

**National Mission for Clean Ganga**

(Reg. Society)

Ministry of Jal Shakti

Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation  
Government of India

 Indian  
National Trust  
for Art and  
Cultural Heritage  
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*Azaadi Ke Rang Bharatiya Sanskriti Ke Sang*

**GNAMAMI  
GANGE**

# Documentation of Ganga from Gaumukh to Gangasagar

Pratapgarh District

Intangible Cultural Heritage





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January-February 2022



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Figure 1 Shani dev Temple Source <https://pratapgarh.nic.in/gallery/shani-dev-temple/>





## INTRODUCTION

Pratapgarh also known by the name of Belha or Bela Pratapgarh is one of the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh that is well known as God's playground and boasts a unique heritage and divine culture. Pratapgarh was the name of the fort build by Pratap Bahadur Singh (1628-1682), a local king at Rampur. After the passage of some time, the area around the fort started to be known as Pratapgarh. One of the famous attractions of Pratapgarh is the temple of Bela Devi situated on the banks of River Sai on the western side of Allahabad-Faizabad road. At the sacred temple, Mother Goddess Belha or Belha Mai is worshipped by devotees. Another unique thing about Pratapgarh is that this place has the world's first temple dedicated to farmers, the Kishan Devta Mandir. This temple is of great significance for the farmer community and in this district, farmers are revered as Gods. This temple was established by Shailendra Yogi, a homeopathic doctor in Sarai Mahesh Village of Patti tehsil of Pratapgarh in 2015. At this temple, a six feet tall idol made of sandstone and holding a plough is accompanied by an idol of Kishan Devi. Apart from this, the place is well known for the Kot Buddhist Monastery, a stupa representing Buddhist culture that holds ancient historical value. Pratapgarh is mainly known for its Hindu temples and mysticism but also has deep connections to Buddhism.



Figure 2Bela Temple of Pratapgarh District Source <https://cdn.s3waas.gov.in/s336660e59856b4de58a219bcf4e27eba3/uploads/2018/08/2018080240.png>

This district of Uttar Pradesh is primarily an agrarian region, known for its rich agricultural products. The lush farms of Pratapgarh have an abundance of Amla, therefore it is also called as the city of Aonia. This fruit also known as Indian Gooseberry, a rich source of Vitamin C and antioxidants is supplied throughout India from this district. Agriculture is mainly prosperous in this region due to Sai river. Sai river (Sai Setu), also known as Aadi Ganga, is a tributary of Gomti river in this region. According to religious beliefs, river Gomati is the son of Rishi Vashist and it is believed that bathing in the waters of Sai River on the holy day of Ekadashi (the 101th day of two Lunar phases of the Hindu calendar) can wash away sins. Gomati is a tributary of river Ganga.

The passage of river Sai alongside the temples of Ghuisarnath Dham and Chandikadham adds to the pilgrimage's beauty. The view of the river in the evenings is lovely and picturesque.

The region of Pratapgarh has Awadhi culture and has given rise to many famous poets. One of them is Harivansh Rai Bachhan who belongs to this place by birth. Harivansh Rai Bachhan was an Indian poet and writer of the *Nayi Kavita*, a literary movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Hindi literature. He is best known for his work *Madhushala* which is a highly metaphorical work, still celebrated for its deeply Vedantic and Sufi philosophical undertones. It is an important work in the *Chayavaad* (Neo Romanticism) literary movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Hindi literature. The publication of this work in 1935 brought Harivansh Rai Bachhan instant fame and his own recitations of the poems became a craze at poetry symposiums.

Pratapgarh is growing and many centres of education are contributing to its progress. March to April is the best time when people mostly come here from far flung places as the weather is generally cool and pleasant.

One of the rivers called Bakulakhi situated between Sai river and Ganga river also contributes to the prosperity of the region of Pratapgarh. Bakulakhi is a tributary of river Sai.





Figure 3 Kot Buddhist Monastery, Pratapgarh Source <https://dynamic-media-cdn.tripadvisor.com/media/photo-o/11/9a/0a/5d/buddhist-circuit-of-uttar.jpg?w=1200&h=1200&s=1>



Figure 4 Kot Buddhist Monastery Source <https://www.destimap.com/index.php?act=attraction&a=Kot-Buddhist-Monastery%2C-Pratapgarh%2C-India>

## DEMOGRAPHY

Pratapgarh district is spread over an area of 3730 km<sup>2</sup> in the Allahabad division. It has a total literacy rate of 73.1%. The sex ratio as per the census of 2011 is 994 females for every 1000 males and the population density is 860/ km<sup>2</sup>. The major languages spoken in the region are Hindi, Urdu and Awadhi. The tehsils are Raniganj, Kunda, Lalganj, Patti, and Sadar.



Figure 5Pratapgarh Map showing different Tehsils Source <https://raw.githubusercontent.com/sumitc91/sumitc91.github.io/master/Blogs/7766f70b-2d32-4d9a-8afe-35f9cc0a59c6/Pratapgarh-map.jpg>

### District Highlights – 2011 Census

- District Pratapgarh ranks 30th in terms of population in the state.
- The district is administratively divided into 05 tahsils namely Lalganj, Kunda, Pratapgrah Patti and Raniganj (newly created after 2001 Census).
- For implementation and monitoring of development schemes, the district is divided into 17 Development Blocks namely Kalakankar, Babaganj, Kunda, Vihar, Sangipur, LalganjAjhara, Lakshamanpur, Sandawa Chandrika, Pratapgarh (Sadar), Mandhata, Magraura, Patti, AspurDeosara, Shivgarh, Gaura, Rampur Sangramgarh and Baba Belkharnath (newly created after 2001 Census).
- There are 1105 Gram Panchayats and 2217 Revenue villages with 2183 inhabited villages and 34 uninhabited villages in the district.



- In urban areas there are 07 Statutory Towns and 02 Census Towns. Statutory Towns comprise of 01 Nagar Palika Parishad and 06 Nagar Panchayats
- The percentage share of urban population in the district is 5.5 as against 22.3 of the population in urban areas of the state.
- Pratapgarh district has a population density of 863 persons per sq.km. which is more than the state average of 829 persons per sq. km.
- Pratapgarh district ranks 4th in terms of sex ratio (998) which is higher than the state average of 912 females for thousand males.
- Pratapgarh district ranks 31st in literacy with 70.1 percent which is higher than the state average of 67.7 percent.
- There are only 34 uninhabited villages out of total 2,217 villages in the district.
- Decadal growth rate of the district 17.5 is lower to the state average of 20.2 percent.
- Patti tahsil has the highest number of inhabited villages 549 while Raniganj tahsil has the lowest number (302) of inhabited villages.
- The district has 9 towns; out of them 7 are Statutory towns and 2 Census towns. No Statutory town has been added, merged nor declassified after 2001 Census. One new tahsil Raniganj has been carved out after 2001 Census.
- There are 533,546 households in the district accounting for 1.6 percent of the total households in the state. The average size of households in the district is 6.0 persons.

## GEOGRAPHY

Two prominent rivers flowing through Pratapgarh districts are Sai and the Ganga that have contributed to the prosperity and growth of the region primarily in terms of agriculture. The district lies between the parallels of 25°34' and 26°11' north latitude and between the meridians of 81°19' and 82°27' east longitude extending for some 110 kilometres (68 mi) from west to east. This district, also called city of Aonia, is bounded on the north by the district of Sultanpur, on the south by Allahabad, on the east by Jaunpur, on the west by Fatehpur and north-west by Raebareli. In the south-west the Ganga forms the boundary of the district for about 50 kilometres (31 mi). Separating it from Fatehpur and Allahabad and in the extreme north-east the Gomti forms the boundary for about 6 kilometres (3.7 mi). According to the Central Statistical Organization (Central Statistics Office), India, the district has an area of 3,730 square kilometres (1,440 sq. mi). (Information retrieved from the district website at <https://pratapgarh.nic.in/geography/> )



Figure 6 Amla/Aonia Farming in Pratapgarh Source <https://www.amazon.in/Kapebonavista%C2%AE-Amalaki-Gooseberry-Officinalis-Phyllanthus/dp/B07VRYT7BY>

Average height of the district from main sea level is 137 metres.

