



# UPPSC

## Prelims

**Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission**

**Volume – 9**

**Uttar Pradesh General Knowledge**

# INDEX

S No.	Chapter Title	Page No.
1	UP at a Glance	1
2	UP Ancient and Medieval History	5
3	UP Modern History	16
4	Physiography of Uttar Pradesh	23
5	Climate and Soil	26
6	Drainage System	29
7	Protected Areas of UP	37
8	Natural Vegetation	42
9	UP Census 2011	45
10	Agriculture and its allied sectors	51
11	Industries	60
12	Minerals and Energy	71
13	Transport and Communication	78
14	Uttar Pradesh Budget 2026–27	86
15	Uttar Pradesh Economy Survey 2025–26	92
16	Administrative System of UP	105
17	State Legislature	109
18	Political System	114
19	Judiciary	122
20	Local Self Government	127
21	Constitutional and Non–constitutional Bodies	133
22	Tribes in UP	139
23	Tourism in Uttar Pradesh	143

# INDEX

S No.	Chapter Title	Page No.
24	Education and Health System in UP	154
25	UP Art & Culture	162
26	Welfare Schemes	182
27	Important Personalities	193
28	Institution, Organisation, Place, Park & City	201
29	Economic Planning in India	207

# 1

## CHAPTER

# UP at a Glance

### Basic Introduction

Uttar Pradesh is the 4th largest state in India by area, covering 2,40,928 sq. km, which is about 7.33% of the country's total geographical area of 3,287,263 sq. km, after Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

Parameter	Details
Capital	Lucknow
Formation	1 November 1956
Area	2,40,928 sq. km
Districts	75
Divisions	4
Mandals	18
Population	199,812,341

### Name of the state

Year	UP's Name
1836	North-Western Provinces
1877	North Western Province, Agra and Oudh
1902	United Provinces of Agra and Oudh
1 April 1937	United Provinces
24 January 1950	Uttar Pradesh

#### **Note:**

- Uttar Pradesh officially began celebrating its Foundation Day, commonly known as UP Diwas, on January 24, 2018.

### Capital of the state:

Year	UP's Capital
Until 1858	Agra
1858 – 1921	Allahabad (Prayagraj)
From 1921	Lucknow (ancient name: Lakhanpuri)
1935	Lucknow (Capital shifted fully to Lucknow)

- **State bifurcation** – 9 November 2000 (Uttaranchal, now Uttarakhand, was formed by merging 13 districts of the state.)
- **Districts of Uttar Pradesh in the NCR** – 8 (Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli)
- The **State Capital Region (SCR)** in Uttar Pradesh consists of **6 districts** covering a total area of 27,826 square kilometers: Lucknow, Hardoi, Sitapur, Unnao, Rae Bareli and Barabanki
  - ✓ The **Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region Development Authority (UP-SCRDA)** manages this zone.
- **Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh who became Prime Ministers of India** – Chaudhary Charan Singh and Vishwanath Pratap Singh

- 
- **Speakers of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly who also became Chief Ministers** – Shri Banarasi Das and Sri Pati Mishra
  - **First President's Rule in the state** – 25 February 1968 to 26 February 1969
  - **State Legislature** – Bicameral
  - **Lok Sabha seats** – 80
  - **Rajya Sabha seats** – 31
  - **Most-time Speakers of the Legislative Assembly** – Shri Atmaram Govind Kher and Keshari Nath Tripathi (3 times each)
  - **Total Assembly members** – 404 (403 elected, 1 nominated)
  - **Legislative Council members** – 100
  - **First formation of the State Assembly** – July 1937
  - **District with the highest Assembly seats** – Prayagraj (12 seats)
  - **Districts with the lowest Assembly seats** – Shravasti, Mahoba, and Chitrakoot (2 each)
  - **First central jail in the state** – Bareilly
  - **President's Rule in the state** – 10 times
  - **First Chief Minister** – Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant
  - **First Deputy Chief Minister** – Chaudhary Narayan Singh
  - **First woman Chief Minister of the state and India** – Sucheta Kriplani
  - **First woman Governor of the state and India** – Sarojini Naidu
  - **Current Governor** – Anandiben Patel
  - **India's first night wildlife park** – Greater Noida
  - **First Speaker after independence** – Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon
  - **First Chairman of the Legislative Council after independence** – Shri Chandrabhal
  - **First Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court** – Justice Walter Morgan

