Pariksha Saathi — Uttar Pradesh GK Notes

1 topics • 11 lessons • updated 28 October 2026

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The Uttar Pradesh GK topics in the syllabus of: UP Police Constable, UPPSC Prelims, UPSSSC PET. Each topic ends with a link to its free practice questions; full mock tests are free in the Pariksha Saathi app and on the website.

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What the exam asks: UPPSC Prelims and the UP Police Constable paper both carry a block of questions on Uttar Pradesh. The questions are almost always factual: a river and its confluence, a 1857 centre and its leader, a city and its industry, a folk form and its region, the number of seats in the legislature, or the location of an institute. Nothing here needs deep analysis, but it needs precise recall, so learn the facts in pairs and lists.

History from Mahajanapadas to Harsha: Of the sixteen Mahajanapadas, Kashi (Varanasi), Kosala (Shravasti, Ayodhya), Vatsa (Kaushambi), Malla (Kushinagar, Pava), Shurasena (Mathura) and Panchala (Ahichchhatra in Bareilly, Kampilya in Farrukhabad) lay in UP. Buddha preached his first sermon at Sarnath and died at Kushinagar; Shravasti was his favourite rainy-season retreat. The national emblem is adapted from Ashoka's Sarnath lion capital. The Allahabad pillar carries Harisena's Prayag Prashasti praising Samudragupta, and the Bhitari pillar in Ghazipur belongs to Skandagupta. Harsha ruled from Kannauj, which later became the prize in the Tripartite Struggle between Palas, Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas. Sikandar Lodi founded Agra in 1504, Jaunpur was the seat of the Sharqi sultans, and Akbar built Fatehpur Sikri and the Allahabad fort.

Awadh, 1857 and the freedom struggle: Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk founded the Nawabi of Awadh in 1722, Asaf-ud-Daula shifted the capital from Faizabad to Lucknow in 1775 and built the Bara Imambara, and Wajid Ali Shah was the last Nawab before Dalhousie annexed Awadh in 1856 for misgovernment. The 1857 revolt began at Meerut on 10 May; its centres and leaders were Kanpur (Nana Saheb, Tatya Tope), Lucknow (Begum Hazrat Mahal), Jhansi (Rani Lakshmibai), Bareilly (Khan Bahadur Khan) and Faizabad (Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah). Later landmarks: the Lucknow Pact of 1916, Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur on 4 February 1922, the Kakori action of 9 August 1925 led by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan, and Chandrashekhar Azad's death in Alfred Park, Allahabad, in 1931. The province became United Provinces of Agra and Oudh in 1902, United Provinces in 1937, and Uttar Pradesh on 24 January 1950 (celebrated as UP Diwas). Uttarakhand was separated on 9 November 2000. Govind Ballabh Pant was the first Chief Minister, Sarojini Naidu the first Governor, and Sucheta Kripalani in 1963 became India's first woman Chief Minister.

Geography: UP touches Nepal and nine states and union territories (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar); Punjab and West Bengal do not border it. It is fourth by area but first by population (Census 2011, about 19.98 crore). The relief runs from the Bhabar pebble belt and the marshy Terai in the north through the vast Gangetic plain to the Vindhyan-Bundelkhand plateau in the south. The Ganga enters UP at Bijnor and meets the Yamuna at Prayagraj Sangam; the Ghaghara joins it near Chhapra in Bihar; the Gomti rises in Pilibhit and passes Lucknow and Jaunpur; the Chambal joins the Yamuna in Etawah, the Betwa at Hamirpur and the Ken in Banda. Sonbhadra borders four states and hosts the Rihand Dam and the Obra, Anpara and Singrauli power plants. Matatila and Rajghat dams are on the Betwa. The Upper Ganga Canal starts at

Haridwar and the Lower Ganga Canal at Narora. Protected areas to remember: Dudhwa (Lakhimpur Kheri), Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Katarniaghat (Bahraich), Okhla (Gautam Buddh Nagar), Nawabganj (Unnao), Samaspur (Rae Bareli) and the Chambal gharial sanctuary.

Economy: UP leads India in sugarcane, wheat, potato and milk; in rice it is among the top three producers with Telangana and West Bengal, and the first place changes from year to year - in the Ministry of Agriculture's Final Estimates UP (16.14 million tonnes) was first in 2022-23, Telangana (16.87 million tonnes) overtook it in 2023-24 (UP 15.99, second), and in the 2024-25 Final Estimates (released November 2025) UP was first again with 20.76 million tonnes, ahead of Telangana (17.45) and West Bengal (16.02). Industry is remembered by city: Kanpur leather, Moradabad brass, Firozabad glass, Aligarh locks, Meerut sports goods, Bhadohi carpets, Varanasi silk, Saharanpur wood carving, Khurja pottery, Kannauj perfume and Lucknow chikankari, which the ODOP scheme of 2018 formalised. Narora in Bulandshahr has the state's only nuclear plant, Mathura its refinery, and Noida its IT hub.

Polity: The legislature is bicameral, with a 403-member Vidhan Sabha and a 100-member Vidhan Parishad. UP sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha and 31 to the Rajya Sabha. The High Court sits at Prayagraj (established 1866, moved there in 1869) with a Lucknow bench since 1948. Lucknow is the capital and districts are grouped into divisions under commissioners.

Culture and tourism: State symbols are the barasingha (animal), sarus crane (bird) and palash (flower); the state tree is given as ashoka in most state-symbol lists but as sal in the NCERT module 'India: Unity in Cultural Diversity'. Folk forms: Nautanki, Raslila and Charkula (Braj), Kajri (Mirzapur), Birha and Sohar (Purvanchal), Alha (Bundelkhand). Dialects: Khari Boli (west), Braj, Awadhi, Bundeli, Bhojpuri. Literature: Tulsidas, Kabir, Surdas, Jayasi, Premchand, Nirala, Mahadevi Verma, Bachchan, Jaishankar Prasad, Maithili Sharan Gupt. UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri and (since July 2026) the Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath; intangible heritage: Ramlila and Kumbh Mela. Institutions: BHU (1916), AMU (1920), Allahabad University (1887), IIT Kanpur (1959), IIM Lucknow (1984), CDRI, NBRI and IITR at Lucknow, IVRI at Bareilly.

Traps: Mangal Pandey acted at Barrackpore, not Meerut. Awadh was annexed for misgovernment, not under the Doctrine of Lapse. Lakshmibai died at Gwalior, not Jhansi. Sumitranandan Pant and G.B. Pant were born in present-day Uttarakhand. Do not assume West Bengal leads in rice: UP, Telangana and West Bengal are the top three producers, and the leader changes from year to year (Telangana was first in the 2023-24 Final Estimates, but UP was first again in 2024-25). The Ghaghara meets the Ganga in Bihar, not in UP.

Examples

- Buddha's life in UP: first sermon at Sarnath, favourite retreat at Shravasti, death at Kushinagar. Birth (Lumbini) was in Nepal.
- Mnemonic for 1857 leaders: 'Meerut starts, Kanpur Nana, Lucknow Begum, Jhansi Rani, Bareilly Khan' (Khan Bahadur Khan).
- Name changes: 1902 United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, 1937 United Provinces, 24 January 1950 Uttar Pradesh, 9 November 2000 Uttarakhand carved out.
- Confluence list: Chambal-Yamuna at Etawah; Betwa-Yamuna at Hamirpur; Ken-Yamuna in Banda; Yamuna-Ganga at Prayagraj; Ghaghara-Ganga at Chhapra (Bihar).
- Sonbhadra is the only UP district touching four states (MP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar) and is the state's power hub: Rihand, Obra, Anpara, Singrauli.
- Industry cities: Kanpur leather, Moradabad brass (Peetal Nagri), Firozabad glass (Suhag Nagri), Aligarh locks, Meerut sports goods, Bhadohi carpets, Kannauj ittar.
- Numbers to remember: Vidhan Sabha 403, Vidhan Parishad 100, Lok Sabha 80, Rajya Sabha 31; Allahabad High Court 1866, Lucknow bench 1948.
- State symbols: animal barasingha (swamp deer), bird sarus crane, flower palash, tree ashoka (NCERT's module lists sal). Dudhwa is the home of the barasingha.
- Dialect map from west to east: Khari Boli (Meerut), Braj (Mathura-Agra), Kannauji, Bundeli (Jhansi), Awadhi (Lucknow-Ayodhya), Bhojpuri (Varanasi-Gorakhpur).

- UNESCO in UP: four World Heritage Sites as of July 2026: Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri in Agra district, and the Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath (2026) in Varanasi; Ramlila (2008) and Kumbh Mela (2017) as intangible heritage.
- Lucknow institutes: CDRI (drugs), NBRI (botany), IITR (toxicology), CIMAP (aromatic plants), Birbal Sahni Institute (palaeobotany), Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research.

> **Quick revision:** Renamed Uttar Pradesh 24 Jan 1950; Uttarakhand separated 9 Nov 2000; first CM G.B. Pant, first Governor Sarojini Naidu; 1857 began at Meerut 10 May; Chauri Chaura 4 Feb 1922 (Gorakhpur); Kakori 9 Aug 1925; Vidhan Sabha 403, Parishad 100, Lok Sabha 80, Rajya Sabha 31; High Court Allahabad 1866, Lucknow bench 1948; state animal barasingha, bird sarus crane, flower palash, tree ashoka; largest producer of sugarcane, wheat, potato; Dudhwa NP in Lakhimpur Kheri; Rihand Dam in Sonbhadra; UNESCO World Heritage Sites Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri and Sarnath (2026).

Ancient and Medieval Uttar Pradesh: Harappan Sites to the Nawabs of Awadh

Prehistory and Harappan sites: The Belan valley of Prayagraj and Mirzapur preserves a long Stone Age sequence. Chopani Mando is a Mesolithic site with some of the earliest hand-made pottery, Koldihwa has some of the earliest evidence of rice cultivation in the subcontinent, and Sarai Nahar Rai and Mahadaha in Pratapgarh have Mesolithic burials. The Harappan civilisation reached only the western edge of the state: Alamgirpur on the Hindon in Meerut district is the easternmost Harappan site, while Hulas (Saharanpur) and the large burial ground of Sanauli (Baghpat) belong to the late Harappan phase. In the western Ganga plain, Painted Grey Ware settlements such as Hastinapur, Ahichchhatra, Mathura and Atranjikhera (Etah) mark the later Vedic age.