The district is fertile and well cultivated and is considered a fairly level plain. The ordinary sea level is here and there relieved by gentle undulations and in the vicinity

of rivers and rain streams, by ravines and broken ground. The southern portion of the immediate neighbourhood of river Ganga is more densely wooded than other parts. In some places may be seen stretches of uncultivable land, but these do not extend over a considerable area. For the most part such and varied cultivation, with groves of mangoes, mahua and other trees, combine to form a pleasing landscape. On the basis of geology, soil, topography and natural vegetation, the district is divided into the following regions:

### **GANGA FLOOD PLAIN**

This region is situated along the Ganga river extending upto the usual flood limit. The general slope is towards south-east but local slope is from north to south. The main physical features are broken surface, natural levee, dead arms of rivers etc. Dura is the only small rivulet which originates from local depression in the region itself and joins the Ganga. A continuous stretch of eroded surface is noticed along this stream. The geology of this region is marked by Alluvium and Dun gravels of recent formation.

### **KUNDA PLAIN**

This region covers part of Kunda and LalganjAjhara tahsils. The south west region is the area slope towards southern east direction marked by watershed line of Ganga river. The slope of Kunda plain has special features. It is not influenced by mighty Ganga though it is adjacent to it. The presence of ox-bow lake indicates the west course of rivers in ancient period. Geology of this region belongs to Alluvium and Dun gravels.

### **MIDDLE SAI CATCHMENTS**

The region is spread between the watersheds of Sai-Gomti one hand and Kunda plain on the other side. It is centrally located in the district. The general slope of the region is from north-west to south-east. The geology of the region belongs to Alluvium and Dun gravels of recent reign.

### **PATTI PLAIN**

It is situated in the eastern part of the district separated by watershed of Gomti and Sai. The slope inform north-west to south-east. Except patches of rugged surface along

the river streams, the area is dull in physiography; Alluvium and Dun gravels mark the geology.

### **GOMTI BASIN**

This region is situated in the extreme eastern part of the district. This is smallest among all the regions. Gomti river flows on the border of the district and cuts a rugged surface along its bank. There is no other predominant geographic feature.

The average altitude is 91 meters above the sea level and gentle slope of district is from north-west to south-east. The geology this part of the district is influenced by rivers and streams which pass through it; the district is almost rectangular in shape. The average height from the sea level is 137 meters.

The type of land in this district comprises the recent formation of ordinary Gangatic Alluvium. To the south-west border along the bank of the Ganga, the soil is sandy. Further to the south of Sai occurs matiyar (loom) and domat (clay loam). The spread of loam is more than that of clay loam. Sandy soil occurs along the river bank. Land is usually very fertile in the district.

## JOURNEY FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN

District Pratapgarh, also called the City of Aonia, was established in 1858 with its headquarters at Bela which was later on referred to as Bela Pratapgarh. The name of Bela Pratapgarh has been procured from the temple of Bela Bhowani, located on the banks of river Sai. This river originates at a sprawling pond, named BhijwanJheel on the hilltop of a village in Hardoi district.

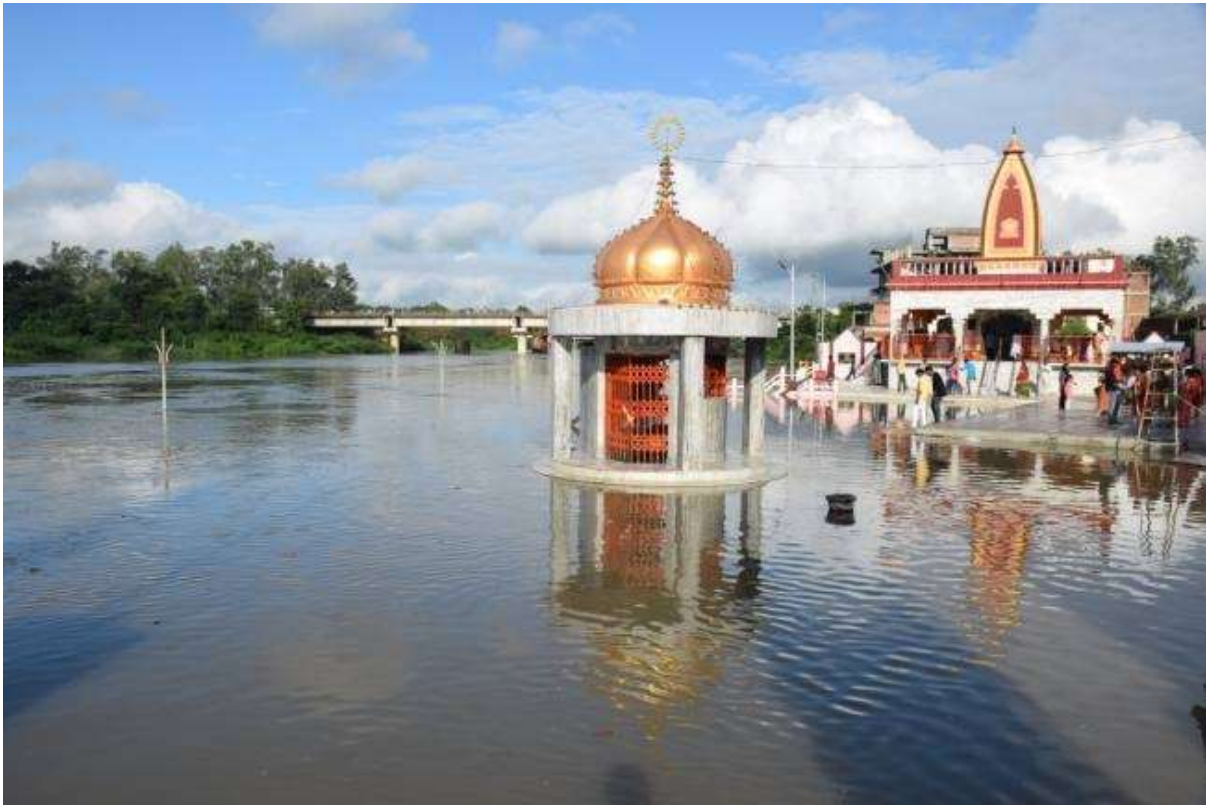


Figure 7 Sai River at Pratapgarh Source <https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/allahabad-city-waiting-for-budget-to-free-sai-river-from-pollution-in-pratapgarh-20691640.html>

Pratap Singh (1628-1682), a local Raja, established his headquarter at Rampur near the old town of Agra. King Pratap Singh built a fort that came to be known asPratapgarh fort after his own name. Gradually, the area around the fort was popularized and known as Pratapgarh.

The early history of the district dates back to the fact that the place was already inhabited in pre historic age. The archaeological excavations undertaken by state archaeological department and Tata Fundamental Research Institute Bombay at Sarai nahar in tahsil Kunda have found human skeletons along with animal's bones and small stone implements

probably of Neolithic age that are around 8000 B.C. old; and the ruins of the numerous buildings, monuments makes it evident that this region was a settled civilization since early times. The ruins of the ancient fort at Hindaur in Pratapgarh tehsil are believed to be from the place founded by Handavi, a demon of Mahabharat age. The present area of Bihar where ruins are still present is probably of an ancient Buddhist monastery which gave its name Biha to this town.

