VIII

Receipt and Expenditure in rupees of town area Nizamabad for last ten years

Reference Page No. 203

Year	Receipts (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1967—68	23,161	2,278	2,761	28,200	1,837	5,730	6,450	57	14,074
1968—69	7,531	3,767	15,910	27,208	1,076	7,087	16,700	335	25,198
1969—70	58,309	3,044	5,309	66,662	3,601	4,465	27,340	150	35,556
1970—71	20,481	7,291	33,444	61,216	5,092	7,794	36,550	100	49,536
1971—72	51,164	7,401	17,015	75,580	3,128	8,453	56,575	165	68,321
1972—73	12,461	3,901	17,668	34,030	6,649	6,002	8,000	4,195	24,846
1973—74	19,230	2,587	14,134	35,951	6,130	4,516	16,500	1,847	28,993
1974—75	20,775	8,991	11,557	41,323	5,303	24,376	—	870	30,549
1975—76	18,599	4,229	14,328	37,156	4,351	16,446	8,000	1,373	30,170
1976—77	43,057	11,045	21,468	75,570	1,714	31,581	12,900	—	46,195

STATEMENT IX

Receipt and Expenditure in rupees of town area Muhammadabad for last ten years.

Reference Page No. 204

Year	Income	Expenditure
1967—68	57,096	22,441
1968—69	83,886	69,243
1969—70	72,2,4	56,222
1970—71	72,146	70,884
1971—72	59,998	28,980
1972—73	77,125	72,047
1973—74	50,422	87,086
1974—75	70,503	67,844
1975—76	74,326	68,617
1976—77	96,184	75,608
1977—78	118,758	95,989

STATEMENT X

Receipt and Expenditure in rupees of town area Phulpur for last ten years

Reference Page No. 204

Year	Receipts (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1967—68	2,830	8,253	3,351	14,434	6,406	6,660	35,768	970	49,804
1968—69	28,950	13,346	2,856	45,162	2,477	14,419	854	8,113	25,863
1969—70	59,849	11,506	5,172	76,528	2,044	14,697	35,386	212	52,339
1970—71	42,355	15,119	7,377	64,851	2,060	14,229	23,955	167	40,441
1971—72	14,468	11,325	11,420	37,213	1,944	14,903	72,376	175	89,398
1972—73	18,820	16,327	17,317	52,464	3,533	20,197	13,731	1,545	39,006
1973—74	35,818	10,506	53,822	1,00,146	16,469	29,829	37,719	600	84,617
1974—75	33,993	13,588	42,186	89,767	35,177	58,023	—	—	88,200
1975—76	28,490	41,096	16,134	85,720	12,800	52,447	28,680	1,387	95,314
1976—77	24,034	19,540	21,283	64,857	6,289	53,278	5,000	3,126	67,687

STATEMENT XI

Receipt and Expenditure in rupees of town area Sarai Mir for last ten years

Reference Page No. 204

Year	Receipts (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1969—70	39,395	11,101	21,173	71,669	3,534	7,125	28,866	1,197	40,722
1970—71	20,879	10,583	33,004	64,466	2,415	8,340	31,996	1,149	43,900
1971—72	29,690	6,047	24,415	60,152	2,937	10,547	24,000	749	38,133
1972—73	19,269	6,504	29,288	55,061	3,896	14,397	18,190	3,374	39,857
1973—74	25,432	6,591	21,610	53,663	4,826	14,119	17,948	—	36,393
1974—75	25,427	21,237	43,938	90,602	15,749	49,206	—	720	65,675
1975—76	23,480	36,742	32,094	89,848	6,569	49,682	12,000	3,154	71,405
1976—77	37,480	26,247	37,272	1,00,999	11,919	54,058	15,106	1,126	82,209
1977—78	54,928	18,008	52,055	1,25,679	30,443	59,081	—	585	90,109
1978—79	38,923	17,962	84,639	1,41,524	29,297	67,309	44,167	—	1,40,773

STATEMENT XII (a)

Zila Parishad, Azamgarh

Receipt (in rupees) for last ten years

Reference Page No. 206

Year	Government grants	Education	Medical and public health	Cattle pound	Fairs	Miscellaneous	Total of Receipt
1965—66	55,87,085	1,97,977	—	18,103	8,285	20,605	58,32,055
1966—67	64,84,968	18,501	—	15,089	8,941	3,36,154	68,63,648
1967—68	72,84,807	1,80,236	—	18,847	6,381	1,70,367	76,60,638
1968—69	76,78,731	1,80,126	1,956	20,427	8,083	1,70,653	80,59,976
1969—70	1,11,94,293	1,86,324	2,044	26,906	7,268	4,26,124	1,18,42,959
1970—71	1,12,25,728	1,88,997	1,739	22,152	6,055	4,28,312	1,18,72,983
1971—72	1,60,95,215	1,85,459	[illegible],357	14,692	7,9[illegible]5	1,90,887	1,82,14,585
1972—73	50,97,616	12,771	577	16,480	8,961	8,87,946	60,24,351
1973—74	6,21,378	1,490	433	14,812	9,425	15,20,318	21,67,851
1974—75	4,49,024	—	48	17,776	14,698	14,41,992	19,28,538

STATEMENT XII (b)

Zila Parishad, Azamgarh

Expenditure (in rupees) for last ten years

Reference Page No. 205

Year	General administration	Education	Medical and public health	Public works	Fairs	Miscellaneous	Total expenditure
1965—66	1,24,565	38,46,636	1,38,655	2,04,152	1,176	84,763	43,99,947
1966—67	1,17,286	5,61,668	1,29,211	3,02,676	488	78,720	10,89,829
1967—68	1,63,382	58,69,348	1,45,712	2,82,257	438	75,703	65,36,835
1968—69	1,80,895	61,59,381	1,69,054	7,92,140	410	1,09,900	74,11,730
1969—70	1,43,220	8,75,358	1,50,810	1,32,594	481	1,26,891	14,29,354
1970—71	1,48,887	97,13,883	1,82,950	1,86,108	1,155	54,96,735	1,57,28,718
1971—72	2,07,584	1,00,05,567	1,73,370	11,83,214	400	3,38,866	1,19,09,001
1972—73	1 62,270	68,69,352	1,73,253	41,81,385	—	41,28,592	1,55,15,802
1973—74	2,16,052	2,64,117	1,34,012	22,56,632	3,438	10,48,303	39,22,554
1974—75	1,37,528	—	1,48,849	8,99,854	4,717	6,91,215	18,82,163

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The system of education that prevailed in the district until the advent of the British is largely a matter of conjecture, for no positive evidence is easily available in this regard. But there is little doubt that the educational facilities existed in early times in the region comprising the district of Azamgarh which was a part of Kosala kingdom, a stronghold of Vedic religion and culture[1]. Durbasa, in Nizamabad pargana situated at the confluence of the Manjhi and Tons rivers derives its name from the sage Durvasa, who appears to have established his *ashrama* (hermitage) and lived at this place. The fact confirms that facilities for education were available to the people of the district and to those of adjoining areas in ancient days. Education in those days, was regarded as the most essential factor conducive to a healthy social life[2]. The individual was the chief concern and centre of the ancient system of education. Development of character and the acquisition of learning (with piety and proficiency) and knowledge of sacred lore and its application in practice were the chief aim. The teacher was content with whatever was offered to him by his pupils at the end of their education, which ensured that the poorest in society received the benefits of education[3]. Education for children began at home at the age of five, with the ceremony of *vidyarambha*[4] (beginning of education). After the initiation ceremony known as *upanayana* meaning taking near the teacher' the pupil resided with the guru and had to lead the chaste life of a Brahmachari[5]. The pupil was allowed to pursue the subject of his own choice accompanied by special teaching of the *Vedas* and other traditional branches of learning. But the more secular branches of study were not neglected[6]. In addition children were trained in their family's traditional profession within the family itself. Training in fine arts and crafts was similarly given by the artisans at their residences, functioning as schools, somewhat like the present apprenticeship system[7]. The collective interests of a particular craft were watched and administered by an organisation called the Sreni[8].

The *gurukula* system of education (imparting of education at teacher's place) seems to have continued with occasional modifications, in the district till the advent of the Mulims[9]. At the end of the fourteenth century, the area comprising the district came under the domination of the

1. Pathak, V. N.: *History of Kosala up to the Rise of the Mauryas*, p. 75
2. Altekar, A.S. : *Education in Ancient India*, p. 261
3. *Ibid*, pp. 261– 64
4. Mookerji, R.K. : *Ancient Indian Education*, p. 173
5. Majumdar, R.C. : *Ancient India*, pp. 91-92
6. Majumdar, *op. cit*, p. 92; Mookerji, *op. cit*, p. 55
7. Altekar, *op. cit*, p. 28
8. Rawat, P.L.: *History of Indian Education*, p. 57
9. Rice, J. : *Appendix to the Report of Indian Education*, p. 73

Sharqi rulers of Jaunpur[1]. But no specific material is traceable as regards the growth of education in this area during that or the succeeding periods. Only the Muslims who settled in this region, established their own institutions known as *maktabs*, which were attached to mosques, the courses of studies generally covering Islamic religion and theology[2]. Then also came into being elementary and secular schools in which reading, writing and a little arithmetic was taught through the medium of local dialect[3].

For many years after the introduction of the British rule, *pathshalas* and *maktabs* were the only existing schools. There were also some schools of commercial type for the children of the business community. In these institutions paid teachers taught a sort of mental and practical arithmetic in the Mundia and the Kaithi scripts.[4] The bulk of the students being poor could ill afford the luxury of education. More often than not they preferred to stay in the fields to help their parents.

It was when Azamgarh was created into a separate district in 1832, that the government first paid attention to education. Though nothing was done towards primary education, an anglo-vernacular school was established to impart higher education at Azamgarh by R.T. Tucker, the then joint magistrate and deputy collector. The attempt, however, did not succeed as the attendance, especially in higher classes was poor. The only means for receiving instructions left to the people were the indigenous schools, which numbered 249 in 1846, of which 161 gave instruction in Persian or Arabic and 88 in Sanskrit or Hindi. With a view to impart secondary education eight *tahsili* schools were established one each at Azamgarh, Chiriakot, Deo Gaon, Dohrighat, Maharajganj, Mahul, Mubarkpur and Nagara in 1856. In the same year 63 *halqabandi* schools were opened in selected villages. These schools were meant for meeting the requirements of the agriculturists. They were maintained partly by the cess and partly by the government[5]. In addition to these, there were 291 private schools which were open to government inspection. Interrupted by the freedom struggle of 1857 education made a fresh start in 1859. The *tahsili* schools at Deo Gaon, Maharajganj and Mubarkpur were closed but by this time three other schools were opened at Mehrajpur, Azamgarh and Mau and the number of schools remained eight with 481 students on roll. The number of *halqabandi* schools rose to 105 with 2,530 students. In the following year a *tahsili* school was again opened at Maharajganj raising the number to nine, while the number of *halqabandi* schools rose to 112. In 1862, the Church Missionary Society established an anglo-vernacular school at Azamgarh and was aided by the government. In 1873 the status of the institution was raised to the standard of a high school. In 1880-81 there were five *tahsili* schools, with an average daily attendance of 467 pupils and 135 *halqabandi* schools attended by 4,669 students. In addition to these six boys' schools were receiving grants-in-aid from the government or the municipal board of Azamgarh. By 1908,

1. Drake-Brockman, D.L. : *Azamgarh- A Gazetteer*, p. 156
2. Rawat, *op. cit*, p. 112
3. Rice, *op. cit*, p. 73
4. Hunter, W.: *Report of the Indian Education Commission of 1882*, p. 73
5. Hunter, W.: *Report of the Indian Education Commission of 1882*, p. 106

one more high school known as National High school was opened at Azamgarh. Both the high schools sent their candidates for the English Middle Examination and Entrance Examination of the Allahabad University.

There were eight middle vernacular schools with primary branches located at Azamgarh. Deo Gaon, Mahul, Jianpur, Muhammadabad, Mau, Ghosi and Surajpur attended by 636 boys. The primary schools for boys in the district numbered 270 of which 60 were upper primary and 210 lower primary schools, 137 of the latter only receiving grants-in-aid. By 1915 the Azamgarh National School (later known as George National School) lost its status as a high school. The Church Mission School had an average attendance of about 350 to 400 students. The number of middle vernacular schools increased owing to the establishment of the new schools at Mehnajpur, Thekman, Koelsa and Chiriakot and the number of students on roll was more than 1829. The number of upper primary schools came to 118 and the lower primary schools belonging to the district board 44.

By 1922 the George National School regained its status of a high school and another institution the Smith High School was established at Azmatgarh and named after the then collector. There were also 227 lower-primary and 198 upper primary schools under the district board. By 1932 33, a prominent high school known as Wesley School, which was opened by the Methodist Church of Australasia, came into existence had three well-equipped hostels one each for Hindus, Muslims and Christians. In addition to this two other institutions Shibli George High School and Sri Krishna High School were being run in Azamgarh. There was an English Middle School later on known as Dayanand Anglo Vedic School and ten vernacular schools including Sanskrit *pathshalas*, *maktabs*, etc. Facilities of education existed in other parts of the district as well. There were two high schools Jiwan Ram High School at Mau, and Smith High School at Azmatgarh. Besides these there were 20 town schools, 258 primary schools, 143 preparatory schools, 48 Sanskrit *pathshalas*, 90 boys aided schools and 56 *maktabs*. Through the efforts of public and the government education continued to make progress and specially after Independence it has gained a much greater momentum.

Female Education

In ancient times facilities for female education must have been provided as their participation was indispensable in ceremonies and rituals. The syllabus must have included the study of Vedic hymns which were necessary for prayers and sacrifices. Music and dancing also no doub formed part of the course of their training.[1] With the passage of time only girls of well-to-do families could take up literary education. However, every girl was given an opportunity to learn domestic and culinary arts, fine arts and religious lore.[2] Later on, due to the spread of *purda* system, child marriages, indifferent attitude of elder women and the

1. Mookerji, op. cit, p. 105
2. Rawat, op. cit, p. 42

apprehensions of a large number of conservative men, that education destroyed much that they revered in the traditional women of Indian society, the progress of female education became stagnant. Consequently most of the women remained without any education and because the nuclei of purely domestic life. They received training only in cooking, house-keeping, tailoring, etc., at home from the elderly ladies of the family.

In the British period the Christian missionaries were the first to take up the cause of female education. The Church Missionary Society established a school for girls at Azamgarh in 1864, which received grant-in-aid by the government. In 1867 another girls' school was established by the same society. This institution also received grant-in-aid. As a result of enthusiasm of the people towards female education 10 primary schools were opened in 1868 in different parts of the district. The female education advanced year by year and in 1922 the number of schools rose to 43. In 1932-33 the number of girls' schools in the district further went up to 96 with 5,237 girls, receiving primary education and 278 secondary. These figures indicate remarkable progress since 1910-11 when only one girl was receiving secondary and 699 primary education. But the traditional apathy towards female education continued to exist. After Independence more attention was paid towards it and a number of institutions primary, secondary and collegiate came to be established for their education.

Growth Of Literacy

The earliest known figures pertaining to literacy in the district are those of 1881 when only 3.4 per cent of the males and 0.4 per cent of the females were literate. In the next decade the percentage of literate males and females had risen to 4.2 and 0.1 respectively. In 1901 the figures for literacy were 6.8 per cent for males and 0.2 for females. In 1911 literacy among males fell slightly to 5.5 per cent while literacy among females rose to 0.3. In 1921 the percentage of literacy among both males and females was 6.0 and 0.3 respectively. In 1931, the percentage of literacy among males advanced to 8.1 and that among females it became 0.6. According to the census of 1951 the male literates formed a percentage of 15.8 and the female literates of 2.1. There has been considerable improvement both in male and female literacy during the following decade. The census figures of 1961, revealed that the percentages of literate and educated persons were 26.4 for males and 6.4 for females. But the district is still backward as the total percentage of literacy in the district was only 16.3 against the State average of 17.7 and it ranked 31st in the State in literacy.

The following statement gives the number of persons of different educational standards and of literates and illiterates according to the census of 1961 :

Level of education	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Urban			
Literate (without educational level)	33,105	21,856	11,249
Primary or junior Basic	5,230	4,096	1,134
High school or higher secondary	4,225	3,833	392
Technical diploma not equal to degree	3	3	
University degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree	1,262	1,186	76
Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree	24	21	3
Engineering	4	4	—
Medicine	19	17	2
Teaching	1	—	1
Rural			
Literate (without educational level)	2,70,065	2,10,111	59,954
Primary or junior Basic	62,409	56,707	5,70
High school and above	15,659	15,430	229

In 1971, the percentage rose to 29.96 for males and to 8.21 for females. It ranks 37th in literacy in the whole State. Due to better facilities the percentage of males in urban areas was 51.57 that is about the double of that in rural areas which was 28.70. The percentage of the female literacy of urban areas was 27.58 which is about the four times of the percentage 7.22 of the rural areas.

Education Of Scheduled Castes And Other Backward Classes

Under the lead given by Mahatma Gandhi, a programme for educational improvement of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes had been taken up as early as in 1937. After Independence in 1947, the programme was intensified and in pursuance of its numerous benefits and incentives such as exemption from tuition fee, stipends, scholarships, financial assistance for purchase of books, stationery, hostel facilities etc., and relaxation of upper age limit for admission to certain educational institutions are being provided by the State Government.

The strength of students receiving assistance in one or more of these forms in different categories of schools in 1975-76 is given in the following statement.

School	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4	5
Junior Basic	160	43	36	14
Senior Basic	1,093	344	371	154
Higher secondary up to X	1,753	170	186	80
Higher secondary up to XII	3,302	148	277	38

General Education

Education now starts with the pre-junior Basic or the nursery stage and continues up to the university stage.

Pre-junior Basic Stage

Pre-junior Basic education is of recent origin. It is meant for children of the age group 3-6 years. It seeks to inculcate in them school-going habit and a sense of comradeship. There are a number of private institutions of this type in the district, some of them are the Bal Niketan at Maunath Bhanjan, Nursery Vidyalaya, Shishu Mandir, Dayanand Bal Mandir, Jyoti Niketan, Montessori Shishu Niketan, all at Azamgarh, Bapu Bal Vidya Mandir at Kopaganj and Shishu Niketan at Dohrighat.

Junior and Senior Basic Stage

Education at the junior and senior Basic stage is based on the Wardha Scheme of education initiated by Mahatama Gandhi in 1937, which was adopted by the State Government with certain modifications. The scheme, however, could not gather momentum before Independence. 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. Mahatama Gandhi had held that education ought to draw out the best of the pupil's body, mind and spirit. The scheme envisaged free and compulsory education for a term of eight years by the State with mother-tongue as the medium of instructions, and the educational process centering round some useful handicraft so as to channelise the child's creative ability right from the beginning. Every school was also to be self-supporting.

Education during both these stages, prior to 1972, was the responsibility of the local bodies in their own jurisdiction viz the municipal board in the urban areas and the Zila Parishad in the rural areas. In order to ensure academic and administrative efficiency and to prevent the evils of mismanagement, Basic education has been provincialised under the Basic Shiksha Adhiniyam of 1972, and the control of Basic schools has been transferred from the local bodies to the Board of Basic Education headed by a director. The post had since been abolished in 1974 and the director of education now combines both the offices. Control at the district level is vested in the Zila Shiksha Samiti and at the village level in the Gaon Shiksha Samiti.

The number of junior and senior Basic institutions located in the district with respective figures of enrolment in 1976-77 are given below:

Kind of school	Schools	No. of students		No. of teachers	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Women
1	2	3	4	5	6
Junior Basic	1,601	2,80,241	1,65,072	5,669	918
Senior Basic	270	38,082	3,544	709	97

The number of schools and students from 1967-68 to 1976-77 are given at the end of the chapter in Statement I.

Re-orientation Scheme

The aims of this scheme are to train students in agriculture to create in them a feeling for the dignity of labour and to improve the finances of the institutions. The scheme is in force in 47 junior and senior Basic and 47 high schools and intermediate colleges and the lands attached to these institutions are 102 ha. and 116 ha. respectively.

Secondary Education

The secondary education now covers education beyond the senior Basic stage up to the end of 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 classes X and XII respectively. The district in 1976-77 had 181 higher secondary schools with a total enrolment of 90,827 including 18,249 girls. These institutions except a few run by the government are managed privately with grant-in-aid from the government. A lists of all these institutions and number of schools and students from 1967-68 to 1976-77 appended at the end of the chapter in Statements I and II.

Higher Education

The George National School, Azamgarh founded in 1883 was the first to be raised to a degree standard in 1946 as the Shibli National College. It is managed by the Muslim educational society Azamgarh and imparts education up to the post-graduation level in arts, science and law courses as well. In 1976-77 the number of students was 2,297 (including 149 girls) and that of teachers 101.

Sri Gandhi Degree College, at Maltari was initially a junior high school established in 1949. It was raised to a degree college in 1968. In 1976-77 the number of teachers was 23 and that of students 622 including 21 girls.

The Durgadatta Chunnilal Sagarmal Khandelwal Degree College, Maunath Bhanjan, was founded in 1965 and became a degree college in 1966. A scheme of book bank has also been functioning which lends books to poor students. There were 940 students on roll in 1976-77 and the number of teachers was 20.

The Gandhi Shatabdi Smarak Mahavidyalaya Koelsa, was started in 1971 and imparts education up to the degree level. During 1976-77, the college had a strength of 955 students including 17 girls with 16 teachers.

The Dayanand Post-graduate College, Azamgarh was initially opened as a high school in 1925. It was raised to an intermediate college in 1950 and was recognised as a degree college in 1962. Since 1970 the college has also been offering post-graduate studies in arts faculty. It also has book bank containing 3,338 books. In 1976-77 it had a total strength of 1,897 students and 65 teachers.

The Kuba Mahavidyalaya, Dariapur, Newada was founded in 1971 with the help of local public. It prepares students for the degree of

Bachelor of Arts. The number of students in 1976-77 was 310 and that of teachers 10.

Sri Gandhi Smarak Mahavidyalaya, Bardah, was started as a junior high school in 1950. It was raised to the degree college in 1970 and prepares students for the Bachelor of Arts. The number of students in 1976-77 was 267 and that of teachers 9.

The Janta Mahavidyalaya, Ranipur, was founded in 1965 as a degree college. A hostel is also attached to this college. During 1976-77 it had 11 teachers and 287 students of whom 12 were women.

Sri Shiva Mahavidyalaya, Terhi Kaptanganj was established by Maharshi Deoraha Baba in 1965 and was recognised as a degree college in 1972. A scheme of book bank has also been functioning which lends to poor students. It has a well equipped library containing 2,377 books. There were 227 students on roll in 1976-77, teachers numbering 12.

Sri Durga Ji Mahavidyalaya, Chandesar, was founded for B. Sc. Ag. classes in 1955. The college opened the B. Sc. and B. Ed. classes in 1963, B. A. classes in 1969 and M. Sc. Ag. classes in 1972. A hostel is attached to the Mahavidyalaya. It has a well-equipped library containing 8,165 books. The number of students on roll in 1976-77 was 693 and the number of teachers was 54.

The Janta Mahavidyalaya, Ranipur, was started for B.A. classes in 1965. The institution also provides hostel facility. In the library there were 10,000 books. The number of students and teachers in 1976-77 was 287 (including 12 girls) and 11 respectively.

Sri Agrasen Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Azamgarh, was founded in 1966. It conducts courses for the B.A. degree. Its well equipped library contains' about 8,559 books. The total strength of students in the college in 1976-77 was 200 and that of teachers 11.

Sarvodaya Degree College, Ghosi, was established in 1959 as a junior high school and became a degree college in 1969. It has a well equipped library. The strength of students during 1976-77 was 508 and that of teachers 61.

Professional And Technical Education

The Government Normal School, Muhammadabad Gohna, was established in 1959 for training of teachers for junior Basic schools, the course being of two years duration and the award being the Basic Teachers' Certificate. The number of teachers and trainees in this institution in 1976-77 was 10 and 43 respectively.

The Government Normal School, Azamgarh, was started in 1946. It awards Basic Teachers' Certificate, which has a course of two years. In 1976-77 the number of teachers in the institution was 12 and that of students. 42.

The Basic Teachers' Certificate Unit, attached to the Government Girls' Intermediate College, Azamgarh, was established in 1964, for imparting training for teaching in junior Basic schools. The duration of training is two years ending with the award of the Basic Teachers' Certificate. In 1976-77 it had 30 trainees.

The Government Weaving College, Maunath Bhanjan, functions under the directorate of training and employment, department of labour, U.P. It imparts training in hand-weaving and dyeing in addition to the training in operating power-looms. The duration of the training in artisan, weaving and dyeing trades and elementry weaving and dyeing is of two years and advanced weaving and dyeing of one year. The examinations are conducted by the directorate of Harijan and Social Welfare, Lucknow. The strength of the staff and trainees in 1975-76 was 8 and 86 respectively.

