The principal town in the Muzaffarnagar district for the last many centuries has been its headquarters, Muzaffarnagar. The district was founded in the reign of Shahjahan about 1633 AD at the site of an old town known as Sarot or Sarwat. Abdul Muzaffar Khan a minister of the emperor Shahjahan, received from him in jagir forty villages pargana Khatauli and Sarwat, along with the title Khan-i-Jahān Shāh-Jahānī. Sarwat was the chief town in his possessions but it was almost deserted at that time. Muzaffar Khan laid the foundation of a new town there. It was completed by his son, Saiyid Abdul Mansur, after his death in 1645 A.D. He named the new town Muzaffarnagar
after his father⁷. The name did not remain restricted to the town only in course of time the district also came to be called Muzaffarnagar.

The present district of Muzaffarnagar, from geographical point of view, is situated in the western part of the Uttar Pradesh and it also froms the boundary with Haryana State in the west. The district is almost in the centre of the Meerut division and it is situated in the upper doab of the Ganga and the Yamuna between the district of Saharanpur on the north and Meerut on the south. The district Muzaffarnagar lies between Lat. 29° 11' N. and 29° 43' N. and Long. 77° 04'E. and 78° 07'E., on Saharanpur - Delhi section of Northern Railway passing through Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Ghaziabad.

The district Muzaffarnagar is bounded on the north by the district Saharanpur and on the south by the district Meerut. The Ganga river separates it on the east from the

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district Bijnor and the Yamuna river on the west from the district Karnal of Haryana State.

The district Muzaffarnagar is roughly rectangular in shape. Its extreme length from east to west is about 98 km. while the extreme breadth from north to south is about 58 km. The average length and breadth are about 84 km. and 50 km. respectively.

According to the Central Statistical Organisation and area about 4,245 sq.km. in 1971 and stood 42nd in the state in respect of area. The agency of the State Board of Revenue, however, reported the area as 4,271.1 sq. km. which is little higher, because of the employment of a somewhat faulty method of calculation. According to Census of India 1981 the district covered an area of about 4,176.01 sq. km. The district is subject to fluvial action of the Ganga and the Yamuna giving rise to

1. There has been no jurisdictional change in the district during the decade. The difference in the area figures is due to revised calculation of area done by the Board of Revenue. According to Central Statistical Organisation the area of district in 1971 was also 4,245 sq.km. Varun, D.P., Uttar Pradesh District Gazetteers: Muzaffarnagar (Lucknow 1980) pp. 74-75; cf. Janganana 1971, Uttar Pradesh Granth Mala 21; Prathmik Janganana Sarasangrah (Hindi) (Lucknow 1972), p. 4.

frequent changes in its area. The rural area of the district are made up of 1,078 revenue villages out of which 927 are inhabited and rest of 151 are uninhabited. There are 18 towns in the district viz; Bhokerheri, Jansath, Jhinjhana, Kairana, Kandhala, Khatauli, Miranpur, Muzaffarnagar, Un, Purkazi, Shahpur, Shamli, Sisauli, and Thana-Bhawan. There are no forests in the district. Sprawling over an area of 4,617.63 hectares Kairana of Kairana tahsil is the largest village in the district. Basikalan occupying an area of 11.74 per cent of Budhana tahsil is the smallest village in the district. A revenue village occupies an average sprawl of 372.55 hectares.

The rate of growth of population of this district corresponds with the country's trend, which is characterised by a steady increase in every decade. According to census 1981, the population of this district was 22,74,487 (12,34,213 males and 10,40,274 females) of which 17,80,502 persons and 4,93,985 persons belonged to rural and urban area respectively. The rate of growth was 26.20 during the

1. The area covered by the present District of Muzaffarnagar lies in the upper doab of the Ganga and Yamuna, which have existed since the date of Rigveda; Tripathi, R.S. History of Ancient India (Delhi 1960) pp. 28-29.

the decade 1971-81. It was higher than the state average of 25.49\(^1\).

In 1981, the density of the population of the district was 545 per sq.km., as compared to 377 per sq.km. of the state. The density of the population is greater because of better soil fertility. The district has a place of importance in the state for good harvest of wheat, sugarcane and potato, as it is one of the districts located in the doab of the rivers the Ganga and the Yamuna. The high fertility of doab is a natural marvel\(^2\).

The sex ratio position of the district at the census 1981 was found to be 843 females per 1,000 males, which was considerable lower than the state average of 885.

The percentage of literacy rate among males and females in the district at the census 1981 were 40.72 and 17.50 respectively. The percentage of literacy rate in the total population was 30.10 as compared to the state average of 27.16.

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2. The density of the population in this district has increased largely since 1901; Varuna, D.P., Uttar Pradesh Gazetteers; Muzaffarnagar (Lucknow 1980) p. 46.
According to census 1981, communication facilities as reflected by the location of a railway station or provision of a bus stop or both are available in 35.49 per cent of the villages of the district. The district Muzaffarnagar is connected by metalled road with district Saharanpur, Meerut, Bijnor, Delhi etc. However the district itself has a net of roads and streets. The district headquarters is connected by the metalled road with tahsil Kairana, Budhana and Jansath while one road links it with Roorkee. The countryside of Kairana tahsil in most extensively covered with 43.20 per cent of its villages either having a railway station or a bus stop or both. Budhana and Jansath are almost equally placed in this respect. Muzaffarnagar tahsil occupies the lowest position with 24.38 per cent of its villages having communication facilities.