The Mahajanapadas: By the sixth century BCE, six of the sixteen Mahajanapadas listed in the Buddhist text Anguttara Nikaya lay largely in present Uttar Pradesh, and parts of Kuru (around Hastinapur) and Chedi (in Bundelkhand) also lay within it. Kashi had its capital at Varanasi; Kosala ruled from Shravasti, with Ayodhya (Saketa) as its other great city, under Prasenajit, a contemporary of the Buddha; Vatsa ruled from Kaushambi on the Yamuna under Udayana; Panchala had a northern capital at Ahichchhatra (Bareilly) and a southern one at Kampilya (Farrukhabad); Shurasena ruled from Mathura; and the Mallas had their centres at Kushinagar and Pava. Kosala absorbed Kashi, and Magadha later absorbed both, the first step towards a single empire in the Ganga plain.

Buddhist and Jain places: Four of the eight great places of Buddhist pilgrimage are in the state. The Buddha gave his first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartana) in the Deer Park at Sarnath near Varanasi, attained Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar, spent many rainy seasons at Shravasti in the Jetavana monastery gifted by the merchant Anathapindika, and is believed to have descended from heaven at Sankisa (Farrukhabad). Kaushambi had the Ghoshitarama monastery. For Jains, Ayodhya is the birthplace of Rishabhanatha, the first Tirthankara, and four others; Varanasi of Parshvanatha, the twenty-third; Shravasti of Sambhavanatha; Kaushambi of Padmaprabha; and Hastinapur of Shantinatha, Kunthunatha and Aranatha. Kankali Tila at Mathura yielded a Jain stupa, and Deogarh (Lalitpur) has a large group of Jain temples.

Mauryas, Kushanas and Guptas: Ashoka's lion capital at Sarnath, carved from polished Chunar sandstone, became India's national emblem. The Allahabad pillar, believed to have stood first at Kaushambi, carries Ashoka's edicts including the Queen's Edict, Harisena's Prayag Prashasti in praise of Samudragupta, and an inscription of Jahangir; Ahraura in Mirzapur has an Ashokan minor rock edict. Under Kanishka the Kushanas made Mathura a second capital, and the Mathura school carved Buddhist, Jain and Hindu images in spotted red sandstone, including the headless statue of Kanishka found at Mat. In the Gupta age the Sarnath school produced the finest seated Buddhas; Skandagupta's Bhitari pillar (Ghazipur) records his struggle against the Hunas; the Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is among the earliest temples with a shikhara; and Bhitargaon (Kanpur) is one of the oldest surviving brick temples in India.

Kannauj and the tripartite struggle: After the Guptas the Maukharis ruled from Kannauj, and Harshavardhana (606-647) moved his capital there from Thanesar. The Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang describes Harsha's assembly at Kannauj and the gifts he distributed every five years at Prayag, and his court poet Banabhatta wrote the Harshacharita. Kannauj, also called Mahodaya, became the prize of north India: from the late eighth century to the tenth the Gurjara-Pratiharas, the Palas of Bengal and the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan fought over it. The Pratiharas

won it under Nagabhata II and reached their peak under Mihira Bhoja. Later the Gahadavalas ruled from Kannauj and Varanasi until Muhammad Ghori defeated Jaichand at Chandawar, near present Firozabad, in 1194, while the Chandelas held Bundelkhand from Mahoba and the fort of Kalinjar.

Sultanate and Mughal centres: Firoz Shah Tughlaq founded Jaunpur, naming it after Muhammad bin Tughlaq (Jauna Khan), and in 1394 Malik Sarwar, who held the title Malik-us-Sharq, set up the independent Sharqi kingdom there. Ibrahim Shah Sharqi completed the Atala Masjid in 1408, and Jaunpur became a seat of learning called the Shiraz-i-Hind until Bahlul Lodi annexed it. Sikandar Lodi founded Agra in 1504 and made it his capital, and Sher Shah defeated Humayun near Kannauj in 1540. Akbar rebuilt Agra Fort from 1565, founded Fatehpur Sikri in 1571 and built the Allahabad fort in 1583, renaming Prayag as Ilahabas; Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal before moving his capital to Delhi.

The Nawabs of Awadh: Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk became governor of Awadh in 1722 and founded a virtually independent dynasty. Shuja-ud-Daula lost at Buxar in 1764 and signed the Treaty of Allahabad in 1765; Asaf-ud-Daula moved the capital from Faizabad to Lucknow in 1775; Saadat Ali Khan ceded Rohilkhand and the lower Doab to the East India Company in 1801; Ghazi-ud-din Haidar took the title of king in 1819; and Wajid Ali Shah was the last ruler. In Rohilkhand the Rohilla Afghans ruled from Bareilly until the Rohilla War of 1774, after which only the small state of Rampur remained with them.

Examples

- Alamgirpur (Meerut district, on the Hindon) is the easternmost Harappan site; Hulas (Saharanpur) and Sanauli (Baghpat) are late Harappan sites.
- Belan valley: Koldihwa has some of the earliest evidence of rice cultivation; Chopani Mando has some of the earliest hand-made pottery.
- Mahajanapadas in UP: Kashi (Varanasi), Kosala (Shravasti), Vatsa (Kaushambi), Panchala (Ahichchhatra and Kampilya), Shurasena (Mathura), Malla (Kushinagar and Pava).
- Four of the eight great Buddhist pilgrimage places are in UP: Sarnath (first sermon), Kushinagar (Mahaparinirvana), Shravasti (Jetavana) and Sankisa (descent from heaven).
- Jain Tirthankaras born in UP: Rishabhanatha at Ayodhya, Parshvanatha at Varanasi, Sambhavanatha at Shravasti, Padmaprabha at Kaushambi, Shantinatha at Hastinapur.
- Allahabad pillar: Ashoka's edicts and Queen's Edict, Harisena's Prayag Prashasti of Samudragupta, and an inscription of Jahangir.
- Gupta monuments in UP: Dashavatara temple at Deogarh (Lalitpur), brick temple at Bhitargaon (Kanpur), Skandagupta's Bhitari pillar (Ghazipur).
- Kannauj: Harsha's capital; prize of the tripartite struggle (Pratiharas, Palas, Rashtrakutas); Jaichand of Kannauj lost to Muhammad Ghori at Chandawar in 1194.
- Jaunpur: founded by Firoz Shah Tughlaq; Sharqi kingdom from 1394 (Malik Sarwar); Atala Masjid completed 1408; called Shiraz-i-Hind.
- Agra founded by Sikandar Lodi in 1504; Fatehpur Sikri founded by Akbar in 1571; Awadh's capital moved from Faizabad to Lucknow in 1775.

> **Quick revision:** Alamgirpur easternmost Harappan site; Koldihwa early rice; six Mahajanapadas mainly in UP (Kashi, Kosala, Vatsa, Panchala, Shurasena, Malla); Sarnath first sermon, Kushinagar Mahaparinirvana, Shravasti Jetavana, Sankisa descent; Sarnath lion capital of Chunar sandstone; Mathura school (Kushana); Deogarh and Bhitargaon (Gupta); Harsha ruled from Kannauj; Chandawar 1194; Sharqi Jaunpur 1394; Agra 1504; Fatehpur Sikri 1571; Awadh from 1722, Lucknow capital 1775.

Modern Uttar Pradesh and the Freedom Struggle (1775-1950)

How the Company took over: British control came in stages. By the Treaty of Faizabad (1775) the Nawab of Awadh ceded Banaras to the East India Company, and Warren Hastings deposed Raja Chait Singh of Banaras in 1781. In 1801 Awadh ceded Rohilkhand and the lower Doab (the Ceded Provinces), and Lake's campaign of 1803 took Aligarh and Agra from the Marathas (the Conquered Provinces); these were organised as the North-Western

Provinces in 1836. Lord Dalhousie annexed Awadh itself in February 1856 on the ground of misgovernment, not under the Doctrine of Lapse, and Wajid Ali Shah was sent away to Calcutta. The annexation, a land settlement that dispossessed many taluqdars, and the fact that many sepoys of the Bengal Army came from Awadh made the region the heart of the revolt of 1857.

The revolt of 1857: The revolt began at Meerut on 10 May 1857, when sepoys freed comrades jailed for refusing the new cartridges and marched to Delhi to proclaim Bahadur Shah Zafar emperor. At Kanpur, Nana Saheb, adopted son of the last Peshwa Baji Rao II, led the rising with Tatya Tope and Azimullah Khan; General Wheeler's garrison surrendered, and the killings at Satichaura Ghat and Bibighar followed. At Lucknow, Begum Hazrat Mahal declared her son Birjis Qadr ruler and her forces besieged the Residency, where Sir Henry Lawrence was killed; Havelock and Outram reached it, Colin Campbell evacuated it, and Lucknow was retaken in March 1858. Rani Lakshmibai held Jhansi until Sir Hugh Rose stormed it in April 1858, and she died fighting near Gwalior in June 1858. Khan Bahadur Khan led at Bareilly, Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah at Faizabad and Maulvi Liaquat Ali at Allahabad. Mangal Pandey, who struck at Barrackpore near Calcutta on 29 March 1857, is generally held to have been born at Nagwa village in Ballia.

Congress sessions in UP: After the revolt, Lord Canning read Queen Victoria's Proclamation at Allahabad on 1 November 1858. The province later hosted many Congress sessions: Allahabad in 1888 (George Yule, the first British president), 1892 (W.C. Bonnerjee) and 1910 (William Wedderburn); Lucknow in 1899 (R.C. Dutt), 1916 (Ambika Charan Mazumdar) and 1936 (Jawaharlal Nehru); Banaras in 1905 (Gopal Krishna Gokhale); Kanpur in 1925 (Sarojini Naidu, the first Indian woman president); and Meerut in 1946 (J.B. Kripalani). The Lucknow session of 1916 reunited the Moderates and Extremists and produced the Lucknow Pact with the Muslim League. Peasants joined the struggle through the Awadh Kisan Sabha (1920), led by Baba Ramchandra in Pratapgarh, and the Eka movement of Madari Pasi.

Chauri Chaura and Kakori: On 4 February 1922, at Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur district, a crowd of Non-Cooperation volunteers who had been fired upon by the police set fire to the police station, and more than twenty policemen died. Gandhi called off the Non-Cooperation Movement at Bardoli on 12 February 1922, and many young men turned to revolutionary methods. The Hindustan Republican Association, founded in 1924 by Sachindra Nath Sanyal, Ram Prasad Bismil and others, looted government money from a train at Kakori near Lucknow on 9 August 1925. In December 1927 Bismil (Gorakhpur jail), Ashfaqullah Khan (Faizabad jail), Roshan Singh (Allahabad) and Rajendra Lahiri (Gonda jail) were hanged; Bismil, Ashfaqullah and Roshan Singh were all from Shahjahanpur. Chandrashekhar Azad escaped, helped form the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association in 1928, and died fighting in Alfred Park, Allahabad, on 27 February 1931.

