CHAPTER II

GENERAL FEATURE OF DISTRICT BALRAMPUR
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BALRAMPUR

The historical district Balrampur earlier was state of Maharani Lalkunwari Singh, Maharaja Bhagwati Prasad Singh and Pateshwari Prasad Singh. It was a tahsil of Gonda district of Faizabad division since 24 May 1997. Balrampur was declared as a district on 25 May 1997 by chief minister of Uttar Pradesh Mayawati. Now it is included as a chief district of Devipatan division by G.O. No. 1428 – 197 – 172 – 85 – R – S - Lucknow (25 May, 1997).

Location.

The district Balrampur lies in Shivalik region in between $26^0 48^\prime$ N to $27^0 55^\prime$ N latitude and $81^0 34^\prime$ E to $82^0 49^\prime$ E longitude of north western belt of eastern Uttar Pradesh at a distance of about 165 kms. from the state capital Lucknow. (Plate. I). The district spreads in an area of about 3419.50 Sq. kms. Lying along the Indo - Nepal International Boundary, it includes
Balrampur Sadar, Tulsipur and Uttraula tahsils and Harrya, Satgharwa, Balrampur, Tulsipur, Gainsari, Pachpedwa, Shridattganj, Uttraula, Garasbujurg and Rehra blocks. (Plate. II). The district spreads from north to south 81 km. and from east to west 72 kms. It lies at an elevation of about 185 m. above the sea level (MSL).

Balrampur is a most backward and under developed district of eastern Uttar Pradesh with northern boundaries marching with Nepal to the foot hills of Shivalik ranges. District of Sidharthanager and Basti located on the east lines. On the west lines of this district, Shravasti, Bahraich and Gonda districts of its boundary. The transportation system of this district is mainly consists of railway and highways and nearest airport is Shravasti (16 km.).

Forest.

The Terai forest of the area lies along the Nepal frontier and have even 730 sqr.km. of total forest area. The forest of the Balrampur district covers an area of about 20,127. and divisible geographically into 5 ranges viz. Bhabhar, Rampur, Tulsipur, Barhava and Bankatwa with a total area of 51243.20 hectare meters. There are two major divisions of forests of this area viz. Tulsipur reserve and Balrampur state. The forests of the district of are tropical deciduous type predominant by all forest. The other forest types of the area are teak forest, mixed forest, swamp forest and grassland forest.
Topography.

Physically, the area forms a small segment of alluvial Indo–Gangetic troughs. It is almost a featureless plain expecting some local topographical variations caused by rivers. Moreover numerous shallow depressions and elevations in the surface level are due to existence of tals and nalas. The area mainly comprise Pleistocene gangetic alluvium and comprise the basic of the rivers Rapti, Terhi and Ghaghra together with their tributaries (Bakshi, 2001).

Topographically the district can be divided in three parts viz., Terai, Uparhar and Tarhar and the line of demarcation belongs to aforesaid three major rivers.

(1). Terai : Topographically the Terai is most significant and complex part of the district running along the Indo – Nepal border from Shivalik forests upto Rapti river. The scope of this area is from north–west towards south-east. Terai mainly includes Pachpedwa, Tulsipur, Gainsari, Harriya, Satgharwa and Balrampur blocks with dense forests. The soil of this region is heavy clay.

(2). Uparhar : It is the upland region of the district extends from Rapti to Bishuhi river forming southern border of the district. The soil of this belt is mainly alluvial loam and rest is light sandy. The scope of upland belt is from north-west towards south-east. It consists of Shreeduttganj, Uttaraula, Gairansbujugr and Rehra blocks of the district.
(3). **Tarhar**: It is a small area of about 15 feet elevation forming the border of Balrampur with Gonda district. The soil of this range is generally loamy.

**Soil**.

The soil of the district is of Pleistocene gangetic alluvial type and differs considerably in texture ranging from sandy to loam and silt to clay loam. Local topographic and drainage variations have brought about significant changes in the soil morphology resulting in textural differences grading from sand through silts to heavy clay. Soil of the district ranges from low to medium in organic matter and other soil nutrients.

On the basis of texture the soil of the district may be classified into following types:

(a) Clayey soil  
(b) Loamy soil  
(c) Sandy soil  
(d) Silt soil

(a) **Clayey soil**: It occurs in the northern Terai part of the area and remains constantly moist due to water-logging and low rate of permeability.

(b) **Loamy soil**: It occurs in the ‘Bangar’ parts of the area away from the river banks. It consist almost equal parts of clay and
sand. The high friability, better drainage, rich humus and high nitrogen contents combine to make this soil suitable for most of the crops.

(c) **Sandy soil** :- It occurs chiefly in the 'Khadar' parts and along river banks of the area. These soil contains low percentage of organic matter, usually less than 0.5%.

(d) **Silt soil** :- It occurs at some scattered patches in the area and is liable to annual inundations. It is capable to growing crops without irrigation.