The Government Pilot Workshop, Azamgarh, was founded in 1957. It imparts training in electric, motor mechanic, fitter, etc., the duration of the training being two years. The strength of the staff and trainees in 1976-77 was 8 and 114 respectively.

The Government Polytechnic, Azamgarh, was started in 1963. It prepares students for diploma courses in electrical, mechanical and civil engineering, the duration of each being three years. The examinations are conducted by the directorate of technical education, U.P. Lucknow. In 1976-77 the strength of teaching staff was 45 and the number of whole-time and part time students being 488 and 91 respectively.

Oriental Education

Oriental learning was eclipsed if not ended, by the introduction of western education in India. These institutions were also adversely affected as the endowments meant for these institutions were gradually employed to run high schools and intermediate colleges. Many students preferred to go to the new schools started after the advent of the British for the instructions imparted in oriental schools did not prepare them for the new jobs they ran after.

Sanskrit—During 1976-77, there were 34 Sanskrit *pathshalas*, in the district, which were affiliated to the Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, Varanasi and imparted education, in Sanskrit and certain other subjects. The details of these institutions are given in Statement III at the end of the chapter.

Arabic—There are 14 institutions in the district which impart education in Arbic and Persian and prepare students for Munshi, Molvi and Alim conducted by Arabic Persian Examinations, U.P., Allahabad. The details of these institutions are given in Statement IV at the end of the chapter.

Adult Education

The ministry of education and social welfare has been endeavouring to educate adults and 2,558 persons including 40 women were benefited by this scheme in 1977.

Cultural And Literary Societies

The Darul Musannefin also known as Shibli academy was founded in 1914 by Allama Shibli in Azamgarh. It has strived to cultivate and

remodel the people's tastes in authentic Islamic literature. The academy has a high place among modern research institutions. It has a well-equipped library known as Durul Kutub. The publication department of the academy has been bringing out original works of oriental philosophy, history and culture. Two years after its inception the academy started its journal, the *Maarif* and ever since then it has maintained its steady progress. The journal is regarded as one of the oldest Urdu literary magazine in India.

In addition to its literary achievements the academy, during the Khilafat and non-cooperation movements have acted as a host to many celebrated leaders of the time.

The Hariaudh Kala Bhawan, Azamgarh, was established in 1958. It is a prominent literary and cultural society of the district. It holds literary sittings and organises cultural functions. A number of institutions are run by the society. One of them is Hariaudh Kala Bhawan Library. The other institution Hariaudh Research Institute provides literature for study and research in oriental learning. The Rahul Sanskratyan Museum has exhibits of great artistic and archaeological importance. Kusum Music College, is run with the aim of popularising and propagating Indian music and dance. The college is affiliated to the Prayag Sangit Samiti, Allahabad. The number of students in 1976-77 was 75 and that of teachers 7. The institution is managed by a committee having the district magistrate as ex officio president and the subdivisional magistrate and tahsildar (Sadar) as members.

Libraries and Reading Rooms

Libraries and reading-rooms help to promote and spread education among the people. There are two main libraries

The Mehta Public Library, Azamgarh was established in 1929. It had 21,450 books and 30,000 persons visited it in 1976-77. It also organises cultural functions.

The Sarv Hitkari Libarary and Reading Room Azamgarh was founded in 1969. The total number of books are 4,264 of which 3,824 are in Hindi, 40 in Sanskrit 179 in Urdu, 178 in English and 18 in other languages. In 1976-77 the library was visited by 9,125 persons.

The Darul Kutub, which contains more than 20,000 books including some rare manuscripts and publications, was founded by Allama Shibli.

The Hariaudh Kala Bhawan Library, Azamgarh had more than 5,000 books and was visited by about 15,000 persons in 1976-77.

Men Of Letters

The district has produced eminent scholars like Ayodhya Singh Upadhya 'Hariaudh', Rahul Sankratyayan, Shiam Narain Pandey and Ram Chandra Upadhya.

STATEMENT I

Basic and Secondary Education

Reference Page No. 227

Year	Junior Basic Education			Senior Basic Education			Higher Secondary Education		
	Schools	Students		Schools	Students		Schools	Students	
		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1967—68	1,449	2,00,109	1,33,326	168	48,124	5,156	81	29,302	1,215
1968—69	1,476	2,05,848	1,35,504	197	49,333	5,515	84	48,934	4,751
1969—70	1,493	2,17,242	1,43,627	214	71,378	6,267	89	50,429	5,301
1970—71	1,502	2,32,890	1,46,077	214	73,024	7,076	89	27,354	4,594
1971—72	1,502	2,50,318	1,57,018	214	71,827	9,320	89	40,173	2,383
1972—73	1,527	2,69,327	2,72,926	234	97,063	10,365	102	38,424	2,484
1973—74	1,590	2,68,154	1,56,954	256	63,366	9,075	123	42,468	3,092
1974—75	1,596	2,75,537	1,82,812	262	36,722	3,491	131	69,386	10,755
1975—76	1,601	2,80,944	1,86,471	265	37,457	3,559	131	71,734	10,971
1976—77	1,601	2,80,241	1,65,072	270	38,082	3,544	131	77,578	13,249

STATEMENT II

Intermediate Colleges for Boys

Reference Page No. 228

Name of the Institutions	No. of students		No. of Teachers
	Boys	Girls	
1	2	3	4
Wesley Inter College, Azamgarh	1307	—	38
K. P. Inter College, Azamgarh	626	—	26
D. A. V. Inter College, Azamgarh	1561	—	54
Sri Durga J. Inter College, Chandesar	913	—	34
Shibili National Inter College, Azamgarh	1149	—	41
J.R. Inter College, Maunath Bhanjan	1117	—	29
D.A.V. Inter College, Maunath Bhanjan	1063	—	36
Muslim Inter College, Maunath Bhanjan	626	69	26
Smith Inter College, Azamgarh	1042	86	34
Bapu Inter College, Kopaganj	1041	250	32
Victory Inter College, Dohrighat	811	154	34
Shahid Inter College, Madhuban	916	101	45
S.S.B. Inter College, Amila	718	72	31
Maharajganj Inter College, Maharajganj	525	26	25
Gandhi Inter College, Kuba	1105	54	32
S.K.G.N. Inter College, Lalganj	1469	73	42
Bindeshwari Inter College, Tulsinagar	543	1	22
C.B. Inter College, Tarwa	575	2	23
G.J. Inter College, Khorason	639	71	23
Town Inter College, Muhammadabad Gohna	789	47	42
H.M. Inter College, Bharauli	378	—	16
Janata Inter College, Ranipur	1013	49	38
S.B. Inter College, Terhi Kaptanganj	750	—	29
Gandhi Inter College, Bardhan	893	45	37
Janata Inter College, Ahraula	640	—	25
Gandhi Inter College, Marufpur	821	75	54
Gandhi Inter College, Maitari	1285	60	39
Sarvodaya Inter College, Ghazipur	725	85	31

1	2	3	4
Udyog Inter College, Koelsa	1806	50	66
B.R.K. Inter College, Walidpur	581	22	20
S. Inter College, Karkhia	613	32	25
Gram Samaj Inter College, Jainagar Jigni	583	9	32
Tahbarpur Inter College, Tahbarpur	793	68	37
Janata Inter College, Nizamabad	640	33	20
Sri Shankar Ji Inter College, Pushpanagar	862	68	35
Janata Inter College, Thekman	1245	107	45
Siksha Niketan Inter College, Dubari	714	86	31
Sarvodaya Inter College, Ghosi	960	110	35
Janata Inter College, Ambari	703	—	27
Shakar Inter College, Diha	586	40	37
T.D. Inter College, Sardaha	464	—	26
L.S.P. Inter College, Sardaha	438	63	27
National Inter College, Adri	693	35	22
Sant Vinoba Inter College, Sipah	538	74	21
Tarun Inter College, Kunda Kuchai	768	61	30
Kisan Mazdoor Inter College, Ora	525	36	26
Rashtriya Inter College, Chirjakot	966	97	37
Mathura Inter College, Narainpur	484	—	18
Vikram Inter College, Muhammadpur	764	113	39
M.P. Inter College, Mubarkpur	741	56	20
Gandhi Inter College, Dargah, Azamgarh	417	67	23
K.V. Inter College, Martinganj	290	47	15
P.H.D. Inter College, Sherpur Kuti, Azamgarh	656	—	17
V.D.A. Inter College, Khargipur	675	38	20
Shakar Inter College, Kotwa	553	6	28
B.A. Inter College, Lalitpur, Luddahi	449	58	22
Patel Inter College, Atraulia	619	38	26
Sarvajanik Inter College, Malupur	475	49	17
Janata Inter College, Atapur Ohani	618	64	22
Ramkrishna Inter College, Chandpur Parvaha	367	59	20

1	2	3	4
Kedar Nath Inter College, Tengarha	676	53	21
Inter College, Nadawan Sarai	274	48	19
Janata Inter College, Gamai	613	64	25
C.S. Inter College, Kuranga	476	116	24
Narottam Brahma Utkarah Inter College, Sundarpur	401	49	19
Moti Lal Inter College, Ramnagar	525	11	16
Babo Dhani Das Inter College, Sarenadih	426	91	19
Vibbuti Narain Inter College, Surajpur	498	66	15
Yadunath Inter College, Bahadurapur	448	46	23
Adarsh Inter College, Aunti	662	65	19
M.A. Inter College, Ajan Shahid	398	54	24
Vander Inter College, Katinaur	915	98	19
National Inter College, Muhammadpur	712	114	31
Inter College, Sathiaon	649	—	25
Intermediate Colleges For Girls			
Government Inter College, Azamgarh	—	782	52
Sri Agrasen Kanya Inter College, Azamgarh	—	700	38
Sonithapa Balika Inter College, Maunath Bhanjan	—	398	26
M. Girls Inter College, Paharpur	—	383	26
High Schools For Boys			
Sukhnandan Higher Secondary School, Muhammadpur	322	27	15
Panchayat Higher Secondary School, Mahnagar	332	—	12
Ganga Prasad Higher Secondary School, Jagdishpur	330	8	16
Janata Higher Secondary School, Mehnajpur	345	43	15
Yashoda Lal Misra Higher Secondary School, Baragaon	308	—	16
Panchayat Higher Secondary School, Renda	331	23	12
Gandhi Gurukul Higher Secondary School, Maunath Bhanjan	97	—	11
Gandhi Higher Secondary School, Mubarkpur	108	20	11
Panchayat Higher Secondary School, Khanpur	429	—	16
Satyaram Janata Higher Secondary School, Kalyanpur	382	36	14
Dadhibal Higher Secondary School, Raini	369	95	15
Nehru Smarak Higher Secondary School, Faizullahpur	271	53	10

1	2	3	4
M.M.M. Higher Secondary School, Kandhrapur	376	67	20
Gandhi Higher Secondary School, Kishundaspur	516	67	17
Patel Smarak Higher Secondary School, Urdiha	215	39	9
Sri Ram Rashtriya Higher Secondary School, Jahanganj	662	81	20
Public Higher Secondary School, Sajai Khanjahanpur	391	52	13
Lokmanya Higher Secondary School, Narioo	722	63	25
K.M.K. Higher Secondary School, Piparidih	485	64	17
Rajendra Smarak Higher Secondary School, Sithawal	549	7	12
Subhas Higher Secondary School, Todarpur	351	37	11
Janata Higher Secondary School, Karail	398	39	11
Gandhi Higher Secondary School, Bairampur	518	51	14
Gandhi Higher Secondary School, Kaptanganj	349	19	11
National Higher Secondary School, Muhammadabad Gahana	636	38	20
Bhavnath Higher Secondary School, Lahuwa Kalan	351	37	14
Shiksha Higher Secondary School, Bhimpur	220	22	11
Sri Krishan Higher Secondary School, Chiriakot	543	68	20
Maruti Higher Secondary School, Adipur	383	50	16
Sri Shankar Ji Higher Secondary School, Patjiwa	266	36	14
Tilak Higher Secondary School, Fatehpur	208	41	11
Talimuddin Higher Secondary School, Maunath Bhanjan	317	22	13
Higher Secondary School, Ghosi	276	47	11
Higher Secondary School, Dhauria Sath	327	35	13
Bapu Higher Secondary School, Siyarahi	299	37	11
Vidyavati Higher Secondary School, Shahpur	553	43	18
Paramhansa Higher Secondary School, Deopur	517	84	19
Janata Higher Secondary School, Karhan	334	57	17
Sant Deoraha Higher Secondary School, Majhgawan	314	42	10
Janata Higher Secondary School, Sutauli	297	52	13
Janata Higher Secondary School, Majhwara	314	42	10
Adarsh Higher Secondary School, Maheshpur	401	16	14
Veenapara Higher Secondary School, Veenapara	260	49	82
Higher Secondary School, Kajha	426	58	11
Durga Ji Higher Secondary School, Sheopur	391	36	10
Samaj Sewak Higher Secondary School, Bhairopur	334	26	8
L.L.N. Higher Secondary School, Mau	276	54	12
Baba Raghubar Das Higher Secondary School, Jamilpur	395	39	11
Higher Secondary School, Sarsena	397	54	12
HIGH SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS			
Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Mau	—	195	20
Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Sarai Mir	—	127	14
D.A.V. Girls Higher Secondary School, Mau	—	319	15
Public Girls Higher Secondary School, Baramadpur	—	345	14

STATEMENT III

Sanskrit Pathshalas

Reference Page No. 230

Name of the institution	Year of establishment	Founder	No. of students	No. of teachers	Affiliation
1	2	3	4	5	6
Sanatan Dharma Sanskrit Pathshala, Azamgarh	1908	Chandra Dutt Vaidya	111	6	Acharya
Sanskrit Pathshala, Putanpur, Koelsa	1911	Suryanath Tiwari	99	4	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Chiriakot	1911	Harihar Das	45	5	Madhyama
Meheshwar Sanskrit Pathshala, Gumadih	1911	Uma Dutt Misra	30	2	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Mahraura	1914	Mauni Ram	56	5	Shastri
Sanskrit Pathshala, Hiraj Patti	1915	Shamsher Bahadur	102	5	Acharya
Sanskrit Pathshala, Karhan	1917	Ram Sumer Das	36	2	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Sagri	1918	—	50	5	Shastri
Sanskrit Pathshala, Rani Sarai	1921	—	25	3	Madhyama
Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Maunath Bhanjan	1921	Rajdeo Misra	37	4	Shastri
Sanskrit Pathshala, Hanuman Garhi, Azamgarh	1921	Chandra Dutt Vaidya	144	5	Acharya
Sanskrit Pathshala, Bansgaon	1922	Purushottam Pandey	38	4	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Paltni	1923	Baijnath Yadav	71	4	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Maharajganj	1923	Kashi Ram Sahu	52	4	Acharya
Sanskrit Pathshala, Dohrighat	1924	Jaideo Rai	21	5	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Bhona Buzurg	1924	Amarnath Tiwari	55	4	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Maharajganj	1925	Divakar Misra	34	3	Madhyama

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sanskrit Pathshala, Kamal Sagar	1925	Vishnu Deo Misra	55	3	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Azamgarh	1925	Mahesh Narain	24	4	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Kahinaur	1929	Bhola Nath Shastri	40	3	Shastri
Sanskrit Pathshala, Mehnagar	1933	Suryavansh	34	3	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Parsupur	1934	Chedi Narain Singh	43	4	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Gurukul, Azamgarh	1935	Rajpati Upadhaya	58	3	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Chandesar	1940	Chandra Bali Brahmachari	63	6	Acharya
Sanskrit Pathshala, Thekman	1942	Murlidhar Sharma	34	4	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Muhammudpur	1953	Sukhnandan Puri	21	2	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Mahi	1956	Chandra Bali Pandey	125	5	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Azamgarh	1958	Bhagvati Rai	53	7	Shastri
Sanskrit Pathshala, Sammaduvari	1958	Bhagvat Brahmchari	33	3	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Bazar Gosain	1961	Divakar Prasad Dube	65	4	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Pakri	1961	Ram Naresh	53	3	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Muhammadabad Gohna	1966	Swami Nath Pandey	51	3	Madhyama
Sanskrit Pathshala, Phulpur	1974	—	42	4	Shastri
Sanskrit Pathshala, Jahanaganj	1974	Rajendra Pandey	82	7	Madhyama

STATEMENT IV

Arabic Institutions

Reference Page No. 230

Name of the institution	Year of establishment	Name of founder	Examination	Number of teachers	Number of students
Madrasa Arabi Misbahululoom, Kopaganj	1884	Maula Muhammad and Maulana Safi Mohammad Yakut	Alim, Molvi, Munshi	14	321
Madrasa Darululoom, Mau	1890	Maulvi Sultan Ahmad	Munshi, Fazil	40	1,262
Madrasa Faizeam, Maunath Bhanjan	1903	Haji Mohammad Ali	Molvi, Munshi, Fazil	21	505
Madrasa Babul Ilm, Mubarkpur	1929	Anjuman-e-Haidari	Molvi, Munshi	8	225
Madrasa Arabic Ashrafea Ziaululoom, Khairabad	1935	Maulana Muhammad Siddiqui	Alim, Kamil, Molvi, Munshi	9	232
Madrasa Shamsuuloom, Ghosi	1938	Hazrat Maulana Ghalan Yazdanj	Alim, Molvi, Munshi	13	506
Janat Darul Hadis Madrasa Nurul Islam, Chandpur	1939	Hazi Maulai	Alam, Mamil, Molvi, Munshi	9	196
Madrasa Jamululoom, Kopaganj	1946	Molvi Ahmad Shah	Alim, Molvi, Munshi	14	301
Madrasa Hanfia Ahlesunnat Bhrululoom, Mau	1949	Molvi Sanaullah Sunee Amjadee	—	9	122
Madrasa Arabia Darul Had, Maunath Bhanjan	1954	Committee	—	14	303
Madrasa Talimuddin, Maunath Bhanjan	1955	Muslim Akaliyat	—	11	313
Madrasa Miftahululoom, Maunath Bhanjan	—	Molvi Imamuddin Punjabi	Alim, Kamil, Molvi, Munshi, Fazil	60	1,050
Madrasa Arabic Faizululoom, Muhammadabad Gohna	1957	Committee	Alim, Molvi, Munshi	7	204
Madrasa Arabic Qasimululoom, Azamgarh	1969	Muhibuddin Educational Society		12	341

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Medical Facilities In Early Times

No direct reference is available which can throw light on the medical facilities available in very early times in the district, but it is reasonable to presume that the Ayurveda or the indigenous system of medicine was much in vogue. It was practised by the physicians, known as *vaids*, who used herbal and other medicines and many of whom possessed much useful surgical knowledge as well. They generally charged no fees, practising the art of healing as a pious duty, the people of charitable disposition usually supplying them with the necessities of life. The important principles of hygiene and public health along with the dietary values of each article of food and its effect on human health mentioned in the Ayurvedic texts constitute a treatise of lasting value on public health.

The habitations of people afflicted by infectious diseases were disinfected by fumigation, dried leaves of certain trees such as the neem (Azadirachta indica) being burnt inside the dwelling. During those days minor ailments were treated by household drugs. The people of the district, as elsewhere in the country, believed that evil spirits and demons forces were responsible for bringing about state of ill-health by contaminating the air or food, etc. In order to neutralise these evil effects friendly spirits, deities or gods were propitiated.

The Unani system of medicine (the practitioners of which were called hakims) was introduced in the district with the establishment of Muslim rule. In mediaeval times a rough and ready type of surgery was practised by *jarrahs*, many of whom were quacks and generally belonged to the barber caste but some of them acquired much local fame for healing. The efforts made by the British authorities to popularise the western medicines considerably affected the popularity of indigenous drugs. However, in spite of this temporary set-back, they have retained their place in the field of medicine even in later years. With the advent of the British rule in 1801 the allopathic system of medicine made its appearance.

The first step taken in this direction was the opening of a hospital under the charge of an assistant surgeon in 1865 at Azamgarh and a dispensary at Nagara but the latter was closed in 1880. In that year a dispensary was opened at Mau and another at Ahraula in 1887. Two years later in 1889 a dispensary was opened at Kajha in the south-eastern part of the district. In 1894 a dispensary was established at Muhammadabad and in 1896 a hospital for women was opened at Azamgarh. In 1908 a dispensary was started at Lalganj. By the beginning of the twentieth century there were the usual police and jail dispensaries at Azamgarh.

In order to provide prompt treatment of cases of plague and quicker means for inoculation against that disease, mobile travelling dispensaries were established in the district. Their number varied between three and four according to the available staff. Each of these was in the charge of a subassistant surgeon on itinerant duty. The dispensaries were supplied with a small stock of the common medicines and they proved useful beyond expectation. In April 1923, a health scheme was started in the district. The district medical officer of health with one assistant and six sanitary inspectors, one for each tahsil and the entire vaccinating staff worked under the control of the civil surgeon. The health officers propagated the importance of personal hygiene, sanitation and methods of proventing the spread of epidemic diseases to the rural public through lectures, magic lanterns and distribution of leaflets. The hygiene publicity included, among other things, the training of students in vernacular schools in personal hygiene, such as importance of keeping the clothings clean, brushing the teeth carefully and so on. Attention was paid to the improvement of sanitation in rural areas, town areas and notified areas. *Dais* in villages were trained in maternity and child welfare work. Medicines for ordinary diseases such as diarrhoea, malarial fever, etc., were regularly distributed. Quick preventive measures were adopted to check the spread of epidemics by permanganation of wells, inoculations and vaccinations.

Efforts have been made after the Independence to offer more and better medical facilities to the people. The government has opened numerous hospitals and dispensaries at different places in the district. Side by side with the allopathic system of medicine, Ayurvedic, Unani and homeopathic systems of medicines which were relegated into the background by the British, have also now received their due patronage from the government.

Vital Statistics

An examination of the vital statistics of the district reveals that the death-rate in normal years is generally lower than the birth-rate. However, there have been greater fluctuations in the death-rate than in the birth-rate. From 1881 to 1890 the average number of deaths was 43,814 per annum or an average death-rate of 27.30 per thousand, the highest figure being 34.94 per thousand in 1886. In the next decade the average number of deaths was 49,762 a year, the average rate being 29.37 per thousand. The rise was due to the abnormal mortality of 1894, when the rate rose to 45.40 per thousand. It was due not only to fever as the result of excessive rainfall but also to the worst outbreak of cholera since 1877. During the period intervening between 1901 to 1907 the average annual number of deaths was 53,136, average rate being 34.60 per thousand. The abnormal mortality may be ascribed to the deadly plague which accounted for over 58,000 deaths during a period of seven years. Such an affliction was, of course accidental and the true death-rate of the district can be ascertained from the average of the period before this epidemic. Thus the mean death-rate comes to 27.56 per thousand which is in the vicinity of the rates obtained in other parts of the State. It indicates that the climate of the district in general is healthy. During the decade 1911 to 1920, the death-rate in 1911 was 52.62 per thousand but till 1918 there was a ten-

dency of fall in it, the lowest being 27.01 per thousand in 1916. The average rates of death during 1921-30, 1931-40, and 1941-50 were 28.6, 19.4 and 13.9 respectively. During the fifties the maximum death-rate was 11.28 in males and 9.67 in females in 1951 and the minimum was 8.22 in males and 2.55 in females in 1960.

The returns of births, though not as accurate as those of deaths, provide a fair index of the condition prevailing at that time. In the decade 1881-1890 an yearly average of 56,126 births with a rate of 34.98 per thousand was recorded. In the next decade the figures were 50,225, the rate being 29.05 per thousand. In the period intervening between 1901 to 1907 the number of recorded births increased to 55,655 or 36.26 per thousand in spite of the high death-rate of that period. During the period from 1911-20 the highest birth-rate was 48.68 in 1918 and the lowest 34.69 in 1919. During 1921-30, 1931-40 and 1941-50 the average birth-rates were 31.2, 31.0 and 21.6 respectively.

There remain usually large omissions in the registration of births as well deaths and so the rates represent only a trend and not the true picture. Both birth and death-rates have fallen during the last decade.

The following table gives the total number of births and deaths between 1970 to 1975 :

Year	Number of births	Number of deaths
1970	9,889	3,116
1971	7,992	1,920
1972	11,413	3,440
1973	2,413	737
1974	2,269	922
1975	2,583	577

Infant Mortality

Prematurity, malnutrition, diarrhoea and fevers are the main causes of infant mortality in the district. The extension of medical facilities to the interior areas of the district through primary health centres and their subcentres, arrangements for pre-natal and post-natal care of mothers and provision for the supply of milk powder to underfed infants and their mothers have considerably brought down the incidence of infant mortality in recent years.

