The district Sant Ravidas Nagar ‘Bhadohi’ is situated in between two ancient and sacred cities i.e. Varanasi (Kashi) and Allahabad (Prayag), along the bank of river Ganges. It lies between 25°9´ and 25°32´ North latitude and 82°14´ and 82°45´ East longitudes. Lengthwise study area of Sant Ravidas Nagar ‘Bhadohi’ is 40 kms from east to west and its breadth is about 24 kms from north to south. Thus the district is the smallest in U.P. from area point of view. The total area is 1042.81 km². The Neighboring districts are – Jaunpur in north, Allahabad in west, Varanasi in east and Mirzapur in south. From administrative point of view the district is divided into 6 blocks – Bhadohi, Gyanpur, Aurai, Suriyawan, Abholi and Deegh.

**Historical view**

In ancient days the district was known by different names, such as Anand Van, Saghan Van, Kanchan Van or Sunder Van by local inhabitants (mostly Rajputs). Remains of Sundar Van can still be seen in form of degraded forest of Palash (*Butea monosperma*) near Ajaipur. Later on the district was named as Bharodoi with headquarter Suriyawan by Bhar community. After this it was ruled by Maunas Rajputs till 1753 and later on by rulers of Kashi and they named it as ‘Bhadohi’. Till 1994 Bhadohi was subdivision of district Varanasi but it was elevated to the level of district on 30th June 1994 as 65th district of U.P. with headquarter at Gyanpur.

**Rivers and Ponds**

The district main rivers are Ganga, Varuna and Morwa. The important ponds are Samadha Tal, Tal Grid Badgaon, Tal Dubaha East, Tal Oro, Tal Odara, Tal Chhanaura, Tal Ram Chandrapur West, Tal Suryabhanpur, Tal Sanathpatti and Tal Gandhi, etc.
Topography

Almost entire study area is plain. The average altitude of the area above sea level varies from 90.5 meters to 79.2 meters. Regionally the topography of the district may be divided into following parts -

1. Varuna River Catchment Area

This area stretches along river Varuna from west to east in form of narrow strep. It occupied about 14% of the total area of the district i.e. 155 km$^2$. Soil is mostly sandy type with scattered pieces of kankar. Vegetation is in the form of thorny bushes and stunted trees of Palash.

2. Northern Bangar Area (Older Alluvium)

This area lies between Varuna River and Morwa restricted area having total area about 126 km$^2$. Soil is mostly loamy and suitable for Kharif and Rabi crops.

3. Morwa Restricted Area

This area comprises central part of the study area along river Morwa having total area of about 155 km$^2$. The area is having alkaline soil with scattered patches of loamy soil.

4. Southern Bangar Area

The area lies in form of strip in between Morwa restricted area and Ganga basin. The soil is sandy loam and suited to all types of vegetation. It is highly crop producing area of the district. The total area is about 415 km$^2$.

5. Ganga Basin

The area is found along river Ganges having alluvial soil. Total area is about 193 km$^2$. Agricultural practices are rare in this area due to flood.

PEDOLOGY

The entire area consists of mainly four types of soil.
1. **Alluvial soil of River Ganga**

   The type of soil is found along river Ganga which is mainly sandy in nature. Every year a new layer of soil is deposited and thus structure of soil is platy. This soil is very fertile and crops like Gram, Pea, Wheat, etc are grown without fertilizer and irrigation. It also contains black soil in patches at certain places.

2. **Loamy soil**

   This type of soil is on the either side of NH-2. It is very fertile and quite suitable for agricultural purpose. The northern part of the region contains scattered patches of clayey soil while the southern part contains scattered patches of sandy soil. Except scattered patches of alkaline soil, the land is very fertile.

3. **Sandy loam**

   The type of soil is found along the river Varuna. The soil is light and rich in sand, hence it is less fertile.

4. **Alkaline clayey soil**

   The 50% of the total area is occupied by this type of soil. The colour of the soil is grey whitish deposition of lime on the surface. This soil is not suitable for agriculture.

**CLIMATE**

The climate in general is subtropical. Based on climatic conditions, the year is divided into three distinct seasons with transition period in between.

1. Rainy season (Mid June – Early October)
2. Transition period (October)
3. Winter season (November – February)
4. Transition period (March)
5. Summer season (April – Mid June)

1. Rainy season

The season starts abruptly with bursting of the summer monsoon, usually in second week of June. It is accompanied by sudden rise in relative humidity, fall in temperature and change in wind direction from westerly and north westerly to easterly and south easterly. The area receives highest rain fall during month of July however highest relative humidity is in the month of August and it is about 85%.

2. Transition period

This season forms the transition from rainy to winter season. The important feature of this period is wide fluctuation in day and night temperature as compared to rainy season. The relative humidity is rather lower than rainy season.

3. Winter season

The cold weather season is most charming clear and fine with pure air and blue sky. The days are generally warm and sunny and nights are usually cold. During October mean daily temperature lowers by 4°C, however, there is no appreciable change in mean daily temperature maximum and minimum as well as relative humidity decreases. Further the relative humidity increases to about 84% due to low temperature.

4. Transition period

It is in between cold and hot season. There is gradually rise in temperature that changes the weather conditions. Diurnal fluctuation in temperature is quite high.

5. Summer season

After January there is continuous rise in temperature. Temperature increases to 40°C in May while relative humidity remains the lowest during April (41%); Scorching sun and hot wind, called ‘Loo’ are characteristics of
the weather. Sometimes the temperature reaches to 45°C often upto 47°C in May or June. Dust and thunder storms are common feature of the season.

**Table: Metrological data (2008-09)**

**Average monthly temp & rainfall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Temperature °C</th>
<th>Relative Humidity (%)</th>
<th>Air Pressure (Milibar)</th>
<th>Average Rainfall (cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>23.40</td>
<td>8.20</td>
<td>15.80</td>
<td>63.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>27.20</td>
<td>11.70</td>
<td>19.45</td>
<td>52.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>33.30</td>
<td>16.50</td>
<td>29.90</td>
<td>36.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>38.30</td>
<td>22.40</td>
<td>30.35</td>
<td>31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>40.60</td>
<td>24.80</td>
<td>32.73</td>
<td>35.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>38.35</td>
<td>27.55</td>
<td>32.95</td>
<td>52.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>33.65</td>
<td>25.85</td>
<td>29.75</td>
<td>75.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>32.30</td>
<td>23.70</td>
<td>28.00</td>
<td>84.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>32.65</td>
<td>22.65</td>
<td>27.65</td>
<td>77.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>29.35</td>
<td>14.95</td>
<td>22.15</td>
<td>59.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>24.35</td>
<td>8.90</td>
<td>16.65</td>
<td>63.80</td>
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</tbody>
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General Features of the District: Sant Ravidas Nagar

Plant Diversity and Medico-Ethnobotanical Studies of District Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi)
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