



livelihoods

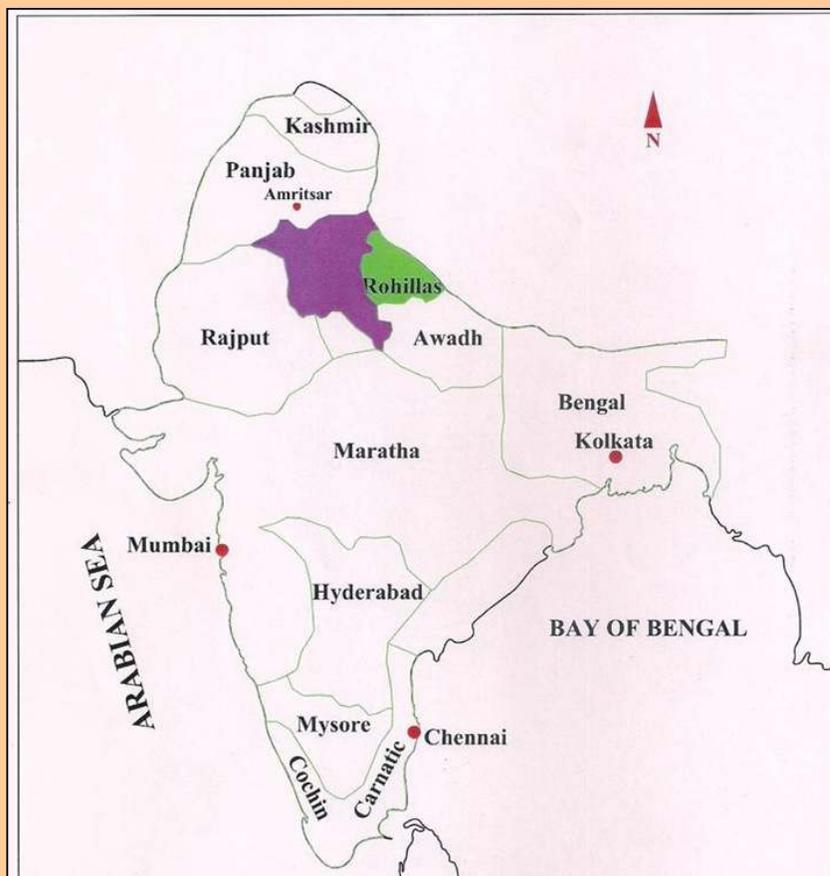
today and tomorrow

December 2017

‘Kshetram’

Rohilkhand

Named after Rohilla Afghan tribes, Rohilkhand is a region in Northwestern Uttar Pradesh, India. The Rohilkhand plain lies between latitudes 27°35' to 29°58' N and 78°0' to 80° 27'E longitudes. The entire plain comprises the districts of Bareilly, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit, Bijnore, Moradabad, Rampur and J.P. Nagar/ Amroha. The region lies on upper Ganges alluvial plain, and the area is about 25,000 km². It is bounded by Ganges River on the south, west by Uttarakhand, Nepal on the north and Awadh region to the east. The region includes cities of Bareilly, Moradabad, Rampur, Bijnore, Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Budaun and Amroha. Eight districts give the Rohilkhand region a distinct identity, given the geographical location.



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Bareilly district is located on Ramganga, on coordinates 28°10'N 78°23'E. On east, it is surrounded by Pilibhit & Shahjanhanpur, Rampur on the west, Uttarakhand to the North and Badaun on the south. Moradabad district is the second most populous district in the region after Allahabad and it lies between 28°21' to 28°16' N and 78°4' to 79° E. It occupies an area of 3493 km² and has close to four million citizens who belong to various ethnicities and religions. Rampur district occupies an area of 2,367 km². Bijnor district is close to Delhi, basically a triangular stretch, having extreme parallel of north latitude of 29° 2' and 29° 58' and east longitude 78° 0' and 78° 57' from Lalitpur. It is interesting to note that the total area of the district changes slightly from time to time due to erratic action of the Ganges and Ramganga.

Pilibhit district also known as “Mini Punjab” due to large number of Sikh population (migrated from Pakistan, during Partition) and is also home to thousands of Bengali families (migrated from Bangladesh). Budaun district in the region is a backward region, covering an area of 5168 km². Amroha district is located on Sot river and Shahjahanpur district is located at 27.88°N 79.91°E, with an average elevation of 194 metres. It is situated at the junction of two rivers namely Khannaut and Garra.

On the demographic front, Bareilly division has a population of 4,448,359; Hindus form 63.6% of population and they comprise of Kurmis, Gangwars, Patels, Yadavas, Mauryas and other caste groups i.e., Baniyas, Balmikis, Thakurs, Kayasthas and Punjabis. Sex ratio in this division is 883 females for 1000 males and literacy rate stands at 60.52%. The district had a population growth rate of 23.4% between 2001-2011 period. The district is in a level terrain and is watered by many streams; thus, the soil is fertile and highly cultivated, with groves of trees abound. The district has a tract of forest jungle called the tarai stretches along the extreme north of the district, and has fauna of tigers, bears, deer and wild pigs. Bareilly district's economy continues to remain agrarian.

