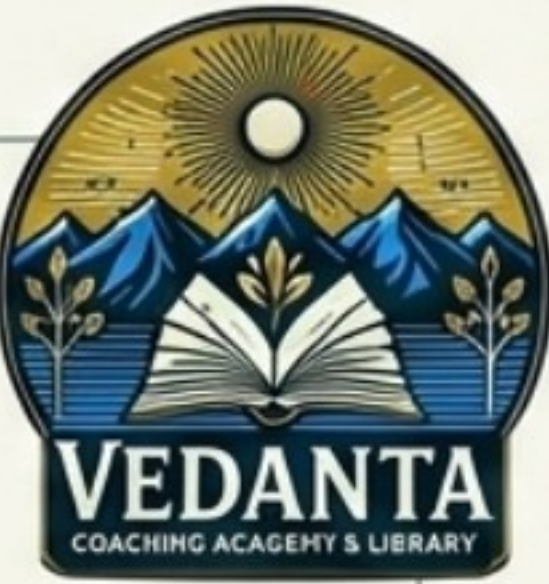




Geography of Himachal Pradesh: Lakes & Valleys

An Exact Typology of Regional Waters and Terrains

Natural Lakes: Chamba District



Ghadasaru: In Chamba, 24 km from Tissa (72 km from Chamba); at 3,505 m MSL with a circumference of nearly 1 km.

Khajjiar: In a grassy meadow, 1.5 km long and 1 km wide, ringed by cedar forest; a small lake, the Kund, forms its centrepiece, with a temple to 'Khajjiar nag'. 24 km from Dalhousie; known as 'Mini Switzerland', christened by Swiss Envoy Willy P. Blazer on 7 July 1992.

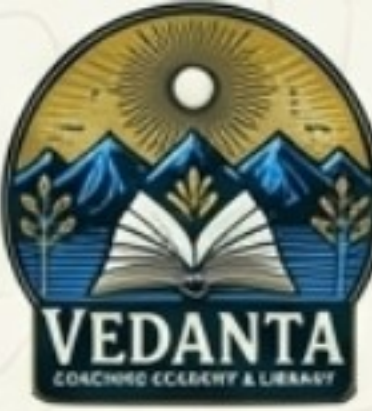
Lama (Lama Dal): 45 km from Chamba on the inner Dhauladhar slopes; a group of seven lakes, the largest being Lama Dal at 3,962 m (13,200 ft); 20 km from Dainkund. Gaddi tribals visit on Janmashtami.

Manimahesh: 35 km from Bharmour at 3,950 m, at the foot of Mount Kailash (5,660 m) – perhaps the highest sacred water in Chamba. Said to be blessed by Kali and protected by Lord Shiva; an annual fair is held in August/September.

Mahakali: In Chamba at 3,657 m; a little larger than Khajjiar and Manimahesh, in the Churah area; dedicated to goddess Kali.

Chanderkup: At 3,450 m (14,000 ft); one of many lakes in the upper regions of Chamba towards Dharamshala.

Natural Lakes: Kangra & Mandi Districts



Kangra District

Dal: In Kangra, 11 km from Dharamshala; amid hills and fir trees, also known as Bhogsu Nag; dedicated to “Lord Driveshwar”, built by Sage Agastaya.

Kareri: 35 km from Dharamshala at 1,810 m; ringed by meadows, oak and pine; its water falls into the Layun river.

Mandi District

Kumarwah: 40 km from Mandi town; also called Kamrunag Lake; in Chachyot tehsil at 3,150 m.

Rewalsar: About 25 km from Mandi; an important pilgrimage centre famous for its floating island; sacred to Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs.

Kunt Bhayog: At the hilltop of Rewalsar town at 1,700 m, enclosed by hills on two sides; about 12–15 m deep at the centre.

Kalasar: At 1,755 m MSL, at the top of Rewalsar town.

Prashar: At 2,743 m, 30 km from Mandi town, in a cup-like valley; a pagoda-style three-storeyed temple of Prashar Rishi stands here.

Natural Lakes: Kullu, Shimla & Sirmour

Kullu District

Bhrigu: At 4,235 m near Rohtang pass; about 3 m deep.

Servalsar: At the top of Jalori Pass in Kullu at 3,100 m; 20 km from Banjar towards Anni.

Shimla District

Chandranahan: On Chanshal peak in Rohru tehsil, Shimla, at 4,267 m; the Pabbar river originates here.

Tanu Jubbal: Near Narkanda, in Shimla district.