The yearly infant mortality in the district during 1970-1975 was as follows :

Year	Number of deaths
1970	200
1971	187
1972	168
1973	92
1974	13
1975	192

Diseases

Formerly the diseases which commonly caused deaths were epidemics like cholera, smallpox, plague and fevers, which have, however, been largely controlled now after Independence.

Common Diseases

Fever—Fever includes malaria, typhoid and other ailments that are accompanied by a large number of unidentified and undiagnosed systems marked by great bodily heat and quickening of the pulse. In early times, the greatest curse of the district was the prevalence of malaria. From 1881-1890 it accounted for about 72.74 per cent of the total mortality and 74.56 per cent during the following decade. The most notable years during the latter decade were 1894 when it claimed about 20,000 lives and 1897 when the disease played havoc during the rainy season and accounted for 52,505 deaths. The disease now stands almost completely controlled, next in importance to fever are respiratory diseases, the chief ones being pneumonia, influenza, etc. followed by water-borne diseases such as dysentry and diarrhoea. Deaths from other causes include injuries, snake bites, etc.

The following statement gives the number of deaths due to various common causes :

Year	Fever	Respiratory diseases	Dysentry and diarrhoea	Injuries	Other causes
1970	1391	244	87	47	1347
1971	741	148	55	55	921
1972	1141	288	108	60	1895
1973	353	—	72	—	312
1974	—	—	—	—	912
1975	222	44	44	1	263

Epidemics

The toll of life was very heavy when the epidemics like plague, cholera and smallpox appeared in virulent forms. This was due to the absence of proper medical facilities and scant attention towards preventive measures.

Plague—The plague first made its appearance in the district in 1901 when only one solitary case was reported. It gradually increased its intensity in the following two years and reached its zenith in 1904 and 1905. Plague has now been long eradicated.

Cholera—Cholera is endemic in the district and takes lives almost every year and sometimes assumes the form of an epidemic. From 1970 to 1975 only 29 deaths occurred in the district, the years 1973 and 1974 claiming no death. Disinfection of drinking water, prohibition of sale of exposed food and anti-cholera inoculation are resorted to at the time of outbreaks of cholera.

Smallpox—Smallpox is another disease which was always present in some degree, though the resultant mortality was in many years very small, only sometimes assuming the form of an epidemic. Vaccination is supposed to be the only effective preventive measure to stamp out the frightful disease, as it causes blindness and disfigurement. From 1970 to 1975 the disease claimed 635 lives, the maximum number being 531 in 1974 and minimum 7 in 1970; there being no deaths in the remaining three years 1971, 1972 and 1975. Since then despite active searches, secondary surveillance and publicity of a reward of Rs 1,000 for reporting cases no further case has been detected. The international commission of smallpox eradication visited the district in 1977 and declared the disease as totally eradicated.

Organisational Set-up

Prior to 1948 there were separate departments for medical and public health activities, which were amalgamated in that year, under a single directorate, for better cohesion and control over the different medical institutions and health 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 in the charge of the district medical officer of health, now designated deputy chief medical officer.

Formerly the civil surgeon was the administrative head of the medical organisation in the district. In July 1973, the departments of medical and public health were again reorganised in the State, abolishing the posts of the civil surgeon and the district medical officer of health. From the same year, in the district, a chief medical officer has been appointed under the new set-up. He heads the entire medical, public health and family planning set-up in the district. He is assisted by three deputy chief medical officers. In the urban circle at the district headquarters, superintendent of the district hospital (male) and the women hospital are the controlling authorities of medical, health and family planning activities in their respective institutions. All supervisory health and family planning activities are under the control of the chief medical officer.

Within the municipal areas, the municipal medical officers are responsible for the public health activities. The rural areas have been divided amongst the deputy chief medical officers for all medical health and family planning work. The public health centres in the rural areas are equally distributed among them for supervision. The rural State dispensaries fall under the primary health centres.

Each primary health centre (which has its own medical officer) is a unit of the integrated medical and public health services and renders preventive and curative service to the people. The medical officer is assisted by another medical officer in family planning and maternity and child welfare activities.

Hospitals and Dispensaries

There are a number of hospitals State and private besides those belonging to the railway and the police in the district. Some of them are equipped with x-ray plants and provide pathological test facilities. Statement I at the end of the chapter gives some details of these hospitals.

The details of allopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries are also given in Statements II and III respectively. Each allopathic dispensary is manned by a doctor and 2-3 other workers and has 4 to 6 beds, half being reserved for females. Each Ayurvedic and Unani dispensary staffed by a *vaid* or *hakim*, some of them having 4 beds (including 2 for women).

Homeopathic dispensaries—There are four homeopathic dispensaries located one each at Bichhwal, Kathan, Maltari and Bhatauli.

Primary Health Centres

In order to extend medical facilities and improve health standards of the rural population, the government has established primary health centres in every development block of the district and the number of such centres in the district is twenty-nine. Each centre has an allopathic dispensary, a maternity and child welfare centre and 3 to 5 maternity sub-centres and is manned by a medical officer, who is fully responsible for subjects relating to epidemic, flood, drought and sanitation. He is assisted by a sanitary inspector, two health visitors, a smallpox supervisor, three vaccinators, besides another medical officer exclusively for family planning and maternity child welfare work. The names of primary health centres are given in Statement IV at the end of the chapter.

Maternity and Child Welfare

The health of women was seriously impaired during pregnancy and delivery as tarined nurses and midwives were not available and the work was performed by untrained *dais* with the result that death-rate of both mothers and infants was higher. Since 1958, the government embarked upon a policy to establish several maternity and child welfare centres in the district. Each primary health centre has a maternity and child welfare centre at its headquarters each of which has 3 to 5 such subcentres attached to it. The number of maternity and child welfare centres and subcentres was 121 in 1975 and these were staffed by midwives and trained *dais*. The primary health centre, at the headquarters, which is the controlling body for all others, is headed by health visitor. Each other centre is headed by a *dai*. These centres have been equipped with aids and advices to educate ladies in planned parenthood. Statement IV at the end of the chapter gives the location of maternity and child welfare centres and subcentres attached to each primary health centre of the district.

Family Planning

Population explosion during the last few year has been causing serious concern to all, with a view to arresting this abnormal growth,

family planning programme is being vigorously implemented all ever the State. Family planning literature and contraceptives are also made available free of cost to the couples. Social workers, field workers and attendants move from house to house for distribution of contraceptives as also to explain the benefits of planned parenthood.

A family planning centre and many subcentres, the details of which are given in Statement IV, now function in each development block and the facilities are also available at each maternity and child welfare centre and maternity subcentre which distribute only contraceptives, and pills and render advice and educates masses. The district is also served by mobile units for carrying out sterilization operations. The table given below shows the progress made during the last ten years 1967-68 to 1976-77 in the field of intra uterine contraceptive device, insertion of loops, sterilisation, operation and distribution of contraceptives as a part of the family planning programme.

Year	I.U.C.D.	Insertion of loops	Operations		Distribution of contraceptives
			Vasectomy	Tubectomy	
1967—68	2,007	2,665	5,735	17	85,508
1968—69	2,166	3,316	6,022	14	96,830
1969—70	2,099	1,859	2,344	73	95,566
1970—71	3,401	3,105	2,920	22	88,435
1971—72	2,674	2,257	11,530	90	80,144
1972—73	1,945	1,446	2,517	70	1,31,316
1973—74	3,470	2,305	117	320	2,93,342
1974—75	3,599	3,568	264	431	2,56,269
1875—76	6,455	4,918	1046	827	4,58,945
1976—77	5,659	6,915	16,072	1,642	4,20,526

Milk Scheme—Under this scheme milk is supplied free to expectant and nursing mothers. Milk is also distributed in the flood and drought affected areas. The quantity of milk distributed and the number of persons benefited in 1973 and 1974 are given bolw :

Year	Quantity distributed Kg.	No. of persons benefited
1973	272	4,800
1974	793	14,000

Vaccination

The deputy chief medical officer (health) is incharge of the work of vaccination in the district. He is assisted by sanitary inspectors and a team of vaccinators. The work of vaccination has been intensified since 1962, when the national smallpox eradication scheme was launched. Though the Vaccination Act of 1880 was in force in the district from 1889, it could not be implemented fully due to lack of co-operation by the public. In urban areas the Azamgarh and Mau municipalities have their own vaccination staff. In rural areas every primary health centre has two vaccinators. With the assistance of Government of India and world health organisation an intensive active search and containment campaign was launched since 1973. Monthly active searches were conducted to determine active foci of smallpox which were subsequently contained by total vaccination of the effected areas and the surrounding areas.

The following statement gives the number of persons vaccinated from 1970 to 1974 :

Year	Total no. of persons vaccinated	Total no. of persons revaccinated	
		Successfull	Unsuccessfull
1970	3,23,827	1,54,660	18,778
1971	3,33,927	2,79,444	25,297
1972	4,59,773	2,04,007	74,000
1973	5,24,929	2,89,999	39,093
1974	7,46,948	3,96,157	93,932

Eye Relief

Cataract, glucoma, trachoma and conjunctivitis are common eye diseases in the district. An eye hospital, a branch of Sitapur Eye Hospital, Sitapur, is functioning at Azamgarh, The hospital had 32 and 16 beds for men and women respectively and treated 878 persons in indoor sections and 19,296 in outdoor sections in 1975.

Malaria And Filaria

Malaria Control Measures—In 1958, an anti-malaria unit Azamgarh (East) was established comprising Phulpur and Sagri tahsils. In 1959 two more units, Azamgarh (West) comprising Ghosi and Muhammadabad tahsils, and Jaunpur (West) comprising Lalganj tahsil came into being. Thus whole of the district switched over to national malaria eradication programme by 1960.

During the years 1959-60 and 1960-61 the district was under attack phase in which only spray operations were carried out. At the end of 1960-61, surveillance operations were launched. Under these operations, one house visitor was sanctioned for a population of ten to twelve thousand. He used to enquire about the fever incidence by carrying out house to house visits twice a month, collect the blood films of fever cases and administer to them presumptive treatment. The entire district of Azamgarh entered the consolidation phase during 1962-63. Under this phase spray operations were withdrawn and only surveillance operations were carried out. Part of the district entered into the maintenance phase during 1965-66 and the remaining portion during 1966-67. The activities under the maintenance phase were similar as in consolidation phase except the visits of the surveillance workers were made monthly instead of fortnightly. In 1977, a modified plan of operations for the control of malaria has been launched in the district. Under this plan, insecticidal spray is carried out, and the visits of the surveillance workers have been made fortnightly. The anti-malarial drugs are now being distributed through the hospitals, primary health centres, panchayats, school teachers and fever treatment depots and also through the village level and the malaria workers.

The data regarding anti-malaria measures under the scheme and the incidence of malaria is given in the following statement from 1970 to 1974 :

Year	No. of blood smears collected	No. of blood smears examined	No. of cases treated	Structures sprayed	
				Housing dwelling	Cattle etc.,
1970	1,00,863	98,481	6	170	172
1971	91,619	87,153	2	28	69
1972	80,018	76,294	2	1	2
1973	80,243	74,046	6	188	131
1974	75,686	69,656	1,092	429	156

In 1975 and 1976, the number of blood smears collected was 1,05,698 and 96,510 out of which 2,557 and 916 were treated respectively.

Filaria Control Measures—A filaria control unit has also been functioning since December, 1964 in the district. Antilarval measures to control the mosquito density and entomological work to find out the density and effect of larvacides are also being undertaken. The whole of the municipal area including two km. outskirts is treated with larvicidal oil at weekly intervals after cleaning the drains, ponds, nalas and other water accumulation to control the mosquito breeding. Ten to fifteen per cent of the population is being surveyed blood smears being made in the night. All persons found positive are given prescribed doses.

Prevention of Food and Drug Adulteration

The government, public analyst, analyses the samples taken by the sanitary inspectors. Suitable action is taken against offenders under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The deputy chief medical officer (health) is the licensing authority for food establishment and drug stores in the district. He is assisted by an inspector in his task to check the adulteration of drugs. They are further required to ensure the observance of Indian Drugs Act, 1940 and Drug Rules of 1945 by the retailers, wholesale dealers and manufacturing concerns.

Detailed information of food and drug adulteration cases from 1973 to 1974 is given in the following proforma :

Year	No. of samples collected		No. found adultrated		Cases prosecuted		Cases convicted	
	Food	Drug	Food	Drug	Food	Drug	Food	Drug
1973	555	41	181	7	174	1	20	1
1974	496	18	182	2	182	Nil	18	Nil

STATEMENT I

Allopathic Hospitals

Name of hospital	Staff			Reference page No. 252			
	Doctors			No. of beds		No. of patients treated in 1975	
				Male	Female	Outdoor	Indoor
ALLOPATHIC							
District Hospital, Azamgarh	8	80		110	24	34,462	3,992
Women Hospital, Azamgarh	2	19		22	48	9,061	5,692
Jail Hospital, Azamgarh	1	6		20	—	2,303	19
Tuk Hospital, Maunath Bhanjan	1	8		28	—	...	—
Male Hospital, Maunath Bhanjan	1	8		—	26	...	—
Mother Care Unit, Azamgarh	2	6		5	5	4,777	28
Women Hospital, Amila	1	4		—	6	1,789	—
Women Hospital, Muhammadabad	1	4		—	6	386	—
Social Welfare Centre Hospital, Indara	2	—		20	—	44,411	—
Christian Hospital, Azamgarh	2	—		75	—	26,427	4,126
HOMEOPATHIC							
Shri Durgaji Homeopathic College and Hospital, Chandeser	8	—		30	—	33,990	608
Sri Bajrang Lal Dalmia Homeopathic College and Hospital, Cachrampur	9	—		25	—	22,501	65

STATEMENT II

Allopathic Dispensaries, 1975

Reference Page No, 245

Name of Dispensaries	Year of establishment	No. of patients treated	
		Indoor	Outdoor
State Dispensary, Kherewan	1940	—	9,910
State Dispensary, Madhuban	1956	104	6,848
State Dispensary, Bardah	1965	14	6,444
State Dispensary, Parasrampur	—	29	7,529
State Dispensary, Mahul	1972	—	8,644
State Dispensary, Kajha Khurd	1972	—	4,725
State Dispensary, Rasulpur	—	64	6,001
State Dispensary, Kusalgaon	1972	—	2,851
State Dispensary, Shankerpur	1972	—	1,665
State Dispensary, Mehnajpur	1973	31	4,999
State Dispensary, Kajha	1973	53	5,508
State Dispensary, Khandaura	—	16	3,506
State Dispensary, Barhalganj	—	66	5,609
State Dispensary, Bagli Pizra	—	—	2,428
State Dispensary, Mubarkpur	—	64	3,524
State Dispensary, Bhadir	1973	—	3,670
State Dispensary, Chakiya	1973	—	2,324
State Dispensary, Sultanpur	1974	16	4,305
State Dispensary, Gontha	1974	—	3,418
State Dispensary, Pandar Kunda	1974	—	2,386

STATEMENT III

Ayurvedic and Unani Dispensaries, 1975

Reference Page No. 245

Location	Year of establishment	No. of persons treated	
		Outdoor	Indoor
Ayurvedic			
Kamal Sagar	1936	5,332	—
Maharajganj	1944	9,380	—
Deo Gaon	1955	18,221	456
Gokulpur	1955	6,894	—
Didarganj	—	6,271	—
Raunapar	—	8,489	—
Renda	1955	4,133	—
Arazi Amani	—	4,859	—
Karmi	—	10,881	—
Sipah	1955	8,891	—
Chandesar	1956	8,910	392
Amilia	1958	10,015	446
Majhwara	1959	13,330	218
Chandabhari	1960	12,275	—
Bhadanpur	—	12,275	—
Bansgaon	—	5,496	—
Kasra	1966	5,765	—
Dubari	1971	8,572	—
Bismi	1973	6,590	—
Unani			
Ajan Shahid	1955	11,105	450
Kailsat Buranpur	—	9,830	—
Mahanagar	—	15,052	—
Mahmudpur	—	9,900	—
Kasimpur	—	5,075	—

STATEMENT IV

Primary Health Centres, Maternity Centres, Family Planning Centre and their sub-centres

Reference Page No. 245

Primary health centres with the year of establishment	Maternity centres	Family planning centres	Maternity sub-centres	Family planning sub-centres
1	2	3	4	5
1. Phulpur (1949)	Phulpur	Phulpur	Amarethu Didar Ganj, Digia	Kajha Khurd Nawagara Palthi Pusp Nagar, Bhor Mau
2. Badraon (1957)	Badraon	Badraon	Amilo Sipah, Nadwan Sarai	Kusumha Umarpur, Sultanpur Piwa, Tal Manikapur
3. Kopaganj (1959)	Kopaganj	Kopaganj	Kasari Koiriapar, Alinagar	Adri Kurthi Zafarpur, Belabandh Fatehpur Sahroj
4. Dohrighat (1960)	Dohrighat	Dohrighat	Surajpur Dargah, Saranguah	Rasulpur Bhairopur, Jajauli Bela Kasaila Gontha
5. Mehnagar (1964)	Mehnagar	Mehnagar	Jigni Kathan, Diha	Sheo Rampur, Renda Kamhariya, Bachawal
6. Thekman (1964)	Thekman	Thekman	Bardah Bhira, Gomadih	Sarai Paltu Sarawan, Tamberpur Manhuari, Gorahara
7. Ranipur (1965)	Ranipur	Ranipur	Kajha Khurd, Karmi Sachui, Paligarh	Chit Bisaon Chiriakot, Palia Alde Mau
8. Sathiaon (1965)	Sathiaon	Sathiaon	Mubarkpur, Shahgarh, Pichari Sonpur	Sameda, Khaura, Mahwan, Amilo
9. Tahbarpur (1967)	Tahbarpur	Tahbarpur	Jamalpur Ora, Bairampur	Lachhra, Manikpur, Raisingpur Sarari, Garhwa
10. Fatehpur Maraon (1970)	Fatehpur Maraon	Fatehpur Maraon	Kamal Sagar, Dubari Madhuban	Maniyadpur, Parsupur, Ghazipur Nemdar, Ban Pokhara
11. Pardaha	Pardaha	Pardaha	Raini Piparideeh, Sarwan Mau	Kanhirsur, Bangali Pinjara, Salehabad, Dumraon Barlai
12. Tarwa	Tarwa	Tarwa	Bansgaon Pakri, Menhnajpur	Bibipur, Aira Kalan, Uchahuan Jamudih, Khushnampur
13. Rani ki Sarai	Rani ki Sarai	Rani ki Sarai	Baragaon Nizambad, Unchagaon Nadauli	Gambhirban, Manjhgawan, Anjuara, Ranipur, Sithwal

1	2	3	4	5
14. Muhammadpur (1970)	Muhammadpur	Muhammadpur	Anwank Gambhirpur, Nandaon	Parsaha Chhaon, Pitamberpur, Mangrawan Ambarpur
15. Palhni (1970)	Palhni	Palhni	Chandesar Sadar Ukraura, Maharajpur	Bhaduli Khairatpur, Shaikhpura, Kharakpur, Karahainpur
16. Mirzapur (1970)	Mirzapur	Mirzapur	Mundiyar Sarai, Mir Sanjarpur	Khutauli, Durbasa Basti, Pendra Paindapur
17. Marteenganj	Marteenganj	Marteenganj	Sikraur Lasra, Khurd Sohauli	Lalpur Nonari, Baroha Belwana, Karauli
18. Pawai	Pawai	Pawai	Mittpur, Khairuddinpur Ambari	Khandaura Bharchakia, Rampur Naharpur Sahroj
19. Koelsa (1970)	Koelsa	Koelsa	Kauria Taher, Atraith	Sikraura, Ratnawe Bhima, Kol Lalpur, Dimadih
20. Atraulia	Atraulia	Atraulia	Nandana Bharaiya, Narion	Lohra Bhagatpur, Ratuapar Shampur, Bansgaon
21. Maharajganj (1971)	Maharajganj	Maharajganj	Parsrampur, Arazi Amani Kaptanganj	Sardaha, Sherpur Newada, (Nauhsrar Dewara Jadid Kita Awal), Shankarpur
22. Harraiya	Harraiya	Harraiya	Rustam Sarai, Kurthiya, Raunapar Bardiha	Ramgarh, Chand Patti, Hajipur, Urdiha, Jokahara
23. Azmatgarh	Azmatgarh	Azmatgarh	Bhuana Buzurg, Latghat Maltari	Pandar Zamin Kunda, Anjan Harkhori, Chapra Shahid, Sultanpur, Berman
24. Bilariaganj (1973)	Bilariaganj	Bilariaganj	Bankat Kandhrapur, Patwadh	Bhimwa Julhapur Bindwal Pachkhora, Gauri Narainpur
25. Ahraula	Ahraula	Ahraula	Mahul Kothra, Shahpur	Khajuri Bhadaura, Sahmshbad Ashrafpur Shambhupu
26. Lalganj (1973)	Lalganj	Lalganj	Deogaon Rasulpur, Lauhan	Chirkihit Salempur, Khanjihit Deohara, Bahadurpur
27. Jahanigaonj (1973)	Jahanigaonj	Jahanigaonj	Bhujahi Dhanar, Bandh Barhalganj	Mandey Chittaur, Bohana Mittupur, Jalalpur
28. Muhammadabad (1973)	Muhammadabad	Muhammdabad	Karha Walidpur, Deoria	Benianpar Bandighat, Deokali Bandi, kalam Bhadir
29. Ghosi	Ghosi	Ghosi	Sarai Ganesh, Manjhwara, Sipah	Nadwan, Mungeshar, Kalyanpur, Akola, Biragaon

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

LABOUR WELFARE

For enforcement of labour laws and implementation of labour welfare schemes, the district falls within the Gorakhpur region of the State labour department. The labour administration in the region is controlled by an assistant labour commissioner stationed at Gorakhpur, assisted by conciliation officer, a factory inspector, an assistant labour welfare officer and 18 labour inspectors. At the district level two labour inspectors have been posted with headquarters at Azamgarh and Maunath Bhanjan. They also strive to prevent strikes and lock-outs, through prompt enquiries into grievances and speedy measures to redress them.

The chief factories inspector at Kanpur is in overall charge of the various factories, being responsible for enforcement of provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 etc. in all the industrial establishments. He is assisted by one regional factories inspector and 18 labour inspectors of Gorakhpur region who are already notified as additional inspectors of factories, Gorakhpur.

The regional factories inspector visits the district, inspects the industrial establishments and takes action in regard to breaches of laws detected by him or otherwise referred to him.

The regional conciliation officer's job is to prevent a dispute, and if it takes place, to try to seek a settlement through negotiations and conciliation. He also makes recommendations whether a case is fit for adjudication or not unless the parties agree themselves for arbitration.

The assistant labour commissioner is the prescribed authority under the Minimum Wages, Act, 1948 and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 and as such he has to function and exercise the powers of a court in respect of claims due or delayed and also functions as workmen's compensation commissioner under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Besides, he is in general responsible for maintenance of industrial peace in the region.

Both the State and Central Governments have enacted a number of laws for the benefit of workers and their dependents. The Indian Boilers 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 the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 are still operating as amended from time to time. The important Acts passed after 1947 and enforced in the district are the U.P. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Factories Act, 1948, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Establishments (National Holidays) Act, 1961,

the U.P. Dookan Avam Vanijya Adhishthan Adhiniyam, 1962, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and the Beedis and Cigar Workers Act, 1968.

In 1975-76, as many as 2,579 contraventions of the various provisions of different Acts were detected and in 209 cases prosecutions were launched. Their details are given below :

Name of Act	No. of contravention	No. of prosecutions	Fine imposed (in Rs)
1	2	3	4
Factories Act, 1948	29	10	420
Payment of Wages Act, 1936	27	—	—
Employment of Children Act, 1938	8	—	—
Minimum Wages Act, 1948	831	45	950
Dookan Avam Vanijya Adhishthan Adhiniyam, 1962	1,689	154	5,290
Total	2,579	209	6,660

The total amount of compensation paid in 1973 and 1974 to workmen or their dependents on account of death caused during the course of employment was Rs 51,500.

Trade Unions

Trade unions are corporate bodies which work for the welfare of their members and aim at furthering harmonious relations between the employees and employers. Their activities include efforts to improve the economic, moral and social condition of the workers, ensure payment of fair wages, making arrangements for healthy working conditions and proper medical care and educational facilities for children. In 1974-75, the following 6 unions of the district were registered with the registrar trade unions, U.P. Kanpur under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 :

Name of trade union	Year of registration	No. of members
1	2	3
Vyawasayik Karmchari Sangh, Azamgarh	1960	181
Roadways Mazdoor Sabha, U.P., Azamgarh	1962	2227
Textile Worker's Union, Mau, Azamgarh	1971	928
Mau Mill Karamchari Sangh, Azamgarh	1972	160
Swadeshi Mills Shramik Sangh, Mau	1974	65
Textile Udyog Karmchari Sangh, Mau	1974	286

Labour Welfare Centres

There is one labour welfare centre at Maunath Bhanjan which was established in 1972-73. It is equipped with a homoeopathic dispensary, a library and reading-room and provides medical facilities to the workers and their families. It also runs sewing and embroidery classes and provides recreation including outdoor and indoor games, radio, etc. Apart from this the centre also organises baby shows and other activities like scouting from time to time for the benefit of the workers' children.