Later struggle and leaders: In 1928 the Simon Commission protest at Lucknow, led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Govind Ballabh Pant, was lathi-charged. During the Quit India Movement of 1942 Chittu Pandey set up a short-lived parallel government in Ballia, a district proudly called Baghi (rebel) Ballia. Leaders from the province include Madan Mohan Malaviya, founder of Banaras Hindu University (1916); Motilal Nehru of Anand Bhawan, Allahabad; Jawaharlal Nehru; Purushottam Das Tandon; Lal Bahadur Shastri; Rafi Ahmed Kidwai of Barabanki; Acharya Narendra Dev; Ram Manohar Lohia of Akbarpur; and Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, the Kanpur editor of Pratap, who died in 1931 while trying to stop communal riots.

From United Provinces to Uttar Pradesh: Named the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh in 1902 and the United Provinces in 1937, the province formed a Congress ministry under Pant in 1937 under the Government of India Act 1935. After independence it was renamed Uttar Pradesh on 24 January 1950, two days before the Constitution came into force, keeping the familiar initials UP; the day is now celebrated as Uttar Pradesh Diwas.

Examples

- Treaty of Faizabad 1775: Banaras ceded to the Company; 1801: Rohilkhand and the lower Doab ceded; February 1856: Awadh annexed by Dalhousie for misgovernment.
- 1857 in UP: Meerut 10 May; Kanpur Nana Saheb and Tatya Tope; Lucknow Begum Hazrat Mahal; Jhansi Rani Lakshmibai; Bareilly Khan Bahadur Khan; Faizabad Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah; Allahabad Maulvi Liaquat Ali.
- Siege of the Lucknow Residency: Henry Lawrence killed; Havelock and Outram reached it; Colin Campbell evacuated it; Lucknow retaken in March 1858.

- Queen Victoria's Proclamation was read by Lord Canning at Allahabad on 1 November 1858.
- INC sessions in UP: Allahabad 1888, 1892, 1910; Lucknow 1899, 1916, 1936; Banaras 1905; Kanpur 1925; Meerut 1946.
- Kanpur 1925: Sarojini Naidu, first Indian woman Congress president; Lucknow 1916: Lucknow Pact and reunion of Moderates and Extremists.
- Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur), 4 February 1922: police station set on fire; Gandhi withdrew Non-Cooperation at Bardoli on 12 February 1922.
- Kakori train action, 9 August 1925 (HRA); hanged in December 1927: Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Roshan Singh, Rajendra Lahiri.
- Chandrashekhar Azad died in Alfred Park, Allahabad, on 27 February 1931; Chittu Pandey's parallel government in Ballia, 1942.
- Name changes: United Provinces of Agra and Oudh 1902, United Provinces 1937, Uttar Pradesh 24 January 1950 (UP Diwas).

> **Quick revision:** Banaras ceded 1775 (Treaty of Faizabad); Ceded Provinces 1801; NWP 1836; Awadh annexed Feb 1856 for misgovernment; 1857 began at Meerut 10 May; Nana Saheb Kanpur, Hazrat Mahal Lucknow, Lakshmibai Jhansi; Proclamation read at Allahabad 1 Nov 1858; INC Lucknow 1916 (Pact), Kanpur 1925 (Naidu), Meerut 1946; Chauri Chaura 4 Feb 1922; Kakori 9 Aug 1925; Azad died 27 Feb 1931; Ballia 1942; renamed UP 24 Jan 1950.

Formation, Administration and Polity of Uttar Pradesh

From provinces to a state: The state grew out of several British units. Banaras (1775), the Ceded Provinces (1801) and the Conquered Provinces (1803) were at first run from Bengal; the Charter Act of 1833 provided for a Presidency of Agra, and in 1836 the area became the North-Western Provinces under a Lieutenant-Governor at Agra. After 1857 the seat of government moved to Allahabad. Awadh, annexed in 1856, was governed separately by a Chief Commissioner at Lucknow. The two posts were joined in 1877, the province was named the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh in 1902, and under the Government of India Act 1919 it became a Governor's province with dyarchy from 1921. In the 1920s and 1930s the seat of government shifted from Allahabad to Lucknow, which is the capital today.

Autonomy and statehood: Under the Government of India Act 1935 the province received a bicameral legislature; provincial autonomy began in 1937, when the name was shortened to United Provinces and Govind Ballabh Pant became Premier. Sarojini Naidu became Governor in 1947, the first woman Governor in India. The province was renamed Uttar Pradesh on 24 January 1950 and became a Part A state under the Constitution, with Pant as its first Chief Minister; in 1963 Sucheta Kripalani became the first woman Chief Minister of any Indian state. On 9 November 2000 the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 separated the hill districts to form Uttaranchal, which was renamed Uttarakhand in 2007.

The legislature: Uttar Pradesh is one of the few states with a bicameral legislature (Article 168). The Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) has 403 elected members; it had 425 before Uttarakhand was formed. Its term is five years unless dissolved earlier. The Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) has 100 members chosen as Article 171 provides: 38 elected by the members of the Assembly, 36 by local authorities, 8 by graduates, 8 by teachers, and 10 nominated by the Governor from persons with special knowledge of literature, science, art, cooperation or social service. The Council is a permanent house that cannot be dissolved: members serve six years and one-third of them retire every two years. Article 171 limits a Council to one-third of the Assembly's strength and at least 40 members, and under Article 169 Parliament can create or abolish a Council on a resolution of the Assembly. The legislature meets at the Vidhan Bhavan in Lucknow.

Representation in Parliament: Uttar Pradesh sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha, the most of any state, and 31 to the Rajya Sabha; before 2000 it sent 85 and 34. Under the 2008 delimitation, 17 of its 80 Lok Sabha seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and none for Scheduled Tribes. Its large share of seats in both Houses, and so in the electoral college that elects the President, is why the state is often called the heartland of national politics.

The High Court and Prayagraj institutions: The High Court was set up at Agra on 17 March 1866 as the High Court of Judicature for the North-Western Provinces and moved to Allahabad in 1869; it was renamed the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad in 1919. Awadh had its own Oudh Chief Court at Lucknow from 1925, and in 1948 the two were amalgamated, the Lucknow court becoming a permanent bench of the Allahabad High Court. Prayagraj also houses the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (set up on 1 April 1937), the Board of Revenue, the office of the Accountant General and the Board of High School and Intermediate Education (Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad), set up in 1921. Lucknow is the seat of the Governor, the legislature and the Secretariat.

Administration on the ground: The state is divided into revenue divisions under Divisional Commissioners. Each district is headed by a District Magistrate (Collector) and is divided into tehsils for revenue work and development blocks for rural development. Rural local government has three tiers: Gram Panchayats under the Uttar Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, which is older than the 73rd Amendment, and Kshetra Panchayats and Zila Panchayats under the Kshetra Panchayat and Zila Panchayat Adhiniyam, 1961. Urban areas have Nagar Nigams (municipal corporations), Nagar Palika Parishads and Nagar Panchayats.

State symbols: The state emblem shows a pair of fish, a bow and arrow, and wavy lines for the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna; the fish were the insignia of the Nawabs of Awadh. The state animal is the barasingha (swamp deer), the state bird the sarus crane, the state flower the palash (flame of the forest), and the state tree the ashoka. The state fish is the chitala.

Examples

- 1836 North-Western Provinces; 1856 Awadh annexed; 1877 NWP and Oudh under one head; 1902 United Provinces of Agra and Oudh; 1937 United Provinces; 1950 Uttar Pradesh.
- Uttaranchal was separated on 9 November 2000 under the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000, and renamed Uttarakhand in 2007.
- Vidhan Sabha: 403 elected members (425 before 2000); Vidhan Parishad: 100 members; bicameral under Article 168.
- Vidhan Parishad 100 = 38 elected by MLAs + 36 by local authorities + 8 by graduates + 8 by teachers + 10 nominated by the Governor.
- Lok Sabha 80 seats (17 reserved for SCs, none for STs); Rajya Sabha 31 seats; before 2000 the figures were 85 and 34.
- High Court: Agra 1866, moved to Allahabad 1869; Oudh Chief Court at Lucknow 1925; amalgamated in 1948, Lucknow became a permanent bench.
- Prayagraj institutions: High Court, UPPSC (1 April 1937), Board of Revenue, Accountant General, UP Board of High School and Intermediate Education (1921).
- Firsts: G.B. Pant first Chief Minister; Sarojini Naidu first Governor after independence and India's first woman Governor; Sucheta Kripalani India's first woman Chief Minister (1963).
- Panchayati Raj in UP: UP Panchayat Raj Act 1947 (Gram Panchayat); Kshetra Panchayat and Zila Panchayat Adhiniyam 1961.
- State emblem: two fish, bow and arrow, Ganga-Yamuna wavy lines; symbols: barasingha, sarus crane, palash, ashoka; state fish chitala.

> **Quick revision:** NWP 1836 (Agra), capital to Allahabad after 1857; United Provinces of Agra and Oudh 1902; dyarchy 1921; bicameral under 1935 Act; renamed UP 24 Jan 1950; Uttarakhand separated 9 Nov 2000; Vidhan Sabha 403, Parishad 100 (38+36+8+8+10); Lok Sabha 80 (17 SC), Rajya Sabha 31; High Court Agra 1866, Allahabad 1869, Lucknow bench 1948; UPPSC 1937; UP Board 1921; Panchayat Raj Act 1947; emblem fish, bow-arrow, wavy lines.

Geography of Uttar Pradesh: Location, Borders and Physiography

Location and size: Uttar Pradesh lies in northern India, in the middle part of the Ganga basin, roughly between 24°N and 30°N latitude and between 77°E and 84°E longitude. Its southernmost point lies just north of the Tropic of Cancer, so the Tropic does not pass through the state, while the 82.5°E meridian used for Indian Standard Time passes near Mirzapur. With an area of 2,40,928 square kilometres, about 7.33 per cent of India, it is the fourth largest state after Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; it was bigger before Uttarakhand was separated in 2000.

By the Census 2011 it is the most populous state, with 19.98 crore people (about 16.5 per cent of India) and a density of 829 persons per square kilometre.

Borders: Uttar Pradesh has an international border with Nepal along its northern districts, from Pilibhit and Lakhimpur Kheri through Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur and Siddharthnagar to Maharajganj. It touches more Indian states than any other state: Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in the north-west, Haryana and the National Capital Territory of Delhi in the west, Rajasthan in the south-west, Madhya Pradesh in the south, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand in the south-east, and Bihar in the east, that is eight states and one union territory. Madhya Pradesh shares the longest boundary, while Himachal Pradesh touches only Saharanpur district. Sonbhadra is the one district that borders four states (Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar). Among the extreme districts, Saharanpur is the northernmost, Sonbhadra the southernmost and Ballia the easternmost.