### **Geographical location**

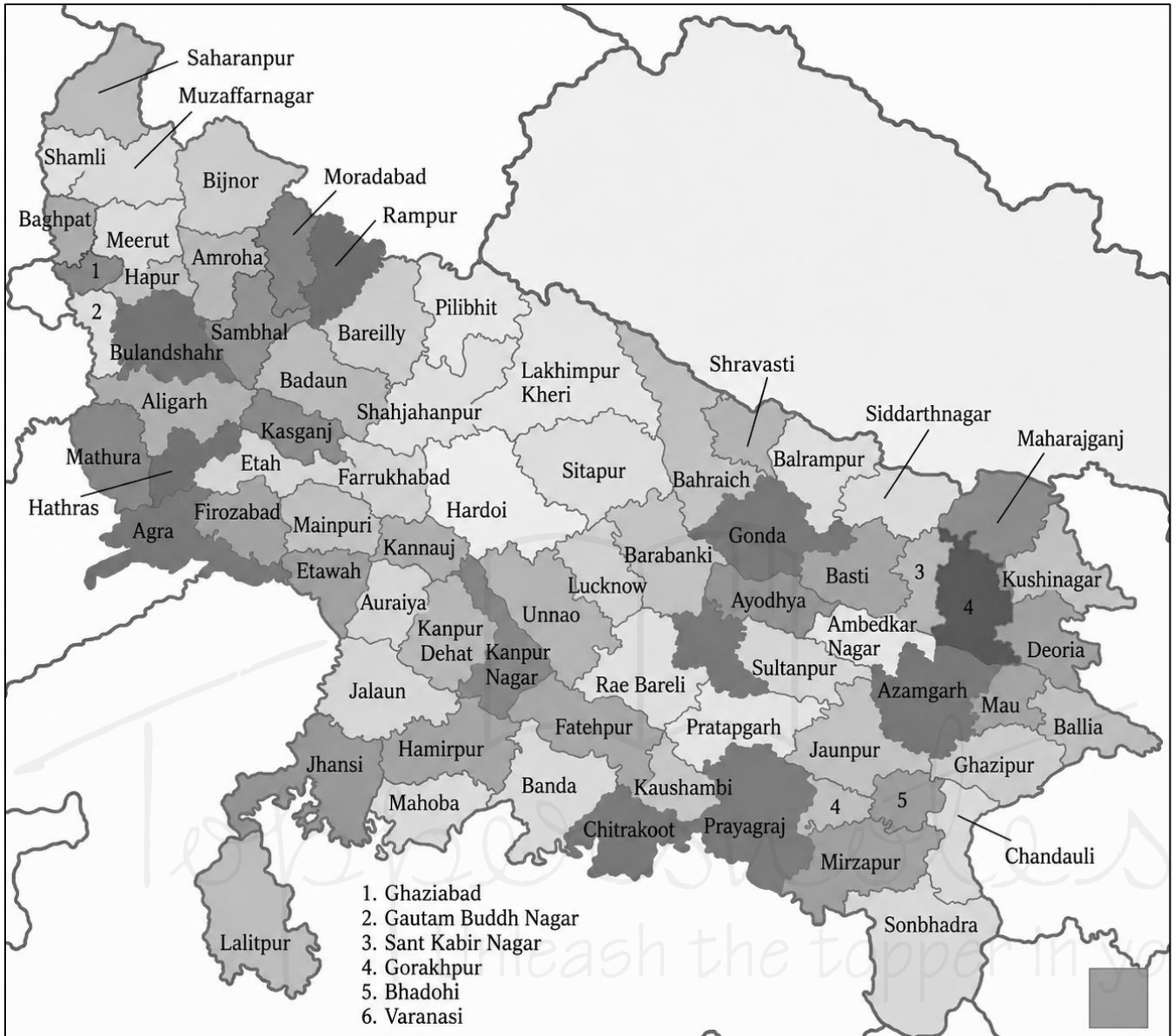
- **Area of Uttar Pradesh** – 2,40,928 sq. km. (approximately 7.33% of India's area)
- **Latitude** – from 23°52' north latitude to 31°28' north latitude
- **Longitude** – from 77°31' east longitude to 84°39' east longitude
- **Length of the state from east to west** – 650 km
- **Width of the state from north to south** – 240 km
- **Easternmost district** – Ballia
- **Westernmost district** – Shamli
- **Northernmost district** – Saharanpur
- **Southernmost district** – Sonbhadra
- **Largest district by area** – Lakhimpur Kheri (7,680 sq. km.)
- **Smallest district by area** – Hapur (660 sq. km.)
- **Number of states bordering Saharanpur** – 3 (Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand)
- **Agricultural agro-climatic zones** – 9
- **Major rivers** – Ganga, Yamuna, Ramganga, Gomti, and Ghaghara
- **Largest canal system** – Sharda Canal

### **Boundaries of Uttar Pradesh**

- **Number of bordering states/UTs** – 9 (8 states and 1 Union Territory)
- **Name of bordering country** – Nepal
- **Number of states bordering Sonbhadra** – 4 (Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Bihar)
- **State bordering Uttar Pradesh the most** – Madhya Pradesh
- **State bordering Uttar Pradesh the least** – Himachal Pradesh
- **District of Uttar Pradesh surrounded on three sides by Madhya Pradesh** – Lalitpur

**Note:**

- The area called **Bundelkhand** - falls under **Uttar Pradesh - Madhya Pradesh border**.
- The Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh shares its boundary with exactly one other district within the state.









**Trick: "NURD CHase BJ MH"**

Serial No.	State/Country	Districts of Uttar Pradesh Bordering It
1	Madhya Pradesh	<b>11 Districts</b> (Agra, Etawah, Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakoot, Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra)
2	Bihar	<b>7 Districts</b> (Sonbhadra, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Ballia, Deoria, Kushinagar, Maharajganj)
3	Uttarakhand	<b>7 Districts</b> (Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Pilibhit)
4	Haryana	<b>6 Districts</b> (Saharanpur, Shamli, Baghpat, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Aligarh, Mathura)
5	Delhi	<b>3 Districts</b> (Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar)
6	Rajasthan	<b>2 Districts</b> (Agra, Mathura)
7	Chhattisgarh	<b>1 District</b> (Sonbhadra)

8	Jharkhand	<b>1 District</b> (Sonbhadra)
9	Himachal Pradesh	<b>1 District</b> (Saharanpur)
10	Nepal	<b>7 Districts</b> (Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Balrampur, Shravasti, Bahraich, Lakhimpur Kheri, Pilibhit)

### State Symbol

**Trick: "BSAPF - Barasingha and Sarus Ashoka with Palash Fish"**

<p><b>State emblem:</b> Two fish and a bow and arrow within a circle</p>		<p><b>State bird:</b> Sarus crane</p>	
<p><b>State animal:</b> Swamp deer (Barasingha)</p>		<p><b>State tree:</b> Ashoka</p>	
<p><b>State flower:</b> Palash</p>		<p><b>State game:</b> Hockey</p>	

# 2

## CHAPTER

# UP Ancient and Medieval History

### **Ancient History**

- Uttar Pradesh has a rich history spanning thousands of years, serving as a hub of Aryan culture and home to ancient kingdoms like Kuru, Panchala, Vatsa, and Kashi.
- It flourished under rulers such as Emperor Ashoka and Harshavardhana, and later, during the medieval period, under Akbar.
- The region also played a significant role in India's struggle against British colonial rule.

