

fell to the British forces, the Rani was killed. on June 17, during the battle for Gwalior. She donned warrior's clothes and rode into battle to save Gwalior Fort, about 120 miles west of Lucknow in what is now the state of Madhya Pradesh. She was cut down by the soldiers of British Army. General Sir Hugh Rose commented that the Rani had been "the bravest and the best" of the rebels. Because of her bravery, courage, and wisdom and her progressive views on women's empowerment in 19th century India, and due to her sacrifices, she became an icon of Indian independence movement. The Jhansi Rani was memorialized in bronze statues at both Jhansi and Gwalior, both of which portray her in equestrian style. Influence of Rani Lakshmbai became a national heroine and was seen as the epitome of female bravery in India. When the Indian National Army created its first female unit, it was named after her.

Chandrasekhar Azad was born on July 23, 1906 in Badarka (Unnao). Earlier he was Chandrasekhar Tiwari, but after a court incident he became famous as Azad. Young Azad was one of the young generation of Indians when Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement. But many were disillusioned. In view of the Jalianwalabagh Massacre of 1919, where Army units killed hundreds of unarmed civilians and wounded thousands in Amritsar. Young Azad and contemporaries like Bhagat Singh were deeply and emotionally influenced by that tragedy. Azad was also a believer in socialism as the basis for a future India, free of social and economic oppression and adversity. Bhagat Singh joined Azad following the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, one of the leaders of the freedom movement who was beaten to death by British police officials. Azad trained Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev and others in covert activities. On the 27th of February, 1931 Chandrasekhar Azad at Alfred Park, behind an ancient tree, was cornered and in the encounter that followed he killed no. of British Police men and after getting injured shot himself dead. His favourite couplet and only known composition is as follows: "Dushman ki goliyon ka hum samna karenge Azad hee rahein hain, azad hee raheinge!"

Indian Rebellion 1957 & Mangal Pandey is widely seen as the starting point to what came to be known as the Indian Rebellion of 1857. The Indian Rebellion of 1857 began as a mutiny of sepoy soldiers of British East India Company's army on 10 May 1857, in the town of Meerut. The rebellion is also known as India's First War of Independence. Mangal Pandey on March 29, 1857 at the Barrackpore (now Barrackpur) parade ground, near Calcutta (now Kolkata), 29-year-old Mangal Pandey of the 34th BNI, angered by the recent actions by the East India Company, declared that he would rebel against his commanders. When his adjutant Lt. Baugh came out to investigate the unrest, Pandey opened fire but hit his horse instead. General John Hearsey came out to see him on the parade ground, and claimed later that Mangal Pandey was in some kind of "religious frenzy". He ordered a Jemadar Ishwari Prasad to arrest Mangal Pandey, but the Jemadar refused. The whole regiment, with the single exception of a soldier called Shaikh Paltu, drew back from restraining or arresting Mangal Pandey. Shaikh Paltu restrained Pandey from continuing his attack. After failing to incite his comrades into an open and active rebellion, Mangal Pandey tried to take his own life by placing his musket to his chest, and pulling the trigger with his toe. He only managed to wound himself, and was court-martialled on April 6. He was hanged on April 8. The Jemadar Ishwari Prasad was sentenced to death and hanged on April 22.

Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the revered leaders from U.P who dominated the Independence Movement along with Mahatma Gandhi and became the first Prime Minister of India, born Nov. 14, 1889, Allahabad, India. He died May 27, 1964, (New Delhi), First Prime Minister of independent India (1947-64). Son of the independence advocate Motilal Nehru (1861-1931). When India was granted limited self-government in 1935, the Congress Party under Nehru refused to form coalition governments with the Muslim League in some provinces; the hardening of relations between Hindus and Muslims that followed ultimately led to the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan. Shortly before Gandhi's assassination in 1948, Nehru became the first prime minister of independent India. He attempted a foreign policy of non-alignment during the Cold War, drawing harsh criticism if he appeared to favour either camp. During his tenure, India clashed with Pakistan over the Kashmir region and with China over the Brahmaputra River valley. His daughter, **Indira Gandhi**, became prime minister two years after his death.

Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India from 1966-77 and 1980-84 and one of the most famous women in 20th century politics. Her father was Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first prime minister (1947-64), and Indira spent her life amid Indian politics. In 1959 she was elected to the presidency of the Indian National Congress, and in 1964 she was elected to the parliament. When Prime Minister **Lal Bahadur Shastri** died in 1966 in Tashkent after the Indo-Pak War, Gandhi was chosen as a compromise candidate to replace him. She was elected to the office in 1967 and advanced an ambitious program of modernization. In 1975 she was convicted of violations stemming from the 1971 election and the High Court ordered her to resign. During the Indo-Pak war in 1971 Pakistan was badly defeated and the eastern side of the Pakistan was liberated by Indian armed forces and thus Bangladesh was created under the leadership of Mujib Ur Rahman. Instead she declared a state of emergency and clamped down on her opposition (the conviction was later overturned). She lost the election of 1977 and was out of office until a comeback in 1980, when she was again elected to be prime minister. In 1984 she used the military to flush out Sikh terrorists led by Bhandera and trained by Pakistan who were operating from Golden Temple in Amritsar and a few months later, she was assassinated by her own fanatic Sikh security guards. She was married to Feroze Gandhi (1942-60) and had two sons. Her younger son Sanjay Gandhi (1946-80) was a controversial figure during the time of emergency. He was killed in an airplane crash, and her elder son **Rajiv Gandhi** (1944-91) succeeded her as India's prime minister in 1984. Rajiv was killed in Tamil Nadu 1991 election campaign by an LTTE lady suicide bomber Dhanu..