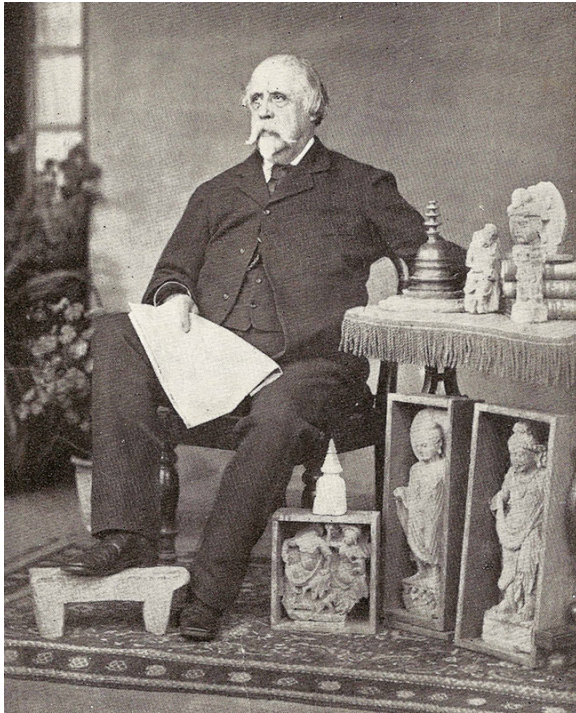


Figure 8 Alexander Cunningham Source <https://www.harappa.com/content/sir-alexander-cunningham-1853-1873>

Historian Sir Alexander Cunningham, who laid the foundations of the Archaeological Survey of India, made an excavation at village Gaura in 1876 where he found the ruins and ravages of a small richly carved temple of Surya. This temple is older than 8th or 9th century. It is believed that Surya Vansh dynasty of Kshatriyas established by Manu, who ruled over Madhyadesh, one of the five sub divisions of ancient India, was the first to establish an organized polity in this region. Ikshavaku, the eldest son of Manu, was the first ruler and he was succeeded by his son Vikushi who was also a very powerful king.

During the period of Ramayana, District Pratapgarh was also part of prosperous Kosala kingdom. It is believed that Koshala was ruled by kings descended from the sun dynasty, one of these kings was Rama whose capital was Ayodhya. Lord Rama is the most widely worshipped Hindu deity and seventh incarnation of Vishnu. Lord Rama, king of Ayodhya, divided his kingdom among his sons and nephews. Kush the elder got the throne of Ayodhya; Pratapgarh was included in his ascendancy.

During the times of Mahabharat, 'Diraghayajna', a powerful monarch ruled over Ayodhya. He was very religious. He was subdued by BhimSen, a Pandava. In the 6th century B.C. the area of the present district was ruled by a powerful king, Mahakosala. In the middle of the



4th century B.C. the entire territory of Kosala including this district was annexed to the Maghdha Empire, founded by Chandragupta Maurya.



Figure 9 King Ashoka of Maurya Empire  
Source  
<https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/contributors/ashoka>

This district came under Mauryan empire during the period ranging between 322-297 B.C..This dynasty,also called Haryanka dynasty,lasted mainly for 137 years and Ashoka was the famous pragmatic and idealist king of this dynasty who promoted his Dhamma. After the decline of the Mauryan empire, this place was ruled by Sungas, Sakas and Kushans and afterwards mighty Guptas annexed the Kosala kingdom. Chandragupta

Vikramaditya and his successors ruled over Avadh upto 510 A.D. in which the district was included.Towards the beginning of the sixth century this rule was passed into the hands of Maukhari kings of Kannauj. During 9th century, the Gurjara- and Pratihara dynasties of Kannauj established their prominence in the district. During the days of Kannauj kingdom, some part of the district was occupied by the Bhars.



Figure 10 Muhammad Shihbuddin Ghori of Ghurid Empire Source  
<https://biographyandhistory.com/history-of-muhammad-gauri-1173-1206-ad/>

During medieval times, this region of modern day Pratapgarhand neighbouring area was ruled by Manikchand and Kara and then by his elder brother Jayachandra of Gahadavala dynasty. In

1192, Shihbuddin Ghori (1149-1206), Sultan of Ghurid Empire, invaded this

region and established his rule and created the capital at Kara in which Pratapgarh was

included. Ala-ud-din Masauddominated the area of the present district till 1246 when he was succeeded by Nasir-udMahmud (1244-1265). According to tradition, about 1258, Lakhn Sen, a Sombanshi Rajput from Allahabad, established himself at ParchoSiddh (near Pratatgarh) and subsequently occupied the pargana of Pratapgarh. In 1479, Sultan Bahlul Lodhi ruled this region and he was followed by Sikandar Lodhi who ruled this area till 1517. Manikpur was a place of great importance in the reign of Sher Shah Suri and after his death the district passed under the subjugation of Muhammad Adil Shah. In 1567, Khan Zaman reined most of Avadh including Pratapgarh district when Akbar founded Allahabad and made it the headquarters of his province. In this province of Allahabad, the present areas of Manikpur, Rajpur and Bihar was included after some administrative division and changes. In 1580 Akbar appointed Asad Khan Turkman as the incharge of Manikpur and in 1605 he was succeeded by his son Jahangir (1605-1628). In 1628 Sombarshi Rajput of Lunar dynasty Raja Pratap Singh moved his headquarter to Rampur from Tejgarh (now Pratapgarh) and made a fort in the memory of his late father Raja Tej Singh. Chhatradhari Singh, son of Jai Singh, ruledPratapgarh state independently until 1722 when Sadat Khan Burhar-ul-Mulk was appointed governor of the province of Avadh by emperor Mohammad Shah. In the year 1759,Pratapgarh state was annexed to the dominions of the nawabs.





Figure 11 Old Archives of Pratapgarh fort build by Babu Pratap Singh Source [https://i.indianrajputs.com/t/i/pratapgarh\\_taluq-Pratapgarh-Fort-built-by-Babu-PRATAP-Singh-1.jpg](https://i.indianrajputs.com/t/i/pratapgarh_taluq-Pratapgarh-Fort-built-by-Babu-PRATAP-Singh-1.jpg)



Figure 12 Present Pratapgah Fort Source  
<https://www.pratapgarhup.in/search/label/%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%BE>

## GENEALOGY OF PRATAPGARH DISTRICT

***Pratapgarh was the name of a fort built by Pratap Bahadur Singh (1628–1682), a local king, at Rampur. Later, the area around the fort started to be known as Pratapgarh.***

Pratapgarh was originally known by the name of Taroul or Tiroul. The ancestors of this royal family are mentioned below:

- Raja Sukhram Singh, Raja of Jhusi
- Raja Nivahan Singh
- Raja Bir Sen, he was cursed by a fakir and lost Jhusi around 1359.
- Raja Lakhan Sen, founder of Raj of Abor
- Raja Ghorwar Deo of Aror
- Babu Muluk Singh, converted to Islam, and was murdered later
- Raja Jai Singh
- Babu Khan Deo
- Babu Prithvi Singh
- Babu Lodh Singh
- Babu Murar Singh
- Babu Sultan Singh
- Babu Muniar Shah
- Babu Ghatam Deo
- Babu Sangram Shah
- Babu Sujan Shah
- Babu Ajit Singh of Taroul
- Babu Pratap Singh

The state of Jhusi was ruled by Raja Sukhram Singh who was succeeded by his son Raja Nivahan Singh. After the rule of Raja Nivahan Singh, this region was under the rule of Raja Birsan, younger brother of Raja Nivahan Singh and son of Raja Sukh Ram Singh. It is believed that Raja Birsan was murdered by a Fakir. After these events, his son laid the



foundation stone of a new state. Raja Jai Singh, youngest son of Raja Lakhan founded a new state of Aror around 1328. After Raja Jai Singh, his successor ruled this region for many years. His successors were Raja Khan Singh (died 1354), Raja Prithvi Singh (died around 1377), Raja Sultan Singh (died around 1442), Raja Munihar Singh, ruled until his last breath in 1464, then Raja Ghatam Singh ruled until his demise in 1478. After him Raja Sangram Singh (died 1494), Raja Ram Chandra Singh (died 1526), Raja Laxmi Narayan Singh (demise in 1579), Raja Tej Singh (died 1628) reigned the region. During the rule of these kings, the region of Ahror took shape of the region of Tiroul. The next ruler of Tiroul was Raja Pratap Singh who laid the foundation of the fort of Pratapgarh (known by his name) in the neighbouring region of Ahror, called Rampur. The administration of Tiroul was now done from this newly made fort of Pratapgarh. This area was ruled by another eight generations of Pratapgarh. These rulers were Raja Jai Singh (died 1719), Raja Chatradhari Singh (died 1735), Raja Prithvipat Singh (died 1754),



Raja Duniyapat Singh (died 1767), Raja Bahudar Singh (died 1818), Babu Abhiney Singh, Babu Ghulab Singh (died 1857), Raja Ajit Singh (ruled till his death in 1889).