Karali: On the Chhota Shali hillock opposite Shali peak; about the size of Shimla's Annadale ground.

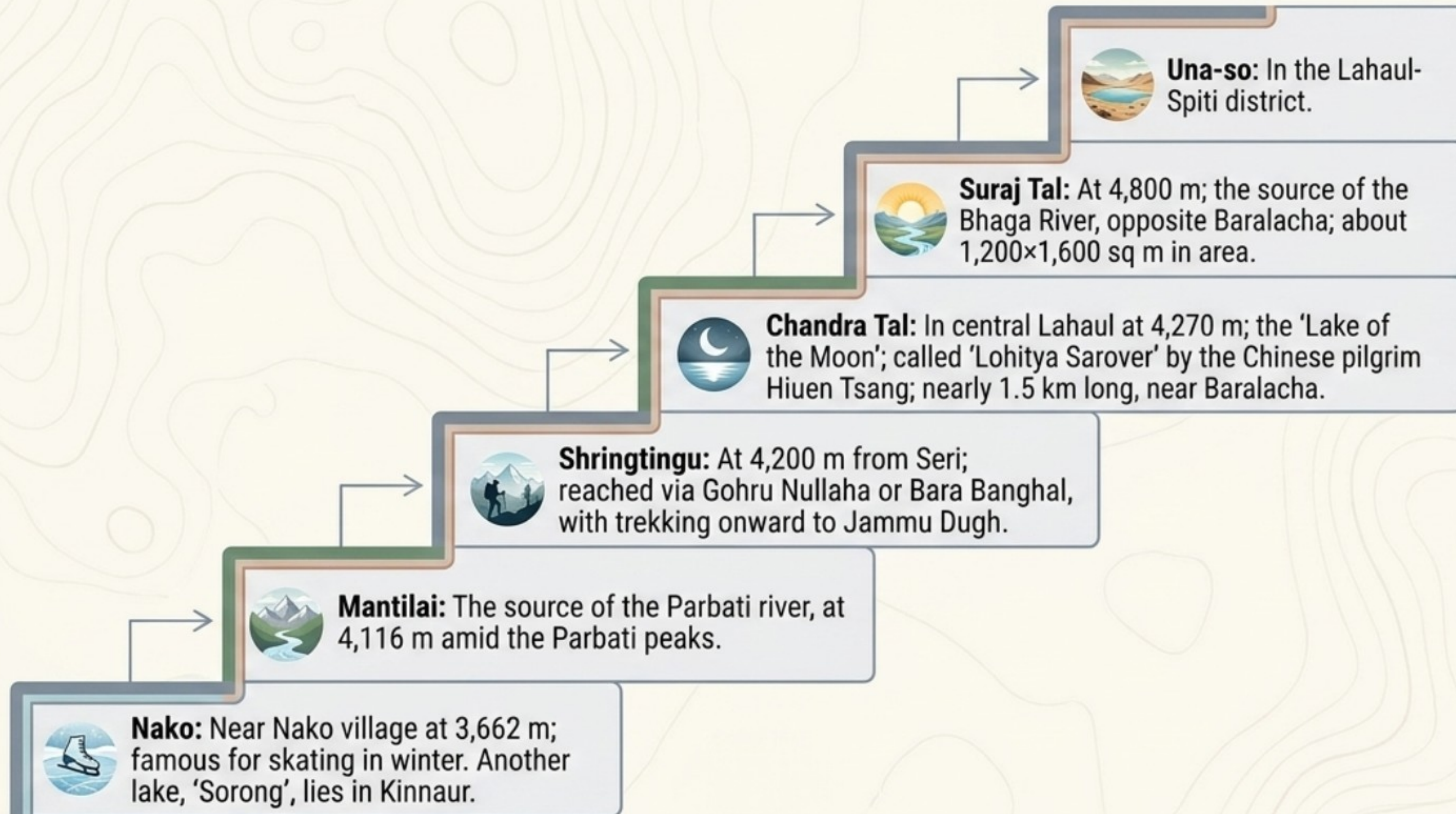
Sirmour & Others

Renuka: About 45 km from Nahan; the largest natural lake, with crystal-clear water; related to Rishi Parshuram and Rishi Jamdgini.

Saketi: Near Shivalik Fossil Park in Sirmour; once a lake, now filled with sand and stones.

Sukhsar: At 1,760 m near Rewalsar; surrounded by hills, receiving winter snowfall.