### **Palaeolithic Period (2 million BCE to 10,000 BCE)**

- Evidence of the Chalcolithic period in Uttar Pradesh has been found in Meerut and Saharanpur.
- **Major sites:** Belan Valley in Allahabad
- **Excavation:** conducted by Prof. G.R. Sharma of Allahabad University
- **Major findings:** Stone tools and a bone-made goddess figurine were found at the archaeological site of Lohadnala in Belan Valley.
  - ✓ Singrauli Valley in Sonbhadra
  - ✓ Chakia in Chandauli

### **Mesolithic Period (10,000 BCE to 8000 BCE)**

- Human remains were found at Sarai Nahar Rai and Mahadaha in Pratapgarh.
- **Major finding:** The oldest evidence of agriculture in the Indian subcontinent was found at **Lahuradewa** in Sant Kabir Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh. Rice dating to around **8000 BCE–9000 BCE** was discovered.

### **Neolithic Period (8000 BCE to 4000 BCE)**

- Tools and weapons were found in excavations at Sarai Nahar Rai (Pratapgarh), Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, and Bundelkhand.
- Human skeletal remains were found buried near Sarai Nahar Rai village in Pratapgarh district.
- Two skull findings require special attention in the context of human palaeoanthropology: the anterior root of the zygomatic arch meeting the mesial margin of the first premolar, and a generally thick enamel coating on large teeth.

### **Harappan Civilization**

- The Harappan Civilization (also known as the Indus Valley Civilization) was a major Bronze Age society that flourished from approximately 3300 to 1300 BCE.
- Spanning across present-day Pakistan and northwest India, it is recognized for its incredible urban planning, sophisticated architecture, and extensive international trade networks. *Key Harappan sites in UP are as follows:*

### **Mandi**

- It is located in Muzaffarnagar district, east of the Yamuna River.
- A peripheral area of the main Harappan distribution zone.
- **Key Findings:**
  - ✓ A rich hoard of Harappan ornaments was recovered.
  - ✓ Two copper vessels and numerous beads made of gold, agate, onyx, and copper were found.
  - ✓ Gold bead types included spacer beads, hollow terminal beads, single and double bell-shaped beads, and thin circular beads.

---

## Alamgirpur

- It is located in Meerut district, on the banks of the Yamuna River.
- The easternmost site of the civilization.
- Also known as **Parashuram ka Khera**.
- **Key Findings:**
  - ✓ Distinctive Harappan pottery, a possible pottery workshop, roof tiles, pots, cups, vases, dice, beads, terracotta cakes, carts, and figurines of a humped bull and a snake.
  - ✓ Beads and ear studs were made of steatite paste, faience, glass, carnelian, quartz, agate, and black jasper.
  - ✓ Metal was found in small quantity; a broken copper blade was recovered.
  - ✓ Evidence of cloth and cotton cultivation was also found.

## Hulas

- It is located in Saharanpur district, along the high banks of tributaries of the Yamuna such as the Hindon, Krishna, Kathanala, and Maskara.
- A Late Harappan archaeological site.
- **Key Findings:**
  - ✓ Five circular furnaces, painted pottery with geometric and natural designs, chert blades, bone points, and terracotta inscribed sealing.
  - ✓ Crops included chickpea, cowpea, walnut, oats, lentils, peas, gram, ragi, and both wild and cultivated rice.
  - ✓ Peepal fruits were also found.

## Sinauli

- It is located in Baghpat district, in the Ganga-Yamuna doab.
- Excavation findings from 2018 were dated to 2000 BCE–1800 BCE and associated with the Ochre Coloured Pottery/Copper Hoard culture, contemporary with the Late Harappan period.
- Major finds included wooden coffins, copper swords, helmets, and wooden carts with solid disc wheels covered by copper sheets.

## Badagaon (also known as Bargaon)

- It is located in the Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It represents a rural settlement from the Late Harappan phase, showcasing the eastward migration of Harappan culture into the upper Yamuna valley.
- Archaeologists have found significant overlap between the Late Harappan and Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) phases.

## Vedic Age (1500 BCE–500 BCE)

- The Vedic Age (1500–600 BCE) was a pivotal era in ancient Indian history following the Indus Valley Civilization.

*The era is primarily categorized into two distinct, historically documented phases:*

### Early Vedic Period

- Initially, the Aryans in India were concentrated in the irrigated region of Sapta-Sindhu (the land of seven rivers) region, encompassing modern-day Punjab, Haryana, and eastern Afghanistan. The seven rivers were:

Old Name	New Name / Modern Name/ Description
Sindhu	Indus
Vitasta	Jhelum
Askini	Chenab

Parushni	Ravi
Vipasa	Beas
Shatudri	Sutlej
Sarasvati	Lost (flows through deserts of Rajasthan)

- **Important five Aryan clans / lineages (Panchajan):** Puru, Turvasha, Yadu, Anu, and Druhu.
- Gradually the Aryans expanded their territory eastward.
  - ✓ The Shatapatha Brahmana describes the victories of Brahmins and Kshatriyas over Kosala (Awadh) and Videha (northern Bihar).
- Administration was led by a Rajan (chief) whose primary role was to protect cattle and the tribe, rather than control territory.
- The society was semi-nomadic and pastoral, with women being educated and actively taking part in tribal assemblies.
- The Rigveda (a collection of sacred hymns) was the only text composed during this time, and was passed down entirely through oral tradition.

### Later Vedic Period

- In the later Vedic age, the importance of Sapta Sindhu declined and the Brahmarshi country or Madhyadesa gained prominence.
  - ✓ At that time the area corresponding to Uttar Pradesh became a sacred region of India and an important centre of Vedic culture and learning.
- The egalitarian structure gave way to the complex and rigid Varna system (Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras). The status of women declined, and joint families became the norm
- The society shifted from a pastoral lifestyle to a settled agrarian economy, extensively using iron tools for land clearing and cultivation.
- Brahmins received high respect for their piety and scholarship.
- Vedic texts mention the new states of Kuru-Panchala, Kashi and Kosala as major centres of Vedic culture.
- On the occasion of the Ashvamedha sacrifice, the king of Videha specially presented gifts to the scholars of Kuru-Panchala.
- Panchala's king Pravahana Jayavalli himself was a great thinker, praised by Brahmin scholars such as Shilaka, Dalbhya, Shvetaketu and his father Uddalaka Aruni.