Finally, after the death of Raja Ajit Singh on 18 December 1889, he was succeeded by his son Raja Pratap Bahudar Singh who laid foundation stone of 'Ajeet', an Anglo Oriental Somvanshi School, in 1898 in the memory of his late father Maharaja Ajeet Singh. This school was given the status of High School in the year of 1904. This school opened the corridors of knowledge in this rural and backward region. In addition this, Pratap Bahudar Singh also created Pratap Bahadur Charitable Trust in 1916 to serve the social, cultural and

educational purposes of this region. Following this, a college namely, Pratap Bahudar Post Graduate College was also established for higher education, which is now affiliated to Avadh University. (Referred to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcZFzDhtSzc&t=160s> and [https://www.indianrajputs.com/view/pratapgarh\\_taluq?tid=pratapgarh\\_taluq#pictures](https://www.indianrajputs.com/view/pratapgarh_taluq?tid=pratapgarh_taluq#pictures))



Figure 14 Rani Padmavati, daughter of Pratap Bahudar Singh Source [https://i.indianrajputs.com/t/i/pratapgarh\\_taluq-Rani-Padmavati-Devi-Daughter-of-Raja-Bahadur-Raja-PRATAP-BAHADUR-SINGH-1.gif](https://i.indianrajputs.com/t/i/pratapgarh_taluq-Rani-Padmavati-Devi-Daughter-of-Raja-Bahadur-Raja-PRATAP-BAHADUR-SINGH-1.gif)

## PRATAPGARH AND REVOLT OF 1857



Figure 15 An image depicting the Revolt of 1857 Source <https://www.thoughtco.com/sepoy-mutiny-of-1857-1774014>

The modern history of Pratapgarh primarily revolves around a record of continuous fighting between the officials of Avadh government and local Rajput chiefs for more than half a century. In 1856, Wazid-Ali- Shah (1847-1856) was overturned. His territories consisting the area now covered by the present district were annexed to the East India Company. The district of Pratapgarh was then created, with headquarters situated at Bela. The revolt against British government gradually got momentum and early in June 1920, 200 kisans, including Pt. Jawaharlal Lal Nehru, marched to Allahabad to draw the attention of prominent leaders regarding their miserable condition. The Non-cooperation Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 also took momentum side by side in the district.

Pratapgarh played a crucial role in the Quit India movement of 1942. This movement received wide support and participation of the people of Pratapgarh. By this time the British realized that they could no longer sustain their rule and on August 15, 1947 Pratapgarh district along with the country saw the first glimpse of freedom and finally received independence.

## Rajkumar Lal Pratap Singh Bisen

Rajkumar Lal Pratap Singh Bisen was a member of the Bisen Rajput dynasty of Kalakankar. He was a prominent leader in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. He was killed during the 1858 Battle of Chanda. The Government of India issued a postage stamp on 17 December 2009 to commemorate him. At the behest of the Begum Hazrat Mahal, Hanumant Singh raised a battalion of 1000 soldiers under the command of his eldest son Lal Pratap Singh. This battalion, called 'Pratap Jang' rose to action in February 1858 when the British under Colin Campbell, 1st Baron Clyde and Commander-in-Chief, India, attempted the Capture of Lucknow. Lord Campbell was aided by a Gurkha battalion and two Company battalions. The three forces summoned by the Begum, including the one from Kalakankar, camped at Chanda in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh awaiting the signal for battle. On 19 February 1858, as the 'Pratap Jang' contingent sat down to breakfast, the army of East India Company attacked them. The soldiers of the 'Pratap Jang' picked up whatever weapon came to hand and pitched into the battle until their ammunition ran out. Reinforcements were cut off by the Company troops and scattered remnants of other forces of the Talukdars had been forced to retreat.



*During the times of English rule, the British conquered districts of Agra at an early stage but couldn't conquer the districts of Awadh...After 1857 Revolt, the English were able to rule over the 12 districts of Awadh. These 12 districts included Pratapgarh, Rai Bareilly, Unnao, Hardoi, Sitapur, Lakhimpur, Kheri, Gonda, Bahrai, Faizabad, Sultanpur, Barabanki and Lucknow. There was Nawabi rule over these 12 districts...A great revolutionary, Raj Mangal Singh, also belonged to this place. Awadesh Singh and Gulab Singh were ones who fought during the 1857 struggle. One of the Rajwada from this place was known as Khanazadaas he was very fond of the food cooked at Muslims' place. Both Hindus and Muslims used to live in peace and prosperity.*

Sh. Amarnath Singh,  
Lawyer, Pratapgarh

## Sai River



Figure 16 A panoramic view of Sai river

*Sai River is mentioned in the Ramacharitamana. Devotees worship and gratify Lord Shiva with auspicious water of Sai River. Sai is daughter of Ganga and also called as Adi Ganga and has been in existence at this place before the Ramayana period. Here at Baba Ghuisarnath Dham, Rishi Agastya also resided; also known by the name of Kumbhaja... Lord Rama also visited Ghuisarnath Dham and prayed to Lord Shiva after a tree called Kareel was created with his aroma and perspiration. Due to grace of Baba Ghuisarnath Dham, a lot of fishes are found here at Sai River. Every day from morning 4 am to evening 6 pm Baba Ghuisarnath is worshipped.*

Swami Birendranath Tiwari,  
Priest at Baba Ghuisarnath temple, Pratapgarh



## TEMPLES AND SACRED COMPLEXES

The institution of pilgrimage to holy places is an ancient and continuing tradition of the Hindus. Numerous places of religion and cultural importance attract millions of pilgrims from all over the world; one of them is Pratapgarh that is famous for its temples and sacred complexes. It is evident that religion assumes an important role in generating a circular mechanism in which all the social strata of Hinduism participate. There are four dominant ideas that have persisted in Hindu thought in relation to the philosophy of life. These are *Dharma*, *Artha*, *Kama*, and *Moksha*. *Dharma* focuses on the consideration of righteousness, duty and virtue. *Artha* is focused on material gains, worldly advantage and success. *Kama* is focused on love and pleasure. *Moksha* is focused on spiritual realization and self-emancipation. (Surinder Mohan Bhardwaj, 1973)

Pratapgarh is widely famous for its temples and its religious beliefs and practices that play a significant cultural role in its polity and socio-economic advancements. The main temples and sacred places of Pratapgarh includes the following:

- **SHANI DEV TEMPLE :**

Shani Dev Mandir is mainly dedicated to Lord Shani Deva and is situated at a distance of 51 km from Allahabad and 16 km from Pratapgarh. Lord Shani Dev is believed to be the incarnation of Lord Krishna and is considered as the God of *Karma* (deeds), justice and retribution and presents results on one's thoughts, speech and deeds. The abode of Shani is believed to be the planet Saturn.



Figure 17 Lord Shani Devi Source [https://hindi.webdunia.com/shani-dev/shani-dev-father-name-in-hindi-121040900023\\_1.html](https://hindi.webdunia.com/shani-dev/shani-dev-father-name-in-hindi-121040900023_1.html)

Shani is the controller of longevity, sorrow, discipline, restriction, responsibility, ambition, leadership, humility, integrity and wisdom. In addition to this, he also signifies spiritual asceticism, penance, discipline and laborious work. This temple of Shani Deva witnesses large assemblage of pilgrimages, mainly on every Saturday, to perform special worship here. This temple is about 146 km from Ayodhya and 3 km from Vishwanathganj in

Kushfaravillage. Hanuman and Manokamana temples are situated in the same premises. Festivals like Navratri are also celebrated at this temple with great pomp and show.



