**Kangra Fort**

The Kangra Fort was built by the royal Rajput family of Kangra State (the Katoch dynasty), which traces its origins to the ancient Trigarta Kingdom, mentioned in the Mahabharata epic. It is the largest fort in the Himalayas and probably the oldest dated fort in India. The fort of Kangra resisted Akbar’s siege in 1615. However, Akbar’s son Jehangir successfully subdued the fort in 1620, forcing the submission of the Raja of Chamba, “the greatest of all the rajas in the region”.  Mughal Emperor Jahangir with the help of Suraj Mal garrisoned with his troops.

The Katoch Kings repeatedly looted Mughal controlled regions, weakening the Mughal control and with the decline of Mughal power, Raja Sansar Chand-II succeeded in recovering the ancient fort of his ancestors, in 1789. Maharaja Sansar Chand fought multiple battles with Gurkhas on one side and Sikh King Maharaja Ranjit Singh on the other. Sansar Chand used to keep his neighboring Kings jailed, and this led to conspiracies against him. During a battle between the Sikhs and Katochs, the gates of the fort had been kept open for supplies. The Gurkha army entered the opened scarcely armed gates in 1806. This forced an alliance between Maharaja Sansar Chand and Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Subsequently in 1809 the Gurkha army was defeated and they had to retreat across Sutlej River. The Fort remained with the Katochs until 1828 when Ranjit Singh annexed it after Sansar Chand’s death. The fort was finally taken by the British after the Sikh war of 1846. A British garrison occupied the fort until it was heavily damaged in an earthquake on the 4th of April, 1905.

**Kangra** is the most populous[district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_districts_of_Himachal_Pradesh) of the Indian state of [Himachal Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himachal_Pradesh). [Dharamshala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dharamsala,_Himachal_Pradesh" \o "Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh) is the administrative headquarters of the district.

Kangra is known for having the oldest serving Royal Dynasty in the world, the [Katoch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katoch" \o "Katoch). In 1758, Raja Ghamand Chand was appointed *nazim* or governor of Jullundur Doab under the Afghans. Ghamand Chand was a brave and strong ruler who restored the prestige of Kangra. As he was unable to capture [Kangra fort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kangra_fort" \o "Kangra fort), he built another fort at Tira Sujanpur on the left bank of the Beas, almost opposite to Alampur on a hill overlooking the town. He died in 1774 and was succeeded by his son, Tegh Chand, who died too soon in 1775. Kangra was annexed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Sikh Empire in 1810. Kangra became a district of [British India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_India) in 1846, when it was ceded to British India at the conclusion of the [First Anglo-Sikh War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Anglo-Sikh_War). The British district included the present-day districts of Kangra, [Hamirpur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamirpur_District,_Himachal_Pradesh" \o "Hamirpur District, Himachal Pradesh), [Kullu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kullu_District" \o "Kullu District), and [Lahul and Spiti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahul_and_Spiti" \o "Lahul and Spiti). Kangra District was part of the British province of [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_British_India). The administrative headquarters of the district were initially at Kangra, but were moved to [Dharamshala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dharamsala,_Himachal_Pradesh" \o "Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh) in 1855.

Kangra is a city and a municipal council in Kangra district in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Historically it was known as Nagarkot.