High-Altitude Natural Lakes

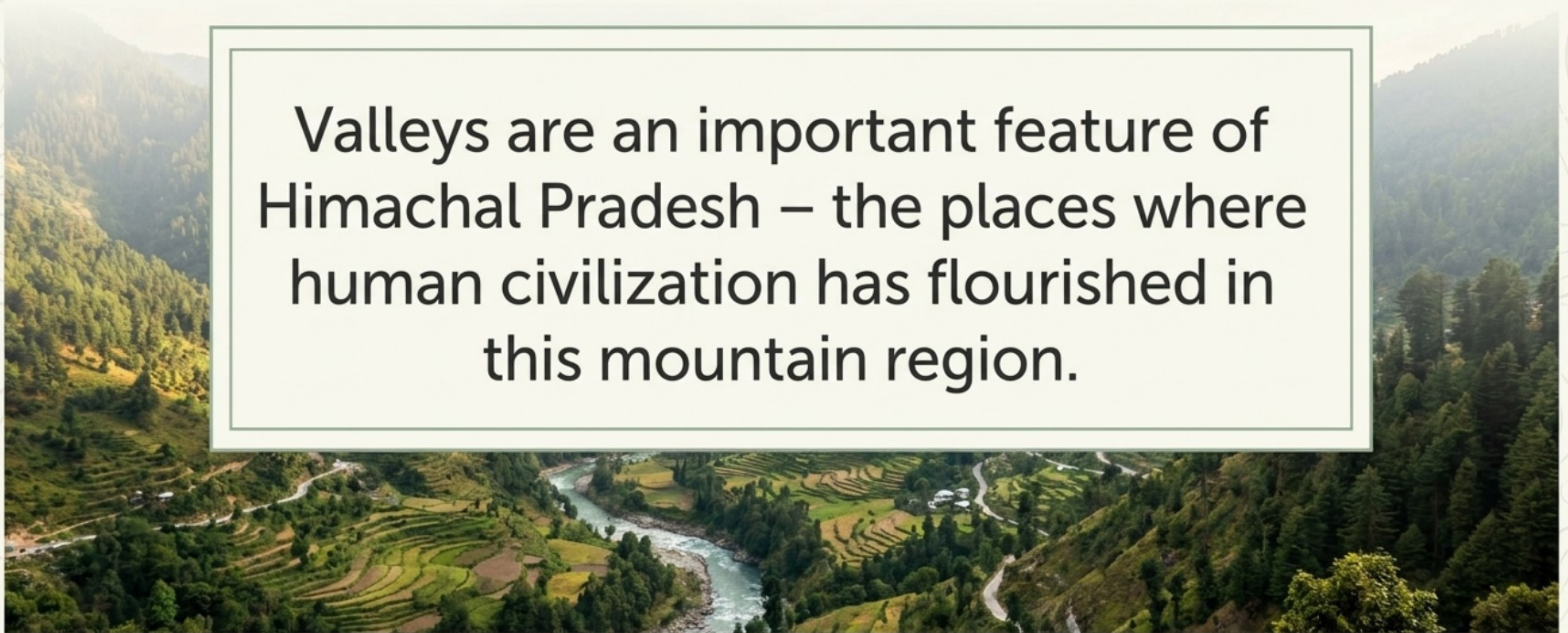


Man-Made Lakes & Reservoirs

Lake Name	Exact Description
Govind Sagar	An artificial lake formed by the Bhakra Dam on the Satluj, in Bilaspur; famous for water sports and fishing. Bhakra is the world's highest gravity dam, described by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru as a 'New temple of Resurgent India'.
Pong Lake	A large reservoir created by the Pong Dam on the Beas; declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1983 and managed by the BBMB. An important habitat for 30,000–50,000 migratory birds of over 50 species annually, including the rare red-necked grebe; threatened by illegal farming, grazing, construction and silt.
Pandoh Lake	14 km from Mandi towards Aut on NH-21; formed by the Pandoh dam after diverting the Beas to the Satluj at Slapper.
Chamera Lake	Formed by the 540 MW Chamera hydroelectric project on the Ravi near Chamera village in Chamba; 25 km from Dalhousie, visible from the Chamba-Pathankot Highway.

Major Valleys

Valleys are an important feature of Himachal Pradesh – the places where human civilization has flourished in this mountain region.



Major Valleys: Satluj & Kiarda-Dun



Satluj Valley: Carved by the Satluj from Shipki (north) to Bilaspur (south). Entering near the Shipki La Pass in Kinnaur, the river cuts across the Zaskar, Great Himalayan, Pir Panjal and Dhauladhar ranges, shaping a deep, narrow valley with settlements such as Bilaspur, Rampur and Bhabha.