Figure 18 Shani Dev Temple Source <https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-kOKqk-9v7Vo/VVHor6QDqMI/AAAAAAAAKIQ/1hn3-1RR19M/s1600/Shanidev%2BDhaam3.jpg>



Figure 19 Shani Dev Temple Source <https://4.bp.blogspot.com/-sez5JMjabco/VVHowTt1ybl/AAAAAAAAKIk/R5wU9QelzRU/s320/Shanidev%2BDhaam5.jpg>

- **BELHA DEVI TEMPLE** : This temple is one of the old Hindu Shakti temples at Bela Pratapgarh situated on the banks of river Sai. In this temple, Goddess Belha Bhawani is worshipped as the local incarnation of the Devi (Mother Goddess). This sacred



Figure 20 Belha Devi Temple Source  
[https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-q4170132-d4096960-i94687229-Bela\\_Bhawani\\_Temple-Pratapgarh\\_Pratapgarh\\_District\\_Uttar\\_Pradesh.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-q4170132-d4096960-i94687229-Bela_Bhawani_Temple-Pratapgarh_Pratapgarh_District_Uttar_Pradesh.html)

complex is a symbol of Hindu faith and traditions. It is an epitome of the age old tradition of Shakti worship in Pratapgarh and Belha Devi is 'Shakti', consort of Shiva. The present temple is over 200 years old and depicts the heritage and past

of the region of Pratapgarh. The archaeological excavations and findings from this region throw eloquent light on the history and culture of the area from prehistoric times to the contemporary era. It is to be noted that many tangible manifestations of the culture may have been faded but there are certain intangible aspects of this heritage that can never die out. One such is the tradition of shaktism practised in India and here in the Belha Devi temple. This tradition of Belha Devi temple rejuvenates the historical past and sustains the living tradition of shaktism from the past two centuries.





Figure 21 A picturesque view of Bela Bhawani Temple Source [https://new-img.patrika.com/upload/2018/11/11/belhadevi\\_mandir\\_3694927-m.jpg](https://new-img.patrika.com/upload/2018/11/11/belhadevi_mandir_3694927-m.jpg)



Figure 22 Belha Devi temple on the banks of river Sai Source [https://www.justdial.com/Pratapgarh-Uttar-Pradesh/Belha-Devi-Temple-Pratapgarh-Ho/9999P5342-5342-141221162339-Z4S4\\_BZDET](https://www.justdial.com/Pratapgarh-Uttar-Pradesh/Belha-Devi-Temple-Pratapgarh-Ho/9999P5342-5342-141221162339-Z4S4_BZDET)



Belha Devi Ma is worshipped in the form of Pindi (stone pebbles). Belha Devi Maa was



**Figure 23 Ma Belha devi worshipped in human form**

originally worshipped in the form of Pindi but in modern times, the deity was sculpted in order to give an attractive human form to the deity. Ma Belha Bhavani is beautifully decorated with a crown, jewels and ornaments. In the sacred complex, Devi Maa is worshipped in anthropomorphic form sculpted on marble. The deity is enshrined in a silver-plated small vaulted shrine showing beautiful decorations of embossing work on silver

metal. Here, the Pindi is also worshipped apart from the human form of deity. It is one of the 52 Shakti Peeths in India and it is also believed that Lord Rama stayed here for some time when Bharat was searching for him. In the sanctorum, Brass railings from Shakti Dhvaj to Ardh Mandap have been laid so that devotees can have easy Darshan without any difficulty.

Raja Pratap Bahudar Singh, a local king of Awadh region constructed the present temple of Shri Maa Belha Bhawani during the period of 1811-1815. Earlier, this temple was under the patronage of Awadh state that appointed a Pujari but later on these priests became independent when this princely state was merged into the district. Navratri Festival is celebrated here grandly and a Navratri Fair is also held here.



Figure 24Belha Devi Shrine/Mandir Source  
[https://cdn.s3waas.gov.in/s336660e59856b4de58a219bcf4e27eba3/uploads/bfi\\_thumb/2018072721-olw8404lrmcflkfvn4yy1ptumb72opeaq2jhwmb5hm.jpg](https://cdn.s3waas.gov.in/s336660e59856b4de58a219bcf4e27eba3/uploads/bfi_thumb/2018072721-olw8404lrmcflkfvn4yy1ptumb72opeaq2jhwmb5hm.jpg)



Figure 25A view of Bela Bhawani Temple Source <https://www.justdial.com/photos/belha-devi-pratapgarh-uttar-pradesh-temples-lyjwikfmt7-pc-107259173-sco-99iimyeyui>





Figure 26 Maa Bela Bhawani Source <https://www.justdial.com/photos/belha-devi-bela-pratapgarh-pratapgarh-uttar-pradesh-temples-esvekeug9t-pc-164851949-sco-99iimyyeiui>





Figure 27 Bela Bhawani Temple Source <https://www.iustdial.com/photos/belha-devi-pratappgarh-uttar-pradesh-temples-m8aas85c79-pc-107259042-sco-99iimyeyiui>



Figure 28 Worshippers at entrance to the Bela Bhawani Temple Source <https://www.justdial.com/photos/belha-devi-pratapgarh-uttar-pradesh-temples-igfrpdi8vz-pc-107256516-sco-99iimyyeiui>

- **BHAKTI DHAM MANDIR** : Bhakti Dham shrine is situated in tehsil Kunda of Pratapgarh district and this shrine was established by the world's fifth original Jagadguru in November 2005. The responsibility of maintenance of this shrine is in the hands of KRIPALU PARISHAD, non-profit educational and spiritual organisation. In this temple, life sized deities of Lord Krishna and his consort Radha in divine human form are placed on the ground floor and on the top floor, Lord Rama with his consort Goddess Sita blesses the worshippers. This temple leaves the visitors spell-bound.



Figure 29 Bhakti Dham Temple Source <https://pratapgarh.nic.in/tourist-place/bhaktimandir/>

- **GHUSMESHWAR NATH DHAM** : This sanctorum of Ghusmeshwar Nath Dham is believed to be one of the holiest pilgrimage sites of Pratapgarh district. This sacred complex is located on the banks of Sai River. In this temple, a Shiv Linga is worshipped and is popular by the name of Baba Ghuisarnath Dham. It is believed that worshipping Shiva here relieves a person from all his problems and blesses him with well-being. A Ganga Sarovar is also established here for Jalabhishek (consecration) by the devotees and this facility is available throughout the year.





Figure 30 Shri Ghushmeshwar Nath Shrine Source [https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction\\_Review-q4170132-d4096957-Reviews-Ghushmeshwar Nath Dham-Pratapgarh Pratapgarh District Uttar Pradesh.html](https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction_Review-q4170132-d4096957-Reviews-Ghushmeshwar_Nath_Dham-Pratapgarh_Pratapgarh_District_Uttar_Pradesh.html)

- **BABA BHAYAHARAN NATH DHAM :**

Baba Bhayaharan Nath Dham is one of the ancient temples of Lord Shiva situated in the village of Katra Gulab Singh on the banks of Bakulakhi river. Bakulahi river is situated between Sai River and Ganga River in upper Ganga floodplain with about 841 sq. km basin area.

Lord Shiva is seen as supreme God among the all Hindu deities in the Hindu tradition; he is extremely popular not only amongst Indians but also amongst the people of other nationalities. This temple enshrines in unique form (structure) a rock lingam, and is named as Bhayaharan Nath Dham.



Figure 31 Pandavas worshipping Lord Shiva Source [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/70/Panda\\_visit\\_Kedarnath.jpg/250px-Panda\\_visit\\_Kedarnath.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/70/Panda_visit_Kedarnath.jpg/250px-Panda_visit_Kedarnath.jpg)

It is believed that the Shiv Linga enshrined in this temple was set up by the Pandavas. It is known from mythology that the Shiv Linga of Bhayaharan Nath was established by Bhima after killing the demon Bakasur.



Figure 32 Baba Bhayaharan Nath Temple Source <https://s.inspirockcdn.com/ds10/photos/India/f/baba-bhayaharan-nath-dham--1686780219.jpg>

Saints such as Shri Naga Baba and Shri Dandi Baba stayed at this place for many years and worshipped Lord Shiva. People come from different regions of the country to worship Lord



Shiva and seek his blessings. Many other prominent temples are located in the vicinity of this temple, such as Hanuman, Shiv Paravati, Santoshi Maa, Radha Krishna, Viswakarma Bhagwan temples.



Figure 33 Shiv Linga Source [http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-UNWbX1X95pg/TqkSJ\\_hWXsl/AAAAAAAAABY/tj9yOnO8CS0/s320/Bhayaharan+Nath+Dham\\_o.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-UNWbX1X95pg/TqkSJ_hWXsl/AAAAAAAAABY/tj9yOnO8CS0/s320/Bhayaharan+Nath+Dham_o.jpg)

During Shravan Month, Mal Maas, Adhi Maas and during MahaShivratri, this temple is crowded with worshippers. Every Monday, local devotees and other travellers visit this temple to seek blessings of Lord Shiva.