### Vedic Literature

- During this period a wide range of literature was composed on various subjects as the Vedic tradition developed into the Upanishads.
  - ✓ The composition of the remaining texts: Samaveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda, along with the philosophical Upanishads.
- Upanishadic literature was the product of meditation in the rishis' ashrams, many of which were located in the Uttar Pradesh region.
- Renowned sages such as Bharadvaja, Yajnavalkya, Vashistha, Vishvamisra, Valmiki and Atri either had ashrams here or were connected with this region.
- Some Aranyakas and Upanishads were composed in the ashrams situated in this region.

### Mahajanapadas (6th century BCE)

- During the 6th century BCE, the rise of 16 great kingdoms, or Mahajanapadas, marked a major turning point in ancient Indian history.
- Out of these, eight were located partially or entirely within the borders of modern-day Uttar Pradesh.
- Here is a breakdown of the eight Mahajanapadas associated with Uttar Pradesh:

---

## 1. Kashi

- ✓ Capital: Kashi
- ✓ Location: present-day Varanasi
- ✓ The Kasi were the tribe who settled in the area around Varanasi, where the capital itself was located.
- ✓ It is believed that the name Varanasi derives from the rivers Varuna and Assi.
- ✓ This prominence gave rise to long-running struggles for supremacy between Kashi and other kingdoms such as Kosala, Anga and Magadha.
- ✓ In Matsya Purana and Al-Biruni's writings we read the names Kaushika and Kaushika (variants) for Kashi, while other sources read it simply as Kashi.

## 2. Kosala

- ✓ Capital: Shravasti and Ayodhya
- ✓ Location: Awadh region (modern-day Ayodhya, Gonda, and Bahraich)
  - To the **south**, it is bounded by the **Ganga River**.
  - To the **east**, it is bordered by the **Gandaki River**.
- ✓ Magadha's Ajatashatru and Prasenajit were in continual struggle for power, which finally ended with alignment between Magadha and the Licchavis' confederacy.
- ✓ After Prasenajit, Vidudabha came to power and Kosala was eventually absorbed into Magadha.

## 3. Chedi (Cheti)

- ✓ Capital: Suktimati
- ✓ Location: Bundelkhand region
- ✓ King Shishupala, an ally of Magadha's Jarasandha and Kuru's Duryodhana, famously ruled the ancient Chedi Kingdom.
- ✓ Prominent Chedis in the Kurukshetra war were Damghosha, Shishupala, Dhristaketu, Suketu, Sarabha, Bhima's wife (and others).
- ✓ It was chosen by the Pandavas for their thirteenth year of exile.

## 4. Surasena

- ✓ Capital: Mathura
- ✓ Location: Brajmandal region
- ✓ The king of Surasena, Avantipura, was among the Buddha's early disciples, and since then Mathura gained prominence.
- ✓ Various tribes lived in this region and they were led by a chief.

## 5. Kuru

- ✓ Capital: Indraprastha (shared with southeastern Haryana)
- ✓ Location: Meerut region
- ✓ They belonged to the Puru-Bharata family.
- ✓ The Kurus were a distinct people residing in Kurukshetra.
- ✓ According to the Buddhist text Sumangavilasini, the Kurus came from North Kuru.
- ✓ The Vayu Purana also records that the founder of the Kuru janapada was King Kuru, son of Sanvarga (or Sanvarshan) of the Puru lineage.
- ✓ It is believed that during the 5th/6th century BCE the Kauravas' polity transformed into a republican form of government.

## 6. Panchala

- ✓ Location: Western Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Panchala was divided into Northern Panchala and Southern Panchala.
- ✓ The capital of Northern Panchala was Ahichchhatra
- ✓ The capital of Southern capital was Kampilya
- ✓ The famous city of Kanyakubja was located here.
- ✓ Panchala also changed from a monarchy to a republican form of government in the 6th–5th century BCE.

---

## 7. Malla

- ✓ Capital: Kushinara (Kushinagar) and Pava
- ✓ Location: Kushinagar
- ✓ Epic texts such as the Mahabharata describe the Mallas alongside the tribes of Anga, Vanga and Kalinga.
- ✓ It is historically significant as the place where the Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana
- ✓ They initially had a monarchical form of government, but later they became a republican form (sangha).
- ✓ They were very warlike and brave people, described in Manusmriti as Kshatriyas, and mentioned in the Mahaparinibbana Sutta (as Vajjis/Vashishtha - verify reading).

## 8. Vatsa (Vats)

- ✓ **Capital:** Kaushambi (near modern-day Prayagraj).
- ✓ **Location:** Kaushambi
- ✓ They Followed a monarchical form of government.
- ✓ It remained a centre of economic activity and had prosperous trade and commercial links.
- ✓ **Important ruler:** Udayana
- ✓ Initially they were hostile to Buddhism because they were very warlike and aggressive, but in later years they became more tolerant and finally followers of the Buddha.
- ✓ Subsequently Buddhism was adopted as the state religion.

## Buddhism and Jainism

Uttar Pradesh (UP) is the cradle of both Buddhism and Jainism. Gautama Buddha, Mahavira, Makkhali Gosala and other great thinkers brought a revolution in Uttar Pradesh in the 6th century BCE.

### **Did you know?**

Makkhali Gosala, born in Shravan near Shravasti, was the founder of the Ajivika sect.

## Buddhism in Uttar Pradesh

- Buddhism took deep root in UP as a reform movement against orthodox Vedic rituals.
- **Sarnath**, located near **Varanasi**, is the sacred site where **Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon**, known as **Dharmachakra Pravartana** (Turning of the Wheel of Dharma).
- **Kushinagar** is revered as the place where **Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana**, marking his final passing away around **483 BCE**.
- **Shravasti**, the ancient capital of the **Kosala Kingdom**, was one of the most important centers of Buddhist activity, where **Buddha spent nearly 24 rainy-season retreats** and where the renowned **Jetavana Monastery** is located.
- **Sankassa** is traditionally regarded as the site where **Buddha is believed to have descended from heaven after preaching to his mother and the celestial beings**.

## Jainism in Uttar Pradesh

Jainism places massive historical and spiritual significance on the cities of UP, which served as the birthplace for several Tirthankaras.