Moradabad district has a population of 4,773,138, with a population density of 1,284 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over decade from 2001-2011 was 25.25%, with a sex ratio of 903 females for every 1000 males and literacy rate of 58.67%. The district is also known as “Brass capital” of India. Rampur district has a large Muslim population and the region has significant number of Rohilla Pathans and had a population of 325,248, showing 16% growth (2001-11), with sex ratio of 915 compared to the national average of 940. The district has an average literacy rate of 53.7%, much lower than the national average of 64.3%. This district has given the country some of the outstanding Urdu poets of time and earned great name in Durbars.

Bijnor district is considered to be India's most pure water district. The district is close to Delhi. As per 2011 census, Bijnor urban agglomeration had a population of 115,381 out of which males were 60,656 and females were 54,725. Literacy rate was at 77.90 percent. The district has river Ganga and Ramganga flowing through it and due to erratic action caused by the above rivers, area in the district keeps changing.

Pilibhit district, due to high concentration of Sikh population, is also known as “Mini Punjab”, after partition of India in 1947, large number of Sikhs from Pakistan settled in this region (Resettlement). Also the region is home to a large number of Bengali people, who migrated to this region after 1947. On demographic front, the population in the district was 2,037,225 (2011), with population density of 567 inhabitants per square kilometer, with population growth rate of 23.83% (2001-11). The district has a sex ratio of 889 females for every 1000 males and literacy rate of 63.58%.

Shahjahanpur district is agriculture based, as rivers Ramganga, Garra and Gomti flow through the district, irrigating it. The population in the district was 3,002,376 (2011 Census), with population density of 673 inhabitants per square kilometer and its population growth rate has been 17.84% (2001-11), with sex ratio of 865 females for every 1000 males, with literacy rate of 61.61%. Buduan district is one of the backward regions and had earlier received Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). The district has a large section of Muslims and Yadavs. It had a population of 3,712,738 (2011), with population density of 718 inhabitants per square kilometer, with population growth rate over the decade 20.96% (2001-11). The district has a sex ratio of 859 females for every 1000 males. Literacy rate is 52.91%.

Amroha district had a population of 198,471 and population of children with age of 0-6 is 28323, which is 14.27% of total population of Amroha. Female sex ratio is 925 against state average of 912. Literacy rate is 62.36% lower than state average of 67.68% and male literacy is around 66.72%, while female literacy rate is 57.61%. All eight districts in the region have distinctive cultural heritage, economy, and also provide ancient & traditional livelihoods to the local populations.

Climatic characteristic of Rohilkhand is influenced by Himalayas, which functions as an effective metrological barrier. The fluctuating temperatures present an impediment to the agricultural economy over considerable area. Moisture and precipitation cause disability to economy, due to spatial and seasonal distribution in the plain. The monsoonal climate of the area is characterized by two air currents; northeast and southwest monsoon. The district in the region is characterized with extreme winters and summers. Temperature starts decreasing in the last week of October. During the month of November, mean monthly maximum temperature recorded is 28.6°C in the district of Bareilly, 29.1°C in the district of Budaun, 28.5°C in the district of Shahjahanpur, 28.7°C in the district of Pilibhit, 31.8°C in the district of Bijnore, 31.6°C in the district of Rampur, 32°C in the districts of Moradabad and J.P. Nagar/Amroha.

Soils in the region are uniform and largely homogeneous. The fertile soils occupy flood plains region of the river and neutral to alkaline are sandy to loamy in texture and are in the upper regions. Forests in the region today are of poor quality and are considered to be uneconomic. The forests are tropical moist deciduous, tropical wet and sub-tropical dry. In Tarai area, the forests are tropical moist deciduous and sal is plenty. The region is also famous for tall grasses (elephant grass, munj, babul, khair, semal) are the species and occur in larger patches across districts in Rohilkhand plain. Economy of Rohilkhand region is dominated by agriculture and its allied activities. There is a wide range of regional variation in cropping pattern, as there is very high concentration of food crops and over 75 percent of the total cropped area is devoted to food crops in the region. After Green Revolution, wheat, rice and sugarcane have become dominant crops in the region. Oilseeds and sugarcane are important cash crops in the region.

On the livelihoods front, in Rohilkhand region, each district has distinctive livelihoods and past heritage, that is continued till date. Bareilly district on the northern part has rainforest known as “tarai.” Lower

plains of the district are flood-prone, soils being fertile and also alluvial for growing sugarcane, rice, pulses & wheat. The various key livelihoods in the district are handicrafts, bamboo and cane furniture. There are also traditional handicrafts in the region. They are zari-zardosi embroidery work on cloth material. District distinctiveness surrounds around furniture manufacturing and trades are done mainly in cotton, cereal and sugar.