**Climate.**

The climate plays a major role in plant growth and in determination of vegetation type of the area. High annual rainfall, high relative humidity, high temperature and small variation in these factors characterise the rather monotonous environment of the rich and luxurient flora. The climate in general is the same in Balrampur district as that of the rest districts of Uttar Pradesh located at Indo Nepal border. The climate is basically sub-tropical monsoon type with marked seasonal rhythm and diurnal differences in temperature. The cold waves, associated with winter cyclones and hot summer winds sweeping the entire Ganga plains, are rarely experienced. The climate of the area is transitional in character between the relatively drier western and per humid eastern parts of the Ganga plain.
The year may broadly be split into three seasons, viz., rainy season from mid June till October, characterised by high rain fall, high relative humidity and moderate temperature; a winter season from October to March, characterised by low rainfall, moderate relative humidity and low temperature and a summer season from April to mid June and is characterized by high temperature, low relative humidity and very low or none rainfall. There are two transition periods, which extend when season changes from rainy to winter and from winter to summer respectively.

(1) **Rainfall**: Rainfall is the most important climatic factor that affects the vegetation. The average annual rainfall at Balrampur is 1150 mm. The total rainfall decreases from north to south direction. The onset of rainfall begins with the arrival of southwest humid oceanic current by mid June and continue up to the end of September. The maximum rainfall occurs in July and minimum in December.

(2) **Temperature**: Temperature exhibits a good range of variation between day and night and between winter and summer. It is certainly cooler by several degree than that of districts south to Ghaghra. May and June are the hottest months with shade temperature upto 45.1°C and December and January are the coldest with an average
temperature 25.4°c. Generally the temperature increases February onwards and decreases gradually July onwards.

(3) **Relative Humidity**: The relative humidity is generally lowest in summer, while it is maximum during rainy seasons. There is a slow fall in relative humidity from September to November and it rises in the months from December to February and then decline to a minimum in May.

(4) **Wind**: During the first half of the monsoon the wind usually blows southwest to north-east resulting in uprooting of tall trees. In the second half of the monsoon the winds are normal. Thunderstorms occur during the period of February to October, but their frequency is highest during monsoon months. Those in April and May are sometimes violent. Fog occurs occasionally in winter season.

**Drainage**.

The district is intersected by a number of rivers and streams. The important rivers of the area that needs to mention are Terhi, Ghaghra, Rapti and Kuano. These rivers also have their perennial as well as seasonal tributaries viz. Bisui, Manwar, Suaon, Peera, Jorpania, Hengaha, Fari, Amaha, Baghela etc. There is many water reservoir in the district viz., Bhagwanpur, Chittargrah, Kohargaddi, Girgitahi, Bangghhra etc.
The district is traversed by serval lakes and ponds. A few important among them are Maukhan, Ratohi, Samada, Kharirahi, Chanda, Paglia, Khamna, Kahan, Agatha, Pipra, Puraina etc.

Flood.

The district is frequently subjected to flood. The 'tals' and 'nalas' occurring in the area overflow when the rains are excessive. During the rainy season the whole drainage system swell up and get connected and overflow causing havoc and devastation. The area affected by flood is more than half of the total area.

Biotic Interference:

The vegetation on the earth is much influenced by biotic factors. The plants as well as the animals including human being also, who affect the vegetation in any way, fall under this category.

Some common climbers of the area affect the growth and development of the plant on which they spread. Some of these plants are Capparis zeylanica, Cissus adnata, Ichnocarpus frutescens, Smilax perfoliata, Tiliacora acuminata, Tinospora cordifolia, and Vallaris solanancea.

The parasites are also responsible to affect the growth of host plant. Cuscuta reflexa and Dendropthoe falcata are found on a wide range of host plants like Adhatoda vasica, Madhuca longifolia var. latifolia, Magifera indica, Syzygium cumini and Vitex negundo. The root parasites Orobanche aegyptiaca and
Striga asiatica are commonly found on the members of family Brassicaceae, Solanaceae and Poaceae. Some parasitic algae and fungi cause considerable damage to their host plants like Butea monosperma, Bombax cieba and Mangifera indica.

Insects have also been found to cause considerable damage to the plants. The larvae and adults of the insects have been observed feeding on the leaves of Madhuca longifolia var latifolia, Mangifera indica, Morus alba and Syzygium cumini.

Man and domestic animals influence the vegetation to a great extent. They have been the greater users of nature and natural resources. The constantly increasing population, urbanization and industrialization have markedly affected the vegetation. Man is directly involved in burning, clearing and cultivation of plants affecting the natural vegetation. Besides the human population, a large number of domestic and wild animals have also influenceed the vegetation by grazing and browsing the plants and their propagules.

Throughtless destruction of natural vegetation for timber, fodder, grazing by cattle and occasional fire resulted in rarity of species that were earlier very common and the woodlands are transformed into grasslands.