- **Ayodhya** holds a prominent place in **Jainism** as the sacred birthplace of **five Jain Tirthankaras**, including **Rishabhanatha (Adinatha)**, the **first Tirthankara**.
- **Varanasi (Kashi)** is considered the birthplace of the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha, as well as three others: Suparshvanatha, Chandraprabha, and Shreyansanatha.
- **Kaushambi & Mathura** were major, historic centers for Jain monasticism, trade, and learning.
- **Deogarh** is famous for its cluster of 31 ancient Jain temples dating from the 8th to the 17th centuries.

### **Did you know?**

It is said that Lord Mahaveera stayed in this region twice during the rainy season: first at Shravasti and second at Padrauna near Deoria.

---

## **Important dynasties/kingdom after Vedic Period**

Many dynasties emerged from the Magadha region, unifying large territories and significantly influencing India's political and cultural development. The region was primarily ruled by the Haryanka, Shishunaga, and Nanda dynasties.

### **The Magadha-Centric Empires (6th Century BCE – 3rd Century BCE)**

#### **Haryanka and Shishunaga Dynasties (c. 544–345 BCE):**

- Kingdoms on the Gangetic plain established by rulers like Bimbisara, who expanded territory through strategic matrimonial alliances.

#### **Nanda dynasty (345 BCE to 321 BCE)**

- The Nanda dynasty was founded by Mahapadma Nanda
- The Nandas extended over almost all of India except perhaps Punjab and Bengal.
- During their rule, Alexander invaded India in 326 BCE.
- The Nandas were known for its massive military might and immense wealth until its defeat by the Chandragupta Maurya.

#### **Maurya Empire (c. 321–185 BCE):**

- According to the Vayu Purana, the Maurya dynasty ruled for 134 years.
- The Maurya Empire was founded by Chandragupta Maurya with the guidance of Chanakya, and in 323 BCE, he ascended the throne as emperor of Magadha.
- During the reigns of Chandragupta, his son Bindusara and grandson Ashoka, the whole of Uttar Pradesh enjoyed peace and prosperity.
- There are 5 prominent Ashokan pillar sites discovered in Uttar Pradesh, featuring both major and minor pillar edicts. These pillars/inscriptions are found at Sarnath, Allahabad (Prayagraj), Meerut, Kaushambi, and Ahraura (Mirzapur).
- Ashoka also commissioned the construction of the Dhamek Stupa at Sarnath.
- The last Maurya ruler, Brihadratha, was assassinated by his chief general, Pushyamitra.

### **Post-Mauryan and Foreign Powers (2nd Century BCE – 3rd Century CE)**

#### **Shunga (185–73 BCE)**

- The Shunga dynasty was founded by Pushyamitra Shunga around 185 BCE.
- He famously performed two Ashvamedha Yajnas (horse sacrifices) to legitimize his rule
- Patanjali's commentary refers to the Greek occupation of Saketa (Ayodhya).
- Menander (Milinda) and his brother launched a major invasion around 182 BCE. For a long time, Mathura remained an important city in Menander's realm.
- Pushyamitra and his grandson Vasumitra confronted the invaders on the banks of the Indus and defeated the Greeks.
- Following his death, he was succeeded by his son, Agnimitra, who is the main character in Kalidasa's famous Sanskrit play Malavikagnimitram
- The last Shunga ruler, Devabhuti, was defeated and assassinated around 73 BCE by his own minister, Vasudeva Kanva

#### **Kanva (73–28 BCE) Dynasties:**

- The Kanva dynasty was founded by Vasudeva Kanva in 73 BCE.
- This dynasty ruled for 45 years.
- The dynasty came to an end around 28 BCE when their last king, Susarman, was defeated and killed by Simuka, the founder of the Satavahana (Andhra) dynasty.

## **Kushan period (c. 100–250 CE):**

- The Kushan Dynasty was founded by Kujula Kadphises (also known as Kadphises I) in the early 1st century CE.
- The Kushans were one of the five Yue-chi tribes of Central Asia.
- Important ruler of this dynasty was Kanishka. Under him the Kushan Empire reached its greatest territorial extent.
- By 60 BCE they had established their satraps in Mathura. It was probably served as the eastern headquarters of the Kushan Empire.
- In the Uttar Pradesh region the empire expanded to include cities such as Varanasi, Kaushambi and Shravasti.
- Kanishka was succeeded by his son Huvishka.
- The last ruler of the unified Kushan Empire was Vasudeva II.
- The Kushans patronized the Gandhara and Mathura schools of sculpture, known for early images of the Buddha and bodhisattvas.
- They were devotees of Shiva.

## **Gupta Dynasty**

- The Gupta Empire was founded by Sri Gupta around 240 CE. However, his grandson, Chandragupta I (319 CE), is widely recognized as the real founder of this dynasty.
- Jaiswal has reported that the Guptas originally belonged to the Prayaga (Allahabad) region of North India (present-day Uttar Pradesh), rising to prominence as local feudal lords (naga jagirdars) or thereafter.
- The Gupta period (c. 320–550 CE) is widely revered as the "Golden Age" of Indian history
- ✓ This reputation rests on extensive research and development in science, engineering and technology, art, literature, logic, mathematics, astronomy, religion and philosophy, which brought many aspects of Hindu culture to full expression.
- The Guptas were probably feudal successors of the Kushans in Uttar Pradesh, and it appears they succeeded them without a long chronological gap.
- Chandragupta's victories are recorded in a eulogistic inscription by his court poet Harishena on the Allahabad Pillar, where Samudragupta is also described as a deity dwelling on earth.
- Skandagupta is widely recognized as the last great ruler of the unified Gupta Empire.