The three physical regions: The relief falls into three parts. In the north is a narrow strip at the foot of the Himalaya, in the middle the great Gangetic plain covering roughly three-quarters of the state, and in the south the old rocks of the peninsular plateau in Bundelkhand and the Vindhyan hills. The northern strip begins with a small part of the Shivalik hills in Saharanpur. Below them lies the Bhabar, a porous belt of boulders and gravel where small streams sink underground, and then the Terai, a low, marshy, badly drained belt where the water comes up again, once covered with tall grass and sal forest. Most of the Bhabar went to Uttarakhand in 2000, but the Terai still runs along the Nepal border through Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar and Maharajganj.

The Gangetic plain: The plain is built of alluvium brought down by Himalayan rivers and is among the most fertile and densely settled lands in the world. It slopes very gently from north-west to south-east, which is why the Ganga and its tributaries flow in that direction. Two kinds of alluvium are distinguished: bhangar, the older alluvium on higher ground above flood level, often with kankar (lime nodules), and khadar, the new alluvium of the flood plains, renewed by floods and more fertile. Other features are bhur, sandy patches and low dunes along the Ganga in the upper Doab and Rohilkhand; usar or reh, barren saline and alkaline patches; oxbow lakes and tals left by meandering rivers; and the ravines (beehad) of the Yamuna and Chambal around Agra, Etawah and Jalaun. By culture and history the plain is divided into the Doab between the Ganga and Yamuna, Rohilkhand to the north-east of the Ganga, Awadh in the centre and Purvanchal in the east.

The southern plateau: South of the Yamuna and the Ganga the land rises into the northern edge of the peninsular plateau. In the south-west is Bundelkhand (Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda and Chitrakoot), an undulating upland of very old granite and gneiss with scattered rocky hills and thin soils, drained northwards towards the Yamuna by the Betwa, its tributary the Dhasan, and the Ken. In the south-east the Vindhyan range, with its sandstone scarps, and the Kaimur hills extend through Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Chandauli and Sonbhadra, where the Son flows in a valley south of the Kaimur. The plateau is drier than the plain and holds most of the state's forests, minerals and waterfalls, such as Wyndham Falls near Mirzapur and Rajdari and Devdari in Chandauli.

Highest and lowest land: Because almost the whole state is plain, its relief is low. The highest ground lies at the edges, in the Shivalik foothills of Saharanpur in the north-west and in the plateau hills of the south. The lowest land is in the east, along the Ganga and Ghaghara around Ghazipur and Ballia, before the rivers pass into Bihar. This explains a pattern that exams often test: floods are most frequent in the low-lying eastern and Terai districts, while Bundelkhand in the south-west is the most drought-prone part of the state.

Examples

- Area 2,40,928 sq km (about 7.33% of India): fourth largest state after Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- Census 2011: population 19.98 crore (about 16.5% of India), the most populous state; density 829 persons per sq km.
- The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through UP; the 82.5°E IST meridian passes near Mirzapur.
- Neighbours: Nepal, eight states (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar) and Delhi.
- Nepal-border districts: Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Maharajganj.
- Himachal Pradesh touches only Saharanpur; Sonbhadra touches four states; Madhya Pradesh has the longest border with UP.
- Extreme districts: Saharanpur northernmost, Sonbhadra southernmost, Ballia easternmost.

- Bhabar: porous gravel belt where streams vanish; Terai: marshy belt below it where they reappear.
- Bhangar: old alluvium above flood level with kankar; Khadar: new flood-plain alluvium, more fertile; Bhur: sandy patches; Usar/Reh: saline-alkaline land.
- Bundelkhand: old granite-gneiss plateau, drought-prone; Vindhyan-Kaimur hills in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra; ravines along the Chambal and Yamuna.

> **Quick revision:** Lies about 24-30°N, 77-84°E; Tropic of Cancer does not cross it; 82.5°E passes near Mirzapur; area 2,40,928 sq km (7.33%), fourth largest; Census 2011 population 19.98 crore, density 829; borders Nepal, 8 states and Delhi; MP longest border; HP touches only Saharanpur; Sonbhadra touches 4 states; regions: Bhabar-Terai, Gangetic plain (bhangar, khadar, bhur, usar), southern plateau (Bundelkhand, Vindhya-Kaimur); land slopes NW to SE.

Rivers, Lakes and Irrigation of Uttar Pradesh

The drainage pattern: Almost all of Uttar Pradesh drains into the Ganga. Rivers from the north, such as the Ramganga, Sharda, Ghaghara, Rapti and Gandak, rise in the Himalaya and its foothills, flow all year (the larger ones are also fed by snow) and bring silt and floods. Rivers from the south, such as the Chambal, Betwa, Ken and Son, rise on the peninsular plateau, depend on rain and run low in summer. The Gomti is different: it rises in the plain itself and is fed by groundwater and rain.

The Ganga and Gomti: The Ganga leaves the hills at Haridwar and enters Uttar Pradesh in Bijnor district. It flows past Bijnor, Narora, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur, and forms the border with Bihar near Ballia. At Varanasi it turns to flow northwards, so the city's ghats on its west bank face the rising sun. The Ramganga, rising in Uttarakhand, flows past Moradabad and Bareilly and joins the Ganga near Kannauj. The Tons joins it from the south below Prayagraj. The Gomti rises at Gomat Tal near Madho Tanda in Pilibhit, flows past Lakhimpur Kheri, Sitapur, Lucknow, Sultanpur and Jaunpur, receives the Sai, and joins the Ganga at Kaithi between Varanasi and Ghazipur.

The Yamuna and the southern rivers: The Yamuna rises at Yamunotri, forms the boundary of Uttar Pradesh with Haryana and Delhi, and flows past Mathura, Agra and Etawah. From the Doab it receives the Hindon, which rises in the Shivaliks of Saharanpur and flows past Ghaziabad. Its big southern tributaries come from Madhya Pradesh: the Chambal, famous for its ravines and the National Chambal Sanctuary, joins it near Bhareh, downstream of Etawah, and close to this confluence the Sindh, Pahuj and Kwari also come in, so the meeting of five rivers is called Pachnada; the Betwa joins it at Hamirpur; and the Ken, flowing through Panna, joins it in Banda district. The Yamuna meets the Ganga at the Sangam in Prayagraj, called the Triveni because the hidden Saraswati is believed to join there.

The northern rivers: The Ghaghara, known as the Karnali in Nepal, is the largest tributary of the Ganga by volume of water. It enters Uttar Pradesh in Bahraich district, receives the Sharda (the Kali of the India-Nepal border) at Bahramghat in Barabanki, and below this is known as the Saryu, on whose bank Ayodhya stands. It flows past Ayodhya and along the edge of Ballia and joins the Ganga near Chhapra in Bihar. The Rapti rises in Nepal, flows past Shravasti, Balrampur and Gorakhpur, and joins the Ghaghara near Barhaj in Deoria. The Gandak touches the north-eastern corner near Maharajganj and Kushinagar before entering Bihar. In the south-east the Son crosses Sonbhadra on its way from Amarkantak to the Ganga in Bihar, and its tributary the Rihand is dammed at Pipri. The Karmanasa forms part of the border with Bihar.

Canals: Canals made the Doab one of India's best irrigated regions. The Eastern Yamuna Canal, a restored Mughal channel, was reopened in 1830 for the western districts. The Upper Ganga Canal, designed by Proby Cautley and opened in 1854, takes off at Haridwar (now in Uttarakhand) and waters the upper Doab, and the Lower Ganga Canal starts at Narora in Bulandshahr (1878). The Agra Canal draws water from the Yamuna at Okhla. The Sharda Canal, taking off at Banbasa and completed in 1928, irrigates central districts from Pilibhit and Kheri to Lucknow and beyond; the Sharda Sahayak project feeds it with Ghaghara water, and the Saryu canal project serves the eastern districts. Even so, tube wells irrigate a larger area of the state than canals do.

Dams and projects: The Rihand Dam at Pipri in Sonbhadra, completed in 1962, holds the Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar, one of the largest man-made lakes in India, which stretches into Madhya Pradesh and supplies water to the

power stations of the Singrauli area; the Obra dam lies downstream on the same river. On the Betwa are the Matatila Dam, the Rajghat Dam (a joint project of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh) and the Parichha reservoir near Jhansi. The Ken-Betwa link, which joins these two Bundelkhand rivers, is the first project of the national plan for interlinking rivers.

Lakes and wetlands: Most lakes in Uttar Pradesh are natural depressions (tals), oxbow lakes or reservoirs. Well-known ones are Ramgarh Tal at Gorakhpur, Bakhira Tal in Sant Kabir Nagar, Keetham Lake (Sur Sarovar) near Agra, the Chandela lakes of Mahoba such as Madan Sagar and Kirat Sagar, and Moti Jheel at Kanpur. Many wetlands are protected as bird sanctuaries or wetlands, such as Nawabganj (Unnao), Samaspur (Rae Bareli), Sandi (Hardoi), Saman (Mainpuri), Parvati Arga (Gonda) and Sarsai Nawar (Etawah). The stretch of the Upper Ganga from Brijghat to Narora was declared a Ramsar wetland of international importance in 2005, the state's first.

Examples

- Ganga enters UP in Bijnor district, flows north at Varanasi and forms the Bihar border near Ballia; Ramganga joins it near Kannauj.
- Gomti: rises at Gomat Tal (Pilibhit); flows past Lucknow and Jaunpur; Sai joins it; meets the Ganga at Kaithi between Varanasi and Ghazipur.
- Yamuna's tributaries: Hindon (from Saharanpur), Chambal (below Etawah), Betwa (Hamirpur), Ken (Banda); Yamuna meets Ganga at the Sangam, Prayagraj.
- Ghaghara: largest Ganga tributary by volume; Sharda joins at Bahramghat (Barabanki); called Saryu at Ayodhya; meets Ganga near Chhapra (Bihar).
- Rapti flows from Nepal past Gorakhpur and joins the Ghaghara near Barhaj (Deoria); the Son crosses Sonbhadra.
- Canals: Eastern Yamuna 1830; Upper Ganga 1854 (Proby Cautley, from Haridwar); Lower Ganga 1878 (Narora); Sharda 1928 (Banbasa).
- Rihand Dam (Pipri, Sonbhadra), completed 1962: reservoir Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar.
- Betwa projects: Matatila Dam, Rajghat Dam (joint UP-MP) and Parichha; Ken-Betwa link is the first river-interlinking project.
- Upper Ganga stretch from Brijghat to Narora became UP's first Ramsar site in 2005.
- Tube wells, not canals, are the largest source of irrigation in Uttar Pradesh.