The villages that are approachable by metalled road make 62.60 per cent of the villages of the district. The rural side of the Jansath tahsil is most extensively covered with as much as 73.39 per cent of its villages connected by road. The villages approachable by metalled road of Budhana tahsil make the least proportion of 43.84 per cent.1

The region under the present archaeological survey is strictly confined to the area corresponding to the present district of Muzaffarnagar. The district contains four tahsils (sub-divisions), viz., Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, Budhana and Jansath. The tahsil Muzaffarnagar is situated almost in the centre of the district.

For a tourist the countryside of the district Muzaffarnagar present an uninteresting topography, notwithstanding the district containing a few of the monument noted for architectural niceties. Gausgarh and Morna mosque are in refinement. Remarkable architectural places are located at Majhera, Jansathm Miranpur and Kairana. Similarly, the mosque at Jhinjhana, Kairana and Thana-Bhawan are splendid in scale. Quite a few of the places in the district are loaded with historical significance especially after 1857, in that the district took a ralieant part. Such places include Shamli, Thana-Bhawan and Harhar.

Among the other villages of archaeological interest Doonger, Banti Khera, Kutubpur, Durganpur, Purbalian, Huzur Nagar, Issopur, Nawla Tikola, Mubarakpur, Sikreda, Dubble, Kailapur, Nurnagar, Rohana Kalan, Jasala, Alamgirpur Khanjahanpur, Badhai Kalan, Kulheri etc.
This region forms part of the Upper Gangatic Plain\(^1\). The natural divisions of this district are very much influenced by the flows of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna. The rivers have constantly changed their course; consequently the area of the district has been affected. The great changes in Ganga resulted in the formation of Khadar. During seventies river Yamuna, too has changed its direction towards west in the neighbouring (Haryana state). With the result village Manglore, Ahatmali, Jadiel and Jamalpur of Haryana state have come into this district\(^2\).

The district may generally be described as an alluvial plain\(^3\). However, the interior surface is slightly undulating due to numerous minor watersheds that separate subsidiary drainage lines. The district has a general slope from north to south, the highest point above sea-level in the central part being 251.55 m. near the village of Rohana Kalan, on the Meerut-Saharanpur road close to the northern border of the district. The level along the eastern Yamuna Canal in the western part of the district

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district are very similar to those of Meerut, Saharanpur road. Thus, while the general shape of the district is from north to south, there is another and greater declivity from the north-east corner towards the centre, the highest point in the district being on the high bank of the Ganga. Muzaffarnagar consists of a central elevated tract, flanked on either side by the low lying land or Khadar of the Ganga and the Yamuna. The Ganga Khadar is precarious tract of moist land with scanty cultivation, but generally covered the course grass and occasional patches of tamarisk. The Ganga Khadar is chiefly valuable as a grazing ground. The Yamuna Khadar is less swampy.

The chief rivers of the district; the Ganga, the Kali the Hindon and the Yamuna have played an important role in the fashioning the topography of the district.


2. In the recent years much of the waste land has been brought under cultivation.

However, the district is provisionally divided into four fairly distinct tracts¹:

1. Ganga Khadar Tract
2. Ganga Canal Tract
3. Kali-Hindon Doab
4. The Western Tract

1. Ganga Khadar Tract: On the extreme east of the district is Ganga Khadar, containing the whole of the paraganas of Gordhanpur, and portions of paraganas Pur-Chhapar, Bhokerheri and Bhuma Sambhalhera. This tract is bounded on the west by the old high bank of the Ganga. The width of the Ganga Khadar is greatest towards the north, where it covers 20 km. Moving southword the tract gradually narrows until in the vicinity of Bhokerheri the Ganga comes quite close to the high bank².

The chief rivers flowing though the tract are the Salomi and the Banaganga which generally change their course. On the whole the Khadar presents a broad far-stretching tract of level country with patches of cultivation.

² Varun, D.P., op. cit. p. 4.
2. Ganga Canal Tract: It is also known as the easter upland tract. This tract hiles between the high bank of the Ganga canal and the Kali Nadi (west). As the name indicates it is traversed from north to south-west for its entire extent by the man Ganga canal. The tract covers the paragnas of Khatauli, Jauli-Jansath, and major portions of the paraganas Pur-chhapar, Muzaffarnagar, Bhokerheri and Bhumta-Sambhalhera.

The most prominent physical feature of the tract is the presence of sand, which occurs in the belts of hillocks with a direction from north to south, and occasionally transverse ridges in the north and a level sandy plain in the south. However, outside the sandy belt the soil is generally good loam except in the neighbourhood of the Kali Nadi.

3. Kali-Hindon Doab: This tract is also known as the Central tract, is high throughout and is naturally of a fertile character. Here the water-table is very low.

2. Ibid, p.
The low land of the Kali river is often uncuturable owing to its swampy character. However, the northern portion of the low land of the Hindon is also swampy, but southern portions contains considerable tract of cultivated land.

