

# Forts & Palaces of Palamu (Jharkhand)

AN EXPLORATION OF HERITAGE : A HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL  
JOURNEY



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# Palamu: A Forgotten Royal Past

❖ **Palamu** :- A Well Known for its Rich **Biodiversity, History & Natural Beauty** Of Jharkhard, India.

❖ **Location** :- Palamu district, Jharkhand, India – nestled in the **Chotanagpur Plateau**.

**Co-ordinates** -  $23^{\circ}50'$ – $24^{\circ}08'$  N latitude &  $83^{\circ}55'$ – $84^{\circ}30'$  E longitude.

**Borders** - Chatra & Hazaribagh dist.(East), Garhwa dist. (West), Son River & the State of Bihar (North), Latehar dist. (South).

**Rivers** :- Principle river – ‘Koel’ ; It’s tributary – **‘The Auranga’ & ‘The Amant’**

❖ Palamu is also renowned for its **"Cultural Heritage"**.

❖ **Forts & Palaces of Palamu** – Twin Palamu Fort (Naya Kila & Purana Kila), Old Fort of Thakurais of Chainpur, Shahpur Palace, the Palace of Kuar Ambika Prasad Singh (Ladi),& the Palace of Raja Medini Rai (Kakarigarh, Panki).

❖ **Aim** :-

➤ To explore cultural heritage of Palamu & show the rich legacy of blend of **Mughal & Tribal Culture** together through forts & palaces of Palamu.

➤ To conserve and restore our tradition which is fading day by day.