## **Important Gupta Rulers and their achievement**

<b>Ruler</b>	<b>Reign / Period</b>	<b>Key Facts / Achievements</b>
<b>Sri Gupta</b>	3rd century CE	Title: 'Maharaja' Recognized as the founder of the Gupta Dynasty.
<b>Chandragupta I</b>	319 CE – 334 CE	Title: 'Maharajadhiraja' Married Lichchhavi princess Kumaradevi Considered the real founder of the Gupta Empire.
<b>Samudragupta</b>	335 CE – 380 CE	Mentioned for his extensive conquests in the Allahabad Pillar Inscription. Called the "Indian Napoleon" by V.A. Smith, Irish Indologist and art historian.
<b>Chandragupta II</b>	380 CE – 412 CE	Title: 'Vikramaditya' Had the "Nine Gems" (Navaratnas) in his court: Kalidasa, Amarasingha, Dhanvantari, Varahmihira, Vararuchi, Ghatakarna, Kshapanaka, Velabhatta, and Shanku. First Gupta ruler to issue silver coins.
<b>Kumaragupta I</b>	413 CE – 455 CE	Founded Nalanda University. Also called 'Shakaraditya'. During his reign, the Huns invaded India.
<b>Skandagupta</b>	455 CE – 467 CE	Devotee of Vaishnavism. Followed the tolerant policies of his predecessors.

---

## Gupta Art

The Gupta period revolutionized Indian art and architecture, moving away from foreign influences to a classical, refined native aesthetic

- The **Dashavatara Temple (Deogarh, Lalitpur district)** is regarded as one of the earliest surviving freestanding Hindu temples in India and is renowned for its intricately carved panels depicting the **ten incarnations (Dashavatara) of Lord Vishnu**.
- The **Bhitargaon Temple (Kanpur Dehat)**, constructed during the **6th century CE**, is recognized as the oldest surviving brick temple in India and is notable for its early **shikhara-style architecture**.
- **Bilsarh (Etah)** is an important archaeological site excavated by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, where **5th-century pillars and inscriptions associated with Kumaragupta I** have been discovered.
- The **Mathura School** gained prominence for its beautifully crafted statues of **Buddha and Hindu deities**, which were sculpted from the region's distinctive **spotted red sandstone**.
- The **Sarnath School** became famous for producing elegant and spiritually expressive images of **Buddha**, including the celebrated **Dharmachakra Pravartana Buddha**.
- The **Dhamekh Stupa (Sarnath)** was significantly expanded during the **Gupta period** and commemorates the site where **Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon**.

## **Later Gupta period (Post-Gupta)**

### Huns' invasion

- At the beginning of the 6th century CE, when the Gupta Empire was disintegrating, the Huns repeatedly invaded under their ruler Toramana.
- ✓ However, there is still no decisive evidence that Toramana was himself a Hun (Hephthalite).
- On this occasion the Huns occupied Kashmir, then Punjab, Rajasthan, and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- The Maukhari dynasty seized control of the western Uttar Pradesh region around Kannauj.
- The Maukhari king of Kannauj defeated the Huns and liberated North India.

**Note:** The founder of the Maukhari dynasty's main Kannauj branch was Harivarman. However, Ishanavarman is celebrated as the real independent founder who threw off foreign vassalage to establish a fully sovereign empire around 550–554 CE.

### Vardhana / Pushyabhuti dynasty

- According to the famous historical text Harshacharita, written by the court poet Banabhatta, Pushyabhuti established the dynasty around the early 6th century C.E.
- He set up his initial capital at Sthanvishvara (modern-day Thanesar in Haryana).
- Harshavardhana, Son of Prabhakarvardhana, ascended the throne of Thanesar in 606 AD at the age of 16.
- His elder brother, Rajyavardhana, was killed by the Gauda king, Shashanka.
- With Harsha's coronation, the regions of Thaneshvara and Kannauj were unified, making Kannauj a major city in northern India whose prominence rivaled Pataliputra for centuries.
- The Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) visited the country during Harsha's reign and praised his rule.
- The dynasty ended with Harsha's death in 647 CE.
- In the early 8th century CE, **Yashovarman** established his supremacy over Kannauj.
- ✓ Almost all of India came under his influence and Kannauj regained much of its lost fame and glory.
- ✓ With the help of **Lalitaditya Muktapida**, he defended India against Arab invasions.
- A prolonged conflict, famously called the Tripartite Struggle, emerged over control of Kannauj among the Pala rulers of Bengal, the Rashtrakutas of the south, and the Gurjara-Pratiharas.

---

## Medieval History

### Early medieval period

#### Tripartite struggle for Kannauj

- The Tripartite Struggle, a struggle for control of Kannauj, was a centuries-long conflict (8th to 10th centuries) in medieval India fought between three major empires: the Gurjara-Pratiharas (Western/Northern India), the Palas (Bengal/Bihar), and the Rashtrakutas (Deccan Plateau).
- ✓ Kannauj was a prominent symbol of sovereignty and economic power, as controlling the region meant dominance over the fertile central Gangetic plains and vital trade routes.
- The Tripartite Struggle began around 790 CE when **Gurjara-Pratihara ruler King Vatsaraja** attacked King **Dharmapala of the Pala Dynasty**, and the sudden intervention of **Rashtrakuta king Dhruva Dharavarsha** transformed it into a three-way “tripartite” war.
- **Gurjara-Pratihara:** By the end of the Tripartite Struggle, the Pratiharas emerged as the victors of the struggle, holding Kannauj for centuries under rulers like Nagabhata II and Mihir Bhoja

#### Gurjara-Pratihara

- The original root founder of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty was Harichandra (6th century CE), while Nagabhata I (c. 730–756 CE) is celebrated as the founder of its imperial phase.
- **Capital:** Mandavyapur, Rajasthan (initial capital) and Avanti, Madhya Pradesh (later capital)
- Nagabhata I (730–756 CE) established the empire and famously repelled Arab forces from the region.
- Nagabhata II campaigned across the Sindhu–Ganga plains, captured Kannauj from Chakrayudha under Pala protection, and, with Rashtrakuta power weakened, became northern India’s most powerful ruler, establishing Kannauj as his new capital.
- Mihira Bhoja (836–885 CE) expanded the empire's borders from Kashmir to the Narmada River, and from Kathiawar to Bihar.
- Mahendrapala I was a notable king who heavily patronized literature, famously hosting the renowned poet Rajashekhara at his court
- Their last significant ruler, Rajyapala, was driven out of Kannauj by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1018 CE and was later killed by the Chandela king Vidyadhara’s forces.
- For about a generation a small Pratihara principality evidently survived in the Allahabad region.