4. The Western Tract : This tract lies between the Hindon and the Yamuna. This tract comprises the entire tahsil of Kairana, parts of pargana Charthawal, Baghra, Shikarpur, Budhana and the paragana of Kandhla. It is transversed by the Krishni and the Katha flowing from north to south. The land between the Hindon and the Krishni is of a generally uniform character owing to the absence of sand.

The north-western portion of the tract, comprising the paragana of Bidauli and parts of paragana Jhinjhana and Kairana is separated by the Katha river from the rest of the district. The south-wester portion of the tract is a delevel plain of good soil, except in the vicinity of the Yamuna.
The Ganga on the east and the Yamuna on the west from the boundaries of the district and are the only navigable rivers within or adjoining it. Both have a parallel course from north to south. The Ganga recedes yearly more and more towards the east, cutting away the villages from the district Bijnor side and adding them into this district. Similar loss by diluvion is caused by the Yamuna on the west.

The rivers and streams of the district are included in the river system of the Ganga and the Yamuna. The chief tributaries of the Ganga are the Kali Nadi (East), the saloni and the Banaganga. Among the tributaries of Yamuna the important ones are the Katha and the Hindon. The latter is joined by the Krishni in the district Meerut and the Kali Nadi (west) in this district.

Three rivers traverse the district in fairly parallel course from Saharanpur to the Meerut border. In the west Kali Nadi flows, past the town of Muzaffarnagar.

1. As a result of the eastward fluvial action of Ganga in the period between 1842 and 1900 a total of 31 villages were taken out of Bijnor and added to this district. Varun, D.P., op. cit., p. 2.

2. Between the years 1841 and 1861, because of the change in the course of the Yamuna six villages were separated from this district and added to the district Karnal, Ibid, p. 2.
the Hindon Nadi is about 16 kms. further west and about
18.5 kms. still further west is the Krishni Nadi. Towards
the southern boundary these rivers converge. The Hindon and
Kali Nadi unite a few kms. south of the border and Krishni
joins their united stream some distance lower down. In
addition to these a small stream called the Katha crosses
the north-west of the district and falls into the Yamuna¹.
The following rivers flows in this district:

GANGA:

The Ganga first touches this district near the
village of Balawala in paragana Gordhanpur. The Ganga flows
in the district south-westward as far as the village of
Chandpuri where it is joined by the Banganga. It then takes
a south-easterly course alongwith the eastern boundaries
of paraganas Bhukerheri and Bhuma Sambhalhera. The Ganga
leaves this district near the village of Khera in the
paragana Bhuma-Sambhalhera.

KALI NADI (EAST):

The river has its origin in the Antwara lake on
the western border of paragana Jauli-Jansath between the
Ganga canal and much sandy ridge. It flows through paragana
Jauli-Jansath and Khatauli and leaves the district to enter

district Meerut. The river at first flows in an ill defined channel, but ultimately becomes the main arterial line of drainage for the whole of the eastern doab as far south as Kannauj in district Farrukhabad where it joins the Ganga.

This river (Kali Nadi, east) is generally called Nagin probably because of its serpentine course.

SALONI:

The Saloni enters the district in the extreme north to paragana Pur Chhapar and flows south-eastward traversing paragana Pur Chhapar, Gordhanpur and Bhukerherim meeting the Ganga at some distance towards north-east of Bhukerheri.

BANAGANGA:

This tributary of Ganga enters into this district near the village of Kanewali in paragana, Gordhanpur\textsuperscript{1}. Flowing through the paragana in a southerly direction it joins the near Chandpur.

YAMUNA:

The Yamuna first touches the district in the extreme north-west of paragana Bidauli about 4 km. north-west of Bhari Mustaffabad. It has an irregular course

\textsuperscript{1} Formerly this river entered in this district near Gordhanpur about 6 km. west of Kanewali. Varun, D.P., \emph{op. cit.}, p. 8.
along the western boundaries of paraganas Bidauli, Kairana and Kandhla, separating this district from district Karnal of Haryana state. Near Navada it is joined by the Katha and then takes a sharp turn towards the west. The Yamuna leaves this district near village of Issopur in paragana Kandhla.

**KATHA :**

This stream, which rises in the district Saharanpur, enters this district near Mundait in paragana Jhinjhana. The villages lying along the Katha on the both sides suffers to a great extent from the floods of this river which receives the contents of several drainage cuts.

**HINDON :**

The Hindon enters this district at the village of Badha Khera in paragana Charthawal. Following southward the river traverses the paragana of charthawal, Baghra, Shikarpur, and Budhana. The river is used for neither irrigation nor navigation.

**KRISHNI :**

This river enters the district from the district of Saharanpur, near the village of Chandaina in the extreme north of paragana Thana Bhawan. It traverses
the paragana of Thana Bhawan, Shamli and Kandla. The river generally flows high banks of broken and uneven revines and has practically no Khadar (low land). The river leaves this district at the village of Baral.

**KALI NADI (West):**

The Kali which is also known as Kali Nadi (West) to distinguish it from the Kali Nadi (east) or Nagin enters the district near the village of Rohana in paragana Muzaffarnagar. The Kali Nadi (West) leaves this district at the village of Kurthal.

**LAKES**

In Muzaffarnagar district there are a few lakes worth mentioning except the marshy land of Ganga Khadar. The most important is the Mamour lake in tahsil Kairana of the district.