Moradabad is a major industrial city and export hub, accounting for more than 40% of total handicrafts exports from India. It is the unique brassware that makes the district famous for! It is home to 600 export units and 9000 industries in the district. Annually, around Rs. 4500 crore worth of goods are exported. Brassware is exported to countries like USA, Britain, Middle East Asia, Germany and Canada. However, due to ongoing wars in countries like Syria and Libya, demand for products has gone down; thus impacting livelihoods of local population. Export of mint is done in several crores from Moradabad and this district has the only SEZ in North India. Kanth, a Nagar Palika Parishad in Moradabad district, is home to small scale bandage manufacturing industries. In recent past, ready-made garments have also developed and this segment is contributing to economy of the town. This district continues to thrive on traditional artisans, unique to the region.

Rampur district is home to traditional artisans, famous for Rampuri knives, provides local livelihoods to local population. The economy is largely agriculture based economy, as lands are fertile. The main industries in the district are sugar processing industries, textile weaving, wine-making, production of agricultural implements. Major cash crop cultivated is Mentha, and menthol oil manufacturing also flourishes here. Kite making is one of the oldest and prime industries here. Beedi making is another booming industry in the district. In Bijnore district, soils are highly fertile in the region, agriculture and allied activities are key livelihoods and are main source of income in the district. Sugarcane is the main crop.

Pilibhit district is on the forest rich areas of Rohilkhand region. Due to rich fauna and flora, Tharu tribes inhabiting Pilibhit belt have their livelihoods surrounded around Pteridophytes. Tharu tribes are spread over in Terrai region of Pilibhit, and forests provide important source of livelihood, food, fodder, medicines and other household articles to the tribe. The forests are comprised of mixed deciduous forests and savanna grassland with altitudinal range of 500-600 ft. Tharu tribes hold huge traditional knowledge about utilization of pteridophytes for their livelihood. There is unsustainable utilization of these pteridophytes leading to habitat fragmentation, deforestation and loss of valuable species. Due to overexploitation, a number of species are decreasing from their natural habitat and Pilibhit is based on the forest rich areas of Rohilkhand region.

This is an agriculture based location, soils are very fertile. There is no mineral extraction in this region. Primary crop in the district is sugarcane and production is high. Due to huge sugarcane production, there are sugarcane industries. People’s livelihoods are centered around sugar factories. Bamboo and wooden flute production has taken a huge leap. As a result, a lot of musical instruments are manufactured here. Around 95% of the flute production in India is supported from this location, and also small scale business units, such as engineering units, candles, brick kilns have made profitable set ups. The district has excellent irrigation facilities.

Pilibhit district is one of the largest food grain supplying markets of UP. The next flourishing industry is dairy production, as the region has close proximity to forest area and it is easy to arrange for fodder, and has a huge supply of livestock such as cows, goats, sheep, horse, pigs and buffaloes. The district is also home to ancient kumar community, who are considered to have finest skill in mud craft, and famous for preparation of best of the terracotta figurines in the country, one of the key livelihoods. In recent past, various hospitality industries are mushrooming and showering monetary benefits for the district.

The Terai forests and grasslands constitute habitat for over 127 animals, 556 bird species and 2100 flowering plants. The region has been home to a large number of rare and threatened species including Bengal Tiger, Indian Leopard, Swamp Deer, Hispid Hare and Bengal Floricars. The flora and fauna provides livelihoods to around 6 million people.

In Shahjahanpur district, there is a Muslim majority population, and largely they are landless families. Their livelihood centers around working as bonded labour in carpet manufacturing, zari work and handloom sector. The district is also home to major crops include wheat, gram, millet, potatoes, paddy, pulses, sugarcane and groundnut. Horticulture crops are also grown and they are mango and guava. The district has one of the biggest market yard in the state. It has good potential for marketing of agriculture products.

Budaun is a backward district and its livelihoods centered around agriculture. A large percentage of population work as agriculture labour, and get small earnings. Apart from this, significant number of people are involved in sanitation work (manual scavenging work). In Amroha district, key livelihoods of populations are cultivators as owners and co-owners, agriculture labour, household industries, marginal workers and into earning as main workers. Amroha district is known for production of mangoes. It is also home to industries; cotton & textiles and small-scale production of cotton cloth, hand-loom weaving, pottery making, sugar milling, and secondary ones are carpet manufacturing, wooden handicrafts and dholak manufacturing.

Since ages, the region, with its distinctive cultural heritage, has been providing livelihoods to local populations. However, there is a need for cluster development in this region. For instance, in Moradabad district, economic situation is highly distinguished by its extreme degree of division of labour. In regions like Pilibhit region, there are literate and illiterate workers, and both formal and informal sector exist side by side. Many small-scale industries are economically stagnant. In many districts in the region, there is short distance migration; especially from rural areas, as they take to short distance migration due to large number of small scale and household industries that are capable of absorbing labour from all age groups, even with low educational background. The region shares many characteristics of artisans based on industries, carpet making of Bhadoi, bangle making of Firozabad, wood industry of Saharanpur, pottery industry of Khurja and lock industry of Aligarh. There is a need for a holistic and comprehensive development in the region for scaling up of various livelihood activities. ❖