The holy shrine is managed by Baba Bhayaharan Nath Dham Kshetriya Vikas Sansthan that was established by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and approved under the Indian Society Registration Act 1856. Baba Bhayaharan Nath Dham Kshetriya Vikas Sansthan, a non-profit organisation is responsible for the maintenance and management of the temple and facilities for holy pilgrims. In addition to this, the Bhayaharan Nath Dham IradaGyanpeethis working for development of temple.

The holy shrine is managed by Baba Bhayaharan Nath Dham Kshetriya Vikas Sansthan that was established by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and approved under the Indian Society



Figure 34 Beautiful view of Baba Dham from Shiv Ganga Lake Source <http://religioussitefoundedbypandavas.blogspot.com/2011/10/pandav-established-shivaling-shri.html>

A beautiful lake called Shiv Ganga Lake, that mesmerizes pilgrims and travellers, is also situated near the temple.

- SHEETLA DEVI MANDIR



Figure 35 Sheetla Devi Mandir Source <https://www.justdial.com/photos/mata-sheetla-devi-small-temple-katra-medniganj-pratapgarh-uttar-pradesh-temple-y7ermkccdb-pc-140884326-sco-99ie2e262gq>

This temple is located at a distance of 1.5 kilometers at BhanwaChungi on the Katra Bazar Road. It was inaugurated by Vidhayak Sangam Lal Gupta who lives near by the temple. Religious activities happens at this beautiful attraction of Pratapgarh from time to time. This temple enshrines Maa Sheetla Devi who is the epitome of Maa Shakti in Hindu culture.



Figure 36 Maa Sheetla Devi Dham Source <https://www.justdial.com/photos/mata-sheetla-devi-small-temple-katra-medniganj-pratapgarh-uttar-pradesh-temple-oy2mq5apl5006600-pc-140884336-sco-99ie2e262qq>



Figure 37 Maa Sheetla Devi Mandir Source [https://www.justdial.com/Pratapgarh-Uttar-Pradesh/Mata-Sheetla-Devi-Small-Temple-Katra-Medniganj/9999P5342-5342-180316174835-F1J4\\_BZDET](https://www.justdial.com/Pratapgarh-Uttar-Pradesh/Mata-Sheetla-Devi-Small-Temple-Katra-Medniganj/9999P5342-5342-180316174835-F1J4_BZDET)





Figure 38 Maa Sheetla Devi Mandir Source <https://www.justdial.com/Pratapgarh-Uttar-Pradesh/Mata-Sheetla-Devi-Small-Temple-Katra-Medniganj/99999P5342-5342-180316174835-F1J4> BZDET

- **KISHAN DEVTA MANDIR**

One of the unique attractions of Pratapgarh is Kishan Devta Mandir where farmers sow devotion and reap blessings. This temple for the farming community is located in Sarai Mahesh village in Pratapgarh. At this sacred complex, the Kisan Devta (farmer God) and sickle wielding Kisan devi is enshrined and worshippers pay homage and seek blessings of

the Farmer God and Goddess. Devotees sing KishanChalisa and perform rituals like Aarti and garlanding of idols for a good harvest during the crop season. This temple is situated at an approximate distance of 70 kilometers from Allahabad.



Figure 39 Kishan Devta and Devi Source <https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-71655142,width-400,resizemode-4/71655142.jpg>



- **AJGARA BABA MANDIR**

Ajgara Baba Mandir is one of the ancient temples which holds much relevance from a religious perspective. Every year an annual fair of three days is held here and traditional rituals are performed. It is believed that Bhima had a conflict with Ajagara here; later Yuddhistara had a word with him and Ajgara was finally given moksha or spiritual salvation from all his past wrongdoings. From that time onwards, this place is known as Ajgara and has a temple known as Ajgara Dham.



Figure 40 Ajgara Baba Dham



Figure 41 Children worshipping Lord Shiva at Ajgara Dham Source [https://m.facebook.com/ajgaradham/photos/?ref=page\\_internal&mt\\_nav=0](https://m.facebook.com/ajgaradham/photos/?ref=page_internal&mt_nav=0)

Apart from these beautiful temples, Pratapgarh is quite famous for many other temples as well such as Nag Vasuki Mandir, Chauharjan Dham, Barahi Devi Mandir, Laxmi Narayan Temple (Chilbila), Chandika Dham, Maa Jawala Devi Mandir, Belkarnath Dham, Mangarh Mandir, Maa Durga Bhakti Dham and many others.

### YakshYudhistarSamvadsthal – a lesser known archaeological and fossil site



Pratapgarh is not only about the sacred complexes but also some lesser known aspects of culture as well. The YakshYudhistarSamvadsthal is one such spot. During the excavation of the drain at the Yaksha-YudhisthirSamvadsthal site in Ajjara, antiquities of the Mesolithic period were accidentally found during ploughing by villagers in year 2021 by a team of archaeologists. It is claimed that the idols, horns and small tools found in the rubble are 10 thousand years old. There are two mounds near the pond at the mythical Yaksha-Yudhisthir site in Ajjara. One is Dihwa mound and the other is a small mound. Earlier antiquities have been found at Dihwa Tila. So far, the antiquities of Shunga-Kushan period have been found on this mound. One day when the villagers were digging the drain near the small mound, idols, horns and small tools were found in the rubble. Villagers gave this information to





NirjharPratapgarhi. He cleaned the antiquities and has kept them in the museum. This information was given to former Archaeological Officer Dr. Piyushkant Sharma. According to Dr. Sharma the antiquities seem to be from a 10 thousand years ago.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup><https://www.amarujala.com/uttar-pradesh/pratapgarh/antiquities-of-middle-stone-age-found-in-ajgara-pratapgarh-news-ald2980774105>









*Yaksha-YuddhistaraSamvad Sthal is the place where king Nahush was cursed by saint Agastya; then king Nahush took the form of a snake and fell down to the earth. King Nahush was told that he would achieve salvation by sighting and paying his respects to Yuddhistara, elder brother among the Pandavas. It is believed that before going on Agyatvasa, Pandavas were living here at this place. Pandavas went in search of water and found this Sarovar on the way. A tree linked with the story of Yaksh-Yuddhistarasamvad sthal was also located here; its width was measured to be around 850 inches. This tree was uprooted in a very violent storm. The fossil of this tree is preserved at this place. One among them has taken the form of a stone. According to the historicists and archaeologists, these are considered more than 10,000 years old.*

*This Ajgara Baba temple is one and only temple dedicated to the worship of Ajgara Baba. A Vishkarma Mandir existing from seventeenth century is also located at this place. Baba Narayan Das Samadhi and Uriya Baba Samadhi is also present here. Uriya Baba Samadhi is known for the cure of Arthritis. Ajgara fair is also held at this place in area of 1 kilometer and different fairs for men and women are held here.*

**Rajesh Kumar Pandey known as NirjharPratapgarhi,**  
Poet, Artefacts Collector & founder of India's first Village Museum called  
AjgraSangrahalay in Raniganj tehsil,  
Pratapgarh





## Archaeological and Folk Art Museum, Pratapgarh



Figure 42 Archaeological Museum, Pratapgarh



Figure 43 Artefacts and other collections of the museum



Figure 44 Stone Inscription of having names of Pandavas inscribed





*I used to collect different kinds of stones found here... I visited Allahabad University and showed my collections to Prof. Siddheswara Narayan Rai and Prof. Bimal Chand. They were fascinated by the findings and visited this place along with their staff. Rai in his article - 'An analysis of an era with reference to Yaksha cult and folk culture in Ancient India' mentions about this place. Puranusandhan is the work of Prof Bimal Chand who has explained about the relevance of Ajgara place.*

*NirjharPratapgarhi,  
Poet, Artefacts Collector & founder of India's first Village Museum called  
AjgraSangrahalay in Raniganj tehsil,  
Pratapgarh*

## GHATS OF PRATAPGARH

Ghats have special significance in Hindu mythology and are primarily used for bathing and Hindu religious rituals. In addition to this Ghats are also used for cremation purposes. Uttar Pradesh is well known for many kinds of ghats alongside river Ganga and other rivers as well. The Ghat is considered as the place where one changes the body as one changes the dress to get the new body or new life. It is based on the results of one's Karma. These ghats have mesmerized many travellers, artists and poets with their beauty, as evident in their work.