**GEOLOGY**

Geologically, this district forms a part of the Indo-Gangatic alluvium which consists of sands of various grades. The mineral found in the district are Kankar and reh.
CLIMATE

The climate of this district is generally healthy. Being close to Tarai area, the extent of cold during winter is much more than in the plains. So, also the temperature during summer not as much warm. The rains largely occurs during monsoon season. Winter rains are very low in this district.

Looking upon the entire area from its physical aspect, it may be said that the climate of the district is nearly uniform in nature and whatever are the variations are due to the soils and the course of the rivers Ganga and the Yamuna.

SOIL

A part from minor peculiarities of situation, the soils possess the same general characteristics throughout the district. Good ordinary loam or dumat land is locally known as rausli; stiff clay soil, is called dakar, while the low-lying parts yielding rice are called dahar. Besides these, there is a hard and stiff soil, which has at one time been the bed of jhils known as dabar or jot. Bhur or bhudda is the usual name for all light dry soils which have a larger proportion of sand. High ridges of sand are
locally called ghur and are usually not fertile\textsuperscript{1}.

\textbf{FLORA}

The district of Muzaffarnagar forms part of the northern subtropical deciduous type of vegetation division, but as it is devoid of extensive natural vegetative cover it is not possible to attach botanical labels to its fores.

The trees generally found in the district are amaltas (Cassia fistula), arjun (Terminalia arjuna), ashok (Peyalathie longifolia), am (Mangifera indica), amrood (Psidium guajavd), aonla (Emblica officinalis), babool (Acacia arabica), bargad (Ficus bengalensis), bel (Aegle marmelos), bur (Zizyphs mauratiana), Cheonkar (Prosopis spicigera), dhak (Butea monosperma), gular (Ficus glomerata), gol mohar (Donax regia), eucalyptus hybrid (Various eucalj^tus species), imli (Tamarindus indica), jamun (Syzygium cumini), kanji (Pongamia pinnata), khair (Acacia catechu), khajoor (Phoenix sylvestris), neem (Azadirachta indica), naspati (Pyrus species), bara nimbu (Citrus medica), pekar (Ficus lacor), papita (Carica papaya), pipal (Ficus religiosa), siris (Albizzia lebbeck),

\textsuperscript{1} Varun, D.P., \textit{op. cit.}, p. 87.
sissoo (Dalbergia sissoo), vilayati babook (Prosopis juliflora), and reonj (Acacia leucophloea).

Among the shrubs which generally grow in the khadar tracts are arusa (Adhatoda vasica), ber (Zizyphus mauratiana), bhang (Cannabis sativa), jhar beri (Zizyphus fruticosa), kareel (Capparis decidua), karonda (Carissa spinarum), makoh (Zizyphus oenoplia), and Silihani (Artmesia scoparia). The climbers found here are dudhi-bel (Vallaris solanocea), hins (Capparis Zeylanica), and makoh (Zizyphus oenoplia). The grasses growing in the district chiefly in khadar tracts, are dab (Desmostachya bipinnata), dub (Cynodon dactylon), kans (Saccharum spontaneum), moonj (Erianthus munja), and patera (Typha elephantiana).

FAUNA

The field of wild life in the district is gradually dwindling. The tiger (Panthera tigris) and leopard which were met with in this district till the beginning of this present century have practically disappeared. The Nilgai (Boselaphus tragocamelus) is found in the Khadar area. Among carnivora Hyaena (Hyaena hyaena), fox and jaikal (canis aureus) are found in small numbers. During winter monkeys are sometime seen. Wild pigs (Sus porcinus), also
found in the Khadar of the Ganga, damages the crops. Sheeps, goats, horses donkeys, ponies, buffalows cows, bullocks, dogs, camels and occasionally elephants are found among domesticated animals. The Indian black buck (Antilope cervicapra) the hogdeer, and the spotted deer, which inhabit the ravined tract, are found in small herds.

BIRDS:

The birds of the district call for little mention, as mostly the same species occur as are found in other plain districts of Uttar Pradesh.

REPTILES:

The majority of the snake species found in the district is non-poisonous except the cobra, the common krait. The crocodile, the muggar, and the turtle are found in the Ganga and the Yamuna. The chameleon and house lizard are common everywhere. Among amphibians, frogs are in abundance.

About 30 species of fish are found in the district. In the fisheries, catla (catla catla), rohu (Labeo rohita), kursa (Labeo gonius), bata (Labeo bata), pungusia (Labeo pungusia), karaunch (Labeo calbasu) etc. are cultured.
To know the early history of the district Muzaffarnagar no adequate literature is available. However, it may be summerised from Buddha literature that the area of the district in the 6th century B.C. was framing a part of Kuru Mahajanpada. The archaeological findings conjecture that the district was dominated by the Mauryas, Shungas and Kushanas between the 3rd century B.C. and 1st century A.D. In the 7th century A.D. it was included in the principalities under the kind Harsh.

During the Muslims, the area formed part of Delhi Sultanate and was ruled by Mohammad Ghori and Mohammad Tughlaq respectively. Towards the later half of the 14th century, Saiyids of Barha influenced the local history of the district.