> **Quick revision:** Ganga enters at Bijnor, flows north at Varanasi, Bihar border at Ballia; Gomti from Gomat Tal (Pilibhit) to Kaithi; Chambal joins Yamuna below Etawah, Betwa at Hamirpur, Ken in Banda; Sangam at Prayagraj; Ghaghara largest by volume, Sharda joins at Bahramghat, called Saryu at Ayodhya; Rapti joins at Barhaj; Upper Ganga Canal 1854, Lower 1878, Sharda 1928; Rihand Dam 1962 (G.B. Pant Sagar); Matatila, Rajghat on Betwa; first Ramsar site 2005.

Climate, Soils, Forests and Wildlife of Uttar Pradesh

Climate and seasons: Uttar Pradesh has a tropical monsoon climate. Being far from the sea it is markedly continental, with hot summers, cool winters and a wide range of temperature. The cold season, roughly December to February, brings clear days, fog and cold waves, and western disturbances give light winter rain, mainly in the west, that helps the rabi crops. The hot season, March to mid-June, is ruled by the loo, a hot, dry westerly wind, and temperatures above 45°C are common in Bundelkhand and the south-west. The rainy season, mid-June to September, comes with the Bay of Bengal branch of the south-west monsoon, which moves up the Ganga valley from east to west. October and November are the season of the retreating monsoon.

Rainfall pattern: Most of the year's rain falls in the four monsoon months. Because the monsoon advances from the east, rainfall decreases from east to west, and it is also higher in the north near the Himalayan foothills than in the south-west. The Terai and north-eastern districts such as Gorakhpur and Maharajganj get the most rain, and the western districts around Agra and Mathura are the driest. As a result the east and the Terai suffer floods while Bundelkhand suffers drought, sometimes in the same year.

Soils: Most of the state has alluvial soil. Khadar, the new alluvium of the flood plains, is light and fertile, while bhangar, the older alluvium, is more clayey and contains kankar. The Terai has fine, moist, clayey soil rich in humus.

Bhur is a light sandy soil of the west. Usar or reh are saline and alkaline patches found in parts of central and western Uttar Pradesh; they are reclaimed with gypsum. Bundelkhand has four characteristic soils: mar, a black clayey soil like regur; kabar, a heavy sticky clay; parwa, a light brown sandy loam; and rakar, a red, gravelly and poor soil of the uplands. Red soils are also found in the Vindhyan districts of Mirzapur and Sonbhadra.

Forests: Uttar Pradesh has little forest for its size, far below the one-third of area recommended by the National Forest Policy 1988, because the plain has been farmed for thousands of years. The forests that remain are in two belts. The Terai belt along the Nepal border, in districts such as Lakhimpur Kheri, Pilibhit, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur and Maharajganj, has tropical moist deciduous forest dominated by sal, with tall wet grasslands. The southern belt, in Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Chandauli, Chitrakoot and Lalitpur, has tropical dry deciduous forest with trees such as tendu, mahua, khair and salai, and thorn scrub in the driest parts of the south-west.

Dudhwa and the tiger reserves: Dudhwa in Lakhimpur Kheri, along the Nepal border, is the best-known protected area of the state. It became a national park in 1977, and with the neighbouring Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary it formed the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in 1987 under Project Tiger; the Katarniaghat sanctuary in Bahraich was later added. Its sal forests and wet grasslands are a home of the barasingha (swamp deer), the state animal, and in 1984 the Indian one-horned rhinoceros was reintroduced there from Assam and Nepal. The conservationist Billy Arjan Singh, who lived at Tiger Haven near Dudhwa, campaigned for its protection. The adjoining Pilibhit forests were declared a tiger reserve in 2014.

Wildlife sanctuaries: Katarniaghat in Bahraich, on the Girwa river, protects gharials and Gangetic dolphins. The National Chambal Sanctuary, shared by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, is the main home of the gharial and also shelters dolphins and turtles. Chandraprabha in Chandauli, set up in 1957, is where Asiatic lions from Gir were released in 1958, though they later disappeared; it is also known for the Rajdari and Devdari waterfalls. The Kaimur sanctuary in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra protects blackbuck and chinkara, the Hastinapur sanctuary covers a long stretch of the Ganga floodplain, and Sohagi Barwa in Maharajganj and Sohelwa in Balrampur and Shravasti protect Terai forests. The Kukrail centre in Lucknow breeds gharials for release into rivers.

Bird sanctuaries: The many wetlands of the state support winter migrants and the sarus crane, the state bird and the tallest flying bird in the world. Important bird sanctuaries are Nawabganj in Unnao (now officially the Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary), Samaspur in Rae Bareli, Sandi in Hardoi, Lakh-Bahosi in Kannauj, Saman in Mainpuri, Patna in Etah, Bakhira in Sant Kabir Nagar, Okhla on the Yamuna in Gautam Buddh Nagar and Sur Sarovar (Keetham) near Agra. The Gangetic dolphin, declared India's national aquatic animal in 2009, lives in the Ganga, Ghaghara, Girwa and Chambal.

Examples

- Loo: hot, dry westerly summer wind; western disturbances: light winter rain that helps rabi crops.
- Rainfall decreases from east to west and from the Terai southwards; Gorakhpur-Maharajganj wettest, Agra-Mathura driest.
- Bundelkhand soils: Mar (black, like regur), Kabar (heavy sticky clay), Parwa (light sandy loam), Rakar (red, gravelly).
- Usar/Reh: saline-alkaline soil, reclaimed with gypsum; Bhur: sandy soil of the west; Khadar newer and more fertile than Bhangar.
- Forest belts: Terai sal belt (Kheri, Pilibhit, Bahraich) and southern dry deciduous belt (Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Lalitpur).
- Dudhwa (Lakhimpur Kheri): national park 1977, tiger reserve 1987 with Kishanpur; rhinos reintroduced 1984; home of the barasingha.
- Pilibhit was declared a tiger reserve in 2014; Katarniaghat (Bahraich) is part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.
- Chandraprabha (Chandauli): sanctuary 1957; Gir lions released 1958; Rajdari and Devdari waterfalls.
- Gharials: National Chambal Sanctuary, Katarniaghat and the Kukrail breeding centre (Lucknow); Gangetic dolphin national aquatic animal (2009).
- Bird sanctuaries: Nawabganj (Unnao), Samaspur (Rae Bareli), Sandi (Hardoi), Lakh-Bahosi (Kannauj), Saman (Mainpuri), Patna (Etah), Bakhira (Sant Kabir Nagar), Okhla.

Quick revision: Tropical monsoon, continental climate; loo in summer, western disturbances in winter; rainfall decreases from east to west; Bundelkhand soils mar, kabar, parwa, rakar; usar reclaimed with gypsum; forest far below one-third target; Terai sal belt and southern dry belt; Dudhwa NP 1977, tiger reserve 1987, rhinos 1984; Pilibhit tiger reserve 2014; Chandraprabha 1957, lions 1958; Chambal and Katarniaghat for gharials; sarus crane state bird; dolphin national aquatic animal 2009.

Agriculture, Minerals and Industries of Uttar Pradesh

Farming seasons: Agriculture is the main livelihood of most people in Uttar Pradesh, supported by deep alluvium, canals and tube wells. There are three crop seasons. Rabi crops are sown in October-November and harvested in March-April: wheat, barley, gram, peas, lentil, mustard and potato. Kharif crops are sown with the monsoon: rice, maize, bajra, jowar, arhar and urad. Zaid crops grow in the short summer season: watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber and vegetables. Sugarcane, a long-duration crop, is planted in spring or autumn. The Green Revolution of the late 1960s spread fastest in the canal-irrigated western districts.

Where UP leads: Uttar Pradesh has long been India's leading producer of sugarcane, wheat, potato and milk. It is a major producer of rice, pulses, mustard, vegetables and mangoes; famous mango varieties are Dasheri of Malihabad near Lucknow, Langra of Varanasi and Chausa. Mentha (Japanese mint), grown around Barabanki, Badaun, Rampur and Sambhal, makes the state the main source of India's mint oil. The Agra region, with Firozabad, Farrukhabad and Kannauj, is a potato belt, and Modipuram near Meerut has a regional station of the Central Potato Research Institute, whose headquarters is at Shimla. Other national research institutes in the state include the Indian Institute of Pulses Research at Kanpur, the Indian Institute of Vegetable Research at Varanasi and the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute at Jhansi.

The sugar belt: Sugarcane is the main cash crop and the base of the largest agro-industry of the state. It is grown in two main belts: the western belt of Saharanpur, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Bijnor and Moradabad, and the Terai and eastern belt of Lakhimpur Kheri, Sitapur, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Gorakhpur, Deoria and Kushinagar. Sugar mills stand close to the fields because cut cane loses its sugar quickly. Much cane is also made into jaggery (gur) and khandsari, and Muzaffarnagar has one of the largest jaggery markets in the country. Research is led by the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research at Lucknow, the National Sugar Institute at Kanpur (1936) and the sugarcane research institute at Shahjahanpur.

Minerals: Uttar Pradesh is poor in minerals because most of it is alluvial plain; minerals occur only in the southern plateau. Sonbhadra and Mirzapur have limestone and dolomite, used by the cement works at Churk and Dalla, and coal in the Uttar Pradesh part of the Singrauli coalfield. Lalitpur, Jhansi, Hamirpur and Mahoba have pyrophyllite and diaspore, and Lalitpur has rock phosphate. Silica sand from Shankargarh in Prayagraj and from Chitrakoot feeds the glass industry of Firozabad. The fine Chunar sandstone of Mirzapur was used for Ashoka's pillars. The Ken river in Banda yields Shajar stone, a quartz with fern-like patterns used in jewellery.

Power: Coal from Singrauli and water from the Rihand reservoir make Sonbhadra the power hub of the state, with the Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station at Shaktinagar (the first project of NTPC), the Rihand station at Bijpur, and the state's own Anpara and Obra stations. Other thermal stations include Dadri (Gautam Buddh Nagar), Unchahar (Rae Bareli), Tanda (Ambedkar Nagar), Harduaganj (Aligarh), Parichha (Jhansi) and Panki (Kanpur), and there is a gas-based plant at Auraiya. The Narora Atomic Power Station in Bulandshahr, with two pressurised heavy water reactors, began commercial operation in 1991 and is the only nuclear plant in the state. Hydroelectric power is small, from Rihand, Obra and Matatila.

Traditional industries by city: Many cities are known for a craft that grew from local materials and old patronage. Kanpur grew under the British as a centre of leather, cotton and woollen mills, and Agra makes leather footwear, marble inlay work and petha. Moradabad is the brass city (Peetal Nagri), Aligarh makes locks and hardware, and Firozabad makes glass bangles and glassware (Suhag Nagri). Bhadohi and Mirzapur form India's main hand-knotted carpet belt. Varanasi is famous for silk saris and brocade, Lucknow for chikankari and zardozi, Kannauj for ittar (perfume), Khurja for ceramic pottery, Saharanpur for wood carving, Meerut for sports goods and scissors, Hathras for asafoetida (hing), Nizamabad in Azamgarh for black pottery and Gorakhpur for terracotta. Modern industry

includes the Banaras Locomotive Works at Varanasi (set up in 1961 as the Diesel Locomotive Works), the Mathura refinery (1982) and the electronics and IT hub of Noida, set up in 1976.