Old Age Pension Scheme

The old age pension scheme was inforced in the whole of Uttar Pradesh on December 1, 1957. Initially it was to provide subsistence to persons aged 70 years or more, having no means of livelihood, whatsoever and devoid of relations bound by custom or usage to support them. Its scope was liberalised in February 1962 when the definition of the term 'destitute' was extended to include persons with a monthly income of Rs 10 and the eligibility was reduced to 65 years. In 1965, the rules were further extended to cater to the needs of men and women having a monthly income of Rs 15 and cover cases of such widows, crippled or the physically infirm persons who were rendered totally incapable of earning a living and had attained the age of 60 years. Thus at present the scheme covers male distitutes of 65 years of age and above and female distitutes of 60 years and above.

The amount of pension was raised to Rs 20, the scheme was revised again in January, 1972, when the rate of monthly pension was increased to Rs 30. The amount of pension has further been raised to Rs 40 p.m. with effect from 1.4.76. The scheme does nos apply to beggars, mendicants and inmates of poor houses.

Previously pension was sanctioned by labour commissioner, U.P. after verification of particulars and the recommendations of the district magistrates. But with effect from 1.9.75, however, the scheme has been decentralised and its administration has been transferred to the district magistrates who are also now empowered to sanction the pension. Payments of pension are also made to pensioners by the distrcit magistrates themselves. The total number of pensioners in the district in 1975 was 88 of which 34 were males and 54 females.

Prohibition

Prohibition had always been the aim of the government ever since the idea was given by Mahatma Gandhi. The introduction of provincial autonomy in 1937 gave a new impetus to the government against issuing liqour licences. To redeem an old pledge, the government started implementing the policy of prohibition in selected areas. Total prohibition was introduced in some districts of the State in April, 1939, but following the resignation of the Congress government in 1939, prohibition was lifted by the British government.

The pledge for enforcement of prohibition was again revived in 1947 with the formation of the popular government which aimed at

implementing prohibition in the entire State. In view of several difficulties, however, prohibition was withdrawn by the State Government. from many districts. However, this was not applicable to this district as it was not a dry area and even now there is no legal prohibition. Since prohibition remains one of the directive principles of the Indian constitution, and one of the accepted policies of the State Government, efforts are being made to make the people aware of the evils of drinking through various publicity media like film shows, slides, exhibitions, musical entertainments and cultural programmes. This is done through local agencies such as the local Madya Nishedh Samiti and the local branch of the Arya Samaj. The former has an organiser and a *pracharak* or publicity assistant posted in the district for publicity work. These instructive measures, however fail to register their full impact on account of the absence of any legal base for the same. Lack of education and socio-religious customs among the lower classes of society also prove a big hurdle in the implementation of prohibition policy.

Though the district has not been declared a dry area but liquor and bhang shops remain closed on Tuesdays and other important occasions. Vending of ganja and opium is strictly prohibited. The opening of excise shops at religous, or industrial places and near labour colonies is prohibited.

Advancement Of Scheduled Castes And Other Backward Classes

The sub-marginal state of existence of a large number of social groups had generated anxiety in the minds of many a reformer but without perceptible impact on the caste conscious and tradition ridden society. However, it was only with the advent of Independence that sincere and concrete steps were taken for their amelioration and in 1947, the U.P. Removal of social Disabilities Act was passed which ensured to the members of such castes the unrestricted enjoyment of social and religious liberties. The constitution of Indian in its Fundamental Rights declares untouchability to be an offence and makes it punishable in accordance with law and as such, its practice in any form is illegal.

In 1951 the State Harijan Sahayak department was set-up by merging depressed class education section of director of education U.P., Allahabad, and the reclamation office dealing the reformation of criminals. In the year 1956 the post of director, Harijan welfare, U.P. was created and hence forth the department was known as director of Harijan welfare U.P. In 1957 the district Harijan Sahayak officer was posted in each district.

The provisions of Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 enforced complete ban on the ages old practice of untouchability, redeeming the dignity of mankind. The Act has further been revised by introducing the "Protection of Civil Right Act, 1976" by amending the previous provisions.

The reservation of Scheduled Castes in government service was raised from 10 to 18 per cent in 1959. The upper age limit for recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates in govern-

ment services has been relaxed up to 5 years over the prescribed age limit from the year 1952.

In 1961, the Harijan Sahayak and social welfare departments were integrated. The designation of the district Harijan welfare officer was changed to the district Herijan and social welfare officer which still continues. His main functions are to watch the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and implement the schemes formulated by the government for welfare and amelioration of their lots.

Recently additional benefits have been introduced by the Central Government in respect of these candidates viz. subsidizing of other expenses on regular studies and providing pre-test coaching facilities to candidates desirous of appearing at competitive examinations. They are also entitled to concessions in fee and promotion quota has been fixed for them. Recent legislations have emancipated these who were made to suffer on account of past debts received from private money lenders or obligations of bonded labour. The government generally grants subsidy to members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Denotified Tribes for agriculture, irrigation, industry, construction of houses, water wells and handpumps.

With a view to achieve the target of providing drinking water in the locality of Scheduled Castes, the scheme has been transferred to community development department from the year 1973-74. The government after due consideration has established two Corporations viz (i) U.P. finance and development corporation and (2) Harijan and Nirbal Varg Avas Corporation. The U.P. finance and development corporation provides subsidy and loan on the nominal interest of 4 per cent for the development of cottage industries. The Harijan and Nirbal Varg Avas Nigam provides subsidy and loan for construction of houses of Scheduled Castes.

The following tables give some idea of the extent to which financial assistance has been provided by the government to raise the living standard of these people.

Work	Amount (in Rs) spent between 1967-68 and 1975-76	No. of persons benefited
1	2	3
House construction	4,68,780	602
Cottage industries	2,15,167	737
Drinking water wells	2,17,477	386
Agricultural development	2,34,800	409

The following stipends were granted under the various provincial and central schemes to members of Scheduled Castes, Denotified Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

Class	Name of scheme	No. of students	Amount (in Rs)
1	2	3	4
Scheduled Castes	Central	3,460	26,24,206
Denotified Tribes		72	39,546
	Provincial		
Scheduled Castes		3,360	40,4448
Denotified Tribes		79	8,184
Other Backward Classes		1,014	2,03,608

Since Independence much stress has been laid on their advancement of education. There is provision for their free education up to high school classes, scholarships and books being also given to them even for higher education.

The following statement gives the number of students of different categories of institutions who received various educational facilities from the year 1967-68 to 1975-76 :

Category of institution	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4	5
Junior Basic	160	43	36	14
Senior Basic	1,093	344	871	154
Higher secondary (Up to X)	1,753	170	186	80
Higher secondary (Up to XII)	3,302	148	277	38

The statement given below shows the amount spent and number of beneficiaries under various scholarship schemes :

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme of scholarships	Expenditure	No. of beneficiaries
1	2	3	4
1	Scholarship and non-recurring assistance to Scheduled Castes students in post-matric classes	65,05,600	1,54,450
2	Scholarship to Backward and Other Backward Classes students in post-matric classes	3,47,100	2,700
3	Scholarship and non-recurring assistance to the Denotified Tribes students in post-matric classes	1,80,000	566
4	Scholarship non-recurring assistance to Scheduled Caste students in pre-matric classes	28,16,543	28,550
5	Scholarship to Backward Classes students in pre-matric classes	3,16,,798	5,923
6	Scholarship to Denotified Tribes students in pre-matric classes	1,06,000	438

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENS

Muslim Trusts

There are many Shia *waqfs* or trusts in the district, mainly for religious, educational and charitable purposes. These *waqfs* are registered with the Shia Central Board of *waqfs* U.P. Some of the important ones are tabulated below :

Name of Shia *waqf*	Year of foundation	Founder	Annual income (in Rs.)	Objectives
Naeem Bibi	1918	Naeem Bibi	545	Azadari during Muhorram and Chehullum
Naggan Bibi	1920	Naggan Bibi	1,200	Religious and Chari table purpose
Syed Mohammad Jawed	1928	Mohammad Jawed	5,892	—do—
Alleyan Bibi	1950	Alleyan Bibi	655	—do—
Syed Ali Ahmed	1931	Syed Ali Ahmed	6,000	Azadari during Muhorram and Chehullum
Syed Hasan Imdad	1932	Syed Hasan Imdad	621	Religious purpose
Syed Inayat Hussain	1939	Inayat Hussain	201	— do—
Majid and Imambara Khideria	—	—	1000	Awadari during Muhorram and Chehullum
Rauza Kalik Tahir Hussain	—	Atiya Sarkar	600	— do—

WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN

The welfare of ex-servicemen in the district is looked after by the local branch of the district soldiers', sailors' and airmen's board, which is under the control and supervision of the director soldier's welfare, U.P. The district unit is supervised by a secretary who is a paid employee and is also an ex-serviceman. The board as elsewhere, provides various facilities to ex-servicemen and their families and assists in their rehabilitation. These facilities include grant of pensions, scholarships, relief grants and providing employment to retired and other service personnel who have been discharged on various grounds of disablement. The board also looks after the arrangements of medical treatment, settlement of accounts, permits for controlled commodities and settlement of dispute cases etc.

An idea of the extent of service rendered to ex-servicemen during the years 1971 to 1975 may be had from the following statement:

Nature of help rendered	No. of ex-servicemen helped and relief (in Rs/ha.)				
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Financial assistance/relief in lump sum sanctioned to ex-servicemen widows	219 (32,000)	180 (12,000)	39 (17,000)	164 (20,900)	67 (28,185)
Book aid and Stipend	388 (29,608)	213 (9,000)	388 (29,305)	307 (17,300)	377 (20,252)
Sewing machines donated to the widows	1 (225)	8 (1,800)	9 (2,025)	—	10 (3,250)
Gaon Sabha land alottment to ex-servicemen	7 (7 ha.)	4 (3 ha.)	3 (7.5 ha.)	2 (2 ha.)	—
Local donations collected and assistence rendered to widows and POW families	—	—	14 (10,501)	—	—
Cases sponsered for BTC/ Vocational Training on military accounts	45	38	39	40	25
Re-employment of ex-servicemen	27	26	14	10	9

National awards for outstanding gallantry were given to the following soldiers :

Name of Person with rank	Village and Tahsil	Name of Award	Year
Brigadier M. Usman	Bibipur, Ghosi	Victoria Cross	1948
Ex-Havaldar Kedar Singh	Chakla, Mohammadabad	Vir Chakra	1965
Late Naib Subedar Saudagar Singh	Baragaon, Sagri	Vir Chakra	1965
Ex-Risaldar Ambika Singh	Ahilad, Mohammadabad	Sena Medal	1965
Corporal Jai Raj Vaid	Bag Bahar, Phulpur	Shaurya Chakra	1971
Major K.N. Rai	Cherkihil, Lalganj	Sena Medal	1971

WELFARE OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS

In 1972-73, political pensions were granted to 558 persons by the State Government and to 306 persons by the Central Government. The minimum amount of pension is Rs 60.

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Political Parties

The people of the district are conscious of their political rights. There are several political organisations of All India and State level in the district, having their own district, and primary units to propagate and execute its policies and programmes. The seven major political parties active in the district have been the Indian National Congress, the Indian National Congress (Organisation), the Bhartiya Jan Sangh, the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Bhartiya Lok Dal and the Socialist Party. The Janata Party came into being in February, 1977 by the coming together of all opposition parties, with the exception of certain Communist groups.

VIDHAN SABHA (LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

The people of Azamgarh had to elect fourteen members to the State Legislative Assembly in the general elections of 1952. There were three double—member constitutencies having one seat each reserved for the Scheduled Castes candidates : namely Phulpur (south), Mohammadabad (North)—cum-Ghosi (south), and Sadar (Azamgarh) tahsil. Eight constituencies, namely Ghosi (east), Ghosi (west), Phulpur (north), Lalganj (south), Lalganj (north), Mohammadabad Gohna (south), Sagri (west), and Sagri (east) were to elect one member each.

The total number of electors in the district was 10,51,400 of whom 5,50,532 exercised their right to vote, the number of valid votes polled being 5,37,806 and invalid 12,726. The percentage of voting was 52.3. The following statement gives the results of the general elections held in 1952 :

Name of the party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	8	—	31,504
Communist Party of India	4	—	21,278
Indian National Congress	14	10	1,79,340
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	11	—	67,402
Ram Rajya Parishad	14	2	96,547
Socialist Party of India	11	1	15,524
Uttar Pradesh Revolutionary Socialist Party	7	1	16,707
Independents	30	1	1,09,504

For the general elections of 1957, the constituencies were dilimited in 1956, and the district was divided into 11 constituencies having three double-member constituencies, with one seat each resreved for the Scheduled Castes candidates. They were Mohammadabad Gohna, Mahul, and Lalganj. The other eight single member constituencies were of Natthupur, Ghosi, Kopaganj, Nizamabad, Azamgarh, Atraulia, Gopalpur and Sagri.

The total number of electors in the district was 11,37,638, of whom 7,64,009 exercised their right to vote, the number of valid votes polled being 7,37,672 and invalid 26,337. The percentage of voting was 67.1. The result of this election are given in the statement that follows :

Name of the Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid Votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	8	—	65,919
Communist Party of India	7	2	88,172
Indian National Congress	14	7	2,09,743
Praja Socialist Party	14	3	1,76,308
Ram Rajya Parishad	2	—	7,408
Independents	2	2	1,90,122

Before the general elections of 1962, the constituencies were again dilimited and 14 single member constituencies were carved out namely : Natthupur, Ghosi, Sagri, Gopalpur, Atraulia, Nizamabad, Azamgarh, Mahul, Deogaon, Muhammadabad, Kopaganj, Mubarkpur, Bela Daulatabad and Sarai Mir the last three being reserved for Scheduled Castes.

The total strength of the electorate was 12,29,888, of these 6,23,807 electors exercised their right to franchise. The number of valid votes polled were 5,92,285 and invalid 31,522. The percentage of voting was 50.7. The following statement gives the results of this election :

Name of the Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid vote polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	14	—	77,818
Communist Party of India	9	5	97,215
Indian National Congress	14	3	1,65,918
Praja Socialist Party	14	6	1,49,496
Ram Rajya Parishad	1	—	1,098
Republican Party of India	6	—	11,231
Socialist Party of India	13	—	44,902
Swatantra Party	9	—	33,799
Independents	8	—	10,808

The constituencies were again dilimited in 1966 for the Vidhan Sabha election of 1967, and 14 constituencies were constituted namely: Natthupur (S. C.), Ghosi, Sagri, Gopalpur, Azamgarh, Rani-ki-Sarai, Atraulia, Phulpur, Martinganj (S.C.), Meh Nagar (S.C.), Lalganj, Mubarkpur, Muhammadabad Gohna (S.C.) and Mau.

The strength of the electorate was 14,10,487, of these 7,98,358 electors exercised their right to vote, the number of valid votes polled being 7,47,705 and invalid 45,653. The percentage of voting was 56.2. The following statement gives the result of election held in 1967 :

Name of the Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	14	2	1,90,625
Communist Party of India	10	2	58,764
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	7	—	42,330
Indian National Congress	14	6	1,83,825
Praja Socialist Party	9	—	42,870
Republican Party of India	8	—	85,904
Samyukta Socialist Party	14	4	1,89,724
Swatantra Party	7	—	12,333
Independents	16	—	41,280

Owing to the President's rule in the State, imposed on February 25, 1968, a mid-term poll was held in February, 1969. In the elections of 1969, there was no change in the number of constituencies.

The total number of electors in the district was 15,44,857, of whom 7,98,622 exercised their right to vote, the number of valid votes polled being 7,74,582 and invalid 24,040. The percentage of voting was 51.6. The results of the election are given below :

Name of the Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	13	1	1,04,042
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	14	3	1,15,092
Bolsheviks	2	—	4,886
Communist Party of India	6	—	57,050
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1	1	16,368
Indian National Congress	14	5	2,10,119
Mazdoor Parishad	2	—	855
Praja Socialist Party	2	—	10,529
Republican Party of India	12	—	77,874
Republican Party of India (Ambedkarite)	1	—	2,844
Samyukta Socialist Party	11	4	1,56,978
Independents	7	—	18,445

On October 1, 1970, the State was again placed under President's rule, though for a few days only and on October 18, a popular ministry was formed in the State by the Samyukta Vidhayak Dal. This ministry also did not last for more than five months.

In the wake of large-scale defections the Congress (R) merged to muster absolute majority in the State Assembly and formed the government in April, 1971.

But in June, 1973 the Congress ministry resigned and the State was placed under President's rule once again, which was revoked in November, 1973 by the formation of ministry by the Congress.

For the general elections of 1974, the number of constituencies remained unchanged, but they were dilimited and the district was divided into the constituencies of Natthupur, Ghosi, Sagri, Gopalpur, Azamgarh, Nizamabad, Atraulia, Phulpur, Sarai Mir (S.C.), Meh Nagar (S.C.), Lalganj, Mubarkpur, Muhammadabad Gohna (S.C.) and Mau.

The total strength of the electorate was 17,37,132 of these 9,65,306 electors exercised their right to franchise. The number of valid votes polled were 9,39,574 and invalid 25,732. The percentage of voting was 55.5. The results of this election are given in the following statement :

Name of the Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Vaild votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	13	—	88,458
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	14	8	3,18,255
Communist Party of India	4	2	57,078
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	2	—	28,918
Indian National Congress	11	4	2,21,578
Indian National Congress (Organization)	14	—	70,517
Muslim League	1	—	513
Rashtriya Loktantrik Sangh	2	—	1,613
Shosit Samaj Dal	10	—	9,626
Socialist Party of India	9	—	36,154
Swatantra Party	1	—	175
Independants	33	—	1,11,689

After the Congress government was swept off its feet at the centre, by the general election of March, 1977, the assembly was dissolved and fresh elections were held in June, 1977. In the elections of 1977, there was no change in the number of constituencies.

The total strength of electorate was 18,10,280, of these 8,72,847, electors exercised their right to franchise, the number of valid votes polled being 8,58,987 and invalid 13,860. The percentage of voting was 48.2. The result of the elections was as under :

Name of the Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Communist Party of India	3	—	81,721
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	2	—	6,621
Indian National Congress	11	2	2,47,310
Janata Party	14	12	3,87,076
Independents	49	—	1,36,259

Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council)

For election to the Vidhan Parishad the district is covered under the following three constituencies : Azamgarh-Ghazipur Local Authorities, Gorakhpur-cum-Faizabad Teachers, and Varanasi Graduates.

Union Legislatures

Lok Sabha (House of the People)

In the elections of 1957, the people of Azamgarh were to elect three members including one member from Ghosi subdivision and two members from Azamgarh of which one had to be exclusively a member of the Scheduled Castes.

The total number of electors in the district was 12,10,466 of whom 9,47,657 exercised their right to vote, the number of valid votes polled being 9,03,100 and invalid 44,557. The percentage of voting was 78.2. The following statement gives the result of this election :

Name of the party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Communist Party of India	1	—	75,070
Indian National Congress	3	3	3,25,027
Praja Socialist Party	3	—	2,78,011
Independents	3	—	2,24,096

For the elections of 1962 Azamgarh was divided into three single-member constituencies namely Azamgarh, Lalganj (reserved for the Scheduled Castes) and Ghosi.

The total strength of the electorate was 13,07,854 of these 6,34,485 electors exercised their right to vote. The number of valid votes polled was 6,09,804 and invalid 24,681. The percentage of voting was 48.5. The following statement gives the results of the elections :

Name of the party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	3	—	88,657
Communist Party of India	2	1	85,189
Indian National Congress	3	1	1,92,473
Praja Socialist Party	1	1	1,38,007
Republican Party of India	1	—	13,690
Socialist Party of India	2	—	28,349
Swatantra Party	2	—	27,756
Independent	1	—	35,683

For the general elections of 1967 the number of constituencies remained unchanged.

The strength of the electorate was 15,05,678 of these 7,83,000 electors exercised their right to vote, the number of valid votes polled being 7,44,185 and invalid 38,815. The percentage of voting was 52.0. The following statement gives the results of the election :

Name of the party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	3	—	1,45,586
Communist Party of India	1	1	68,850
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	2	—	50,701
Indian National Congress	3	2	2,49,336
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	14,780
Republican Party of India	1	—	27,960
Samyukta Socialist Party	3	—	1,76,049
Swatantra Party	1	—	10,92[illegible]

In the mid-term elections to fifth Lok Sabha in 1971 the district retained three seats as before. In 1969 the Congress party split into two-one led by Jagjiwan Ram and the other by S. Nijalingappa and were identified by the name of their leaders. The Lok Sabha was dissolved on December 27, 1970, and fresh polls were ordered. In the mid-term election to the fifth Lok Sabha in 1971 the district retained three seats as before.

The total strength of the electorate was 16,83,987 and 7,42,918 persons exercised their right of voting. The total valid votes polled were 7,26,593 and invalid 16,325. The percentage of voting was 44.1. The result of the election were as follows :

Name of the Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	—	46,271
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	3	—	1,21,959
Communist Party of India	1	1	1,43,644
Indian National Congress (Jagjivan Ram)	2	2	2,53,636
Indian National Congress (Nijlingappa)	1	—	58,689
Samyukta Socialist Party	1	—	61,050
Independents	6	—	41,344

In the general elections of 1977 the district retained three seats as before. The total strength of electorate was 19,25,944, and 10,66,726 persons exercised their right of voting. The total valid votes polled were 10,45,465 and invalid 21,261. The percentage of voting was 55.8. The results were as follows :

Name of the party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Communist Party of India	1	—	61,885
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1	—	17,502
Indian National Congress	3	—	2,67,721
Janata Party	3	3	6,83,243
Independents	3	—	15,164

Newspapers and Periodicals

Many Hindi and Urdu dailies, and periodicals are published from the district at present. The details regarding these are given below :

Name of the newspaper/periodical	Periodicity	Year of commencement	Copies in circulation
Hindi			
Dewal Dainik	Daily	1968	2,500
Avdhoot	Weekly	1966	400
Azamgarh	"	1966	275
Desvarat	"	1972	500
Kapot	"	1971	500
Karam Yogi	"	1975	600
Manav Sewak	"	1949	500
Pravel	"	1968	350
Rastra Doot	"	1957	400
Rupdaman	"	1969	700
Sandesh	"	1934	300
Swadhinta Gazet	"	1967	600
Tamsa	"	1969	500
Vaculese	"	1972	400
Urdu			
The Roz	Weekly	1970	200
Somatwat	Daily	1970	200

Other Newspapers and Periodicals

Names of some of the popular dailies, periodicals and monthlies that are published outside and read in the district are given in the following statement :

Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
Hindi			
Bharat	*Dharamyuga*	*Madhuri*	*Chandamama*
Hindustan	*Saptahik Hindustan*	*Mukta*	*Kadambini*
Nav Bharat Times		*Sarita*	*Maya*
			Nikarika
Navjeevan			*Parag*
Swatantra Bharat			*Lot Pot*
English			
Indian Express	*Blitz*	*Caravan*	*Imprint*
National Herald	*Link*	*Filmfare*	*Life*
Northern India	*Pastime*	*Star and Style*	*Mirror*
Patrika	*Sports Week*		*Picture Post*
The Hindustan Times	*The Illustrated Weekly of India*		*Reader's Digest*
The Pioneer	*The Observer*		
The Stateman			
The Times of India			
Urdu			
Milap	*Aajkal*		*Beeswi Sadi*
Pratap	*Tej*		*Shama*
Qwami Awaz			

Voluntary Social Service Organisations

There are many voluntary social service organisations in the district for looking after certain social and economic aspects of the society. In the past, these institutions were mostly dependant upon philanthropy and the missionary zeal of the people, but with the posting of an assistant social welfare officer in the district in 1955 and also with the merger of the Harijan Sahayak and social welfare departments in 1961 and the posting of a district Harijan and social welfare officer, in 1961-62, efforts were launched to strengthen these organisations and to co-ordinate their activities and those of the governmental institutions in the field. The government spent Rs 43 lakhs on the social and Harijan welfare activities in the year 1975-76 when there were about 4,300 members of the Prantiya Vikas Dal alongwith 249 members of the Yuwak Mangal Dal, 97 of Bal Mangal Dal and few members of the Mahila Mangal Dal to strive for the uplift of the weaker sections of the society.