The state has a record of providing national leadership; eight of India's fourteen Prime Ministers were from Uttar Pradesh. They are: Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Choudhary Charan Singh, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Chandra Shekhar and Atal Behari Vajpayee, who represents Lucknow constituency, though he was born in Gwalior.

Chaudhary Charan Singh was the seventh **Prime Minister** of the Republic of India, serving from 28 July 1979 until 14 January 1980.. He was also two time chief Minister of U.P. and finance Minister of India in 1980

State Politics After independence, the state was renamed Uttar Pradesh ("northern province") by its first chief minister, Govind Ballabh Pant. He was succeeded by Dr. Sampurnanand, a university professor and classicist Sanskrit scholar, who was chief minister till 1957, before becoming governor of Rajasthan. Sucheta Kripalani served as India's first woman chief minister from October 1963 until March 1967, when a two-month long strike by state employees caused her to step down. The confusion and chaos ended only with the defection of Charan Singh from the Congress with a small set of legislators; he set up a party called the Jana Congress, which formed the first non-Congress government in U.P. and ruled for over a year. Fellow socialist Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna of the Bharatiya Lok Dal was chief minister for part of the 1970s. He was dismissed by the Central Government headed by Indira Gandhi, along with several other non-Congress chief ministers, shortly after the imposition of the Emergency, when Narain Dutt Tewari - later chief minister of Uttarakhand - became chief minister. The Congress Party lost heavily in 1977 elections, following the lifting of the Emergency, but romped back to power in 1980, when Mrs. Gandhi handpicked the man who would later become her son's principal opposition, V.P. Singh, to become Chief Minister. A notable personality in the U.P political scene is Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav of Samajwadi party Who became chief minister of the state 3 times (89-91, 93-95 and 2003 to 2007.) He also became the Defence Minister of India in 1996. State Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) has 403 electoral constituencies. In the Uttar Pradesh Elections, 2007, Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party achieved

unexpected majority status leading to her emergence as the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. This is the first time, since 1991 victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party with a majority and Kalayan Singh as Chief Minister, that a single party has gained absolute majority the last two decades having been mostly dominated by various One characteristic of the BSP win in 2007 was the amalgamation of Brahmin votes into this Dalit dominated party, as opposed to the decades-old trend of deep-rooted electoral divisions in the state between Dalits, Upper Castes, Muslims and different OBC groups, which tend to vote in blocks. Mayawati, having won 206 seats, took the oath of secrecy for the post of UP's CM on 13 May 2007 for the fourth time. The numbers of criminal-politicians participating in the elections have been growing, particularly because they have been successful in the past. In the U.P. Assembly elections, 2002, candidates with criminal records won 206 out of 403 seats in the assembly, i.e. more criminals were elected than regular Politicians. In 2007 elections, the participation by criminals increased significantly.

The problems of state's **education system** are complex. Due to public apathy the public schools are run inefficiently. Privately run schools (including those run by Christian missionaries) are functional, but expensive and so beyond the reach of ordinary people. Uttar Pradesh is the second largest state economy in India after Maharashtra, contributing 8.17% to India's total GDP.[citation needed] Between 1999 and 2008, the economy grew only 4.4% per year, one of the lowest rates in India. The major economic activity in the state is agriculture and, in 1991, 73% of the population in the state was engaged in agriculture and 46% of the state income was accounted for by agriculture.

The state is home to a very ancient **tradition in dance and music**. During the eras of Guptas and Harsh Vardhan, Uttar Pradesh was a major centre for musical innovation. Swami Haridas was a great saint-musician who championed Hindustani Classical Music. Tansen, the great musician in Mughal Emperor Akbar's court, was a disciple of Swami Haridas. The ragas sung by Tansen were believed to be so powerful that they could bring rain, or light a fire, when recited. Kathak, a classical dance form, involving gracefully coordinated movements of feet along with entire body, grew and flourished in Uttar Pradesh. Wajid Ali Shah, the last Nawab of Awadh, was a great patron and a passionate champion of Kathak. Today, the state is home to two prominent schools of this dance form, namely, Lucknow Gharana and Banaras Gharana. The Bhatkande Music University at Lucknow is named after the great musician Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande. In modern times, Uttar Pradesh has given to the world music legends like Anup Jalota, Baba Sehgal, Girija Devi, Gopal Shankar Misra, Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Kishan Maharaj, Naushad Ali, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Shubha Mudgal, Siddheshwari Devi, Talat Mehmood, Ustad Bismillah Khan etc. The legendary Ghazal singer Begum Akhtar belonged to Uttar Pradesh; she took this aspect of music to amazing heights. "*Ae Mohabbat Tere anjaam pe rona aaya*" is one of her best musical renditions of all times. It is also, incidentally, the birthplace of British pop legend Sir Cliff Richard. The region's folk heritage includes songs called rasiya (known and especially popular in Braj), which celebrate the divine love of Radha and Shri Krishna. These songs are accompanied by large drums known as bumb and are performed at many festivals. Other folk dances or folk theater forms include: Khayal, Naqal - (mimicry), Nautanki, Qawwali, Ramlila, which includes enacting the entire Ramayana, Raslila, Swang