In the Mughal period, Babar, passed down the doab through this district in his fifth expedition. During Akbar's reign, the area covered by the present district of Muzaffarnagar, falls in the Subah of Delhi and was devided

2. Tripathi, R.S. op. cit., p. 314.
4. Province in the pre-British days.
into the units of revenue administration called Mahals\(^1\),
with the exception of paragana Khandhala which lay in the
Sirkar\(^2\) of Delhi, the district was governed by the Sirkar
of Saharanpur.

Owing to the changes which have been taken place in
the boundaries of pargana for administrative purposes the
existing paragana represents the Akbari Mahals only in name.
The Akbari paragana of Kairana and Banat constitute the
present paragana of Shamli. The paragana of Jauli-Jansath
and Shikarpur are made up of old parganas of Jauli and the
portions of two old Akbari paraganas of Soron-Palri and
Khudi respectively. Bhumai and Sambhalhera were separate
parganas. Bhumai is now included with Sambhalhera as one
pargana. The paragana Thana-Bhawan was known as Thana-Bhim
at that time\(^3\). The paragana of Muzaffarnagar and Gordhanpur
were known as Sarwat and Tughlaqpur at that time respecti-
vely\(^4\). Later on this was changed to Muzaffarnagar in the

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1. Unit of land (comprising several villages) under
   separate engagement of payment of revenue.

2. A sub-division of the Subah; a district is the pre-
   British days.

3. Abul Fazal, *Ain-i-Akbari* (translated into English by

4. Atkinson, E. *op. cit.* p. 440; For detail see Adminis-
   trative Division as given by Atkinson, E. in his
   monograph.
empire of Sahajahan.

Since the time of Akbar down to 1861, the administrative boundaries have undergone considerable changes. After the British occupation in 1803 the area comprising the present district of Muzaffarnagar was assigned to Saharanpur. Part of the district was administered by the Resident of Delhi until, when entire area was divided into northern and southern charges under the collector's stationed at Saharanpur and Meerut. In 1824 a sub-collector was created at Muzaffarnagar with revenue jurisdiction over the paraganas of Muzaffarnagar, Baghra, Shamli, Bidauli, Jhinjhana, Charthawal, Khatauli, Jauli, Purchhapar, Gordhanpur, Bhokerheri, Jansath, Soron and Lalukheri. In 1826 sub-collectorship was converted into regular district. Since then further changes were of minor importance. The Rajputs, Tagas and Brahmans are said the early colonists of this district, traditionally it was followed by Jats.

The district with its headquarters at Muzaffarnagar is divided into the following hierarchy of administrative units. At present the district is divided into four tahsils (sub-divisions). Muzaffarnagar, Kairana, Budhana and Jansath each comprising a tahsil of the same name. Each tahsil is divided into blocks (vikas-khand) as per details below:

1. Muzaffarnagar: Muzaffarnagar, Charthawal, Baghra and Purkazi.

2. Kairana: Kairana, Thana Bhawan, Un and Shamli.


The urban area of the district consists of 18 towns out of which 5 are administered by Municipal Board and remaining 13 by Town Area Committee. In this way district has four tahsils and fourteen blocks. A brief account of each is given below:
MUZAFFARNAGAR (TAHSIL)

Muzaffarnagar, the headquarters of the district and the tahsil, lies in lat. 29° 28'N. and 77° 41'E. near the left bank of the river Kali. It is connected by metalled roads with Saharanpur in the north, Bijnor in the east, Meerut in the south and with Panipat in Haryana state in the west. Other roads radiate from it, to Kairana on the west, Budhana on the south-west and Jansath on the south-east. The Delhi-Rajpur-Mussoorie road passes through the middle of the town. Muzaffarnagar Railway Station lies on the Saharanpur-Delhi section of the Northern Railway.

Muzaffarnagar, the headquarter of the district and tahsil is connected by the metalled road with tahsil Kairana, Budhana and Jansath. However, the district itself has a net of roads and streets. Tahsil Muzaffarnagar comprises the blocks of Muzaffarnagar, Charthawal, Baghra and Purkazi.

Muzaffarnagar comparatively is a town of recent origin and was founded in about 1633 A.D. Prior to that date the area was known as Sarwat. Muzaffarnagar stands on the site of an old town known as Sarwat in the days Akbar. Alongwith

the other parts of the district Sarwat was given as a jagir to Muzaffar Khan, a Barha Saiyid, by Shahjahan. Muzaffar Khan laid the foundation of a new town on the site of the old one which was completed by his son Abdul Mansur Khan who named it after his father. However, in 1826 Muzaffarnagar was converted into a regular district with the town as its headquarters.

MUZAFFARNAGAR (BLOCK):

The central block of the tahsil and the district lies between Charthawal and Baghra in the west and Purchapar, Bhokerheri and Jansath in the east. To the east lies paragana Khatauli of Jansath tahsil, and to the north district Saharanpur. It is of an irregular shape, being much wider in the south that in the north where its breadth is hardly 3-5 kms.

The block Muzaffarnagar at present comprised 56 villages out of which 19 have yielded material of archaeological interest. The antiquity of the block goes back to, however, late Harapan and so the O.C.P. period. The medieval architectural remains can be seen in this block.

at several places. There are many mosques and temples and residential buildings of pre-modern period. However, among structural remains भैरों का मंदिर is the biggest temple of the town. Those of interest have been discussed elsewhere in this dissertation.