One District One Product: Launched by the state government on 24 January 2018, Uttar Pradesh Diwas, the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme picks a distinctive product for each district, which may be a craft, a processed food or a farm product, and supports it with credit, training, design, marketing and common facility centres. The idea is to revive traditional industries, create local jobs and raise exports by building on skills that already exist, such as brassware in Moradabad, glass in Firozabad or carpets in Bhadohi. The model was later taken up at the national level.

Examples

- UP has long been India's leading producer of sugarcane, wheat, potato and milk.
- Rabi: wheat, barley, gram, mustard, potato; Kharif: rice, maize, bajra, arhar; Zaid: watermelon, cucumber, vegetables.
- Sugar belts: western (Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Bijnor) and Terai-eastern (Kheri, Sitapur, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Kushinagar).
- Sugar research: Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow; National Sugar Institute, Kanpur (1936); research institute at Shahjahanpur.
- Mango varieties: Dasheri (Malihabad), Langra (Varanasi), Chausa; mentha (mint) around Barabanki and Badaun.
- Minerals of the south: limestone and coal (Sonbhadra), pyrophyllite and diaspore (Lalitpur, Jhansi), rock phosphate (Lalitpur), silica sand (Shankargarh, Prayagraj).
- Sonbhadra power: Singrauli (NTPC's first), Rihand, Anpara, Obra; Narora (Bulandshahr) is the state's nuclear plant, commercial since 1991.
- Cities and crafts: Moradabad brass, Aligarh locks, Firozabad glass, Bhadohi carpets, Kannauj ittar, Khurja pottery, Saharanpur wood carving.
- More cities: Kanpur leather, Agra footwear and petha, Meerut sports goods, Hathras hing, Nizamabad black pottery, Gorakhpur terracotta.
- ODOP launched 24 January 2018: one distinctive product per district, backed by credit, training, design and marketing.

> **Quick revision:** Rabi wheat, potato, mustard; kharif rice, maize, arhar; zaid melons; UP leads in sugarcane, wheat, potato and milk; sugar belts west and Terai-east; NSI Kanpur 1936, IISR Lucknow; minerals only in south (Sonbhadra limestone, coal; Lalitpur pyrophyllite, rock phosphate; Shankargarh silica sand); Singrauli NTPC's first plant; Narora nuclear 1991; Moradabad brass, Firozabad glass, Aligarh locks, Bhadohi carpets, Kannauj ittar; Mathura refinery 1982; Noida 1976; ODOP 24 Jan 2018.

Art, Crafts, Music and Dance of Uttar Pradesh

Kathak: Kathak, one of India's classical dances, grew in this region from the kathakars, storytellers who narrated the epics in temples. In the Mughal and Nawabi courts it became a refined art of rhythm and expression, with fast footwork (tatkar) on ankle bells (ghungroo), quick spins (chakkar) and abhinaya. Two of its three main gharanas belong to Uttar Pradesh. The Lucknow gharana flowered under Nawab Wajid Ali Shah and stresses grace, delicacy and expressive abhinaya, often to thumri; its line runs from Thakur Prasad and the brothers Kalka Prasad and Bindadin Maharaj to Achhan Maharaj, Lachhu Maharaj, Shambhu Maharaj and Pandit Birju Maharaj. The Banaras gharana is traced to Janakiprasad, and the famous dancer Sitara Devi belonged to it. The third, the Jaipur gharana, belongs to Rajasthan.

Hindustani classical music: The region has been a cradle of Hindustani music. Amir Khusrau, born at Patiali (now in Kasganj district), is credited by tradition with the qawwali and the tarana. Swami Haridas of Vrindavan, a master of dhrupad, is remembered as the guru of Tansen, who sang at Akbar's court. The thumri developed in Lucknow under Wajid Ali Shah, and Banaras developed its own purab ang thumri along with the semi-classical dadra, kajari, chaiti and hori; its great singers include Siddheshwari Devi, Rasoolan Bai and Girija Devi, called the queen of thumri. Khayal gharanas of the state include the Agra gharana, made famous by Ustad Faiyaz Khan, and the Rampur-Sahaswan gharana. Banaras also has a tabla gharana founded by Pandit Ram Sahai, whose masters include Kishan Maharaj. Pandit Ravi Shankar (sitar) was born in Varanasi, and Ustad Bismillah Khan (shehnai), though born at

Dumraon in Bihar, lived and played in Varanasi. In Lucknow, Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande founded the Marris College of Music in 1926, now the Bhatkhande institution.

Folk songs: Each region has seasonal and ritual songs. Kajari is sung by women in the rainy month of Sawan, especially in Mirzapur and Varanasi, often about separation from a loved one. Chaiti is sung in the month of Chaitra. Birha is a Bhojpuri song form of the Ahir community of Purvanchal. Alha, sung in Bundelkhand in the rainy season, is the heroic ballad of the brothers Alha and Udal of Mahoba, based on the Alha-khand attributed to the poet Jagnik. Sohar is sung at a child's birth, Hori or Phag at Holi, and Rasiya in Braj, while nirgun songs carry the teaching of saints such as Kabir.

Folk dance and theatre: Nautanki, the best-known folk theatre of Uttar Pradesh, is a musical drama of verse dialogues sung to the beat of the nagara drum; its two main schools are Hathras and Kanpur, and Gulab Bai, trained in the Kanpur style, became its most famous woman performer. Raslila in Braj (Mathura-Vrindavan) enacts the life of Krishna, and Ramlila enacts the Ramayana, most famously in the month-long Ramlila of Ramnagar in Varanasi; UNESCO listed the Ramlila as intangible cultural heritage in 2008. Charkula is a Braj dance in which women balance a tall tiered wooden frame lit with oil lamps on their heads. Other folk dances include the Dhobia dance of Purvanchal, the Diwari and Rai of Bundelkhand, and the Karma and other tribal dances of Sonbhadra.

Textiles and crafts: Varanasi is famous for its silk saris and brocades woven with zari (gold and silver thread), including the heavy kinkhab, and Banaras brocades and saris carry a Geographical Indication. Lucknow's chikankari is fine white embroidery on light cotton or muslin, linked by legend with Nur Jahan, using stitches such as bakhiya (shadow work) and phanda; Lucknow and Bareilly are centres of zardozi, raised gold embroidery. Agra keeps alive the Mughal art of pietra dura (parchinkari), the inlay of semi-precious stones in marble. Bhadohi and Mirzapur weave hand-knotted carpets, Varanasi makes lacquered wooden toys, Nizamabad black pottery with silver patterns, Gorakhpur terracotta horses and elephants, Khurja glazed pottery, and Saharanpur carved woodwork.

Painting: Mughal miniature painting flourished in Akbar's workshops, where the illustrated Hamzanama was produced, and continued under Jahangir at Agra. Under the Nawabs a Lucknow (Awadh) style developed, and in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Lucknow and Banaras were centres of Company painting made for European patrons. Folk traditions include Sanjhi of Braj, delicate cut-paper stencils used to make pictures of Krishna's life, Kohbar paintings on the walls of the bridal room in eastern Uttar Pradesh, and chowk purna, the auspicious floor designs made at festivals and ceremonies.

Examples

- Kathak gharanas: Lucknow (grace and abhinaya; Wajid Ali Shah, Bindadin, Birju Maharaj), Banaras (Janakiprasad, Sitara Devi), Jaipur (Rajasthan).
- Thumri grew in Lucknow under Wajid Ali Shah; Banaras has the purab ang thumri; Girija Devi was called the queen of thumri.
- Swami Haridas of Vrindavan was Tansen's guru; Amir Khusrau was born at Patiali (Kasganj).
- Kajari: Sawan songs of Mirzapur and Varanasi; Chaiti: songs of Chaitra; Birha: Ahir songs of Purvanchal; Alha: Bundelkhand ballad of Alha-Udal.
- Nautanki schools: Hathras and Kanpur; Gulab Bai, trained in the Kanpur style, was its famous woman performer.
- Charkula (Braj): women dance balancing a tiered frame of lit lamps on the head; Diwari and Rai are dances of Bundelkhand.
- Ramlila became UNESCO intangible cultural heritage in 2008; the Ramnagar (Varanasi) Ramlila lasts a month.
- Crafts: chikankari (Lucknow), zardozi (Lucknow, Bareilly), brocade and zari (Varanasi), pietra dura (Agra), black pottery (Nizamabad).
- Bhatkhande founded the Marris College of Music, Lucknow, in 1926; Ravi Shankar was born in Varanasi; Bismillah Khan lived there.
- Folk art: Sanjhi (paper stencils of Braj), Kohbar (bridal-room wall painting), chowk purna (floor designs).

Quick revision: Kathak from temple kathakars; Lucknow gharana (Wajid Ali Shah, Bindadin, Birju Maharaj) and Banaras gharana (Janakiprasad, Sitara Devi); thumri of Lucknow and Banaras; Girija Devi; Swami Haridas guru of Tansen; Agra and Rampur-Sahaswan gharanas; Bhatkhande college 1926; Kajari, Chaiti, Birha, Alha, Sohar; Nautanki (Hathras, Kanpur), Raslila, Ramlila (UNESCO 2008), Charkula; Banarasi brocade, chikankari, zardozi, pietra dura; Sanjhi and Kohbar art.

Fairs, Festivals, Language, Literature and People of Uttar Pradesh

Kumbh and Magh Mela: The Kumbh Mela, the largest gathering of pilgrims in the world, is held in turn at four places: Prayagraj, at the Sangam of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the hidden Saraswati, and Haridwar, Ujjain and Nashik. At Prayagraj the full Kumbh comes every 12 years and the Ardh Kumbh every 6 years, in the month of Magh (January-February), with main bathing days such as Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya, Basant Panchami and Maghi Purnima. UNESCO added the Kumbh Mela to its list of intangible cultural heritage in 2017. Every year a smaller Magh Mela is held at the Sangam, where devotees called kalpvasis live on the riverbank for the whole month. The tradition is old: Hiuen Tsang described Harsha's gift-giving at Prayag in the seventh century.