Prominent Ghats of Pratapgarh are **Pakka Ghat** located at **Manipur Kunda** in Pratapgarh. This Ghat is also known as **Pratap Manikpur Ganga Ghat**. Other significant Ghats of this region are **Kalakankar Ghat** and **Gai Ghat**. Gai Ghat is located at the south bank of river Sai in Pratapgarh district.



Figure 45 Manikpur Ganga Ghat Source <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/vY8C85J-eMM/maxresdefault.jpg>





Figure 46 View of a Ghat Source [https://www.jagranimages.com/images/newimg/28012021/28\\_01\\_2021-28prt09\\_21316198\\_3058.jpg](https://www.jagranimages.com/images/newimg/28012021/28_01_2021-28prt09_21316198_3058.jpg)

## TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

### Pottery and Woodwork

The traditional crafts of Pratapgarh include Pottery and Woodwork and Wood Carving. Pottery is one of the most important traditional crafts of Uttar Pradesh. It is the process in which vessels and other objects of clay and other ceramic materials are fired at high temperatures to give them a hard and durable form. In archaeology, especially of ancient and prehistoric periods, “pottery” often means vessels only and figures of the same material are called Terracotta. Pottery is one of the oldest human inventions and originated before the Neolithic period.



Figure 47 Pottery- Traditional Crafts Source <https://www.cmuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/learn-pottery-lessons-online.jpg>

This traditional crafts is found in the Raniganj area of the Pratapgarh. People here from the past many years are surviving and earning their living through the craft of pottery-making.



Figure 48 Art of Wood Carving Source <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1497219055242-93359eed651?ixlib=rb-1.2.1&ixid=MnwxMjA3fDB8MHxzZWFiY2h8MXx8d29vZHdvcmt8ZW58MHx8MHx8&w=1000&q=80>

Another important craft of the region of Pratapgarh is the art of woodwork or wood carving. Wood carving is a form of woodworking by means of a cutting tool (knife or chisel) and mallet resulting in the creation of a wooden figure figurine or in the sculpting of ornamentation on a wooden figure. At Pratapgarh, this traditional craft is seen at many places.



## KareelVriksh



*Lord Rama, Lakshama and Mata Sita during the days of exile came here and took shelter at this place. Kareel tree was created by the lord's aroma and perspiration. In the whole area of Pratapgarh, this is the single tree of Pratapgarh; another one is found at Vrindavan. This Kareel tree is very auspicious and devotees take rounds around this tree according to their wish, varying from one hundred and eight to nine to eleven rounds.*

**Swami Birendranath Tiwari,**  
Priest, BabaGhusmeshwaranath temple,  
Pratapgarh



## PERFORMING TRADITIONS

The performing arts at the district of Pratapgarh include Nautanki, Kajri, Dadra. **Nautanki** is one of the most popular folk performances of Pratapgarh. Nautanki is the biggest form of entertainment in the villages and towns of Northern India; it typically has a humorous and entertaining story line and has a strong presence in the rural region of Pratapgarh.



Figure 49 Kajri Dance Source

[https://www.indianetzone.com/photos\\_gallery/75/Kajri\\_Dance\\_Folk\\_Dance\\_of\\_Uttar\\_Pradesh.jpg](https://www.indianetzone.com/photos_gallery/75/Kajri_Dance_Folk_Dance_of_Uttar_Pradesh.jpg)

Kajri dance is one of the most popular folk dances of Uttar Pradesh. This dance is performed just before the arrival of monsoons to express joy and happiness. Kajri dance is performed with the Swing songs. The dancers usually wear a tight fitting blouse known as Choli paired with a flared skirt. The cholis are short in length and a duppattais draped over it and tucked in the waist of the skirt, then draped around the head and shoulders.

The seasonal folk songs are Hori or Phag in spring, Malhar and Kajri in the rainy season. Mushairas and Kavi sammelans, gatherings where Urdu and Hindi poets recite their poems, are also very popular here, especially in urban areas.

## FOOD AND CUISINE

### Amla Barfi

Pratapgarh cultivates more than 80% of Amla that is exported and also sold across India. Amla and its products are a major part of the district's identity and there are a number of food processing units in Pratapgarh that convert Amla into Amla Burfi and Amla laddu and other products made from Amla, like Amla Churan, Amla powder, Amla etc. Amla is a major source of vitamin C and antioxidants, and is quite helpful in increasing immunity and boosting the metabolism of the body. **Pushpanjali sweets** are very famous in Pratapgarh for taste and authenticity. **Pushpanjali Gram Udyog Seva Samiti** in Pratapgarh is one of the organisations that also employs mainly women.



Figure 50 Amla Barfi and other indigenous products

In addition to this, Pratapgarh is also quite famous for Mughlai and Awadi food both in vegetarian and non-vegetarian options.

*I am a graduate, an Amla farmer and work at an Amla processing unit that makes various products from Amla like Amla Laddu, Amla Murabba, Amla Juice, Amla Chatani, Amla Powder. You can find about its relevance in ancient Ayurvedic texts. Amla is called as Amritfala and is a boon for humans. Medicines of Vitamin C are made from Amla and act as Immunity booster during the pandemic. Farmers here don't use fertilizers and the soil is very apt and suitable for the farming of Amla. Amla from here is exported to several big companies all over India including Dabur, Jhandu etc.*

*Even if Amla is dried for a long time, its Vitamin C content doesn't degrade. In 1993, our organisation PushpanjaliGramdoyog was founded and this organisation also received government support. With the assistance and support of Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, farming of different varieties of Amla started, like Banarasi Amla, Chakaiya Amla, Kanchan, Prajati;Prajati Amla are of a big size.*

*Amla grown at this place has most of the Vitamin C content and this is mainly due to the existence of Sai river. Many people are made self-reliant and government's One Product, One District (OPOP) Scheme has benefitted the Amla Industry enormously. The testing of products is carried out regularly by food technologists at labs and advanced testing is also done at labs at Allahabad University and Lucknow University. 70% of women are given employment opportunities in the Alma industry.*

**Sh.Chandra Prakash Shukla,**  
Owner, PushpanjaliGramdoyog,  
Pratapgarh.

## PEOPLE AND CULTURE



The culture and heritage of Pratapgarh is very rich as this is the land of many famous poets like Harivansh Rai Bachchan, Munshi Premchand, Sumitranandan Pant, Jumaid Khan Azad and Dr. Tara Singh.

Figure 51 Dr. Tara Singh Source <https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-k3aXyz4copQ/VB8mCHWmqSI/AAAAAAAAAGp8/W2S5rXGMb6M/s1600/tara%2Bsingh%2Bpratapgarh.jpg>

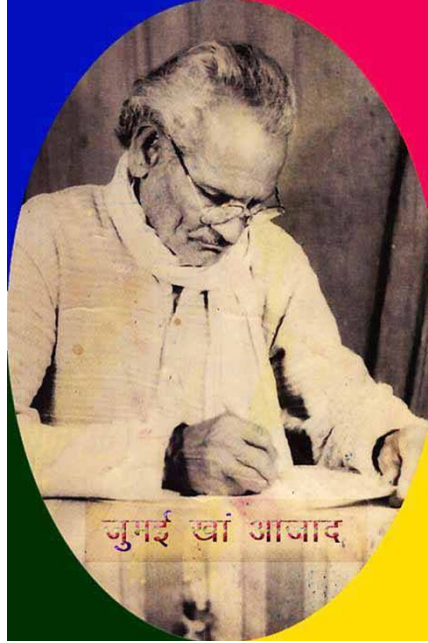
**Dr. Tara Singh** (born 10 October 1952) comes from a middle-class family. Since childhood she took special interest in dance and music as well as in writing poems. She has contributed immensely to Hindi Literature. She is the founder president of the Hindi website *Swargvibha* and Chief Editor of *Swargvibha* online quarterly magazine, which has numerous collections. They give away the Swargvibha Tara award to promising Hindi writers and journalists every year. She is the working president of the Sahityik, Sanskritik and Kala Sangam Academy, Pratapgarh (U.P.).