#### Later Medieval history of Uttar Pradesh

The 12th century marked the beginning of Muslim rule in Uttar Pradesh with the invasions by Muhammad Ghori. The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate brought significant changes to the region's political and cultural landscape.

#### Delhi Sultanate

The Delhi Sultanate was ruled large parts of the Indian subcontinent for over 300 years (1206–1526). Five successive dynasties held power from Delhi throughout the Sultanate period:

- **Mamluk or Slave Dynasty (1206–1290)** was founded by Qutb-ud-Din Aibak
- **Khalji Dynasty (1290–1320)** was founded by Jalal-ud-din Khalji
- **Tughlaq Dynasty (1320–1414)** was founded by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
- **Sayyid Dynasty (1414–1451)** was founded by Khizr Khan
- **Lodi Dynasty (1451–1526)** was founded by Bahlul Khan Lodi

#### Mughal Empire

The Mughal period (16th-18th centuries) was one of the most significant eras in the history of Uttar Pradesh. Babur's victory in the First Battle of Panipat in 1526 laid the foundation of Mughal rule in India, with Uttar Pradesh at its heart.

- **Babur (1526–1530):** Founder of the dynasty. He defeated Ibrahim Lodi at the First Battle of Panipat to establish the empire
- **Humayun (1530–1540 and 1555–1556):** founded the 6th city of Delhi, called Dinpanah. He fought two wars Battle of Chausa (1539) and Battle of Kannauj / Bilgram (1540 CE).
- **Akbar (1556–1605):** Often considered the greatest Mughal ruler, Akbar Often considered the greatest Mughal ruler, Akbar introduced the Mansabdari system (a centralized ranking for military and civil administration).
- **Jahangir (1605–1627) & Shah Jahan (1628–1658):** These reigns represented the peak of Mughal artistic and cultural achievement.
- **Aurangzeb (1658–1707):** Under his rule, the empire reached its greatest territorial extent, ruling over nearly the entire Indian subcontinent.
- The last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah II, was exiled to Rangoon by the British for his role in the Revolt of 1857.

## Key Point to Remember

### Agra

- Agra was founded by Sikandar Lodi in 1504
- After Sikandar Lodi, Ibrahim Lodi ascended the throne of Agra, but he was defeated by Babur in the **First Battle of Panipat in 1526**, and Babur established the Mughal Empire.
- During the Mughal period, Agra served as a major center of education, while the surrounding regions were known for indigo cultivation.
- **Key architecture in Agra:** Agra Fort, Itimad-ud-Daula's mausoleum, Akbar's mausoleum, Taj Mahal, Diwan-i-Aam, Diwan-i-Khas, and Agra's Moti Masjid, etc.

### Kalpi (Jalaun district)

- By the end of the 12th century, Qutubuddin Aibak captured Kalpi and incorporated it into the Delhi Sultanate.
- Two of Akbar's nine jewels (Navratnas), Birbal and Todar Mal, were from Uttar Pradesh.
- Birbal's Rang Mahal and a Mughal mint (takasal) have been found here.

### Jaunpur

- Sultan Firuz Shah Tughlaq founded the city of Jaunpur in 1359
- Jaunpur rose to prominence as the capital of the independent Sharqi Sultanate.
- Known as the "Shiraz of India" for its flourishing arts, Islamic scholarship, and architecture, the city was later annexed by the Lodi dynasty and subsequently became an important provincial center under the Mughals.
- Atala Masjid, Jama Masjid (also called Jama Masjid or Bari Masjid), and Lal Darwaza are famous monuments of the Sharqi dynasty.
- ✓ The Atala Masjid and Jaungrī Masjid (Jaunpur Masjid) of Jaunpur were built by Ibrahim Shah Sharqi.
- ✓ The Jama Masjid of Badaun was built by Iltutmish.

#### **Note:**

- The **Sharqi dynasty (1394–1479)** was founded by Malik Sarwar.
- This dynasty was annexed by the **Lodi dynasty** of Delhi

### Jhansi

- The city's identity truly took shape in 1613 when Raja Bir Singh Deo of Orchha commissioned the massive Jhansi Fort atop the Bangira hill.
- **Key architecture in Jhansi:** The palace of Laxmi Bai, the Mahadev Temple, and Mehd Bagh.

## Lucknow

- Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula is credited with founding modern Lucknow as a majestic capital city.
- Asaf-ud-Daula built the Imambara in Lucknow in 1784 to observe Muharram.
- The last Nawab of Lucknow was Wajid Ali Shah, who was removed from Lucknow by Lord Dalhousie in 1856 by the British.
- During the Mughal period, the Lucknow Madarsa specialized in the teaching of 'Muslim Jurisprudence'.

## Awadh

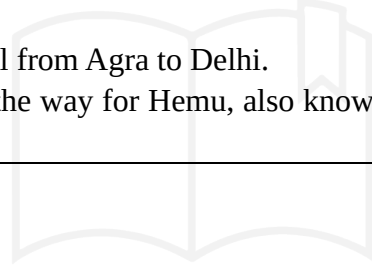
- The autonomous Kingdom of Awadh was founded by Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk (also known as Saadat Ali Khan I) in 1722.
- After the death of Shuja-ud-Daula, Asaf-ud-Daula became the Nawab of Awadh in 1775.
- Asaf-ud-Daula transferred the territory of Banaras to the English by the Treaty of Faizabad (1775).

## Allahabad

- 'Treaty of Allahabad' was signed in 1765 between the British and the Mughal ruler Shah Alam II.