Some important social service organisations of the district are briefly described below :

The Harijan Gurukula Gandhi Gram, Azamgarh, at Dohri Ghat, emerged in 1935 with an objective to provide general education to the children alongwith opportunity of economic and intellectual development. The institution is managed by a committee of 15 members and covers the whole district. Basic education is provided by the Gurukula. The children are taught weaving-spinning, dyeing, printing, carpentery, soap-making and other industrial work. A Kasturba Matra Mandir was also established in the Gurukula in 1950, since then the maternity service and the women welfare work is carried out regularily. The Gurukula has been training teachers, panchayat workers and other village level workers since 1950. In 1961 a public work-field was established under auspicious of the Gurukula in which community development work with the help of public is being carried out.

Branches of the Harijan Sewak Sangh and the Uttar Pradesh Backward Classes Federation exist in the district and render social service in the uplift of the Harijans and Backward Classes. Branches of the Manav Sewak Samij, the Uttar Pradesh State Social Welfare Advisory Board, the Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Sugarcane Committee Union Ltd, the Uttar Pradesh Crime Prevention Society, and the Uttar Pradesh Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust also subsist in the district and render social services in their respective fields.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST*

Atraula (pargana Atraulia, tahsil Phulpur)

The village is situated in Lat. 26°10′N. and Long. 82°56′E., on the Didarganj-Bachhanpur metalled road at a distance of 20 km. from Phulpur and 48 km. from Azamgarh. Ahraula was formerly the headquarters of the erstwhile tahsil of Mahul which was also known as Ahraula.

Ahraula contains a higher secondary school, a post office, a police-station, an inspection house and a cattle pound. The place is electrified. Market is held here every Monday and Friday, and in the month of Asvina (September-October) the Vijai Dasami fair is celebrated and is attended by over 4,000 persons. The village has a population of 120 and an area of 79 ha.

The place is also the headquarters of Ahraula development block. The block was inaugurated on October 2, 1956 and is now in post stage II. The block has a population of 95,469, spread over an area of about 207 sq. km. The block includes in it 113 Gaon Sabhas and 12 *nyaya* panchayats.

Atraulia (pargana Atraulia, tahsil Phulpur)

The town which gives its name to a pargana is situated in Lat. 26°20′N., and Long. 82°59′N., in the extreme north-western corner of the district on the metalled road running from Azamgarh to Faizabad. It is about 44 km. distant from Azamgarh and about 41 km. from the tahsil headquarters.

The place was originally settled by Bujhawan Singh, a Palwar Rajput of village Narion in this pargana, who built a mud fort to the north of the town. Some time before the freedom struggle of 1857-58, the proprietary rights in the village were purchased by Raja Jai Lal Kunbi who held a high position at the Avadh court and a new fort was built by him. This fort was held at the time of the freedom struggle by his brother Bani Madho, who raised the standard of revolt against the British. The property was then confiscated. The fort was dismantled in November, 1857, by Colonel Longden's column, but it was all through the period of struggle a rallying place for the Avadh freedom fighters; and it was in its vicinity that Colonel Milman Suffered a defeat at the hands of Kunwar Singh.

Atraulia has been administered as a town area since 1860. The town contains two junior Basic schools, two senior Basic schools, a family planning centre, a hospital, a cattle pound, a police-station, a post-office, an inspection house and a dharmsala. The population of Atraulia is 4,296, spread over an area of 33 ha.

*Figures perfaining to population and area relate to 1971.

Atraulia is the headquarters of a development block to which it gives its name. The block which is at present in post stage II was inaugurated on October 2, 1962. The block has a population of 82,148, an area of about 157 sq. km. and included in it 99 Gaon Sabhas and 10 *nyaya* panchayats.

Azamgarh (pargana Nizamabad, tahsil Azamgarh)

The principal town of the district also gives its name to the district headquarters and forms a tahsil of the same name. It is situated in Lat. 26°4′ N. and Long. 83°11′E., on the road leading from Allahabad through Jaunpur to Gorakhpur via Dohrighat. Metalled roads from this place lead south-east wards to Ghazipur and Mau and west wards to Shahganj, while unmetalled roads branch out in all directions to outlying places of the district. There is a railway station of the same name on a branch of the North-Eastern railway.

The place is said to have been founded around 1665 by one Azam Khan, son of Bikramjit, who embraced the faith of Islam and had a Muhammadan wife who bore him two sons Azam and Azamt. The site was either wrested or purchased from the Bisen Rajputs of Ailwel. Azam gave his name to the town of Azamgarh. The family headed by Azam Khan, took up its residence at the place and after they were expelled by the nawab vizir of Avadh, Azamgarh became the headquarters of *chakladers or amils* who were appointed by the Avadh court to manage the Azamgarh pargana.

During the freedom struggle in 1857, the place was under the occupation of Palwar Rajputs and later under Kunwar Singh, from whom it was subsequently taken over by the British.

The only antiquities in the town are a dilapidated post dating back to the time of Azam Khan, and an old temple dedicated to Gauri Shankar, tracing its origin back to 1760. However these have since fallen victims to the ravages of time. An old public serai, named Fateh Khan Serai, originally built by Thomason, the first collector of Azamgarh, is yet another old building of the district. The town hall located towards the south of the town, was built between 1859 and 1897 at a cost of Rs 13,750.

The town is surrounded on three sides by the serpentine windings of the Tons river. In the rains large volumes of water are brought down the channel and from time to time floods occur which do considerable damage.

Administered as a municipal board under the U.P. Municipalities, Act, 1916, the town has thirty-two muhallas which for municipal purposes are now distributed over six wards, The place possesses three degree colleges, seven intermediate colleges, an arts college (known as Hari Oudh Kala Bhawan) which imparts training in classical music, a huge library known as the Shibli Library with one of the finest collection of rare manuscripts and rare Urdu and Persian works. The place has a total of six public libraries, among important items of local manufacture and export may be mentioned plastic goods, *biris* and hides for

leather work and for handloom. The place possesses two hospitals two dormitories, a T.B. clinic, a health centre and a family planning centre. The population of the town is 40,963 and the area 10.54 sq. km.

Azmatgarh (pargana and tahsil Sagri)

Located in Lat. 276°9′N. and Long. 83°10′E., at a distance of approximately 2.5 km. from the tahsil headquarters, and 23 km. from the district headquarters, the place is situated on the road from Azamgarh to Dohrighat. Metalled roads also connect the place with Maharajganj, Ghosi and Dohrighat. It is said to derive its nomenclature from Azmat, the brother of Azam, who founded Azamgarh, and was founded at about the same time as the latter. The ruins of the fort he built are still to be seen here.

Azmatgarh is the largest village in pargana Sagri and was once the headquarters of the Sagri tahsil. The village is close to the Silauna Tal which is frequented by migratory birds usually in winters.

Among the old buildings of the place may be mentioned an old temple constructed by one Goga Shah. Azmatgarh has a population of 8,988, and an area of 236 ha.

Bilariaganj (pargana and tahsil Sagri)

Situated in the central part of the tahsil in Lat. 26°7′N. and Long. 83°12′E., at a distance of 15 km. from the district and 11 km. from the tahsil headquarters, the place is connected by metalled roads to Azamgarh, Raunapar, Maharajganj and Jianpur. Forming the headquarters of a development block of the same name, the place is electrified and possesses a junior Basic and a senior Basic schools. Bilariaganj has a population of 4,190 and an area of 291 ha.

Chiriakot (pargana Chiriakot, tahsil Muhammadabad)

The place is situated in Lat. 25°53′N. and Long. 83°18′E., on the metalled road from Ghazipur to Azamgarh, at distances of 27 km. from the district and 18 km. south from the tahsil headquarters.

Origins regarding its nomenclature link it to Gheros, an aborginal tribe, and, to a Hindu king named Chiria, after whom the place got its name.

It appears to have received the name of Qasba Mubarakpur at one stage but it has long since dropped out of use. The Abbasi Sheikhs who are the chief inhabitants of the place claim to be descended from one Ismail Abbasi, who they say took it from Hindus during the period of the Sharqi sultans of Jaunpur. Under the Mughals, Chiriakot was the headquarters of the pargana officers and of a *qazi*, but no mention of it is to be found in the annals of the historians. On the outskirts of the town is the large mausoleum of Hatim Khan, who appears to have been a Sheikh of Chriakot and to have held office and acquired wealth at the imperial court during the earlier part of the eighteenth century.

However, nothing substantial either by way of popular tradition or records has been left by him to corroborate this.

Administered as a town area the place has an intermediate college. The area of the place is 40 ha. and population 720.

Ghosi (pargana and tahsil Ghosi)

Situated in Lat. 26°6'N. and Long. 26°15'E., at a distance of 38 km. from the district headquarters and forming the headquarters of a tahsil of the same name, the place is connected to the former with a metalled road and is also a railway station on North-Eastern railway.

The place is undoubtedly of some antiquity, and was probably much larger than it is now, for the weavers of Maunath Bhanjan who have settled in that place at least three hundred years ago, are said to have immigrated to it from Ghosi. However, no concrete evidence by way of architectural remains can be seen to support the theory regarding its earlier position. The remains of an old mud fort known as Nahush Ka Qila, link the name of this place with Nahushi, after the ancient Hindu raja Nahush, said to be the founder of this town.

The place also gives its name to the headquarters of a development block Ghosi possesses a degree college, an inspection house maintained by the canal department and a seed store.

It also has an old temple built in the premises of the aforesaid mud fort, and a *samadhi* or monument dedicated to Augharh Baba, a local saint, near the degree college. The place contains a population of 1,992, and an area of 1.4 sq. km.

Dohrighat (pargana and Tahsil Ghosi)

The place is situated in Lat. 26° 16' N. and Long. 83° 31' E., on the banks of the Ghaghra river at a point where the roads from Allahabad and Ghazipur to Gorakhpur unite and cross the river. It is at a distance of 39 km. from the district and 18 km. from the tahsil headquarters. It gives its name to a railway station on the North-Eastern Railway. The town is said to derive its origin from Jahan Khan, the raja of Azamgarh. The latter is said to have constructed an entrenchment around the place, to which another was added by the local officials during the time of Asaf-ud-daula, thus giving the place its present name. Yet another legend ascribes its proper nomenclature as Dohni, the place where the cows of Mandmahar Ahir were milked. Nandmahar, according to tradition was the cowherd of one Ghazi Miyan and was turned into stone for some offence. It is specified in the commercial treaty of 1788 between the Governor General and the nawab vazir as one of the latter's custom stations, and duties continued to be levied there until they were abolished in 1803. The only known historical incident connected with the place is the visit of Wazir Ali who when fleeing from Varanasi to Gorakhpur following the murder of Cherry in 1799, visited this place. Wazir Ali is said to have sought refuge in the house of a Julaha named Bandhu. the latter had accumulated much wealth at the court of Lucknow during the time of Asaf-ud-daula. A heavy fine was subsequently

imposed by Nawab Saadat Ali (the nawab of Avadh) as reprisal on Bandhu.

There is a big mosque which bears some testimony to the former prosperity of the place. The place is the venue of a bathing festival on the full moon day of Kartika during October-November. The place is electrified and possesses a junior Basic school, a family planning centre, a maternity and child welfare centre and a hospital. The area of Dohrighat is 92 ha. and the population 5,512.

Fatehpur Moraon (pargana Nathupur, tahsil Ghosi)

Located in Lat. 26°8' N. and long. 83° 43' E., at a distance of 20 km. from the tahsil headquarters, the place is connected both to the tahsil and district headquarters by a metalled road. It also has the remains of an old fort, the ascribing of which to a particular place or person becomes difficult in absence of concrete archaeological evidence to support it.

Forming the headquarters of a development block, the place possesses a cattle pound, a hospital, a health centre, a senior Basic school, a junior Basic school and a girl's high school. The place has an area of 168 ha. and a population of 2,052.

Jahanaganj (pargana Chiriakot, tahsil Muhammadabad)

Situated in Lat. 26° 58' N. and long, 83° 14' E., on the Azamgarh-Ghazipur road, Jahanaganj is at a distance of 10 km. from the district headquarters and 30 km. from the tahsil headquarters, (via Azamgarh) and is also connected by metalled roads to Chiriakot, Ghazipur and Mehnagar. The place was formerly owned by a community of Bhuinhars. It is also the venue of a big fair known as Karaha fair, held during Kartiki Purnima, with an estimated gathering of 10,000. The place also gives its name to the headquarters of a development block. Among the old buildings here may be mentioned a mosque and three temples. The area of Jahanaganj is 600 ha. and the population 2,000.

Kopaganj (pargana and tahsil Ghosi)

The place, situated on the metalled road from Ghazipur to Dohrighat in Lat. 26° 1' N. and Long 83° 34' E., is 38.4 km. distant from the district headquarters, 20.8 km. from Muhammadabad and 10 km. south of the tahsil headquarters of Ghosi. It is connected to the district and tahsil headquarters by a metalled road, and is a railway station on the North-Eastern Railway.

It is an old place, and the original village, known as Kopa was subsequently included in the present town under the name of Purana Kopa. A Hindi inscription on a stone which is built over the doorway of a small Hindu temple has the date 1592 *samvat* or 1472 A.D. inscribed on it.

The present town however, owes its existence to Iradat Khan, a raja of Azamgarh who founded it about 1745 A.D. and named it Iradatganj after himself. This name has now fallen into disuse and the place gradually came to be known as Kopaganj. Iradat Khan settled weavers

here, most of them brought over from Maunath Bhanjan, and merchants, mainly Agarwala Banias, whom he induced to emigrate from various places. A strong fort was thrown up which became a favourite residence of the rajas, and the town was partly encircled with a high embankment. Thus fostered, it developed into a place of local importance.

Administered under Act XX of 1856 since 1860, the place has a health centre, a dispensary, a veterinary hospital, a cattle pound, an intermediate college and a flood relief centre.

Forming the headquarters of a block, the place possesses an old temple near the police-station and a mosque known as Jama Masjid which is very spacious.

The area of Kopaganj is 0.98 sq. km. and its population 14,271.

Maharajganj (pargana Gopalpur, tahsil Sagri)

Situated in Lat. 26° 15′ N. and Long. 83° 5′ E., at a distance of 22.4 km. from the district headquarters and about 24 km. from the tahsil headquarters, the place is located on the banks of the Chhoti Saryu and is connected by metalled roads to Bilariaganj and Jianpur. The place is said to have derived its nomenclature from one of the rajas of Azamgarh, after whom the place came to be known as Maharajganj. Towards the middle of the last century, the trade of the town must have been considerable as the dues then levied on goods exported from the town and on sales in its markets amounted to a very large sum.

An old shrine dedicated to Bhairon Baba also known as Deotari, is by one tradition the spot where Parvati, the consort of lord Siva, is said to have exhumed herself in the pyre of Daksha's yajna *bedi* or pyre on which the yajna sacrifice was to be performed. Yet another tradition describes it as being a gate of the ancient city of Ayodhya, from which it is forty kos or 120 km. distant. It is the venue of a fair held every month on the day of the full moon, but on the lenth day of the bright half of Jyaistha, a larger fair is celebrated. The place gives its name to the headquarters of a development block.

The area of the place is 91 ha. and the population 2,626.

Mahul (pargana Mahul, tahsil Phulpur)

Mahul which gives its name to a pargana, is situated in Lat. 26°8′N. and Long. 82° 50′ E., at a distance of 6 km. from the tahsil headquarters and 42 km. from the district headquarters. The place is an old Hindu village, but there is no certain tradition regarding its settlement. Some time in the first half of the eighteenth century, Shamshad Jahan, who was locally known as raja of Mahul, made the village his chief place of residence. He induced traders to settle in it and the place attained some little importance. It was specially famous for the skill of its goldsmiths. When the raja of Mahul's principality was broken up, Mahul became the headquarters of the Avadh nawab's *amil*. From the time of the cession of the territory in 1801 to the East India Company till about 1870, when the establishment of the erstwhile Mahul tahsil was shifted to Ahraula, it was the headquarters of a tahsil.

It possesses a dispensary, a junior Basic school, a senior Basic school, a post office, a cattle pound, a temple and a mosque. Mahul is electrified. It falls in the Ahraula development block. Market days are Mondays and Fridays. A fair attended by 4,000 persons is held here during Dasahra. The area of Mahul is 164 ha. and the population 2,345.

Maunath Bhanjan (pargana Maunath Bhanjan and tahsil Muhammadabad)

Located on the right bank of the river Tons in Lat. 25° 56′ N. and Long. 83° 33′ E., the place is 40 km. from the district and 20.8 km. from the tahsil headquarters. National highway passes through the town which is connected to Azamgarh, Ballia, Ghazipur and Gorakhpur, and also to the tahsil headquarters of Azamgarh and Muhammadabad by metalled roads. It is also a railway junction on the North-Eastern railway.

The place, of older antiquity than Azamgarh, lacks any definite tradition regarding its origin. According to a local tradition, Malik Tahir, whose tomb is still preserved in the town, settled there, and having driven a demon that lived in the place, left a memorial of his deed in the name by which the place came to be known as Maunath Bhanjan meaning the "land of expeller of the demon".

In the *Ain-i-Akbari*, Maunath Bhanjan is said to be held by Sheikhs, and to be famous, along with Jalalabad and Varanasi, among the towns of the subah of Allahabad for the manufacture of certain kinds of cotton cloth. It was the headquarters of the pargana officer of the Mughal empire with a *qazi* residing in it. According to the historian Budaoni, Muhammadabad (presently the tahsil headquarters), was a dependency of the *qasba* Mau. During the reign of Shahjahan the pargana was assigned in jagir or estate to Jahan Ara Begum, the emperor's daughter and the town received the name of Jahanabad. A *katra* or market place was erected by Jahan Ara Begum's order and in her time, as well as in the reign of Aurangzeb, the town seems to have enjoyed the special regard of those in power. It then contained 84 *muhallas* and 360 mosques. A large proportion of population was composed of Muslim weavers, Hindu thread spinners or *katuas*, and traders.

It served as a prominent centre for manufacturing cotton cloth and there was a considerable amount of traffic passing into or through the town. The collector of Gorakhpur, who took over charge of the place from the *amil* of the Avadh government in 1801, reported that, whereas the town of Maunath Bhanjan had formerly been a place of great trade, resorted to by merchants from all parts of India, its trade had very much declined of late years. It never really recovered its former prosperity, but further decline was prevented during the first decade of British rule. Private enterprise for a time, kept up the trade of the place even after the abolition of the monopoly of the East India Company, but the advent of English made thread and cloth, dealt a severe blow to it. After Independence however, it has again revived its importance and the Banarasi saris manufactured here are well known. It has a Swadeshi Cotton Mill and a spinning mill manufacturing Banarasi saris. Administered

as a municipal board the place has two rest-houses maintained by the public works department and hydel department, and a railway rest-house. There are also an intermediate college, six higher secondary schools, 2 senior Basic and 40 junior Basic schools, a hospital, a T. B. clinic and a family planning centre. It is also the headquarters of a police-circle and a police-station.

Maunath Bhanjan has an area of 7.77 sq. km. and a population of 64,054.

It has numerous Hindu temples and Muslim mosques namely, the Shitla Devi temple, Malik Tahir Baba Ka Rauza, Katara Ki Masjid, and Ram Ghat Ki Masjid. A big Ramlila fair attended by about 20,000 persons is held here on the occasion of Dasahra. At a distance of 10 km. to the south of the town, yet another big fair, known as Ban Devi fair, is held on the occasion of Chaitra Rama Navami with an approximate gathering of ten thousand.

Mubarakpur (pargana and tahsil Mubarakpur)

Mubarakpur is situated in Lat. 26° 6′ N. and Long. 83° 18′ E., at a distance of 12.8 km. to the north-east of the district headquarters. Metalled roads connect the place to Azamgarh, Muhammadabad and Sathiaon.

Its original nomenclature is said to have been Qasimabad, and to have fallen into decay before it was resettled, in the name of Raja Mubarak, a Sufi of Manikpur Karra, by a sheikh landholder. Under its new name the place probably acquired some importance, but no references to it are traceable in the annals of Muslim historians. At the cession, it was a flourishing place and was described in official correspondence as having a population of 10,000 to 12,000.

About 75 years ago, the speciality of the place was *satin* and *satinette* (in which cotton and silk are inter mixed).

The place serves as a thriving market for grain, some of the important fairs held here being those held on the occasions of Dasahra and Muharram, where a sizeable gathering collects to celebrate these fairs.

It possesses an area of 1.53 sq. km. and a population of 21,258.

Administered as a municipal board, the place is electrified and has a cinema hall and a pyramid measuring 35 feet from the ground level, besides a hospital and a family planning centre. The place is famous locally for the manufacture of Benarasi saris, which are also exported. Among the old buildings may be mentioned the temple of Thakurji, and the mosque of Raja Sahib.

Muhammadabad (pargana and tahsil Muhammadabad)

Forming the headquarters of a tahsil of the same name, the place also known as Muhammadabad Gohna is located in Lat. 26° 2′ N. and Long. 83°28′ E., on the banks of the river Tons at a distance of 22 km. from the district headquarters on the Azamgarh-Maunath Bhanjan road. The town has a railway station of the same name on the North-Eastern Railway.

The site of the place appears to have been long occupied as a settlement, for the Singhel Rajputs of *tappa* Kayar have a tradition that it was once occupied by their ancestors. A tank, in its environs, known as Thakurahi, is said to have been dug by the orders of the wife of one of the Singhel chiefs. The place remained undoubtedly in the possession of Muslims since the early part of the 15th century. It failed, however, to gain any historical importance and the only historical reference to it is in connection with its occupation by Ali Quli Khan, Khan Zaman during his rebellion against Akbar. It was kept under the charge of a pargana officer and a *qazi* during the Muslim rule.

Administered as a town area, the place is electrified and possesses an intermediate college, a high school for boys and a high school for girls, two senior Basic and two junior Basic schools, besides a dharamsala and numerous units engaged in manufacturing handloom cloth and *gur*, which form items of local export. Tobacco, grown here, is also sent to other parts of the district and the State.

The place possesses a few temples namely those of Vishnu, Siva and one dedicated to Rama Janki. There are four mosques which are ascribed to antiquity.

The area of the town is 1.04 sq. km. and the population 8,322.

Nizamabad (pargana Nizamabad, tahsil Azamgarh)

Situated in Lat. 26° 8′ N. and Long. 83° 1′ E., on the banks of the river Tons, the place falls on Azamgarh-Nizamabad road at a distance of 17 km. from the tahsil and district headquarters. It is an old town and is said to have been ruled by the Hindu rajas prior to Muslim annexation of this territory. A local tradition ascribes its nomenclature to one Sheikh Nizam-ud-din, a Sufi saint the remains of whose tomb are pointed out here. Though none of the resident families trace back their descent to him, the Sheikhs of Barauna in pargana Mahul are reputed to be his descendants. The only reference to the place in Muslim records is found by way of mentioning Nizamabad, as one of the places visited by saint Saiyid Ashraf Jahangir in one of his wanderings, and further, by mentioning it as one of the camping places where emperor Akbar in 1565, set camp to celebrate his birthday, when returning from the pursuit of Ali Quli Khan.

Under the Mughals, a *qazi* and pargana officers were stationed in the town. Its decadence is said to have begun around the year 1763, when Jahan Khan, the raja of Azamgarh was killed near the town in an encounter with an official of the nawab vizir, (who had been sent to collect revenue) and the town was looted by the nawab vizir's troops.

During the first decade of the present century, the place had a few power looms and sugar refineries and enjoyed some celebrity for its pottery.

The place has an area of 49 ha. and a population of 4,141.

Presently administered as a town area, the place is electrified and has a junior Basic, a senior Basic and a higher secondary schools, and a *gurudwara* possessing a pair of wooden slippers and a dagger said to be of Guru Nanak who once visited the place.

Pawai (pargana Mahul, tahsil Phulpur)

Pawai lies in Lat. 26° 10′ N. and Long. 82° 45′ E., in the extreme west of the district at a distance of 62 km. from Azamgarh and 24 km. from Phulpur. Both the latter places connect Pawai with metalled roads.

The original inhabitants of the place are said to have been the Bhars who were ousted from their possessions by the Saiyids, and to the Bhars is attributed the remains of a mud fort.

Pawai contains a junior Basic school, a senior Basic school and a post-office. It is electrified. Market days are Sundays and Wednesdays.

The area of the place is 392 ha. and the population 1,600.

Pawai is also the headquarters of a development block of the same name. The block started functioning from April 1, 1960 and is in post stage II. The block has a population of 91,103 which is spread over an area of about 209 sq. km. There are 116 Gaon Sabhas and 12 *nyaya* panchayats in the block.