Other festivals and fairs: Dev Deepawali is celebrated at Varanasi on Kartik Purnima, fifteen days after Diwali, when the ghats are lit with lamps for the gods who are believed to come down to bathe in the Ganga. Since 2017 the state has held the Deepotsav at Ayodhya on the eve of Diwali, lighting lamps along the Saryu at Ram ki Paidi. Mathura, Vrindavan, Barsana and Nandgaon celebrate Janmashtami and a long Holi, including the Lathmar Holi of Barsana and Nandgaon. Important fairs are the Dadri cattle fair at Ballia and the Bateshwar fair near Agra (both in Kartik), the Kartik Purnima bathing fair at Garhmukteshwar, the Nauchandi fair of Meerut, the Dewa Sharif fair at Barabanki in memory of the Sufi saint Haji Waris Ali Shah, and the fair at Maghar, where Kabir died.

Language and dialects: Hindi in the Devanagari script is the official language under the Uttar Pradesh Official Language Act, 1951, and Urdu was made the second official language in 1989. Both grew from the Khari Boli of the region around Meerut and Delhi. In Grierson's classification the dialects of the state fall into three groups. Western Hindi includes Khari Boli (Meerut, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar), Braj Bhasha (Mathura, Agra, Aligarh), Kannauji (Kannauj, Farrukhabad, Etawah) and Bundeli (Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur). Eastern Hindi includes Awadhi (Lucknow, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Rae Bareli). The Bihari group includes Bhojpuri (Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Ballia, Ghazipur, Deoria).

Saint-poets: The Bhakti saints of the state wrote in the language of the people. Ramananda taught at Varanasi, and the tradition counts among his disciples Kabir, the weaver-poet of Varanasi whose nirgun verses are collected in the Bijak and who died at Maghar, and Ravidas, whose verses are included in the Guru Granth Sahib. Tulsidas began the Ramcharitmanas in Awadhi at Ayodhya in 1574 and also wrote the Vinay Patrika; he spent his later life at Varanasi. Surdas, the blind poet of Braj, sang of Krishna's childhood in the Sursagar. Malik Muhammad Jayasi of Jais wrote the Padmavat in Awadhi in 1540, and Raskhan wrote Krishna poetry in Braj.

Modern literature: Bharatendu Harishchandra of Varanasi is called the father of modern Hindi literature. Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi of Rae Bareli edited the magazine Saraswati and set the standard for Khari Boli prose and verse, and Ayodhya Singh Upadhyay 'Hariaudh' of Azamgarh wrote Priyapravas, the first epic in Khari Boli. Premchand (Dhanpat Rai Srivastava), born at Lamhi near Varanasi in 1880, wrote Godan, Gaban and Nirmala and stories such as Kafan; his early Urdu collection Soz-e-Watan was seized by the British. Among the Chhayavad poets, Jaishankar Prasad of Varanasi wrote Kamayani, and Mahadevi Varma, born at Farrukhabad in 1907, won the Jnanpith Award for Yama in 1982. Maithili Sharan Gupt of Chirgaon (Jhansi), the Rashtrakavi, wrote Bharat-Bharati; Harivansh Rai Bachchan of Allahabad wrote Madhushala; and Firaq Gorakhpuri won the Jnanpith Award in 1969 for Urdu poetry. Mirza Ghalib was born in Agra in 1797, and Rahul Sankrityayan of Azamgarh was a great travel writer.

The people: By the Census 2011 Uttar Pradesh had 19.98 crore people, the most of any state, with a sex ratio of 912 females per 1,000 males and a literacy rate of 67.68 per cent; Allahabad (now Prayagraj) was the most populous district. The state has the largest Scheduled Caste population of any state, about one-fifth of its people, but Scheduled Tribes make up under 1 per cent. The best-known tribe, the Tharu, lives in the Terai along the Nepal border, in districts such as Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Balrampur, Shravasti and Maharajganj; Tharu villages live by

farming and fishing, and women have a strong place in the household. The Buksa live in Bijnor, and the Gond, Kharwar, Cheru, Baiga and Agariya in Sonbhadra and Mirzapur, while the Bhotia, Jaunsari and Raji are now mainly in Uttarakhand.

Examples

- Kumbh at Prayagraj: full Kumbh every 12 years, Ardh Kumbh every 6 years; UNESCO intangible cultural heritage in 2017.
- Magh Mela: held every year at the Sangam; kalpvasis stay on the riverbank for the month of Magh.
- Dev Deepawali: Kartik Purnima on the ghats of Varanasi; Ayodhya Deepotsav since 2017 on the eve of Diwali; Lathmar Holi at Barsana and Nandgaon.
- Fairs: Dadri (Ballia) cattle fair, Bateshwar (Agra), Garhmukteshwar, Nauchandi (Meerut), Dewa Sharif (Barabanki), Kabir fair at Maghar.
- Hindi is the official language (UP Official Language Act, 1951); Urdu has been the second official language since 1989.
- Dialects: Khari Boli (Meerut), Braj (Mathura-Agra), Kannauji (Kannauj), Bundeli (Jhansi), Awadhi (Lucknow-Ayodhya), Bhojpuri (Varanasi-Gorakhpur).
- Ramcharitmanas (Awadhi, Tulsidas, begun 1574); Padmavat (Awadhi, Jayasi, 1540); Sursagar (Braj, Surdas); Bijak (Kabir).
- Premchand born at Lamhi (Varanasi) in 1880; Mahadevi Varma born at Farrukhabad in 1907, Jnanpith 1982; Firaq Gorakhpuri Jnanpith 1969.
- Census 2011: 19.98 crore people, sex ratio 912, literacy 67.68%; Scheduled Tribes under 1%; Tharu tribe of the Terai.
- Birthplace traps: Nirala was born in Bengal (family home in Unnao); Sumitranandan Pant was born at Kausani, now in Uttarakhand.

> **Quick revision:** Kumbh at Prayagraj every 12 years, Ardh Kumbh every 6, UNESCO 2017; Magh Mela and kalpvas yearly; Dev Deepawali at Varanasi; Ayodhya Deepotsav since 2017; Hindi official (1951 Act), Urdu second (1989); dialects Khari Boli, Braj, Kannauji, Bundeli, Awadhi, Bhojpuri; Kabir (Bijak, died Maghar), Tulsidas (Manas 1574), Surdas, Jayasi (Padmavat 1540); Premchand (Lamhi 1880), Mahadevi (Jnanpith 1982), Firaq (1969); Census 2011 sex ratio 912, literacy 67.68%; Tharu of the Terai.

Monuments, Tourism and Famous Personalities of Uttar Pradesh

The Taj Mahal and Agra Fort: The Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, all in Agra district, are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and Sarnath has been one since 2026. The Taj Mahal, on the south bank of the Yamuna, was built by Shah Jahan as the tomb of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631; it was built over the following years in white Makrana marble from Rajasthan with pietra dura inlay, and Ustad Ahmad Lahauri is regarded as its chief architect. Agra Fort, built in red sandstone by Akbar from 1565, contains the Diwan-i-Am, the Diwan-i-Khas, the Jahangiri Mahal and Shah Jahan's Moti Masjid; Shah Jahan, confined there by Aurangzeb, died in 1666 within sight of the Taj. Both were inscribed in 1983. In 1996, in the M.C. Mehta case, the Supreme Court ordered industries in the Taj Trapezium Zone to switch to cleaner fuel or move, to protect the marble from pollution. Agra also has Akbar's tomb at Sikandra, completed by Jahangir, and the tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah, built by Nur Jahan for her father; called the Baby Taj, it is often described as the first Mughal tomb faced entirely in white marble with pietra dura.

Fatehpur Sikri: Akbar founded the city in 1571 near the hermitage of Sheikh Salim Chishti, whose blessing he credited for the birth of his son Salim (Jahangir) in 1569, and it was his capital until about 1585. Built in red sandstone, it blends Persian and Indian styles: the Jama Masjid, the white marble tomb of Salim Chishti, the Buland Darwaza raised to mark the conquest of Gujarat, the five-storeyed Panch Mahal, the Diwan-i-Khas with its single carved central pillar, the Ibadat Khana where Akbar held religious debates from 1575, and the palaces known as Jodha Bai's palace and Birbal's house. Shortage of water is the reason usually given for its abandonment. UNESCO inscribed it in 1986.

Buddhist and Hindu pilgrim centres: At Sarnath the Dhamek Stupa marks the place of the first sermon, the Dharmarajika Stupa goes back to Ashoka, and the Sarnath Museum keeps the lion capital adopted as the national emblem on 26 January 1950; the Mulagandhakuti Vihara was built in 1931 by the Maha Bodhi Society of Anagarika

Dharmapala. In July 2026, at its 48th session, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, which covers the archaeological remains of Sarnath and the nearby Chaukhandi Stupa. Kushinagar has the Mahaparinirvana temple with a large reclining Buddha and the Ramabhar Stupa at the cremation site. In Varanasi the Kashi Vishwanath temple, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, was rebuilt in its present form by Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore in 1780, and Maharaja Ranjit Singh gave gold for its spires; the Bharat Mata temple, with a marble relief map of undivided India, was inaugurated by Gandhi in 1936. Ayodhya on the Saryu has Hanuman Garhi, Kanak Bhawan and the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, where the idol of Ram Lalla was consecrated on 22 January 2024 after the Supreme Court's verdict of 9 November 2019. Mathura has the Krishna Janmabhoomi and Dwarkadhish temples, and Vrindavan the Banke Bihari temple and the red sandstone Govind Dev temple built by Raja Man Singh of Amber in 1590.

Lucknow and the forts: The Nawabi buildings of Lucknow include the Bara Imambara, built by Asaf-ud-Daula in 1784 as famine-relief work, with a huge vaulted hall without beams, the Bhool Bhulaiya maze above it and the Asafi Mosque beside it; the Rumi Darwaza; the Chhota Imambara of Muhammad Ali Shah; and the Residency, whose ruins recall the siege of 1857. Jhansi Fort, on the Bangra hill, was built by Raja Bir Singh Deo of Orchha in 1613 and is forever linked with Rani Lakshmibai. Other forts are Kalinjar in Banda, where Sher Shah Suri died in 1545, Chunar in Mirzapur, and Akbar's Allahabad fort at the Sangam, which encloses the Akshayavat and the Ashokan pillar.

Other tourist places: Other places often asked are the Dashavatara temple at Deogarh (Lalitpur), Naimisharanya in Sitapur, where sages are said to have heard the Puranas, Vindhyachal near Mirzapur with the Vindhyavasini Devi temple, Chitrakoot on the Mandakini, linked with Ram's exile, the Gorakhnath temple at Gorakhpur, seat of the Nath tradition, the Atala Masjid at Jaunpur, Dudhwa National Park, and Shravasti and Sankisa on the Buddhist circuit. Ram Bagh in Agra is traditionally regarded as the oldest Mughal garden, laid out by Babur.

