



### Tons

Origin: Starts at a whopping 6,315 meters high on Bandarpunch Mountain in Uttarakhand.



## THE MIGHTY TONS RIVER- MOST IMPORTANT TRIBUTARY OF YAMUNA RIVER

*Big Deal: The Tons River is the largest and most important tributary of the Yamuna, contributing more water than the Yamuna itself where they meet!*

**Perennial Power: One of the most consistent rivers flowing from the Himalayas, it never runs dry.**

**Journey: Flows through the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand and brushes past Himachal Pradesh. Carves through deep gorges, tranquil valleys, and dense forests.**

Source: Sati, V. P. (2023). TTPP. Uttarakhand: Society, Culture, and Pilgrimages. Today & Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers. Access at <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vishwambhar>

- Sati/publication/365583195\_Uttarakanad\_Society\_Culture\_and\_Pilgrimges/links/6378f5ea37878b3e87c3a888/Uttarakanad-Society-Culture-and-Pilgrimges.pdf

### Explore the Tons Valley: A Land of Legends and Unique Traditions

Where is the Tons Valley?

**Location:** Nestled in Uttarakhand, along the banks of the sparkling Tons River.

**Also Known As:** Jaunsar Bawar region, historically called Panchaladesh in ancient times.

**Geography:** Features river valleys (home to Jaunsaris) and highlands (home to Bawaris).

#### A Connection to the Mahabharata

**Legendary Roots:** The people believe they are descendants of the Pandavas and Kauravas from the epic Mahabharata.

**Pandavas' Hideout:** The valley is said to be where the Pandavas hid during their Agyatvas (secret exile) after escaping a trap set by Duryodhana at Lakhmandal.

#### Tribal Beliefs:

**Jaunsaris (in river valleys):** Worship the Pandavas.

**Bawaris (in highlands):** Honor the Kaurava king, Duryodhana

**Cultural Divide:** The two tribes don't usually mix for marriages or social events, keeping their unique traditions strong.

#### Ancient Temples of the Valley

**Temple Style:** Made of wood with slate roofs, showcasing ancient architecture.

**Famous Temples:** Dedicated to Duryodhana, Karna, and Mahasu Devta.

#### Mahasu Devta Temple:

**Location:** In Hanol village, at 1,050 meters on the left bank of the Tons River, along the Tyuni Mori road in Chakrata taluk, Dehradun district.

**History:** Believed to be built by the Pandavas in the Dwapar Yug; shows 9<sup>th</sup> century Hun architectural influences.

#### The Magical Dev Fulwari (Divine Garden)

**Location:** Next to the Mahasu Devta Temple in Hanol.

**Folktale:** A wild pig used to dig the garden every 25th day of the Shraavan month (July/August) at night and vanish by morning.

**Divine Incident:** The Taandur Muhase family from Chatara Panchayat killed the pig, faced divine wrath, and now digs the garden annually to avoid bad luck.

**Natural Miracle:** Without sowing seeds, Nagras flowers bloom in the garden between November and January.

#### Unique Cultural Traditions

**Polyandry and Polygamy:** The Jaunsaris and Bawaris practice these rare marriage systems, where a woman may have multiple husbands (polyandry) or a man may have multiple wives (polygamy).

#### Tribal Divide:

Jaunsaris in the valleys worship Pandava heroes.

Bawaris in the highlands honour Kaurava figures like Duryodhana.

**Cultural Pride:** The tribes maintain distinct identities, rarely mixing for social or marriage ceremonies.

#### Why the Tons Valley is Awesome

**Epic History:** Walk in the footsteps of Mahabharata heroes and villains.

**Stunning Scenery:** The Tons River and lush valleys are a nature lover's dream.

**Magical Vibes:** From a flower blooming garden to ancient temples, the valley feels enchanted.

**Unique Culture:** Discover traditions like polyandry that you won't find anywhere else.