Phulpur (pargana Mahul, tahsil Phulpur)

The headquarters town of the tahsil lies in Lat. 26° 4′ N. and Long. 82° 53′ E., west of Azamgarh at a distance of 37 km. The North-Eastern railway passes close to the town, the railway station being known as Khorensen Road railway station.

Phulpur is famous for the fine quality of sugar-cane which is grown here from which very granular and sweet sugar is refined. A bazar is held in the town on every Tuesday and Saturday. The bazar was founded about 1733 A.D. by the raja of Mahul.

Phulpur has been administered as town area since 1860. Its population is 8,819, which is spread over an area of 0.6 sq. km.

It is electrified and possesses an inspection house, a junior Basic school, a senior Basic school, a police out-post, a post-office with telephone facilities, 7 temples and 5 mosques.

Phulpur is the headquarters of a development block of the same name. The block which is in post stage II was inaugurated on July 1, 1957. The block has a population of 92,727 which is spread over an area of 189 sq. km. The block includes 96 Gaon Sabha and 12 *nyaya* Panchayats.

Rani ki Sarai (pargana Nizamabad, tahsil Azamgarh)

Forming the headquarters of a development block, the place is located in Lat. 25° 9′ N. and Long. 83° 6′ E., 11 km. south of the district headquarters on Azamgarh-Allahabad highways. Rani Ki Sarai is also a railway station on North-Eastern railway. Legend traces its nomenclature to a certain queen Ratanjot, wife of king Harbans of Kharagpur in pargana Belhabans, for whom a serai or resting place was built here by her royal consort and after whom the place came to be known as Rani Ki Sarai. The place is also known as Sithwal, and the term Rani Ki Sarai is only applicable to the main bazar.

Presently the place forms the venue of a fairly large daily market, where principal commodities of sale include *sutli* or knitted yarn of coconut fibre. The place is electrified and possesses tube-wells and water pumps maintained under the Sharda Sahayak project. Principal crops produced here are wheat, barley, pea, rice and sugar-cane. It also possesses a junior Basic school, a senior Basic school and a higher secondary school. Medical facilities are provided by a hospital here.

The place has an area of 48 ha. and a population of 1,341.

Ranipur (pargana and tahsil Muhammadabad)

Situated in Lat. 25° 26′ N. and Long. 82° 58′ E., at a distance of 8 km. from the tahsil and 41 km. from the district headquarters, the place is also known as Ranipur Rajmau. Metalled roads connect the place to Azamgarh, Muhammadabad, Maunath Bhanjan, Khurahat and Chiriakot. It is a large village with many scattered sites and hamlets lying in the area between the Azamgarh-Jaunpur and Azamgarh-Varanasi roads, at the point where they diverge.

Forming the headquarters of a development block, the place is electrified and has a degree college, two intermediate colleges, a junior Basic school and a library.

The principal crops grown here are paddy, maize, wheat, gram, pea and barley. Tobacco is yet another item of cultivation.

The place is the venue of a large fair held on the occasion of Dasahra, with an estimated gathering of five thousand people.

The area of the place is 406 ha. and the population 12,780.

Sagri (pargana and tahsil Sagri)

The place forming the headquarters of a tahsil of the same name is situated in Lat. 26° 19′ N. and Long. 83° 52′ E., at a distance of 18 km. from the district headquarters. Metalled roads connect the place to Azamgarh, Gorakhpur and Dohrighat.

Sagri has an area of 4 ha. and a population of 1,819.

Sathiaon (pargana and tahsil Muhammadabad)

Situated in Lat. 26° 1′ N. and Long. 83° 16′ E., on the western side of the tahsil, at a distance of 4 km. from the tahsil headquarters and 5 km. from the district headquarters, the place is connected by metalled roads to Azamgarh, Muhammadabad and Mubarakpur. Sathiaon is also a railway station on North-Eastern Railway. Giving its name to the headquarters of a development block, the place has a sugar mill, two temples and a mosque, a junior Basic school and a hospital.

The area of Sathiaon is 347 ha. and the population 2,424.

Tahbarpur (pargana Nizamabad, tahsil Azamgarh)

Located in Lat. 26° 9′ N. and Long. 83° 5′ E., at a distance of 24 km. to the west of the district, the place is connected by a metalled road.

Tahbarpur is the headquarters of a development block. The place possesses a junior Basic school, an intermediate college, a hospital, a family planning centre and a health centre.

The area of the place is 128 ha. and the population 1,236.

Thekman (pargana Bela Daulatabad, tahsil Lalganj)

Forming the headquarters of a development block, the place is situated in Lat. 25° 52′ N. and Long. 82° 58′ E., to the south-west of the district headquarters, 32 km. away from Azamgarh on the metalled road leading from Azamgarh to Jaunpur. The place is electrified and principal crops grown here include wheat, paddy, sugar-cane, barley and peas.

A market is held here on Tuesdays and Saturdays. A rest-house is maintained by the public works department, besides a junior Basic and a senior Basic institution also exist.

The area of thekman is 110 ha. and the population 1,566.

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CONVERSION FACTORS

Money

1 pie =0.52 paise
1 pice=1.56 paise

Linear Measure

1 inch=2.54 centimetres
1 foot=30.48 centimetres
1 yard=91.44 centimetres
1 mile=1.61 kilometres

Square Measure

1 square foot=0.093 square metre
1 square yard=0.836 square metre
1 square mile=2.59 square kilometres=259 hectares
1 acre=0.405 hectare

Cubic Measure

1 cubic foot=0.028 cubic metre

Measure of Capacity

1 gallon (Imperial) =4.55 litres
1 seer=0.933 litre

Measure of Weight

1 *tola*	=11.66 grams
1 chhatak	=58.32 grams
1 seer* =(80 tolas)	=933.10 grams
1 maund*	=37.32 kilograms
1 ounce (Avoirdupois)	=28.35 grams
1 pound (Avoirdupois)	=453.59 grams
1 hundred weight	=50.80 kilograms
1 ton=1016.05 kilograms	=1.016 metric tonnes

Thermometer Scales

1° Fahrenheit=9/5° centigrade+32

*As defined in Indian Standards Weight Act, 1939.

GLOSSARY OF INDIAN WORDS

Amil	:	Official who collected revenue under the Nawabs of Avadh
Amin	:	Official entrusted with work of realising government dues
Arhar	:	Pigeon pea
Asami	:	A lessee of disabled ***bhumidhar*** or of a ***sirdar*** or a tenant of the ***gaon sabha*** having no right to inherit or transfer
Bajra	:	Pearl millet
Banjar	:	Uncultivated land
Barkandaz	:	Armed sepoy
Bhumidhar	:	Peasant proprietor having permanent right to inherit and transfer his holdings
Bigha	:	A unit of measurement of land
Chakla	:	A subdivision
Chakladar	:	Collector or farmer of revenue under the Nawabs of Avadh
Chandu	:	Preparation of opium smoked as an intoxicant
Dai	:	Midwife
Dalali	:	Brocking
Dam	:	A copper coin worth about 1/40 rupee
Dargah	:	Shrine of Muslim saint
Desi	:	Indigenous
Faujdar	:	Subordinate military Officer under Mughals
Gaon Sabha	:	Village assembly
Gaon Samaj	:	Village community
Gur	:	Jaggery
Gurudwara	:	Place of Sikh worship
Hat	:	Market
Halqabandi	:	Pertaining to a village or a particular area
Hundi	:	Promisory note
Jagir	:	Estate
Jama	:	Deposit
Jarrah	:	Indigenous surgeon usually a barber
Jorib	:	A unit of measurement

Kachhar : Fertile alluvial land
Kachchihini : Crude sugar
Kankar : Irregular concretion of impure calcareous matter (often used for making lime)
Kanungo : Petty revenue official
Khasra : Field book
Khudkasht : Cultivation of the land by the Zamindar owner
Kolhu : Crusher
Kot : Small fort
Kurta : Loose shirt
Lahanga : Skirt type lower garment of ladies
Lathas : A unit of measurement
Lungi : Short dhoti
Madak : Preparation of opium smoked as an intoxicant
Mahajan : Money lender
Mahal : Unit of land under separate engagement for payment of revenue
Maida : Fine wheat flour
Maktab : School for Muslim children
Mandi : Market
Mandua : A kind of small millet
Masoor : A kind of pulse
Mauza : Village
Mela : Fair
Moong : Green gram
Moth : A kind of pulse
Muhalla : Locality
Mundan : First hair-cutting ceremoney of the child among Hindus
Mustajiri : Contract (system)
Naib : Deputy, assistant
Nautanki : Open air theatre
Nazim : Governor, head of district with revenue, executive and judicial powers in pre-British days
Nazrana : Premium
Nazul : The land belonging to government situated within municipal area

Pagri : Turban
Pakki Chini : Sugar
Pathshala : School
Patwari : Village revenue official
Pradhan : President
Pramukh : Chairman
Purda : Veil
Qasba : Township/small town
Qazi : Functionary who solemnises Muslim marriages, a judge under Muslim rulers
Rab : Molasses
Rabi : Winter crop or spring crop
Samaj : Society
Sawan : A coarse grain
Sir : Land cultivated by the Zamindar owner under U.P. Tenancy Act
Sirdar : A land holder having right to inherit but not to transfer the land holding under the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act 1950
Shakkar : Indigenous sugar
Sonar : Goldsmith
Suji : Granular wheat product
Tahsili : Pertaining to tehsil
Taluqa : Tract of proprietory land, administrative unit
Tappa : A small revenue division
Tasur silk : A kind of silk
Ugahi : A system of repayment of loans
Up-pramukh : Vice-chairman
Urd : Black gram
Usar : Unproductive soil (land), barren land
Vaid : Practitioner of Ayurvedic system of medicine

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INDEX

"A"

Aajkal : 269
Abbasi (s) : 55
Abbasi Sheikh : 23, 273
Abdul Farah Nizamabadi : 97
Abdullah Khan Uzbek : 27
Abhiman : 30
Acharya Vinoba Bhave : 170
Achhebat : 76
Achiravati : 17
Adadih : 78
Adarsh Higher Secondary School, Maheshpur : 236
Adarsh Inter College, Aunti : 235
Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Maunath Bhanjan : 237
Adri : 252
Aeaf Khan : 27
Aegle : 70
Afgan (s) : 24, 25, 27, 34
Agarwala Banias : 276
Agastya rishi : 16
Agra : 21, 26, 28, 29, 194
Agrawal : 54
Agrawal Dharmsala : 132
Ahilad : 261
Ahirs : 72
Ahirula : 133
Ahmad Khan Bangash : 33, 34
Ahmedabad : 98
Ahraula: 4, 114, 124, 125, 128, 150, 180, 181, 240, 253, 271, 276, 277
Ahrauli : 41, 124
Ailwah : 77
Ailwel : 31, 272
Ain-i-Akbari : 2, 29, 158, 159, 277
Aira Kalan : 252
Ajan Shahid : 251, 253
Ajatsatru : 16, 17
Ajavarman : 17
Ajgara Masharqi : 76
Akbar : 27, 28, 29, 158, 159, 169, 279
Akbar Shah : 33, 34
Akbarpur : 2, 34
Akola : 253
Ala-ud-din: 22
Alde Mau : 252
Alexandar : 7
Alim : 230
Alinagar : 100, 252
Aliverdi Khan : 31
Ali Quli Khan, Khan Zaman : 27, 28, 279
Allahabad : 20, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 39, 98 119, 128, 153 158, 230, 257, 272, 274, 277, 281
Allahabad Bank : 114
Allahabad University : 224
Allama Shibli : 230, 231
Alleyan Bibi : 260
All India Radio ; 72
Amarethu Didarganj: 252
Amari : 79
Amarnath Tiwari : 227
Ambari : 181
Ambarpur : 253
Ambika Singh, Ex-Risaldar : 261
Amila : 75, 76, 101, 124, 128, 129, 181, 212, 249
Amilia : 251
Amilo : 252
Amir Nizam-ud-din Ali Khalifa : 25
Amela Mathua : 103
Anaj-ka-Gola, Azamgarh : 119
Anjuara : 252
Annakut : 69
Ansaris : 55
Anwank : 14
Anwank Gambhirpur : 253
Anwek : 77
Arabic : 223, 230
Araon Jahanianpur : 14
Arara : 14
Ara Telhnan : 6
Arazi Amani : 251, 253
Arthshastra : 185
Arya Samaj : 57, 257
Asad ullah Khan : 31
Asaf-ud-daula : 274
Asaune : 6
Ashraf Khan : 27, 28
Ashraf Khan Mir Munshi ; 27
Ashrafpur : 253
Asildeo : 13, 14
Asoka : 17
Assam : 119
Assamese : 75
Asuras : 13
Atabuk-i-Azam : 23
Atits : 54
Atiya Sarkar : 260
Atraith : 253
Atrauli (a) : 1, 2, 4, 29, 32, 36, 37, 38, 47, 98, 114, 125, 127, 132, 133 150, 155, 158, 159, 166, 178, 180, 181, 202, 213, 253, 263, 264, 265, 271, 272
Aughar Baba : 274
Aura : 124
Aurangabad : 102
Aurangzeb : 31, 32, 97, 277
Avadh (Awadh) : 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 160, 178, 194, 271, 272, 275, 276, 277
Avadhoot : 269
Avanti : 17
Awadari : 260
Awaon : 78
Awarf kapuri : 77
Ayodhya : 13, 15, 16, 17, 276
Ayodhya Rai : 14
Ayodhya Singh Upadhya Hariaudh ; 231

Ayu : 16
Ayurveda : 240
Ayurvedic : 106, 240, 241, 244, 245, 251
Azadari : 260
Azam : 1, 31, 272, 273
Azamgarh : 269
Azam Khan : 31, 34, 35, 272
Azmat : 1, 31, 32, 272, 273
Azmat Khan : 31, 32,
Azmatgarh 1, 31, 94, 150, 273
Azamatgarh Tal : 31

"B"

B. A. Inter College, Lalitpur Luddahi : 234
Baba Raghubar Das Higher Secondary School, Jamilpur : 256
Babo Dhani Das Inter College, Sarenadih : 235
Babur : 24, 25
Bachawal : 252
Bachgati Rajputs : 14, 24
Bachhaur : 102
Bachhwal : 245
Badarka : 181
Badaun : 24
Badraon : 150, 252
Badrauhan : 5
Baelia : 119
Bag Bahar : 231
Baghlakh Raun : 31
Bagli Pizra : 250
Bahadur : 29, 45
Bahadurganj : 128
Bahadur Khan : 25, 27, 28, 29
Bahadurpur : 253
Bahadur Shah : 26
Bahlol (Bahlul) : 23, 24, 158 Lodi
Bahraich : 23, 24, 127
Bahrozpur : 20, 22
Bahroz Sultani : 22
Baijnath Yadav : 237
Bairampur : 252
Bairipur : 31
Bais : 54
Baisakhi : 371
Bais Rajputni : 30
Bakula : 103
Baldpur : 78
Ballia : 1, 3, 50, 105, 108, 118, 123, 127, 129, 142, 152, 160, 277
Bal Niketan, Maunath Bhanjan : 227
Balteur : 162
Balwant Singh : 34
Banaras : 160, 277
Banaras State Bank, Ltd. : 105, 113, 114
Bandh : 253
Bandhu : 274, 275
Bandi : 253
Bandighat : 253
Bangali : 252
Bangali Pinjara (Bangali Pizra) : 250, 252
Banianpur : 79
Baniapur : 78
Banias : 37, 54
Bankat Kandhrapur : 253
Bank of Baroda : 114
Ban Pokhara : 252
Bansgaon : 237, 251, 252, 253
Bansi : 123
Bapu Bal Vidya Mandir at Kopaganj : 227
Bapu Higher Secondary School, Siyarahi : 236
Bapu Inter College, Kopaganj : 233
Bara : 78
Baradah : 133
Baragaon : 102, 252, 253, 261
Barahmasi : 72
Barai (s) : 54, 125
Baramadpur : 37
Barauna : 279
Barawafat : 70
Barbak : 24
Barbak Shah : 24
Bardah : 4, 122, 180, 181, 250, 252
Bardiha : 253
Bargahan : 125
Barhai (s) : 54
Barhaj : 37
Barhalganj : 78, 250, 253
Barhuwan Godam : 124
Baris : 54
Barlai : 252
Barlow : 163
Barnawal : 54
Baroha : 253
Bartu : 21
Basant Panchami : 69
Basnai : 5
Basti : 98, 152, 253
Bayley : 163
Bazar Gosain : 238
Beeswi Sadi : 269
Behnas : 55
Belabandh : 252
Bela-Daulatabad : 2, 29, 155, 158, 159, 263, 282
Bela Kisaila : 252
Belauli Sobarsa : 76
Belbans (Belhabans) 2, 23, 29, 155, 159, 281
Belhabans : 2, 155
Belan Thakur : 19
Bellauli : 181
Belthara : 123, 128
Belwai : 124, 127
Belwana : 253
Belwait : 122
Benaras : 33, 34, 121, 152
Benarasi : 278
Bengal : 18, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 95, 97, 129
Bengali : 53, 75
Beniapar : 253
Beni Bahadur : 34
Beni Madho : 36, 37, 271
Berman : 253
Besu : 4, 5, 83
Bettiah : 34

Bhadanpur : 251
Bhadaon : 14, 160
Bhadaura : 253
Bhadir : 250, 253
Bhaduli Khairatpur : 253
Bhagatpur : 20, 76
Bhagirath : 16
Bhagvat Brahmchari : 238
Bhagvati Rai : 238
Bhainsahi : 4, 5
Bhairava : 15
Bhairo-ka-asthan : 15
Bhairon Baba : 79, 276
Bhaironji : 76
Bhairopur : 102, 252
Bhaiya Duj : 69
Bhangis : 55
Bhanwarnath : 77
Bhar (s) : 13, 14, 54, 178, 280
Bharaiya : 253
Bharat : 269
Bhar-bhunjas : 54
Bharchakia : 253
Bhartiya Jan Sangh : 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 268
Bhartiya Kranti Dal : 264, 265, 268
Bhartiya Lok Dal : 262
Bhatauli : 245
Bhatni : 129
Bhatri : 14
Bhats : 54, 55
Bhautar : 80
Bhavnath Higher Secondary School, Lahuwa Kalan : 236
Bhawar Nath : 198
Bhima Kol : 253
Bhimwa : 253
Bhira : 252
Bhojai : 128
Bhojpuri : 53
Bhola Nath Shastri : 238
Bhona Buzurg : 237
Bhondu Singh : 35
Bhoodan : 170
Bhor Mau : 252
Bhowali Sanatorium : 136
Bhuana Buzurg : 253
Bhuinhars : 54, 275
Bhujahi : 78, 253
Bibipur : 252, 261
Bible : 56
Bihar : 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 32, 38, 51
Bihari : 53
Bikramjit : 272
Bilanaganj : 113
Bilariaganj : 150, 253, 273, 276
Billaria : 128
Bimalpatti : 103
Bimbisara : 16, 17
Bindeshwari Inter College, Tulsinagar : 233
Bindra Bazar : 132
Bindra Sahu Dharamsala
Bindusara : 17
Bindwal : 253
Bird : 37
Birha : 72
Birhar : 79
Birman : 5
Bisaipur : 125
Bisen (s) : 54
Bisen Rajputs : 272
Bismi : 251
Blitz : 269
Bohana : 253
Bolsheviks : 264
Bombay : 42, 98
Barnwal Dharamsala : 132
Brahma : 55
Brahmachari : 222
Brahmacharini : 55
Brahmana(s) Brahman(s): 15, 54, 68, 185
Brahmaputra : 18
Britain : 40
British : 2, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, 47, 96, 108, 116, 122, 148, 153, 154, 159, 171, 179, 185, 199, 204, 222, 223, 230, 240, 241, 256, 271, 277
Britishers : 116, 160
B. R.K. Inter College, Walidpur : 233
Buddha (s) : 13, 16,17, 71, 122
Buddhism : 53, 56
Buddhist (s) : 53, 55, 56, 58, 71, 120, 122
Buddh Purnima : 120
Budhaguptas : 18
Bujhawan Singh : 271
Buluwars : 77
Burhanpur : 112, 124, 271
Burhiya Hai-ki-Dharamsala : 132
Burma : 50, 53
Buxar : 35

"C"

Cachrampur : 249
Calcutta : 39, 97, 98, 106, 119, 152
Captain Baileau : 37
Captainganj : 99, 113, 124, 125, 128, 133, 181
Caravan : 269
C. B. Inter College, Tarwa : 233
Central and State Legislatures : 154, 205, 206
Chabile Ram : 32
Chaitra Rama Navami : 278
Chak Bhautar : 80
Chakesar : 2, 22, 33, 259
Chakiya : 250
Chak Jafri : 78, 79
Chakla : 261
Chakla Azamgarh : 2
Chakrayudha : 18
Champaran : 22, 37
Chandabhari : 251
Chandamama : 269
Chandels : 54
Chandesar : 114, 125, 128, 237, 249, 251, 253
Chand Patti : 253
Chandpur : 239
Chandra Bali Brahmchari : 238
Chandra Bali Pandey : 238
Chandradeva : 18, 19
Chandra Dutt Vaidya : 237

Chandragupta : 185
Chandra Gupta II : 18
Chandragupta Maurya : 17
Chand Rai : 19
Chandra Sen : 30
Chandwar : 21
Chapra : 128, 253
Charles Metcalf : 163
Chaubhaipur : 13
Chaudhri : 121
Chauhans : 54
Chauka : 5
Chaunsa : 25, 26, 29
Chauri : 19
Chawar : 79
Chedi Narain Singh : 238
Chehellum : 70, 260
Cherkihil : 261
Cherry : 274
Cherus : 13, 15
Chhaon : 253
Chhoti Saryu (Choti Saryu) : 45, 83, 276
Chinese : 18, 122
Chippindale : 163
Chiraiyakot : 14, 15
Chira Koti : 114
Chiria : 15, 273
Chiraiyakot : 2, 4, 23, 86, 101, 123, 124, 128, 155, 159, 180,181, 223, 224, 252, 278, 275, 281
Chirkihit : 253
Chitara : 79
Chit Bisaon : 252
Chitraghanta : 55
Chittaur : 253
Chowk Azamgarh : 114
Christian (s) : 53, 55, 56, 58, 61, 62, 68, 71, 162, 224, 225
Christian Hospital, Azamgarh : 249
Christianity : 53, 56
Christmas : 71
Chunar : 25, 27, 28, 29, 33
Civil Disobedience Movement : 41, 42
Civil Lines : 41, 43
Colin Campbell : 38
Colonel Dames : 39
Colonel Longden : 38
Colonel Wroughton : 37
Communist : 262
Communist Party of India : 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268
Communist Party of India (Marxist) : 262, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268
Company : 35
Congress : 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 167, 256, 265, 268
Congress (R) : 265
Constitution of India : 48
Crawford : 165
C. S. Inter College, Kuranga : 235
Cunningham : 19

"D"

Dabhaon : 19
Dadhibal Higher Secondary School, Raini : 235
Dadra : 77
Dafalis : 55
Dakhintola : 181
Daksha's : 276
Dalmari : 23
Dargah : 76, 79
Darul Kutub : 231
Darul Musannefin : 230
Darya Khan Lohani : 24
Darzis : 55
Dasahra : 69, 76, 77, 78, 79, 120, 278, 281
Dashalakshana : 71
Daulat : 30, 31
Daulatabad : 30, 31
Daulat Khan (s) : 27, 30
D. A. V. Girls Higher Secondary School, Mau : 236
D. A. V. Inter College, Azamgarh : 233
D. A.V. Inter College, Maunath Bhanjan : 233
Dayal : 30
Dayalpur : 30, 31
Dayanand Anglovedic School : 224
Dayanand Bal Mandir : 227
Dayanand Post-graduate College, Azamgarh : 228
Delhi : 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 33, 51, 119, 158
Depavali : 71
Deogaon (Deo Gaon) : 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14, 19, 31, 36, 121, 124, 125, 133, 155, 159, 160, 163, 164, 165, 180, 181, 223, 224, 251, 253, 263
Deohara : 253
Deokali : 253
Deokali Deolas : 78, 79
Deolas : 15, 71, 79
Deoria : 1, 33, 152, 253
Deotari : 15, 276
Devarat : 269
Devamitra : 17
Devanagri : 53
Devi : 68
Devi (Durga) : 55
Dewal Dainik : 269
Dewali : 120
Dhanadeva : 17
Dhananand : 17
Dhanteras : 69
Dharamyuga : 269
Dharkars : 54
Dharmapala : 18
Dharma Shastra : 60, 185
Dharmpur : 17
Dharnidhar : 31
Dhobis : 54, 55
Didarganj : 4, 79, 122, 124, 180, 181, 251, 271
Didarganj Road : 129
Didar Jahan : 34
Digia : 252
Dihra : 252
Dihriduar : 13
Di Ha Mehnagar : 125
Dikhits : 54
Dilazak Pathan : 33,
Dilip II : 16
Dinapur : 37