Personalities born in UP: Prime Ministers born in the state include Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Vishwanath Pratap Singh (Allahabad), Lal Bahadur Shastri (Mughalsarai, 1904), Charan Singh (Noorpur, then in Meerut district) and Chandra Shekhar (Ibrahimpatti, Ballia). Bharat Ratna recipients from the state include Bhagwan Das (1955), Purushottam Das Tandon (1961) and Madan Mohan Malaviya (2015). The mathematician Harish-Chandra was born in Kanpur in 1923. In the arts, the sitarist Ravi Shankar and the singer Girija Devi were born in Varanasi, the Kathak master Birju Maharaj in Lucknow, the poet Kaifi Azmi in Azamgarh and the actor Amitabh Bachchan in Allahabad. In sport, the hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand was born at Allahabad on 29 August 1905, now National Sports Day, and grew up in Jhansi; K.D. Singh 'Babu' of Barabanki was another hockey great. Note the traps: Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born in Gwalior and Govind Ballabh Pant at Almora, now in Uttarakhand.

Examples

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Taj Mahal and Agra Fort (1983) and Fatehpur Sikri (1986) in Agra district; Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, with the Chaukhandi Stupa (2026).
- Taj Mahal: built by Shah Jahan for Mumtaz Mahal; white Makrana marble; chief architect Ustad Ahmad Lahauri; Taj Trapezium Zone order (Supreme Court, 1996).
- Fatehpur Sikri: founded 1571; Buland Darwaza for the Gujarat conquest; tomb of Salim Chishti; Panch Mahal; Ibadat Khana (1575).
- Itimad-ud-Daulah's tomb (Baby Taj), built by Nur Jahan: often called the first Mughal tomb in white marble with pietra dura; Akbar's tomb is at Sikandra.
- Sarnath: Dhamek Stupa (first sermon), Dharmarajika Stupa (Ashoka), lion capital adopted as the national emblem on 26 January 1950.
- Kashi Vishwanath rebuilt by Ahilyabai Holkar in 1780; Bharat Mata temple (Varanasi) inaugurated by Gandhi in 1936.
- Bara Imambara (Lucknow): Asaf-ud-Daula, 1784, famine relief, Bhool Bhulaiya; Jhansi Fort: Bir Singh Deo of Orchha, 1613.
- Kalinjar fort (Banda): Sher Shah Suri died there in 1545; Allahabad fort (Akbar) holds the Akshayavat and the Ashokan pillar.
- Prime Ministers born in UP: Nehru, Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Charan Singh, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar; Vajpayee was born in Gwalior.

- Major Dhyan Chand born at Allahabad on 29 August 1905 (National Sports Day); mathematician Harish-Chandra born in Kanpur in 1923.

> **Quick revision:** Taj Mahal and Agra Fort UNESCO 1983, Fatehpur Sikri 1986, Sarnath 2026; Taj by Shah Jahan, Makrana marble, Ustad Ahmad Lahauri; Fatehpur Sikri founded 1571, Buland Darwaza; Itimad-ud-Daulah Baby Taj; Sarnath Dhamek Stupa; Kashi Vishwanath rebuilt 1780 by Ahilyabai; Bara Imambara 1784; Jhansi Fort 1613; Sher Shah died at Kalinjar 1545; PMs Nehru, Shastri, Indira, Charan Singh, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar; Dhyan Chand born Allahabad 29 Aug 1905.

Free practice questions: parikshasaathi.com/q/up-state-gk/

Revision sheet

Every lesson's quick-revision box in one place, for the last read before the exam.

Uttar Pradesh General Knowledge	Renamed Uttar Pradesh 24 Jan 1950; Uttarakhand separated 9 Nov 2000; first CM G.B. Pant, first Governor Sarojini Naidu; 1857 began at Meerut 10 May; Chauri Chaura 4 Feb 1922 (Gorakhpur); Kakori 9 Aug 1925; Vidhan Sabha 403, Parishad 100, Lok Sabha 80, Rajya Sabha 31; High Court Allahabad 1866, Lucknow bench 1948; state animal barasingha, bird sarus crane, flower palash, tree ashoka; largest producer of sugarcane, wheat, potato; Dudhwa NP in Lakhimpur Kheri; Rihand Dam in Sonbhadra; UNESCO World Heritage Sites Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri and Sarnath (2026).
Ancient and Medieval Uttar Pradesh: Harappan Sites to the Nawabs of Awadh	Alamgirpur easternmost Harappan site; Koldihwa early rice; six Mahajanapadas mainly in UP (Kashi, Kosala, Vatsa, Panchala, Shurasena, Malla); Sarnath first sermon, Kushinagar Mahaparinirvana, Shravasti Jetavana, Sankisa descent; Sarnath lion capital of Chunar sandstone; Mathura school (Kushana); Deogarh and Bhitargaon (Gupta); Harsha ruled from Kannauj; Chandawar 1194; Sharqi Jaunpur 1394; Agra 1504; Fatehpur Sikri 1571; Awadh from 1722, Lucknow capital 1775.
Modern Uttar Pradesh and the Freedom Struggle (1775-1950)	Banaras ceded 1775 (Treaty of Faizabad); Ceded Provinces 1801; NWP 1836; Awadh annexed Feb 1856 for misgovernment; 1857 began at Meerut 10 May; Nana Saheb Kanpur, Hazrat Mahal Lucknow, Lakshmibai Jhansi; Proclamation read at Allahabad 1 Nov 1858; INC Lucknow 1916 (Pact), Kanpur 1925 (Naidu), Meerut 1946; Chauri Chaura 4 Feb 1922; Kakori 9 Aug 1925; Azad died 27 Feb 1931; Ballia 1942; renamed UP 24 Jan 1950.
Formation, Administration and Polity of Uttar Pradesh	NWP 1836 (Agra), capital to Allahabad after 1857; United Provinces of Agra and Oudh 1902; dyarchy 1921; bicameral under 1935 Act; renamed UP 24 Jan 1950; Uttarakhand separated 9 Nov 2000; Vidhan Sabha 403, Parishad 100 (38+36+8+8+10); Lok Sabha 80 (17 SC), Rajya Sabha 31; High Court Agra 1866, Allahabad 1869, Lucknow bench 1948; UPPSC 1937; UP Board 1921; Panchayat Raj Act 1947; emblem fish, bow-arrow, wavy lines.
Geography of Uttar Pradesh: Location, Borders and Physiography	Lies about 24-30°N, 77-84°E; Tropic of Cancer does not cross it; 82.5°E passes near Mirzapur; area 2,40,928 sq km (7.33%), fourth largest; Census 2011 population 19.98 crore, density 829; borders Nepal, 8 states and Delhi; MP longest border; HP touches only Saharanpur; Sonbhadra touches 4 states; regions: Bhabar-Terai, Gangetic plain (bhangar, khadar, bhur, usar), southern plateau (Bundelkhand, Vindhya-Kaimur); land slopes NW to SE.
Rivers, Lakes and Irrigation of Uttar Pradesh	Ganga enters at Bijnor, flows north at Varanasi, Bihar border at Ballia; Gomti from Gomat Tal (Pilibhit) to Kaithi; Chambal joins Yamuna below Etawah, Betwa at Hamirpur, Ken in Banda; Sangam at Prayagraj; Ghaghara largest by volume, Sharda joins at Bahramghat, called Saryu at Ayodhya; Rapti joins at Barhaj; Upper Ganga Canal 1854, Lower 1878, Sharda 1928; Rihand Dam 1962 (G.B. Pant Sagar); Matatila, Rajghat on Betwa; first Ramsar site 2005.
Climate, Soils, Forests and Wildlife of Uttar Pradesh	Tropical monsoon, continental climate; loo in summer, western disturbances in winter; rainfall decreases from east to west; Bundelkhand soils mar, kabar, parwa, rakar; usar reclaimed with gypsum; forest far below one-third target; Terai sal belt and southern dry belt; Dudhwa NP 1977, tiger reserve 1987, rhinos 1984; Pilibhit tiger reserve 2014; Chandraprabha 1957, lions 1958; Chambal and Katarniaghat for gharials; sarus crane state bird; dolphin national aquatic animal 2009.
Agriculture, Minerals and Industries of Uttar Pradesh	Rabi wheat, potato, mustard; kharif rice, maize, arhar; zaid melons; UP leads in sugarcane, wheat, potato and milk; sugar belts west and Terai-east; NSI Kanpur 1936, IISR Lucknow; minerals only in south (Sonbhadra limestone, coal; Lalitpur pyrophyllite, rock phosphate; Shankargarh silica sand); Singrauli NTPC's first plant; Narora nuclear 1991; Moradabad brass, Firozabad glass, Aligarh locks, Bhadohi carpets, Kannauj ittar; Mathura refinery 1982; Noida 1976; ODOP 24 Jan 2018.

Art, Crafts, Music and Dance of Uttar Pradesh	Kathak from temple kathakars; Lucknow gharana (Wajid Ali Shah, Bindadin, Birju Maharaj) and Banaras gharana (Janakiprasad, Sitara Devi); thumri of Lucknow and Banaras; Girija Devi; Swami Haridas guru of Tansen; Agra and Rampur-Sahaswan gharanas; Bhatkhande college 1926; Kajari, Chaiti, Birha, Alha, Sohar; Nautanki (Hathras, Kanpur), Raslila, Ramlila (UNESCO 2008), Charkula; Banarasi brocade, chikankari, zardozi, pietra dura; Sanjhi and Kohbar art.
Fairs, Festivals, Language, Literature and People of Uttar Pradesh	Kumbh at Prayagraj every 12 years, Ardh Kumbh every 6, UNESCO 2017; Magh Mela and kalpvas yearly; Dev Deepawali at Varanasi; Ayodhya Deepotsav since 2017; Hindi official (1951 Act), Urdu second (1989); dialects Khari Boli, Braj, Kannauji, Bundeli, Awadhi, Bhojpuri; Kabir (Bijak, died Maghar), Tulsidas (Manas 1574), Surdas, Jayasi (Padmavat 1540); Premchand (Lamhi 1880), Mahadevi (Jnanpith 1982), Firaq (1969); Census 2011 sex ratio 912, literacy 67.68%; Tharu of the Terai.
Monuments, Tourism and Famous Personalities of Uttar Pradesh	Taj Mahal and Agra Fort UNESCO 1983, Fatehpur Sikri 1986, Sarnath 2026; Taj by Shah Jahan, Makrana marble, Ustad Ahmad Lahauri; Fatehpur Sikri founded 1571, Buland Darwaza; Itimad-ud-Daulah Baby Taj; Sarnath Dhamek Stupa; Kashi Vishwanath rebuilt 1780 by Ahilyabai; Bara Imambara 1784; Jhansi Fort 1613; Sher Shah died at Kalinjar 1545; PMs Nehru, Shastri, Indira, Charan Singh, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar; Dhyan Chand born Allahabad 29 Aug 1905.

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