Kiarda-Dun Valley: In the south-eastern corner; also called Paonta valley, in the Markanda and Dharti ranges, with the Yamuna separating it from Dehradun. It has three tracts: the Neli Khera tract; the par-dun tract near Majra village; and the dun proper, between the Yamuna and the lower Dharti/Poka hills, watered by the Giri and Bata streams.

Major Valleys: Kullu & Kangra



Figure 1.10 Kullu Valley

Kullu Valley: The broad, open expanse between Mandi and Larji, sculpted by the Beas; the only transverse valley in Himachal, cutting across the ranges. Famed for pine and deodar forests and apple orchards; attractions include Naggar Castle, Nehru Kund, the Roerich Art Gallery, the Hadimba Temple and hot springs.



Figure 1.11 Kangra Valley

Kangra Valley: An extensive dun-type valley between the Dhauladhar (north) and the Shivaliks (south), rising from Shahpur through Baijnath to Palampur. Paleolithic hand tools found here mark Kangra as one of the oldest continuously inhabited areas in the Himalayas.

Major Valleys: Bara Bhangal, Balh & Chamba



Bara Bhangal Valley:

Adjoins the Kangra Valley between the Dhauladhar and Pir Panjal, lying partly in Kangra and partly in Chamba. The Ravi originates from its upper slopes; one of the most secluded valleys, inhabited mainly by the Gaddi community.



Balh Valley (Sundernagar Valley, Mandi):

An open dun-type valley between an offshoot of the Shimla Ridge (north) and the Shivaliks (south), from Gutker to Sundernagar and Baggi to Gumma, along NH-21 and traversed by the Suketi Khad. The Indo-German Agricultural Project began here in November 1962.



Chamba Valley (Ravi Valley):

A picturesque region in the north-west, the 'Valley of Honey' for its abundant natural honey.

Major Valleys: Lahaul-Spiti, Baspa & Pabbar



Figure 1.15 Lahaul & Spiti.

Lahaul & Spiti Valleys:

Lahaul lies north of the Pir Panjal and main Himalaya — the Bhaga valley up to Tandi and the Chenab from Tandi to Udaipur, beyond which lies remote Pangi.

Spiti, carved by the Spiti river, lies between the main Himalaya (south) and the Zaskar range (north) — a high-altitude desert.



Figure 1.16 Baspa (Sangla) Valley.

Baspa Valley (Sangla Valley):

Baspa Valley (Sangla Valley):

In Kinnaur, sculpted by the Baspa; elevation ranges from ~1,830 m (Baspa-Satluj confluence) to ~3,475 m at Chitkul, the last inhabited village near the Indo-Tibetan border; the Baspa runs ~95 km through it.

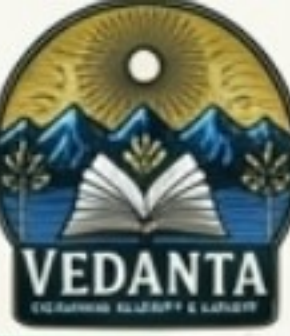


Figure 1.17 Pabbar (Rohru) Valley.

Pabbar Valley (Rohru Valley):

Drained by the Pabbar, which rises from the Chansal Peak south of Kinnaur; from Hatkoti to Tikri at the base of the Chansal range. Trout were introduced by M. Glover, British Chief Conservator of Forests, in 1938–39.

District-wise Valleys: Kinnaur & Lahaul-Spiti



Kinnaur	
Satluj valley:	From Shipki to Bilaspur; cuts across the Dhauladhar, Pir Panjal, Great Himalayas and Zaskar.
Baspa valley:	From Chitkul to Karcham; Chung Shakhago pass lies at its end.
Hangrang valley:	Drained by the Lee river.
Tidong valley:	The most rugged valley of Kinnaur ('a scene of savage grandeur'), ~32 km long, enclosing Kuno, Charang and Thangi.
Chor Gad valley:	Drained by the Chor Gad nallah, at the Kinnaur–Tibet border.
Ropa valley:	Also Shyaso/Sunam valley, drained by the Ropa stream; villages Ropa, Giabong, Sunam, Shyaso.
Bhaba valley:	Also Wangpo; traversed by the Bhaba stream; the 120 MW Sanjay Jal Vidyut project is here.
Nishang valley:	In the Pooh sub-division; leads to Tibet, north of Tirung valley; also called Gyamthang.