Dipavali (divali) : 69
Divakar Misra : 237
Divakar Prasad Dubey : 238
Dohni : 274
Dohri : 127, 128, 180
Dohrighat : 4, 5, 38, 76, 77, 84, 112, 114, 118, 119, 120, 123, 124, 129, 133, 149, 150, 161, 180, 181, 202, 214, 223, 227, 237, 252, 270, 272, 273, 275, 281
Doms : 178
Dubari : 4, 124, 181, 251, 252
Dubia-Birna : 6
Dukha Ram : 43
Dumraon : 78, 252
Duncan : 160
Durbasa : 71, 77, 125, 253
Durga : 69, 102
Durgadatt Chunnilal Sagarmal Khandelwal Degree College, Maunath Bhanjan : 228
Durul Kutub : 231
Durvasa : 222
Durvasa Rishi : 71

"E"

E. A. Reade : 163
East India Company : 2, 35, 96, 152, 153, 159, 169, 178, 276, 277
Edward Lugard : 39
Elbel Garden : 41
Elwal : 131
England : 46
English : 53, 75, 117, 148, 231, 277
Etawah : 23
Europe : 98
European (s) : 37, 46, 96

"F"

Faddopur : 128
Fa-hien : 18
Faizabad : 1, 2, 3, 5, 27, 102, 105, 108, 118, 119, 123, 127, 152, 266, 271
Fariha : 124
Farrukhabad : 33, 127
Fateh Khan Serai : 272
Fatehpur : 44, 125, 252, 275
Fatehpur Mandaon : 150
Fatehpur Maraon : 252
Fatehpur Parsoki : 29
Faqirs : 55
Fazl Ali : 34
Faria : 93
Filmfare : 269
Firozabad : 21
First World War : 143, 145
Firuz : 22
Firuz Shah : 22
Five-year Plan (s) : 89, 118, 149, 151, 198, 205, 207
Forde : 162
Fort William : 152

"G"

Gadarias : 103
Gadariyas : 54
Gahadavala : 19, 20, 21
Gajaipur : 98
Gajhera : 181
Gambhir : 31
Gambhiran : 6
Gambhirban : 252
Gambhirpur : 4, 31, 180, 181, 253
Gandak : 24
Gandhi Day : 41
Gandhi Gurukul Higher Secondary School, Maunath Bhanjan : 235
Gandhi Higher Secondary School, Bairampur : 236
Gandhi Higher Secondary School, Kaptanganj : 236
Gandhi Higher Secondary School, Kishundaspur : 236
Gandhi Higher Secondary School, Mubarkpur : 235
Gandhi Inter College, Bardhan : 233
Gandhi Inter College, Dargah, Azamgarh : 234
Gandhi Inter College, Kuba : 233
Gandhi Inter College, Maltari : 233
Gandhi Inter College, Marufpur : 233
Gandhi-Irwin Pact : 41
Gandhi Jayanti : 47
Gandhi Shatabdi Smarak Mahavidyalaya, Kaelsa : 228
Ganesh : 55, 102
Ganga : 5, 13, 19, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 68, 83
Ganga Prasad Higher Secondary School, Jagdishpur : 235
Ganga-putras : 68
Ganga Shah Dharmsala : 132
Ganga Snan : 69
Gangi : 4, 5, 14
Ganjam : 18
Garha-ka-Kot : 14, 17
Garhar Buzurg : 77
Garhwa : 252
Garhwali : 53
Garkdeo : 14
Gauda : 18
Gaur : 25, 26, 54
Gaura : 79, 80
Gaurakhshini : 40
Gauri : 253
Gauri Shankar : 272
Gautam Rajput (s) : 1, 30
Gaya : 20, 21
George National School, Azamgarh : 224, 228
Ghaghra : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, 25, 28, 32, 33, 37, 40, 54, 83, 129, 130, 152, 274
Ghaltas : 97
Ghazanfar Khan : 31
Ghazi Miyan : 274
Ghazipur : 1, 2, 3, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 39, 105, 108, 118, 123, 142, 152, 153, 159, 160, 163, 198, 252, 266, 272, 274, 275, 277
Ghazi Shah : 22
Gheros : 273
Ghos : 76

Ghosh : 13
Ghosi : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 28, 33, 39, 42, 43, 44, 59, 61, 62, 63, 65, 74, 76, 84, 95, 98, 99, 101, 102, 104, 112, 114, 115, 118, 123, 124, 128, 129, 133, 134, 139, 150, 155, 159, 160, 161, 162, 173, 180, 181, 223, 230, 237, 253, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 272, 274, 275
Ghulam Husain : 38
Gita : 55
G. J. Inter College, Khoraon : 233
God : 56, 57, 70
Goga Shah : 273
Gohana (Gohna) : 105, 129
Gohnarpur : 32, 178
Gokul (Mathura) : 69
Gokulpur : 251
Gola of Radhe : 119
Gomadih : 252
Gomati : 22
Ganjanpur : 102
Gontha : 250, 252
Good Friday : 71
Gopal : 30, 31
Gopalpur : 2, 15, 31, 155, 159, 263, 264, 265, 276
Gorahara ; 124, 252
Gorakhnath Shukla : 44
Gorakhpur : 1, 2, 3, 5, 22, 24, 27, 32, 33, 35, 37, 49, 50, 81, 98, 105, 123, 128, 152, 157, 159, 161, 163, 180, 182, 183, 185, 193, 197, 198, 254, 258, 272, 274, 277, 281
Gorakhpur Division : 152
Gorkhali : 75
Gordon, Brigadier : 39
Gosala Devi : 19
Govardhan Puja : 69
Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Mau : 236
Government Higher Secondary School, Sarai Mir : 236
Government Inter College, Azamgarh : 235
Government Normal School, Azamgarh : 229
Government Normal School, Muhammadabad Gohna : 229
Government Pilot Workshop, Azamgarh : 230
Government Polytechnic, Azamgarh : 230
Government Weaving College, Maunath Bhanjan : 230
Govindachandra : 19
Govind Ballabh Pant : 42
Govind Dashmi : 79
Govind Sahib-Ka-Mela (Govind Sahib Ka Mela) : 71, 79, 120
Grahvarman : 18
Gramavad : 199
Gramika : 199
Gram Samaj Inter College, Jainagar Jigni : 234
Gram Samajs : 93
Grant : 162
Granth (*Granth Sahab*) : 56, 61, 71
Gujarat : 35, 23, 37
Gujrati : 53, 75
Gunadh : 6
Gupta (s) : 17, 18, 116, 122, 199
Gurjara Pratiharas : 18, 19
Gurkhas : 37
Guru Govind Singh : 71
Gurukula : 270
Guru Nanak : 71, 280

"H"

Habe : 5
Hajams : 55
Hajipur : 94, 253
Haji Iliyas : 22
Hajwani : 54
Hanuman : 55
Hanuman Garhi : 237
Haraiya : 93
Harbans : 31, 281
Harbans Dayal : 30
Harbanspur : 13, 30
Hariaudh (Hari Oudh) Kaka Bhawan, Azamgarh : 231, 272
Hariaudh Kala Bhawan Library 231
Hariaudh Research Institute : 231
Harihar Das : 237
Harijans : 40
Harijan Gurukul Gandhi Gram, Azamgarh : 270
Harishchandra : 21
Harkhoi : 253
Harraiya : 150, 253
Hasha : 18
Harshavardhan : 18
Haryana : 92
Haryankas : 16
Hathiyah-dah : 19
Hathiyah-dah-ki-Lat : 19
Hatim Khan : 273
H. Elliot : 13
Higher Secondary School, Ghori : 236
Higher Secondary School, Kajha : 236
Higher Secondary School, Sarsena : 236
Himachal Pradesh : 51
Himmat Khan : 32
Hindi : 23, 53, 75, 148, 223, 231, 268, 275
Hindu (s) : 15, 20, 23, 27, 53, 54, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 120, 122, 178, 185, 199, 224, 273, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279
Hinduism : 53, 58
Hindustan : 269
Hira Pallni : 77
Hiuen-Tsang (Huien Tsang) : 18, 122
H. M. Inter College, Bharauli : 233
Holi : 70, 120
Horn : 36
Humayun : 25, 26, 27
Husain : 34
Husain Shah : 158
Husainabad : 102
Husainis : 55
Hydeabad : 97

Madras Government Museum Egmore-600 008

"I"

Ibrahim (s) : 24, 70
Ibrahim Khan : 25, 27
Ibrahim Lodi : 24
Id : 120
Idgahs : 56, 70
Id-ul-Fitr : 56, 70
Id-uz-Zuha (Bakr-Id) : 56, 70
Ikram (s) : 32
Ikshvaku (s) : 16, 17
Ilich Khan : 35
Iltutmish : 21
Imambaras : 70
Imam Husain : 70
Imamuddin Punjabi, Molvi : 239
Imprint : 269
Inayat Husain : 260
Indara (Indhara) : 46, 76, 129, 246
Independence : 48, 136
Independence Day : 40, 47
India : 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 40, 47, 48, 104, 105, 108, 109, 113, 117, 142, 153, 154, 158, 230, 231, 262, 277
Indian (s) : 35, 37, 38, 39, 96, 117, 122, 136, 225, 231, 237
Indian Express : 269
Indian Chemical Company, Maunath Bhanjan : 100
Indian Muslims : 40
Indian National Congress : 40, 47, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268
Indian National Congress (Jagjiwan Ram : 268
Indian National Congress (Nijlingappa) : 268
Indian National Congress (Organisation) : 262, 265
Individual Satyagraha : 42
Indra : 16, 69
Inter College, Nadawan Sarai : 235
Inter College, Sathiaon : 235
Iradat : 32
Iradatganj : 275
Iradat Khan : 33, 34, 37, 275
Islam : 1, 30, 31, 53, 56, 272
Islam Khan : 23
Islam Shah : 26
Ismail Abbasi : 23, 273
Islamic : 21, 185, 223, 231
Itaura : 125
Itaura Chaubepur : 78

"J"

Jagdishpur (Jagdispur) : 77, 102, 132
Jagjiwan Ram : 268
Jahanabad : 31, 277
Jahanaganj : 101, 114, 128, 129, 150, 180, 181, 238, 275
Jahanara Begam (Jahan Ara Begum) : 31, 277
Jahangir : 30, 34, 130
Jahangirabad : 78
Jahaniganj ; 125
Jahan Khan : 274, 279
Jahan Shah : 34, 35
Jahangir : 34
Jaicandra : 20
Jaideo Rai : 237
Jai Lal : 35
Jailbirath : 72
Jainagar : 23
Jai Nagayan : 30
Jainism : 53, 56, 57
Jainpur : 4
Jai Raj Vaid, Corporal : 26
Jain (s) : 53, 55, 56, 58, 70, 120
Jajramgarh : 102, 125
Jajauli : 76, 252
Jajhauli : 76
Jalalabad : 277
Jalal Khan Lohani : 25
Jalalpur : 127, 253
Jalal-ud-din : 25
Jalal-ud-din Shah : 25
Jalupura : 28
Jamalpur : 252
Jama Masjid : 276
Jami Masjid : 22
Jamuawan : 6
Janadih : 252
Janata Higher Secondary School, Mojawara : 236
Janata Higher Secondary School, Mohnajpur : 235
Janata Higher Secondary School, Karail : 236
Janata Higher Secondary School, Kerhan : 236
Janata Higher Secondary School, Sutauli : 233
Janata Inter College, Ahraula : 238
Janata Inter College, Ambari : 234
Janata Inter College, Atapur Ohani : 234
Janata Inter College, Gamai : 235
Janata Inter College, Nizamabad : 234
Janata Inter College, Ranipur : 238
Janata Inter College, Thekman : 234
Janta Mahavidyalaya, Ranipur : 229
Janata Party : 262, 266, 268
Janmashtami : 55
Japanese : 149
Jarwa : 124
Jatakas : 130
Jaunpur : 1, 2, 3, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 106, 118, 123, 128, 129, 152, 158, 160, 163, 171, 247, 273, 281, 282
Jayachandra : 21
Jesus Christ : 56, 70
Jeth Dusehra (Dasahra) : 68
Jhanki : 69
Jianpur : 103, 124, 133, 181, 224, 273, 276
Jigai Kalan : 252
Jiri : 57
Jivuli : 124
Jiwan Ram High School : 224
Jiwanpur : 8, 11
Jogis : 55
Jokahara : 253

Jonathan Duncan : 160
J. R. Inter College, Mubarak Bhanjan : 233
Julaha (s) : 55, 274
Julhapur : 253
Junior Chambera Club : 72
Jwala Prasad : 119
Jyoti Niketan : 227

"K"

Kabirpanth's : 54
Kachha : 56
Kadambini : 269
Kahars : 54, 72, 145
Kahinaur : 238
Kaiti : 6
Kailsat Buranpur : 251
Kaithi : 223
Kajha : 124, 125, 240, 250
Kajha Khurd : 250, 252
Kajri : 72
Kalanpur : 77
Kalava : 83
Kalika Prasad : 43
Kalpi : 29
Kalwars : 54
Kalyanpur : 253
Kamal Sagar : 238, 251, 252
Kamharia (Kamhariya) : 124, 128, 252
Kamkalis : 55
Kandharapur : 3, 180, 181, 253
Kandus : 54
Kandiraur : 252
Kanjha : 46
Kankars : 54
Kannauj : 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31
Kanpur : 97, 98, 104, 105, 106, 117, 119, 127, 128, 198, 254, 255
Kanyakubja : 16
Kapot : 269
Kaptanganj : 253
Kara : 56
Karaha : 275
Karahainpur : 253
Karam Yogi : 269
Karauli : 253
Karaut Bhajai : 125
Karbala : 70
Karha : 128
Karmi : 251
Karmi Sachui : 252
Karra : 23, 29
Karra Manikpur : 27
Kartiki Purnima (Kartika Purnima) : 76, 77, 79
Karyat Mitter : 155
Kasari : 79, 252
Kassudhan Banias : 54
Kashi Ram Sahu : 237
Kasila-Gasila : 6
Kasimabad : 128
Kasimpur : 251
Kasra : 124
Kasturba Matra Mandir : 270
Katara ki Masjid : 278
Katgarh : 24
Kathan : 245
Kathghra Shanker ; 77
Kathiamiu : 30
Kityayani : 55
Kauria : 2, 14, 32, 155, 159, 166, 253
Kaurialu : 5
Kausambi : 13, 17
Kayar : 279
Kayastha Bank : 108
Kayasthas : 54
Kedar Nath Inter College, Tengarha : 235
Kedar Singh, Ex-Havaldar : 261
Kesh : 56
Kewats : 54
Khadi Vidyalya Azmatgarh : 40
Khairabad : 99, 101, 239
Khairuddinpur : 253
Khajuri : 253
Khalik Shah Musafirkhana : 132
Khandaura : 250, 253
Khandharapur : 3
Khanja Halt : 129
Khan Jahan : 24
Khanjihit : 253
Khan Zaman : 27
Khandaura : 250, 253
Kharagpur : 281
Kharakpur : 30, 253
Kharewan (Sarai Mir) : 23, 26
Khark : 30
Khatauli : 45, 77
Khatiks : 54
Khatna : 57
Khaura : 252
Kherewan : 250
Kherudinpur : 128
Khilafat Movement : 40, 231
Khiribagh : 181
Khoransan Road : 129, 280
Khurahat : 125, 281
Khurhar : 47
Khurhat : 129
Khushnampur : 252
Khutauli : 30, 253
Khwaja Daulat Khan : 31
Khwaja-i-Jahan : 23
Khwaja Sara : 22
Kiria : 103
Kirpan : 56
Kisan Mazdoor Inter College, Ora : 234
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party : 262
K. M. K. Higher Secondary School, Piparidih : 236
K.N. Rai, Major : 261
Koelsa : 2, 36, 38, 40, 102, 113, 150, 180, 224, 253
Koel Singh : 36
Koeri (s) : 54
Koil : 23
Koila : 6
Koiriapar : 252
Kolluban : 71
Kongoda : 18
Kopa : 275
Kopaganj : 23, 46, 51, 55, 76, 94, 97, 98, 99, 101, 112, 114, 118, 120, 124, 125, 129, 150, 180, 181, 203, 215, 239, 252, 263, 275, 276
Kosala (s) : 13, 16, 17, 18, 122, 199, 222

Kotail : 6
Kothra : 253
Kotila : 124, 125
Kotwali : 3, 86, 181
K.P. Inter College, Azamgarh : 233
Krishna : 55
Krishna-ka-Gola : 119
Krishnalila : 72
Krishna Prasad : 119
Kshatriya : 17, 54
Ktaura : 124
Kuba : 121
Kuba Mahavidyalaya Dariapur, Newada : 228
Kumaon : 5
Kumauni : 53
Kumbh : 6
Kumeras : 55
Kumhars : 54
Kumudsena : 17
Kunda : 253
Kunharia : 125
Kunjars : 55
Kunwar : 6, 83
Kunwar Dhir Singh : 32, 33
Kunwar Singh : 38, 39, 40, 271, 272
Kurahani : 20
Kurmi (s) : 36, 54
Kurthiya : 253
Kurthi Zafarpur : 252
Kuru : 14
Kusalgaon : 250
Kusamandini : 55
Kushan, Kushanas (Kusanas) : 15, 17, 122
Kushinagar (Kusinagar) : 18, 122
Kusumha : 252
Kusum Music College : 231
K.V. Inter College, Martinganj: 234

"L"

Lachhra : 252
Lahaun Khurd : 79
Lahore : 21, 28
Laknauti : 23
Lakshmi : 55
Lalari Chhatth : 71
Lalganj : 1, 2, 8, 14, 19, 49, 54, 63, 64, 65, 80, 99, 102, 106, 114, 119, 120, 132, 133, 149, 150, 155, 170, 172, 173, 181, 240, 247, 253, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 267, 282
Lal Khan : 26
Lalpur Nonari : 253
Lasra Khurd : 253
Latghat : 253
Latsahi : 116
Lauhan : 253
Laxmanji : 76
Laxmi : 102
Legislative Assembly : 262
Legislative Council : 205
Life : 269
Life Insurance Corporation of India : 115, 116
Link : 269
L. L. N. Higher Secondary School, Mau : 236
Lodi (s) : 21, 24
Lodi Sultans : 24
Lohar (s) : 54
Lohra : 253
Lohri : 71
Lokmanya Higher Secondary School, Narioo : 236
Lok Sabha : 205, 268
London : 172
Loniyadili : 103
Lord Clyde : 38
Lord Krishna : 68, 69
Lord Siva : 70
Lot Pot : 269
L. S. P. Inter College, Sardaha : 234
Lucknow : 27, 29, 35, 38, 39, 112, 116, 119, 123, 127, 152, 183, 194, 230, 244, 274
Lunias : 54

"M"

Maarif : 231
Madapur Sanshghat : 76
Madho Prasad : 36
Madhuban : 4, 16, 18, 42, 43, 44, 46, 76, 93, 102 114, 123 124, 125 133, 178, 180, 181, 250, 252
Madhuri : 269
Madhyadesa : 16
Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh : 186
Madhya Pradesh : 51
Madras : 119
Magadh : 17, 18
Magadha : 13, 16, 17
Magadhan : 16
Magasthanese : 185
Magravan : 124
Mahabharat : 16
Mahabharata : 16
Mahajanapadas : 16
Mahanagar (Mahanagar) : 251
Mahanandin : 17
Mahapadmananda : 17
Maharajganj (Mahrajganj) : 4, 15, 41, 101, 124, 128, 150, 180, 181, 223, 237, 251, 273, 276
Maharajganj Inter College, Mahrajganj : 233
Maharajpur : 46
Mahatma Gandhi : 40, 41, 47, 117, 225, 227, 256
Mahavira : 71
Mahesh Narain : 238
Maheshwar Sanskrit Pathshala Gumadih : 237
Mahi : 238
Mahmud (s) : 23, 25
Mahmud Gazni : 19
Mahmud Lodi : 25
Mahmud of Gazni : 20
Mahmudpur : 251
Mahul : 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, 13, 29, 34, 35, 36, 37, 124, 128, 155, 158, 159, 160, 161, 163, 164, 171, 223, 224, 250, 253, 263, 272, 276, 279, 280

Mahawara : 79
Mahavan : 252
M. N. Inter College, Ajan Shahid : 235
Majhoi : 5, 6
Majhwara : 124, 128, 251, 253
Majid and Imambara Khiderla : 260
Makar Sankranti : 69
Malana : 16
Malaya : 50
Malik (s) : 20
Malik Bahroz : 20
Malik Mittu : 20
Malik Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Shah : 21
Malik Qaranpur : 20
Malik Sarwar : 22, 23
Malik Shudni : 20
Malik Tahir : 20
Malik Babar Ka Rauza : 278
Malik Fatte Raja Musafirkhana : 132
Malik-us-Sharq : 22
Mallahs : 54
Mallas : 13, 16, 17
Mallari : 245
Malva : 18
Manav Sewak : 269
Manav Sewak Samaj : 270
Manchhil : 6
Mandhata : 18
Mandhuha : 79, 80
Mandmahar Ahir : 274
Mangai : 4, 5, 83
Mangal Deo Shastri : 14
Mangarwara : 125
Mangrawa (n) : 125, 253
Manhuari : 252
Manikpur : 29, 252
Manikpur Karru : 278
Maniyadpur : 252
Manjhauli (Majhauli) : 24
Manjhgawan : 252
Manjhi : 71
Majhwara : 253
Manu : 15, 185
Manu-Samhita : 126
Marathas : 97
Marathi : 75
Margasirsha : 68
Mat Kurmis : 54
Marchenpur (Marcenpur) : 114, 125, 150, 253, 264
Maruti Higher Secondary School, Adipur : 236
Marwari Dharamshala : 102
Mat Kurmis : 54
Matharganj Gurdwara : 132
Mathkol : 125
Mathura Inter College, Kanchanpur : 234
Matloobpur : 79
Mau (Maunath Bhanjan) : 4, 5, 8, 23, 28, 31, 33, 36, 40, 46, 53, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 67, 68, 70, 71, 79, 96, 97, 98, 100, 102, 103, 105, 107, 113, 114, 117, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, 128, 132, 133, 150, 151, 152, 153, 156, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 166, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 272, 274, 276, 277, 278, 279, 281
Maukhari (s) : 18
Maulai, Hazi : 239
Maula Muhammad : 269
Maulana Ghalan Yazdanj, Hazrat : 239
Maulana Munammad Siddiqui : 239
Mauranipur : 124
Maurya (s) : 17, 122, 130, 199
Mauryan : 130, 185
Maya : 269
May-Kopa : 128
Mayur Bhatt : 54
Mazdoor Parishad : 264
Mecca : 56
Mehnagar : 1, 30, 80, 102, 114, 127, 133, 180, 181, 237, 252, 264, 265, 275
Mehnajpur (Mehnazpur) : 103, 114, 124, 125, 128, 224, 250, 252
Mehrajpur : 128, 223
Mehta Public Library, Azamgarh : 237
Methodist Church of Australasia : 224
M. Girls Inter College, Paharpur : 235
Milad : 56
Milan : 38
Milap : 269
Millman, Colonel : 38, 271
Mir Abdullah : 34
Miran Shah : 71
Mira Saheb : 76
Mir Fazal Ali : 34
Mirzapur : 150, 253
Mirror : 269
Mirza Ata Beg : 94
Mirza Mirak : 28
Mirza Mirak Rizvi : 29
Mirza Mubarak Rizvi : 28
Mirza Muhammad Zaman : 25
Mirzapur : 21
Mirza Sheikh : 32
Mittrasen : 34
Mittupur : 20, 31, 253
M. M. M. Higher Secondary School, Kandhrapur : 236
Mohamadabad : 114
Mohammad Jawed : 260
Mohiuddinpur : 103
Mohnagar : 4, 150
Molvi : 230
Molvi Ahmad Shah : 239
Montgomery : 163
Moti Lal Inter College, Ramnagar : 235
M.P. Inter College, Mubarakpur : 234
Muazzam Khan : 34
Mubarak Khan : 24
Mubarak Khan Mujikhail : 24
Mubarakpur (Mubarkpur) : 8, 23, 24, 36, 37, 51, 55, 78, 97, 101, 113, 114, 119, 124, 125, 128, 180, 181, 210, 211, 223, 239, 250, 252, 263, 264, 265, 278, 282
Mughal (s) : 25, 55, 96, 122, 130, 273, 277, 279
Muhabbat : 32
Muhabbat Khan (s) : 32, 33, 34
Muhammad : 22, 36, 70
Muhammad : 22, 56, 70