## Delhi

- **Babur**, the descendant of Timur (on his father's side) and Genghis Khan (on his mother's side), invaded India and **defeated Ibrahim Lodi at the First Battle of Panipat in 1526, establishing the Mughal Empire.**
- Shah Jahan shifted the Mughal capital from Agra to Delhi.
- The death of Islam Shah Suri paved the way for Hemu, also known as Hemchandra Vikramaditya, to rule Delhi.



toppersnotes  
Unleash the topper in you

### Contribution of Uttar Pradesh before 1857 Revolt

- Before the explosive events of 1857, Uttar Pradesh was the site of early, localized rebellions against the British East India Company. Following Aurangzeb's death in 1707, regional powers emerged in the area that is now Uttar Pradesh.
  - ✓ **Northern part of Meerut and Bareilly:** ruled by the Pathan chieftain Najib Khan.
  - ✓ **Rohilkhand (the Rohil province of Meerut and Doab):** ruled by Rahmat Khan.
  - ✓ **Central Doab region:** ruled by the Nawab of Awadh.
  - ✓ **Bundelkhand region:** ruled by the Marathas.
- In northern India, the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) and the Battle of Buxar (1764) played major roles in modern history.
- *Key early resistance efforts in the region included:*
  - ✓ **The Gorakhpur Uprising (1781):** A significant civil uprising led by local peasants and the influential Gorakhnath sect in response to oppressive taxation, forced labor, and the breakdown of the traditional social order under Company rule.
  - ✓ **Aligarh Revolt (1814–1817):** Led by Talukdar Dayaram, this rebellion opposed British annexation.
  - ✓ **Khandesh and Bundelkhand Uprisings:** Represented early tribal and peasant resistance along the southern borders of Uttar Pradesh.

### Annexation of Awadh (1856)

#### Background

- Capital: Faizabad.
- Location: Awadh region of northern India.
- The autonomous kingdom of Awadh (also known as Oudh) was founded by Saadat Khan (also known as Burhan-ul-Mulk).
- The British agent, officially called the "Resident," had his seat at Lucknow.
- After the Battle of Buxar, the British established themselves as the dominant power across the region.

#### Deposition (Annexation)

- Wajid Ali Shah was Nawab of Awadh from 1822.
- He was the tenth and last Nawab.
- He was an accomplished poet and dramatist and a patron of the fine arts.
- The British East India Company annexed the Kingdom of Awadh on February 7, 1856, citing maladministration and misrule by the Nawab.
  - ✓ According to Dalhousie's doctrine of lapse (sic), if a state exhibited misrule, the British would annex that state.
- Governor-General Lord Dalhousie deposed the last Nawab, Wajid Ali Shah, sending him into exile in Calcutta. This controversial act heavily fuelled the Revolt of 1857

## The Revolt of 1857 in Uttar Pradesh

The Revolt of 1857 in Uttar Pradesh was the primary epicentre of the First War of Independence. Sparked in **Meerut** on **May 10, 1857**, when sepoys refused to use greased cartridges, the rebellion spread rapidly across the Gangetic plains, fuelling intense resistance against the oppressive policies of the British East India Company.

Key epicentres of the revolt in the region are as follows:

Place	Key Figures / Events
<b>Meerut (The Spark)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ In Meerut, the Revolt commenced on 10 May 1857, when the soldiers of the 3rd Cavalry rose in rebellion against British rule.</li><li>➤ Dhan Singh Kotwal, the “Kotwal of Meerut”, facilitated the revolt by opening jail gates.</li></ul>
<b>Lucknow (Awadh)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ In <b>Lucknow</b>, the revolt broke out on <b>30 May 1857</b> and intensified by <b>4 June 1857</b>. It was led by <b>Begum Hazrat Mahal</b>, who assumed leadership and proclaimed her son <b>Birjis Qadr</b> as the ruler.</li><li>➤ Uda Devi, Pasi community warrior, fought as a sniper at Sikandar Bagh.</li><li>➤ <b>Associated British Officers:</b> Henry Lawrence, Henry Havelock, Sir Colin Campbell</li></ul>
<b>Kanpur</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Nana Saheb</b> and <b>Tatya Tope</b> besieged the British garrison at Kanpur in <b>June 1857</b>.</li><li>➤ Sati Chaura Ghat Incident was a turning point in British-Indian relations.</li><li>➤ <b>Associated British Officers:</b> Sir Colin Campbell, Sir Hugh Wheeler</li></ul>
<b>Jhansi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The Revolt broke out in Jhansi on <b>June 5, 1857</b>.</li><li>➤ <b>Rani Lakshmibai</b> took charge of the administration as a regent on behalf of her minor son and reorganized the city's armed forces to defend against British forces. She attained martyrdom at <b>Gwalior on 18 June 1858</b>.</li><li>➤ Jhalkari Bai was a dalit warrior and commander of the Durga Dal (Women’s wing).</li><li>➤ <b>Associated British Officers:</b> Sir Hugh Rose</li></ul>
<b>Faizabad /Ayodhya</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah, also known as the “Lighthouse of Rebellion” (Danka Shah), fought the famous Battle of Chinhat.</li></ul>
<b>Allahabad (Prayagraj)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ In Allahabad, the revolt was led by Maulvi Liyakat Ali (Parallel administration in Khusro Bagh).</li><li>➤ <b>Associated British Officers:</b> Colonel James Neill</li></ul>
<b>Bareilly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ In Bareilly, the revolt was led by Khan Bahadur Khan (Rohilla leader).</li><li>➤ <b>Associated British Officers:</b> Sir Colin Campbell</li></ul>
<b>Baraut (Baghpat)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Shah Mal, a Jat leader who organized peasants to destroy bridges and telegraph lines.</li></ul>

**Note:** The Revolt of 1857 began on 29 March 1857 at Barrackpore (Berhampur) when soldiers of the 19th Native Infantry refused to use the newly introduced Enfield rifle.

### Institutional changes in Uttar Pradesh after the Revolt of 1857

- After the Revolt of 1857, the British Crown took over the right to govern India from the Company.
- On 1 November 1858, a grand durbar was held at Allahabad (Prayagraj) for Lord Canning to read the proclamation of the British Queen.
- In 1858 the Delhi Division was separated from the North-Western Provinces and its capital was moved from Agra to Allahabad (Prayagraj).
- In 1858, the territory of what is now Uttar Pradesh was divided into two parts: **Awadh and the NorthWestern Provinces**.
  - ✓ The rulers of these provinces were respectively titled Chief Commissioner and LieutenantGovernor.