CHARTHAWAL (BLOCK):

Charthawal, the headquarter of paragana as well as of a development block of the same name, lies in lat. 29° 33' N and long 77° 36' E. The place is on the north-west of Muzaffarnagar at a distance of 19 km. from it, and is connected with it by a metalled road leading to Thana Bhawan. The Deoband branch of the Ganga canal on the west, and tributary of the Kali Nadi (west) in the east, give picturesque appearances as well as ample irrigation facilities to this place. Charthawal is, now a small agricultural town. However, the place was once the headquarters of the AMIL.

The village charthawal being north west part of the tahsil Muzaffarnagar is bounded on the north by Saharanpur district, on its east is Muzaffarnagar block, on the south

Baghra block and on the west Thana-Bhawan block. The Hindon Nadi flows north to south in the western part of the village hardly at a distance of about 5 km. and on the east is Kali Nadi at a distance of about 9 km.

Charthawal has been a paragana for several centuries and is referred to the Ain-i-Akbari¹. However, since then many changes have taken place.

Three fairs are held here every year; two of which known as the Ghat or Ghamoti and Devi fairs in the Hindi month chaitra (February/March) and the third called the fair of Chhariyan in the month of Bhadra (August). The east one is dedicated to saint Goga Pir, who is honoured by both the Hindus and Muslims.

The block is considerably rich in its cultural heritage, which ranges from the Late Harappan period to the late medieval period. There are two ancient temples here, one dating back to Jahangir's time and the other about 500 years old². The other medieval structural remain include tombs, residential palaces, temples forts mosques and remain of seven royal residential buildings made of Lakhauri bricks within an enclosure. There are 60 villages

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in this block out of which 22 appear of archaeological interest. There have been discussed separately.

BAGHRA (BLOCK):

Baghra, which lies in lat. 29°28' N and long 77°35'E and gives its name to the paragana, is also the headquarters of a block. It is about 11 km. west of Muzaffarnagar near the birfurcation of Muzaffarnagar-Kairana and Muzaffarnagar-Shamli roads.

The village is in south-west part of the tahsil. It is bounded by Thana-Bhawan and Shamli in the west and by Shikarpur village of Budhana tahsil in the south. In its north lies Charthawal and in the east Muzaffarnagar.

It is a place of some antiquity and was according to local tradition held by Prithvi Raj, the great Chahman ruler of the kingdom of Delhi in the 12th century A.D. Bagra was a paragana of Subah Delhi during Mughal period, atleast in Akbar's time it was found as a Mahal. At a later date a large portion of it was included in Sardhana jagir. It is said that the royal physician (Hakim) of Jahangir, Sheikh Hassan also known as Muqarrab Khan belonged to this

place. The name of the village is said to have been derived from one king (Raja) Bagh, but nothing is known about this block is very significant, the antiquity of which may go back to the ochre colour pottery period. There are 59 villages in this block out of which 6 have yielded material of archaeological interest. In addition, the place has several architectural remains including temples, mosques, tanks, residential buildings, etc. of medieval period all made of lakhauri bricks. Important finds and architectural remains have been discussed separately.

PURQAZI (BLOCK):

Pur or Purqazi lies in lat. 29°39'N and long 77°51'E in the north of the paragana Pur Chhapar, 25 km. North-west of Muzaffarnagar on Muzaffarnagar-Roorkee road. Baserah distributary of the Ganga canal flows between the canal and the town.

Pur or Purqazi is a large town north-east of the tahsil which is bounded on the north by the district Saharanpur to the south by Bhokerheri of Jansath tahsil, to the east by district Bijnor and to the west by Muzaffarnagar.
Pur chhapar was known as a paragana in the days of Akbar and formerly bore the name of Chhapar Khudda. The name Pur Chhapar or Qazi ka Pur¹ dates from the days of Qazi Nizami, a Saiyid of Jansath, who settled at pur; Tradition has it that Purqazi derives its name from Qazi Nizami, in the reign of Farrukh Siyar. Afterwards it came into the possession of Raja Ram Dayal of Landhaura².

The other paragana which joined the former to form an independent block in the extreme north-east of the district is Gordhanpur. The whole paragana lies in the Khadar of the Ganga and consists of a swampy inferior tract and during rainy season it is cut off from all communication.

Gordhanpur represents a portion of old paragana of Tughlaqpur, which was subsequently known as Nornagar from the village of that name in paragana pur³.

The block has highest number of villages 139 and out of them 10 are of archaeological interest. Out of these

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3. In the extreme north-east of the block there is a broad sandy plain.
the site of Noornagar is of great interest which yielded the ancient ceramics right from the O.C.P. (?) phase down to medieval period. In addition to it, the place has several architectural remains including temples, mosques, residential buildings etc. However, in the village purqazi has two big mosquest, one of which is said to have been built prior to and the other during the reign of Shahjahan\textsuperscript{1}.

\textsuperscript{1} Varun, D.P., \textit{op. cit.}, p. 284.
Jansath the headquarters of the development block and the tahsil of the same name, lies in Lat 29° 20' N and Long. 77° 51' E to the south of the road from Muzaffarnagar to Miranpur, at a distance of 22 km. from the district headquarters. It is situated on a low site, having sandy soil which is occasionally mixed with clay. The town is girdled by the distributaries of the Anupshahr branch of the main Ganga canal which run around the circumference of the town. The southern portion, known as Garhi is surrounded by the remains of a brick wall.