Muhammadabad : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 15, 22, 23, 28, 34, 36, 37, 44, 49, 51, 54, 55, 63, 64, 65, 74, 78, 83, 94, 96, 97, 98, 100, 101, 105, 114, 117, 118, 119, 120, 123, 124, 125, 128, 129, 132, 133, 150, 155, 158, 160, 166, 170, 171, 172, 173, 178, 180, 181, 185, 203, 217, 224, 240, 247, 253, 261, 262, 263, 273, 275, 277, 278, 281, 282
Muhammadabad Gohna : 129, 238, 239, 249, 262, 263, 264, 265, 278
Muhammad Adil Shah : 26
Muhammadan (s) : 1, 14, 30, 63, 97, 185,
Muhammad bin Tughlaq : 22
Muhammadpur : 93, 114, 253
Muhammad Shah : 25, 26, 33
Muhammudpur : 237
Muhibuddin : 239
Muhorram (Muhurram) : 70, 260, 278
Mukta : 269
Mundia : 223
Mundiari : 37, 38
Mundiyar : Sardi : 253
Mungeshar : 253
Munim Khan : 27, 29
Munim Khan Khan Khanan : 27, 28, 29
Munshi : 230
Murlidhar Sharma : 238
Murtazabad : 26
Murtaza Khan : 33
Muslim (s) : 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 32, 40, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 67, 68, 70, 71, 79, 120, 122, 158, 169, 178, 199, 204, 222, 223, 224, 228, 240, 277, 278, 279
Muslim Inter College, Maunath Bhanjan : 233
Muslim League : 47, 265
Muslim Musafirkhana : 132
M. Usman, Brigadier : 261
Muzaffar Khan : 36, 37
Muzaffarpur : 77

"N"

Nadauli : 103, 252
Nadwa Sarai : 124
Nadwan : 253
Nadwan Sarai : 252
Naeem Bibi : 260
Nagabhatta II : 18
Nagara : 223, 240
Naggan Bibi : 260
Nag Panchami : 68
Naharpur : 253
Nahusa-ka-Tila : 151, 16
Nahush : 16
Nahush Ka Qila : 274
Nahushi : 274
Naini Tal : 136
Nais : 54
Nakhat : 125
Nandana : 253
Nandson : 14
Nandas : 17, 199
Nandmahar : 274
Narak Chaturdashi : 69
Narayan : 31
Narayanpur (Nirainpur) : 217, 253
Narhan : 27, 28
Narja Tal : 13, 87
Narendra Sen : 18
Narion : 271 153
Narottam Brahma Utkarsh Inter College, Sundarpur : 235
Nasiwara : 27
Naryi Tal : 6
Nasir Khan Lodi : 25
Nasiruddin Muhammad Shah : 22
Nat (s) : 55
Nathupur (Nathupura) : 12, 54, 97, 98, 155, 159, 160, 178, 275
National Herald : 269
National Higher Secondary School, Muhammadabad Gohna : 234
National Inter College, Kadirpur : 234
National Inter College, Muhammadpur : 235
Natthupur : 263, 264, 265
Nauli : 32
Nav Bharat Times : 269
Nav Durga : 55
Navjeevan : 269
Navratri : 68, 69
Nawab Khwaja : 30
Nawab Shuja-ud-daula : 30
Nawada : 101
Nawagara : 252
Neemland : 76
Nehru Smarak Higher Secondary School, Faizullahpur : 235
Nemdar : 252
Nepal : 5, 50, 100
Nepali : 75
Newada : 252
New year (Day) : 71
Nigun : 2, 26, 159
Niharika : 269
Nijlingappa, S. : 268
Nikah : 61
Nikumbha : 54
Nila Upadhya : 32
Nizamabad (Nizambad) : 2, 12, 14, 26, 28, 29, 32, 34, 36, 96, 102, 112, 114, 116, 125, 127, 155, 156, 163, 181, 202, 222, 252, 263, 265, 272, 279, 281, 282
North-Eastern Railway : 95, 129, 275, 277, 279, 280, 281
North-Western Railway : 95
Northern India Patrika : 269
Nusrat Shah : 25, 26
Nusrat Shah : 25

"P"

Pachkhora : 253
Padrauna : 33
Paharpur : 181

Paindapur : 253
Pakari : 6, 237, 252
Pakari Buzurg : 102
Pakistan : 47, 50, 53, 55
Pakri-Pewa Tal : 6
Palhani : 150
Palia : 252
Paligarh : 252
Pallni : 77
Palthi : 79, 252, 253
Paltni : 237
Palwar (s) : 1, 32, 36, 37, 38, 159
Palwar Rajputs : 14, 32, 36, 271, 272
Panchayat Higher Secondary School, Mahnagar : 235
Panchayat Higher Secondary School, Khanpur : 235
Panchayat Higher Secondary School, Renda : 235
Panchon Pir : 54
Pandar Kunda : 250
Panipat : 24, 27
Panwars : 54
Parag : 269
Paramhansa Higher Secondary School, Deopur : 236
Parasrampur : 250
Pardah (Pardaha) : 150, 252
Pargan Singh : 40
Parihars : 54
Parikshit : 14
Parliament : 73
Parsaha : 253
Parsamanpur : 103
Parsupur : 237
Parvati : 55, 276
Paryushan : 71
Pasis : 54
Paska : 80
Pastime : 269
Patach Tal : 87
Patel Inter College, Atraulia : 234
Pathan (s) : 26
Pathana : 79
Patna : 20, 25, 98
Patwadh : 253
Pauravas : 17
Pawai : 4, 114, 124, 128, 150, 180, 181, 253, 280
Pendra : 253
Persian : 22, 26, 27, 53, 97, 223, 230, 272
Patel Smarak Higher Secondary School, Urdiha : 236
Pharai : 5
Phariha : 129
Pharsara : 102
P. H. D. Inter College, Sherpur Kuti, Azamgarh : 234
Phulpur : 1, 2, 3, 14, 26, 41, 49 54, 64, 65, 74, 83, 96, 97 99, 100, 105, 114, 119, 120, 122, 124, 125, 128, 132, 133, 150, 155, 170, 172, 173, 181, 204, 218, 238, 247, 252, 261, 262, 264, 265, 271, 276, 280
Phulwaria : 81
Pichari : 252
Picture Post : 269
Pindhuwal : 124
Pinjara : 252
Pipridih : 129
Pir Kashni : 23
Piruthspur : 103
Pitambarpur : 253
Pitra Visarjan Amavasya : 69
Piwa Tal : 252
Pollock : 37, 38
Pouk : 79
Pawai : 14
Prabhakarvadhana : 18
Pradyotas : 17
Praja Socialist Party : 263, 264, 266, 267
Prasenjit : 16, 17
Pratap : 269
Prathamik Shikshak Sangh : 130
Pratihara : 18
Pratisthana : 16
Pravel : 269
Prayag Sangit Samiti, Allahabad : 231
Prithvipal Singh : 36, 37
Protestant : 55
Public Girls Higher Secondary School, Baramadpur : 236
Public Higher Secondary School, Sajai Khanjahanpur : 236
Pukh : 6
Pune : 97
Punjab : 51, 92
Punjabi (s) : 53, 67, 75
Punjab National Bank : 105, 108, 114
Purana (s) : 16, 56
Purana Kopa : 275
Purana Swaraj : 40
Purbi : 53
Pururavas : 16
Purushottam Pandey : 237
Pushyamitra (Sunga) : 17
Pusp Nagar : 252
Pyarepatti : 103

"Q"

Qariat Mittu : 2, 20, 31, 158
Qasba Mubarakpur : 278
Qasim : 20
Qasimabad : 278
Qassabs : 55
Quit India movement : 27, 42, 47
Qazi : 61
Quran : 56
Quranic : 185
Qurreshis : 55
Qutb Khan Lodi : 24
Qutb-ud-din Aibak : 21
Qwami Awaz : 269

"R"

Radha Soami : 58
Rae Barely (Bareli) : 29, 127
Raghu : 16
Raghunandan Dharamsala : 132
Raghuvansis : 54
Rahab (Kali Nadi) : 24

Rahuar Baidauli : 103
Rahul Sankratyayan : 231
Rai Bareli : 24
Raidasis : 54
Raikwars : 54
Raini Piparideeh : 252
Raisingpur : 252
Rajab Ali : 36
Raja Jai Lal Kunbi : 271
Raja Mubarak : 278
Rajapur : 102, 103, 128
Raja Sahib : 278
Rajasthan : 51
Raja Todar Mal : 169
Rajbhar (s) : 13, 14, 158
Rajbhar-ka-Kot : 14
Rajdeo Misra : 237
Rajendra Pandey : 238
Rajendra Smarak Higher Secondary School, Shithawal : 236
Rajipur : 124
Rajpati Upadhaya : 238
Rajput (s) : 19, 32, 36, 63, 166
Rajyavardhana : 18
Rajya Sabha : 205
Rakhis : 68
Raksha Bandhan : 68
Rakwardh : 78
Rama (s) : 13, 16, 55, 69
Rama Janki : 279
Ramapati Tewari : 45
Ramayana : 56
Ram Chandra Upadhya : 231
Ramcharitmanasa : 56, 72
Ram Chatauni : 33
Ram Ghat ki Masjid : 278
Ramkrishna Inter College, Chandpur, Parvaha : 234
Ram Lila (Ramlila) : 69, 72
Ram Nakshatr Pande : 45
Ram Narain : 44
Ram Narain Lal : 45
Ram Naresh : 238
Ram Navami(Ram Naumi) : 55, 68, 77, 78, 79
Rampur : 44, 78, 253
Ram Rajya Parishad : 262, 263
Ram Sumer Das : 237
Ram Sundar Pande : 44
Ram Tahal : 36
Ram Vriksh Chaube : 44, 45
Rangrezi (s) : 55
Ranikhet : 93
Rani-ki-Sarai : 30, 99, 114, 119, 125, 129, 150, 180, 252, 264, 281
Ranipur : 125, 128, 150, 229, 252, 281
Rampur Rajmau : 281
Rapti : 5
Rashapur : 125
Rashtriya Inter College, Chiriakot : 234
Rashtriya Loktantrik Sangh : 265
Rastra Doot : 269
Rasulpur : 77, 250, 252
Ratanjot : 30, 281
Rathors : 54
Ratnawe : 253
Ratai Tal : 6, 87
Ratuapar : 253
Raunapar : 4, 93, 124, 128, 180, 181, 251, 273
Rauza Kalik Tahir Hussain : 260
Ravana : 69
Reader's Digest : 269
Renda : 251, 252
Republican Party of India : 263, 264, 267
Republican Party of India (Ambedkarite) : 264
Republic Day : 48
Rigvede Bhatta Sivadevasvamin : 18
Rogers : 164
Rohtas : 25
Roman Catholic : 55
Rortika Purnima : 77
Ross : 161
Rotary Club : 72
Round Table Conference : 41
Routledge : 161
R. T. Tucker : 223
Rudra (s) : 31
Rupdaman : 269
Rustam Ali Khan : 33
Rustam Sarai : 253

"S"

Saadat Ali Khan : 35
Saadat Ali Khan, Nawab: 2, 275
Saadat Khan : 33
Sabhas : 185
Sabzi Mandi : 40, 42
Safadar Jang : 33, 34
Sagar : 16, 30
Sagri : 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 14, 15, 18, 20, 25, 31, 33, 42, 49, 54, 55, 64, 65, 76, 84, 94, 96, 113, 120, 150, 155, 163, 170, 171, 172, 173, 180, 247, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 273, 276, 281
Sahib Zaman Khan : 33, 34
Sahmshbad : 253
Sahroj : 252, 253
Sains : 55
Saiyad Ahmad Badpa : 71
Saiyad Salar Masaud Ghazi : 20
Saiyid (s) : 31, 55, 159, 280
Saiyid Ali : 26
Saiyid Ashraf Jahangir : 279
Saiyid Muhammad : 36
Sakat Chauth : 69
Salehabad : 252
Salempur : 253
Salona : 31
Salona Tal : 6, 87
Saltion : 78
Salt Law : 41
Salt Satyagraha : 41
Samaj Sewak Higher Secondary School, Bharopur : 236
Sameda : 252
Sammaduvari : 237
Samvadi Bhatta Vatasvamin : 18
Samyukta Socialist Party : 264, 267, 268
Samyukta Vidhayak Dal : 265

Sanatan Dharam Sanskrit Pathshala Azamgarh : 237
Sanaullah Sunee Amjadee Molvi : 239
Sandesh : 269
Sandila : 23
Sanjarpur : 253
Sanjarpur Halt : 129
Sanqis : 97
Sanskrit : 19, 75, 223, 224, 230, 231
Sant Deoraha Higher Secondary School, Majhgawan : 236
Sant Vinoba Inter College, Sipah : 234
Saptahik Hindustan : 269
Sarai : 119
Sarai Ganesh : 253
Sarai Lakhansi : 181
Sarai-Mir : 4, 26, 34, 43, 103, 114, 119, 124, 125, 129, 180, 181, 204, 219, 253, 268, 265
Sarai Paltu : 252
Sarai Rani (Sarairani) : 30, 123
Saranguah : 252
Sarars : 252
Sarasena : 39
Saraswati : 16
Saraswati : 69, 102
Sarawan : 252
Sarauja Ratrarey : 79
Sarbuland Khan : 33
Sardaha : 253
Sarhu : 181
Sarita : 269
Sarjupar : 54
Sarjuparis : 54
Sarkar : 27
Sarsena (Sarsen) : 125, 133
Sarvajanik Inter College, Malupur : 234
Sarv Hitkari Library and Reading Room, Azamgarh : 231
Sarvodya Degree College, Ghosi : 229
Sarvodya Inter College, Ghazipur: 233
Sarvodya Inter College, Ghosi : 234
Sarwar (Surharpur) : 27, 28, 54
Sarwarias : 54
Saryu : 28, 54
Sasanka (s) : 18
Sathiaon (Sathian) : 78, 98, 124, 150, 252, 278, 282
Satyamitra : 17
Satyasam Janata Higher Secondary School, Kalyanpur : 235
Saudagar Singh, Naib Subedar : 261
Savarnigotra : 18
S. B. Inter College, Terhi Kaptanganj : 233
Second World War : 42, 47, 109, 120, 143, 145, 167
Sengarise : 14
Shafi Mohammad Yakut, Maulana : 239
Shahabad : 32, 33, 38, 40
Shah Ali : 26
Shah Ali Aski Khan (Shah Aski Khan) [illegible]
Shahe[illegible]la : 76
Shahgarh : 4, 129
[illegible]rh : 76, 125, 252
[illegible] Inter College, Madhuban : 233
[illegible] : 61, 277
Shahpur : 121, 253
Shah Salempur : 121
Shahzada Nasir Khan : 22
Shaikhpura : 253
Shailputri : 55
Shakar Inter College, Diha : 234
Shakar Inter College, Kotwa : 234
Shama : 269
Shambhupur : 253
Shampur : 253
Shamsbad : 37
Shamshad Jahan : 276
Shamsher Bahadur : 237
Shamsher Jahan : 34
Shams-ud-din : 22
Shams-ud-din Ibrahim (Shah) : 23, 24
Shams-ud-din Iliyas Shah : 22
Shankerpur : 250, 253
Sharda : 84
Sharda Canal : 84
Sharda Sahayak Canal : 83
Sharda Sahayak Pariyojna (Project) : 84, 281
Sharqi : 20, 23, 24, 158, 223
Sharqi Sultans : 23, 158
Sheetala : 68
Sheetala Ashtami : 68
Sheikh (s) : 55, 273, 277, 279
Sheikh Ibrahim Sikri : 29
Sheikh Nizam-ud-din : 27, 279
Sheo Rampur : 252
Sher Khan : 25, 26
Sherpur : 253
Sher Shah Sur : 130
Shia (s) : 55, 56, 70
Shiam Narain Pandey : 231
Shibli : 230
Shibli George College : 43
Shibli George High School : 224
Shibli George Intermediate College : 43
Shibli National College : 228
Shibli National Degree College : 43
Shibli National Inter College, Azamgarh : 233
Shibli Library : 272
Shihab-ud-din Muhammad Ghuri : 21
Shiksha Higher Secondary School, Bhimpur : 236
Shiksha Niketan Inter College, Dubari : 234
Shitla Devi : 278
Shiva : 55, 102, 276
Shivratri : 77, 80
Shosit Samaj Dal : 265
Shri Durgaji Homeopathic College and Hospital, Chander : 249
Shrimad Bhagavata (Srimadbhagavat) : 56
Shudnipur : 20
Shudra : 17, 54
Shuja-ud-daula : 34, 35
Siddiquis : 55
Sidhari : 77, 181
Sidhauna : 79
Sidhmata : 55
Sigauli : 37
Sikandar (Sultan) : 22, 23
Sikandar Khan : 27, 28, 29
Sikandar Lodi : 24, 25, 26

Sikandarpur : 14, 49
Sikari Chand : 119
Sikarwars : 54
Sikaura : 79, 253
Sikh(s) : 53, 55, 56, 58, 61, 68, 71, 120
Sikhism : 53, 56
Sikraura : 124
Siladitya : 18
Silani : 6
Silauna Tal : 273
Simon Commission : 40
Singapore : 50
Singapur Hotel : 132
Singhel : 279
Singhel Rajputs : 279
Singhpur : 30
Singri : 103
S. Inter College, Karkhia : 234
Sipah : 128, 251, 252, 253
Sisunaga : 17
Sita : 55
Sitapur Eye Hospital, Sitapur : 247
Sita Ram Asthana: 42
Sithwal : 30, 252, 281
Siva : 70, 279
Sivaratri : 55, 69
Siwaliks : 28
Siyarha Patwadh : 47
Skandmata : 55
S. K. G. N. Inter College, Lalganj: 233
Smith High School : 224
Smith Inter College, Azmatgarh : 233
Smritis : 158
Socialist Party : 262
Socialist Party of India : 262, 263, 265, 267
Socris or Cherus : 13, 158
Sohauli : 253
Soiris : 54
Somatwat : 269
Sombansis : 54
Sonabar : 78
Sonars : 54
Sonithapa Balika Inter College, Maunath Bhanjan : 235
Sonpur : 252
South Africa : 50
Sovereign Democratic Republic : 48
Sports Week : 269
Sreni : 222
Sri Agrasen Kanya Inter College, Azamgarh : 235
Sri Agrasen Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Azamgarh : 229
Sri Bajrang Lal Dalmia : Homeopathic College and Hospital Cachrampur : 249
Sri Durga Ji Homeopathic College and Hospital, Chandesar : 249
Sri Durga Ji Inter College, Chandesar : 233
Sri Durga Ji Mahavidyalaya, Chandesar : 229
Sri Gandhi Degree College, Maltari : 228
Sri Gandhi Smarak Mahavidyalaya Bardah : 229
Sri Hari Audh : 20[illegible]
Sri Krishna Higher S[illegible] Chiriakot : 2[illegible]
Sri Krishna High School : 224
Sri Krishna Pathsala High School : 40
Sri Ram Rashtriya Higher Secondary School, Jahanganj : 236
Sri Shanker Ji Higher Secondary School, Patjiwa : 236
Sri Shankar Ji Inter College, Pushpanagar : 236
Sri Shiva Mahavidyalaya Terhi Kaptanganj : 229
S.S.B. Inter College, Amila : 233
Star and Style : 269
State Bank of India : 114
State Legislative Council : 136
Stewart and Scott : 96
Subhash Higher Secondary School, Todarpur : 236
Sudra : 17
Sufi : 26, 278, 279
Sufi Bahadur : 34
Suggi Chauri : 77
Sukhanandan Higher Secondary School, Muhammadpur : 235
Sukhanandan Puri : 238
Suksin : 6
Sultan (s) : 21, 22
Sultan Ahmad, Maulvi : 239
Sultan Husain : 23, 24
Sultanipur : 124, 125, 128
Sultanpur : 1, 3, 127, 250, 252
Sultan-us-Sharq : 23
Sunga (s) : 17, 122
Sunni : 55, 56, 70
Surahia : 125
Surajpur : 2, 124, 128, 159, 181, 224
Surajpur Dargah : 252
Surasena : 13
Surharpur : 2, 159
Surrular Sher Shah : 122
Surya : 75
Suryanath Singh : 40
Suryanath Tewari : 237
Suryavansh : 238
Swadeshi Cotton Mill : 277
Swodhinta Gazet : 269
Swami Dayanand Saraswati : 57
Swami Nath Pandey : 238
Swatantra Bharat : 269
Swatantra Party : 263, 264, 265, 267
Syed Ali Ahmad : 260
Syed Husain Imdad : 260
Syed Inayat Hussain : 260
Syed Mohammad Jawed : 260

"T"

Tahbarpur : 124, 125, 150, 252, 282
Tahbarpur Inter College, Tahbarpur : 234
Taher : 253
Tahvarpur : 124
Talimmuddin Higher Secondary School, Maunath Bhanjan : 236
Tamberpur : 252
Tamil : 75
Tamsa : 269
Tanda : 84
Tarain : 21
Tarun Inter College, Kunda Kuchai : 234

158302

Tarwa (Tarva) : 4, 48, 126, 150, 180, 181, 252
Taufira : 164
T. D. Inter College, Sardaha : 234
Tej : 269
Telegu : 75
Teli (s) : 54, 55
Telia Dharmsala : 182
Thakurahi : 279
Thakura (s) : 19
Thakurji : 278
Thaneswar : 18
The Hindustan Times : 269
The Illustrated Weekly of India : 269
Thekma (Thekma) : 114, 133
Thekman : 99, 224, 237, 252, 282
Thekwa : 150
The Observer : 269
The Pioneer : 269
The Roz : 269
The Stateman : 269
The Times of India : 269
The Union Bank of India , 105
Thomason : 163
Tilahani : 2, 159
Tilahari : 2
Tilak Higher Secondary School, Fatehpur : 236
Tirhut : 22, 23
Titra : 125
Tons (Tamsa) : 4, 5, 6, 30, 39, 83, 84, 272
Town Inter College, Muhammdabad Gohna : 233
Turab Iravi : 34
Turkey , 40
Tirtipar : 95, 129

"U"

Uchagaon : 252
Uchahuan : 252
Udanti : 4, 5
Udyog Inter College, Koelsa : 234
Ujiarghat : 128
Ukraura : 253
Uma Dutt Misra : 237
Umarpur : 252
Un ni : 206, 240, 241, 244, 245, 251
Unchagaon : 18
Ungli : 2, 159,
Union Bank of Indja ; 105
Union Territories : 51
United Kingdom : 50
Upanishads : 55
Urdiha : 253
Urdu : 53, 281, 268, 272
Usmanis : 55
Usur Kurhwa : 79
Uttar Pradesh : 17, 105, 110, 170, 183, 256
Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Federation, Lucknow : 112
Uttar Pradesh Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust : 270
Uttar Pradesh Revolutionary Socialist Party : 262
Uzbeks : 27

'V'

Vaiculese : 269
Vaishya : 54
Vakataka : 18
Vallabhbhai Patel : 41
Vandar Inter College, Katinaur : 235
Vanga : 18
Van Mahotsava : 154
Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, Varanasi : 230
Varanasi : 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 39, 105, 106, 108, 118, 119, 122, 123, 128, 129, 152, 198, 266, 274, 277, 281
Vardhanas : 122
Vatsa : 13
V. D. A. Inter College, Khargipur : 234
Vedas : 55, 56, 57, 222
Vedic : 222, 224
Venables : 36
Victory Inter College, Dohrighat : 233
Vibbuti Narain Inter College, Surajpur : 235
Vidhan Parishad : 266
Vidhan Sabha 264
Vidyavati Higher Secondary School, Shahpur : 236
Veenapara Higher Secondary School, Veenapara : 236
Vijaya Dashmi (Vijai Dasami) : 271
Vijayamitra : 17
Vikrama : 19
Vikramajit : 1, 31
Vikram Inter College, Muhammadpur : 234
Vilriaganj , 124
Vindhyachal , 128
Vindrabazar : 124
Vishnu : 55, 279
Vishnu Deo Misra , 233
Vishnuvriddhagotra : 18
Vriji-Jichchhavis : 13
Vrindaban : 13

"W"

Walidpur , 79, 253
Warren Hastings : 153
Wazir Ali : 274
Wesely High School, : 41, 224
Wesely Inter College, Azamgarh : 233
World Bank : 86
Wroughton : 37

"Y"

Yadunath Inter College, Bahadurpur : 235
Yama Duittya : 69
Yamuna : 21
Yashoda Lal Misra Higher Secondary School Baragoan : 235
Yasodharman : 18
Yasomati : 18
Yasovarman : 18
Yayati : 16
Yusufabad : 23
Yusufpur : 124

"Z"

Zafar : 22
Zafarabad : 22
Zamaniya : 27, 29
Zamin Harkhar : 253

PSUP (Re.) 2 Sa. Raj./544—22-2-88—1,000 Books.