The influence of both Indian and Muslim heritage and culture can be found here. The languages spoken here are Awadhi, Hindi, Urdu as well as English.



## Jumai Khan Azad (Poet)

Jumai Khan Azad (5 August 1930 – 29 December 2013) was an Indian poet of Awadhi language from Pratapgarh. He received the Awadhi Academy Award and LokabandhuRajnarayan Memorial Award. He was also called the 'Kabir of Kathari'.



*The popular poet of Awadhi in Pratapgarh was Jumai Khan Azad. His numerous works include Patti and Kathari, both of which were very influential works. The famous lines of Kathari written in Awadhi were:*

*कशीतोहारगुनऊजानै  
जेकरैगुजाराकथरीमा*

*Kathari is made up from new, old and left over cloth pieces that resembled the life conditions of the poor sections of society.*

*Another poet of international fame of Pratapgarh was Harivansh Rai Bachchan. His house was located at Babu Patti inPratapgarh. We also had poets of Khari boli, Ram Naresh Tripathi and Ram Narayan Singh.*

Sh. Amarnath Singh, Lawyer, Pratapgarh



## कृटियनमाउजियाराहोइहैं!

“दुखियामजूरकीमेहनतपर,  
कबतलकमलाईउड़तिरहे।  
इनकीखोपड़ीपैमहलनमा,  
कबतकसहनाईबजतिरहे॥  
ईतड़क-भड़क, बैभव-बिलास,  
एनहींकैगाढ़िकमाईआ।  
ईमहलजौनदेखतबाट्या,  
एनहींकैनीवजमाईआ॥  
ईकबतकतोहरीमोटरपर,  
कुकुरेकैपिलवासफरकरी।  
औकबतकईदुखियामजूर,  
आधीरोटीपरगुजरकरी॥  
जबकबौबगावतकैज्वाला,  
इनकेभीतरसेभभकिउठी।  
तूफानउठीतबझोपड़िनसे,  
महलनकैइंटियाखसकिउठी॥  
'आजाद' कहैंतबबुझिनसकी,  
चिनगारिउअंगाराहोइहैं।  
तबजरिहैंमहल-किला-कोठी,  
कृटियनमाउजियाराहोइहैं॥”

जुमईखां 'आजाद'

## FAIRS AND FESTIVALS



Figure 52 Fair at Ajgara Temple Source [https://m.facebook.com/ajgaradham/photos/?ref=page\\_internal&mt\\_nav=0](https://m.facebook.com/ajgaradham/photos/?ref=page_internal&mt_nav=0)

Fairs and Festivals in India are celebrated as part of life, so too in Pratapgarh. A fair is organised in which people gather to take a holy dip and bathe in the river. It is believed that bathing in the holy water of the Ganga absolves people of sins and brings salvation from the cycle of life and death. An annual fair is held at Bela Bhawani Mandir to celebrate the festival of Navaratri and worship Maa Bhawani. In addition to this, Buddh Purnima is also celebrated at Kot Buddhist Monastery, and Ambedkar Jayanti. Other fairs held at Pratapgarh are at Beejmata Temple, Nag Vasuki temple during the occasion of Nag Panchami. Magh Mela and Ajar fair are also celebrated here.



The Hindu festivals celebrated at Pratapgarh are Diwali, Dusshera, Rakshabandhan, Shivratri, Bhai Dooj, Bharat Fair and Islamic festivals include Muharram, Eid, Bakr Id, Eid Al-adha, Rabi Alanwal procession and Chehelom.



Figure 53Ajjara MelaSource [https://m.facebook.com/ajqaradham/photos/?ref=page\\_internal&mt\\_nav=0](https://m.facebook.com/ajqaradham/photos/?ref=page_internal&mt_nav=0)

## PLACES TO VISIT

- **BENTI, PRATAPGARH**

**Benti** is a village in Kunda tehsil of Pratapgarh district. The village is located on the banks of river Ganga and nearby village Bhadri. Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar Sanctuary, or Benti Lake, is located in Benti. The lake, which covers more than 1,000 acres was designated as a bird sanctuary.



Figure 54Benti, Pratapgarh Source  
[FvsWzU\\_r6XY/XBjHv4OL\\_7I/AAAAAAAAAQE/MyYPFG3p0xEjtSs-F9SjUeFlf4U8yNovACLcBGAs/s640/DSC02876.jpg](https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-FvsWzU_r6XY/XBjHv4OL_7I/AAAAAAAAAQE/MyYPFG3p0xEjtSs-F9SjUeFlf4U8yNovACLcBGAs/s640/DSC02876.jpg)

<https://3.bp.blogspot.com/>



## PRATAPGARH FORT

Raja Pratap Singh(1628-1662) laid the foundation of the fort of Pratapgarh (known by his name) in the neighbouring region of Ahror, known as Rampur. The administration of Tiroul was now done from this newly made fort of Pratapgarh. Later, the region around the fort came to be known as Pratapgarh.



Figure 55Pratapgarh Fort





Figure 56 View of Pratapgarh Fort Source [https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-X-Vf4X1e-LE/VUORno5pAMI/AAAAAAAAAKaA/-YhVUANHOTU/s1600/pratapgarh%2Bcity%2Bfort%2B\(3\).JPG](https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-X-Vf4X1e-LE/VUORno5pAMI/AAAAAAAAAKaA/-YhVUANHOTU/s1600/pratapgarh%2Bcity%2Bfort%2B(3).JPG)



- BHADRI, KUNDA, PRATAPGARH



Figure 57 Fort at BhadriKundaPratapgarh Source [https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-cOzuFtc90RI/Wlc-Q1Jbycl/AAAAAAAAANzY/7hPHN72ZkKEwDWXxKk0eFqG\\_W\\_c4oCw2QCLcBGAs/s1920/42.jpg](https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-cOzuFtc90RI/Wlc-Q1Jbycl/AAAAAAAAANzY/7hPHN72ZkKEwDWXxKk0eFqG_W_c4oCw2QCLcBGAs/s1920/42.jpg)

- DILIPPUR FORT, PRATAPGARH



Figure 58 Dilippur Fort Source [https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-6EuszdW8JCo/VVNj9ZINStI/AAAAAAAAAKqY/k93VeG\\_fEPk/s1600/Dilippur%2BKila1.jpg](https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-6EuszdW8JCo/VVNj9ZINStI/AAAAAAAAAKqY/k93VeG_fEPk/s1600/Dilippur%2BKila1.jpg)



- KALAKANKAR FORT, PRATAPGARH



Figure 59 Kalakankar Fort Source <https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-RuC17NI1fm8/VTH-BG2bMvI/AAAAAAAAAKFw/SkUi8P3vqhY/s1600/kalakankar%2Bpratapgarh3.jpg>

- AMARGARH, PRATAPGARH



Figure 60 A mesmerizing view at Amargarh Source <https://www.pratapgarhup.in/search/label/%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%BE>



- **BHADRI, KUNDA, PRATAPGARH**



Figure 61Bhadri, Kunda, Pratapgahr Source <https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-xiAeAG7WBf8/VTHVYDqTWbl/AAAAAAAAAJ8c/S3tdsieeM9c/s1600/benti%2Bkunda%2Bpratapgahr3.jpg>

- **KOT BUDDHIST MONASTERY**

Kot Buddhist Monastery is located in Ranjeetpur near the scenic Sai River. A temple of Buddha inside this complex sees major activity during the festival of Buddha Purnima.



Figure 62Kot Buddhist Monastery Source [https://www.hlimg.com/images/things2do/738X538/kothaung\\_temple\\_the\\_temple\\_of\\_90,000\\_buddha\\_images\\_interior\\_6\\_030216023439\\_1506969999t.jpg](https://www.hlimg.com/images/things2do/738X538/kothaung_temple_the_temple_of_90,000_buddha_images_interior_6_030216023439_1506969999t.jpg)

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नदी कंठरा बीच बिपिन मे,  
मार्ग निष्कंटक निर्भय हो  
यहाँ पधारे बन्धु हमारे  
आपकी यात्रा मंगल मय हो  
फिर आना यहि ठाँव मुसाफिर  
भूल मत जाना

- निर्झर प्रतापगढ़

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