According to local legends, the Pandava brothers are said to have traversed this area in the course of their wanderings during exile (agyatvasa). However, we could locate any PGW site in the surrounding area. An old temple, dedicated to Gyaneshwara, makes Jansath a principal site for the local Hindu population who congregate here on various festivals throughout the year.

The place is initially said to have been inhabited by the Jats and the Brahmans, but with the growing influence of the Saiyids in this area, it came to be
assigned as a revenue division or tappa to them during the reign of emperor Farukh Siyar (1712-1719 A.D.). It was during his reign that Jansath was formed out of the Akbari pargana of Jauli. The Saiyids of Jansath belong to the Tihanpuri branch who rose to prominence during the reigns of Shahjahan and Aurangzeb.

It is also the site of a number of fairs held annually. The chief fair held here is the Nasrullah fair which runs from the second to the third Friday in Jyaistha attended by an average of 3,000 persons. Other fair are the Gaureshwari Mela, held on Chaitra sukla 14, and the fair of 'Zahir Diwan', held in memory of a popular saint in the last week of Bhadra.

**JANSATH (BLOCK):**

The central block of the tahsil Jansath is situated between Khatauli and Mansurpur in the west and district Bijnor in east. To the north lies tahsil Muzaffarnagar and to the south district Meerut. It is almost rectangular in shape. I has an area of about 460.40 sq. km.

The block Jansath at present comprised 130 villages out of which 24 have yielded material of archaeological
interest. The antiquity of the block may go back to the Late Harappan period. This block is very rich as far as medieval architecture is concerned. Many medieval and pre-medieval architectural remains can be seen in this block at several places. There are many mosques and temples and residential buildings of pre-modern period. However, among structural remains Garhi is the biggest residential complex of pre-modern period. Those of interest have been discussed elsewhere in this dissertation.

KHATAULI (BLOCK):

The place lies in Lat. 29°42' N and Long 77°75'E. It also gives its name to a pargana and traces its origin as such (i.e. a pargana), to Akbar's times though the town is of a comparatively later origin.

Situated at the crossing of the Muzaffarnagar-Meerut and Budhana-Miranpur roads, at a distance of 22 km. from the district headquarters, Khatauli is at present a town of considerable importance. The main Ganga canal flows to the west of the town and is crossed by the railway and the main road, about 1 km.
to the north and by the Budhana road about 3 km. to the south-west. The Northern Railway runs parallel with the main road and has a station at a short distance east of the town.

An old sarai (inn), dating back to the time of emperor Shahjahan (1627-1956), with a Persian inscription over the gateway, testifies to the antiquity of the place; yet another building of the same period being a mosque located in the mohalla Sarafan. Among Hindu temples of interest in the town may be mentioned four large Jain temples dating back to the last century. A Jain fair, known as the Uchhao Sarangian, is usually held here in the month of Chaitra, the date depending on varying circumstances. Yet another fair held here is that of Zahir Diwan (a local saint) held during Bhadra krishna paksha, attracting large number of people from the neighbourhood.

The Khatauli block is considerably rich in its cultural heritage which ranges from the Late Harappan to the medieval period. The block has 113 villages out of which 15 villages are of archaeological interest. This block is equally important from architectural point of view.
MORNA (BLOCK):

Morna, the headquarters of the development block of the same name lies in 29°28' N and Long. 77°56' E on the south side of the road from Muzaffarnagar to Bijnor situated at 18 km from the tahsil headquarters. It lies between the left main distributary and the Belra left feeder of the Ganga canal. The place was a seat of the Chatrauri branch of the Saiyids since the days of Akbar. It continued to be the principal town of the pargana till the mid-eighteenth century, but its proximity to the Pathan fortress at Shukartal proved fatal to its own existence.

A number of buildings tracing their origin to the Saiyids are to be found here even today though in a dilapidated state. Important among these is a mosque ascribed to one Bidi Jhabbu, the wife of Nawab Husain Khan, who lived during the reign of emperor Muhammad Shah.

The whole area of the block falls in Ganga Khadar. Its antiquity may go back to the Ochra Coloured Pottery. The block has 77 villages out of which 11 have yielded
material of archaeological interest. The block is equally important as far as architectural point of view is concerned.

BUDHANA (TAHSIL)

Budhana, the headquarters of the tahsil and the development block of the same name lies in Lat. 29°17'N Long. 77°99'E. It stands on the right bank of the Hindon river, which also forms its northern boundary. To its east, there is a low lying tract forming a portion of the Hindon Khadar. It is 30 km south of the district headquarters and 26 km west of Khatauli, with which it is connected by a road. Another road runs west to Kandhala, crossing the Shamli-Meerut road 5 km. from this place.

In the reign of Akbar it was constituted as a mahal. It was a strong hold of Begum Semaru of Meerut, who became a leading figure of the imperial court in the nineties of the eighteenth century. The tahsil Budhana is almost rectangular in shape being comparatively narrow towards west.
BUDHANA (BLOCK):

The block is considerably rich in yielding archaeological sites. It has yielded several sites ranging from Late Harappan to the medieval period. The block has 54 villages out of which 15 villages are of archaeological interest. There are several medieval and premodern buildings also.