Lahaul-Spiti	
Chandra valley:	Formed by the Chandra river; locally 'rangoli/rongloi'.
Bhaga valley:	Formed by the Bhaga river; locally 'Gara'.
Chandrabhaga valley:	Combined Chandra–Bhaga valley; locally Pattan valley; 'orchards and granaries of Lahaul'.
Spiti valley:	From Kunzum pass to the Spiti–Satluj confluence at Khab; 'Spiti' means 'the middle land'; zones Shain (Lower), Pin, Bhar (Middle).
Pin valley:	Within Spiti, drained by the Pin river, a Spiti tributary.
Malung valley:	East of Baralacha and Kunzum pass, between the Spiti and Chandra basins.

District-wise Valleys: Solan, Kullu & Mandi

Solan

Kunihar valley

From Kuni Khad to Tukardia village.

Dun valley

In Nalagarh tehsil; the most fertile area of Solan.

Saproon valley

'Happy valley'; the first cultivation of tomatoes in the state took place here.

Gambhar valley

Divides Solan in two; the Gambhar river enters at Shadi village; tomb of Gorkha commander Bhakti Tahpa.

Sirsa valley

From Dagshai; the Baldi River flows through; Nalagarh, Baddi, Parwanoo are industrial centres; quartzite found by Olaf Prufer in 1951.

Kullu

Kullu valley

Between the Pir Panjal, lower and great Himalayan ranges; once believed a vast lake; drained by the Beas; Sainj valley famed for archaeological remains.

Mandi

Balh valley: Sundernagar valley; drained by the Suketi (divides it in two); between the Shimla ridge and the Shivaliks.

Imla-Vimla valley: From Mandi to Shikari Devi temple in Karsog, over the old Suket region; Mamleshwar Kamaksha Devi temple here; the Vimla river rises here.

Chauntra valley: A fertile valley at the Dhauladhar's base in Joginder Nagar; known for tea cultivation.

District-wise Valleys: Shimla, Sirmaur, Kangra & Others

Shimla

Pabbar valley: Drained by the **Pabbar**; from Hatkoti to Tikri at the Chansal foothills; also **Rohru** valley.

Green / Hasan valley: Runs from Shimla to Fagu.

Sirmaur

Kiarda Dun valley: Paonta valley; in the Markanda and Dharti ranges, drained by the Giri and Khala; **Yamuna** separates it from Dehradun.

Bilaspur

Chaunto valley: Near the Bhakhra dam.

Danwin valley: Between Bhadarpur and Bandla Hills (AIIMS here); also Jukhala valley.

Kangra

Kangra valley: Dun-type valley from Shahpur to Baijnath and Palampur; drained by the **Beas**; between the Dhauladhar and Shivalik; towns Baijnath, Palampur, Kangra, Nurpur, Dharamshala.

Bara Banghal valley: Between the Dhauladhar and Pir Panjal, in Kangra and Chamba; the **Ravi** originates here.

Una

Swan valley: On both sides of the Swan river; also Jaswan Dun valley; from **Dhaulapur** (NW) to Santokhgarh near Nangal; the **Una** HQ lies in its middle.

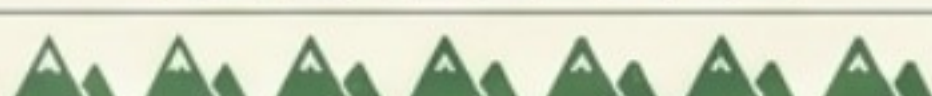
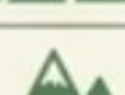
Chamba

Ravi valley: Chamba valley; the 'valley of milk and honey'; between the Pir Panjal (north) and Dhauladhar (south).

Pangi valley: Along the Chenab adjoining Chamba; **Lahaul** to the east, Jammu-Kishtwar to the west; **Sach pass** near Sechu Nallah.

Churah valley: Formed by the Siul; the most fertile area; Drati Pass here; **Dalhousie**, **Khajjiar**, Chamba and **Bharmour** ('Monkey valley').

Typological Synthesis: The Districts of Himachal

	Natural Lakes	Man-Made Lakes	Valleys
Chamba			
Kangra			
Mandi			
Kullu			
Shimla			
Sirmour			
Lahaul-Spiti			
Kinnaur			
Solan			
Bilaspur			
Una			
Hamirpur			

Valleys are an important feature of Himachal Pradesh – the places where human civilization has flourished in this mountain region.