Pradesh has two distinct traditions of cuisine: Vegetarian and Non-vegetarian. A formal vegetarian meal consists of Chapatis (pancakes) and/or Puries (deep fried pancakes), Daal (thick lentil soup), Rice (boiled white rice), Vegetable curries (one or more of dry/fried and semi-liquid curries each), Curd, Pickles, Papad (thin spicy crackers) and a variety of Sweetmeats. It is normally served in metal dishes and traditionally eaten without the use of cutlery, sitting on the bare floor. When a large gathering is to be feasted in a traditional manner, food may also be served on disposable, flat platters (Called 'Pattal'), which are made by intertwining broad leaves of certain trees. A non-vegetarian meal consists of many varieties of meat or rice preparations that have evolved in the region and are now nationally and internationally known as the Mughlai cuisine; some of these are: Kebab, Kufta, Korma, Keema, Prothas (plain or stuffed), Halwa, Firmi etc. In addition, a selection from the above vegetarian dishes may be present among the food spread. Traditionally, food is served in metal-ware or ceramic crockery, eaten directly with bare hands or (some times) with spoons, sitting on the ground. Covered with a flooring material like cloth-sheet or carpet. In most of the modern homes, uses of western table ware and dining table and chairs have become the norm and western dishes are also included at times. South Indian dishes like idli, vadai, sambar and masala dosa are also becoming a part of dishes in U.P. house hold. A variety of dresses are worn by the people of Uttar Pradesh and hence, the public scene is always a show of many types of dresses and many colours. Traditional styles of dress include draped garments, such as sari for women and dhoti or lungi for men, and stitched clothes, such as salwar kameez for women and kurta-pyjama for men. European-style trousers, jeans and shirts are also common among the educated men and women. Dress material is chosen as per the need of the weather; hence, cotton is common in summer and woollens are needed in winter, when a sweater, jacket and/or a coat may be worn, specially in peak winter.

Religious practices are as much an integral part of everyday life, and a very public affair, as they are in the rest of India. Therefore, not surprisingly, many festivals are religious in origin, although several of them are celebrated irrespective of caste and creed. Among the most important Hindu festivals are Diwali, Holi and Vijayadasami, which are also observed with equal fervour by Jains and Sikhs. Eid al-Milad, Eid ul-Fitr, Bakr-Id and Moharram are Muslim religious festivals. Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated by Jains, Buddha Jayanti by Buddhists, and Guru Nanak Jayanti by Sikhs and Christmas by the Christians. Ayyappa Pooja and Onam are also being celebrated by Keralite Hindus in U.P.

Presently, common sports of Uttar Pradesh are of two distinct categories: the traditional sports and the modern sports of mainly European origin. Traditional sports, now played mostly as a past time, include wrestling, swimming, Kabaddi and track- or water-sports played according to local traditional rules and without use of modern gears; some times, display of martial skills using a sword or 'Pata' (stick) etc. form the basis of sports. But, due to lack of organized patronage and requisite facilities, these sports are surviving mostly as individuals' hobbies or local competitive events, e.g. in interested schools. Modern sports - indoor, field and track games - are popular, especially among the educated class, but the state has yet to attain all-round national standing in most of them. There was a time when field hockey was immensely popular and Uttar Pradesh produced some of the finest hockey players of India, who brought glory to the nation. Dhyani Chand, the legendary field hockey player of India and a hero of many Olympic Games of yester years, was born on 29 August 1905, in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. Adolf Hitler, the Chancellor of Germany, was so impressed by Dhyani Chand's performance in the Berlin Olympic hockey-finals that he offered to elevate 'Lance Naik' Dhyani Chand to the rank of a Colonel if he migrated to Germany. Chand declined the offer. Hockey's popularity is now taken over by cricket. Though not renowned for it cricket team, U.P. won its first Ranji Trophy in February 2006, beating Bengal in the final. It can also boast of its 3-4 players normally finding a place in the national side. U.P. has been the cradle for Indian History and civilization and was stealing the limelight in the political spectrum. I am sure that this state will continue to lead the nation in this 21st century also.

There is more to add, there might have been oversights, errors and omissions on places, events and personalities. If at all any, the writer request your understanding.

Thanks for your valuable time and patience for reading this U.P. Panorama.

K.T.MAHASAYAN