KANDHLA (BLOCK):

Kandhla, the headquarters of the pargana of the same name lies in Lat. 29°41' N and Long 77°81' E close to the west of the eastern Yamuna canal at a distance of about 21 km. west of Budhana and of about 47 km. south-west of Muzaffarnagar. Along the eastern side of the canal a metalled road runs, linking Saharanpur and Baghpat in district Meerut. Another metalled road, which passes through the town connects it with Budhana and Kairana. The northern and western side of the town are embellished with orchards.

During the reign of Akbar it was constituted into a mahal in the sirkar of Delhi. There is an ancient tank called Suraj Kund where people come to bathe on
religious occasions. There is also an old Jain temple here. The famous tomb of saint Maqdom Shah, built in 1706 A.D., still stands and people offer prayers here. Centrally located is the old Jama mosque.

The block Kandhla has 59 villages out of which 6 villages are of archaeological interest which has yielded Late Harappan, Ochre Colour Pottery, Painted Grey Ware sites.

SHAHPUR (BLOCK):

Shahpur, the headquarters of the development block of the same name lies in Lat. 29°22'N and Long 77°33'E. It is situated at a distance of 9 km. from Budhana, on the Budhana-Muzaffarnagar road passing by the side of this village.

The Shahpur block is archaeologically very rich which has yielded many Late Harappan Ochre Colour Pottery, Painted Grey Ware sites. It has 51 villages out of which 6 are of archaeological interest.
The town, which is the headquarters of the tahsil of the same name, lies in Lat. 27° 24' N, and Long. 77° 12' E. on the metalled road from Muzaffarnagar to Panipat. It is located at a distance of about 49 Km from the district headquaters on the low land adjoining the Zamuna.

The tahsil Kairana has four block viz. Thana Bhawan, Kairana, Un and Shamli. The tahsil is bounded on the north by the district Saharanpur, on the east by tahsil Muzaffarnagar, on the south by the tahsil Budhana and on the west by the river yamuna which separates it from the district Kornal of Haryana state.

The antiquity of the place may go back to the reign of emperor Shahjahan who bestowed the estate of Kairana on his physician. Muquarrab Khan. Muquarrab Khan is said to have errected many building in Kairana. Among the building and monuments dating back to the medieval period may be mentioned the Baradari contructed by the aforesaid Muquarrab Khan. However, the oldest in the town is a mosque in the Mohalla Pirzadan.

There are 271 villages and 7 towns viz. Kairana, Garhi Pukhta, Jalalabad Jhinghara, Un, Shamli and Thana
Bhawan in the tahsil. Several villages have yielded the material of archaeological interest.

**KAIRANA (BLOCK):**

It is the central block of the tahsil Kairana which is intersected by the Katha wala. The Kairana block has 56 villages out of which many villages have yielded the material of archaeological interest. This block is very rich as far as medieval structures are concerned. It contains many mosques, temples, baradari, etc. of architectural value.

**THANA BHAWAN (BLOCK):**

Thana Bhawan the headquarters of development block and pargana, lies in Lat. 29°35' N and Long. 77°25' E. situated on an elevated site lying between the river Krishni on the east, and irrigated by the Jalalabad distributary of the Yamuna canal on the west. Thana Bhawan is located 18 Km. from Shamli and 32 Km. from the district headquarters.

The pargana is known in the Ain-i-Akbari under the name Thana Bhim, but the name Thana Bhawan has been present name (Thana Bhawan) being derived at a later
stage from an old temple dedicated to the Goddess Bhawani, which stands to the west of it and attracts a considerable gathering in the month of Bhadra (August).

A number of buildings tracing their origin to the Muslim period are to be found here. Most of these have undergone rather severe ravages of time. Among these may be mentioned the mosque of Maulavi Saiyid-ud-din, the tomb of Maulavi Sheikh Muhammad, etc.

The block has 58 villages out of which many have yielded the cultures ranging from Late Harappan to medieval period.

**SHAMI (BLOCK):**

Farming the headquarters of the development Shamli lies Lat. 29° 27' N and Long. 77° 19' E. It is located at a distance of 11 Km. from the tahsil headquarters and 38 Km. from the district headquarters, lying on the mettalled road from Muzaffarnagar to Kairana. It is bounded on the east by the Yamuna canal which flow at a distance of about 1.5 Km. on this side.

The name of the town is originally said to have been Muhammadpur Zanardan which formed a portion of the
zagir granted by emperor Wahangir to his physican Muqarrab Khan. The zagir remained in the family of Muquarrab Khan untill the reign of Bahadur Shah. The town thenceforth known as Shamli or Shyamli or Shyam, a follower of Hakim who built a bazar here. It served as the headquarters of the pargana and subsequently as a block.

The block Shamli has 44 villages out of which many villages have yielded the Late Harappan, Painted Grey Ware sites.

**UN (BLOCK):**

The Un block is situated almost in the centre of the Kairana tahsil. It is bounded on north by Saharanpur district, on the east tahsil Muzaffarnagar on the south block Kairana and on the west river Yamuna. The block is about 60 Km away from the distt. headquarters.

The Un block has 113 villages out of which many villages have yielded the material of archaeological interest.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tahsil/Development block</th>
<th>Area in sq.kms.</th>
<th>Number of Nyaya Panchayats</th>
<th>Number of Gram Sabhas</th>
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