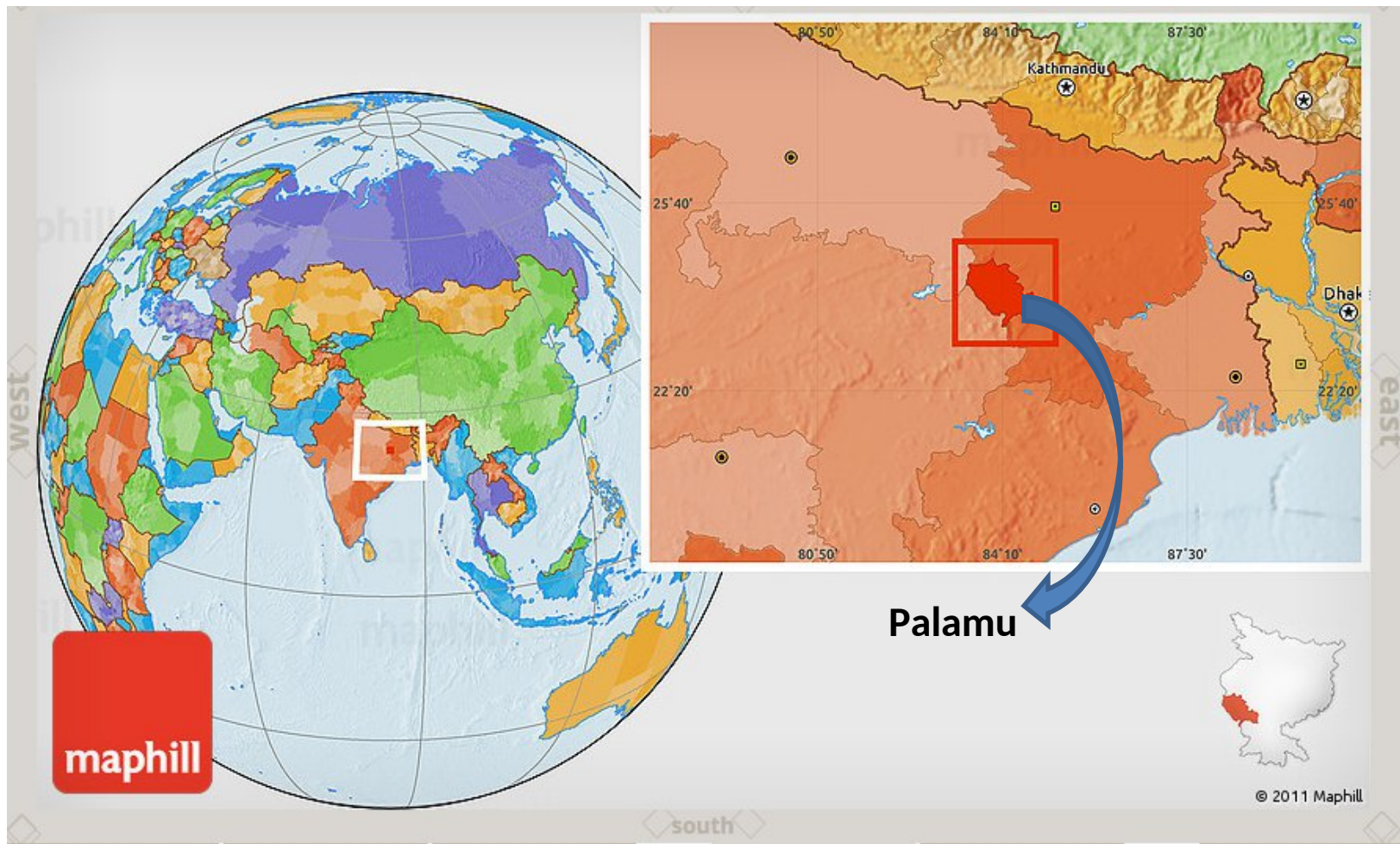
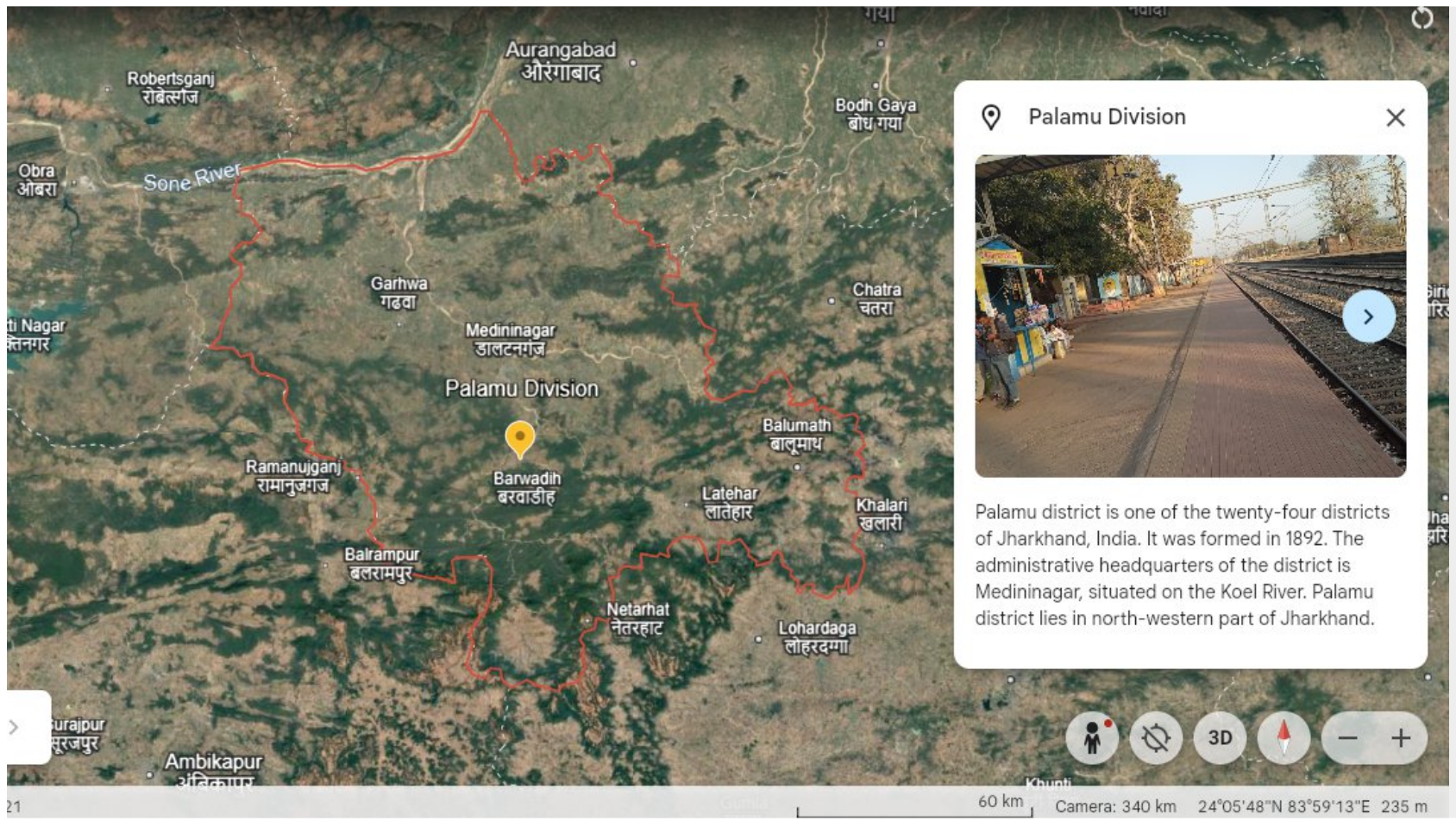


Fig-1 : Map of Palamu (Jharkhand)





## Palamu Division



Palamu district is one of the twenty-four districts of Jharkhand, India. It was formed in 1892. The administrative headquarters of the district is Medininagar, situated on the Koel River. Palamu district lies in north-western part of Jharkhand.





# **Forts & Palaces of Palamu (Jharkhand)**

- ❖ Garh of Raja Medini Rai (Kakrigarh Palace), Kakrigarh, Panki block, Palamu dist., Jharkhand, India.
- ❖ Chainpur Garh, Chainpur ,Palamu district, Jharkhand, India
- ❖ Ladi Garh (Ladi Palace), Ladi, Palamu district, Jharkhand,India

# 1. Garh of Raja Medini Rai (Kakrigarh Palace)

- **Known as** – Garh of Raja Medini Rai
- **Location** : Kakrigarh, Panki block, Palamu dist., Jharkhand, India.
- **Date/Period** : 16<sup>th</sup> Century CE (Medieval period)
- **Dynasty** : Chero Dynasty
- **Built by** : Raja Medini Rai
- **Reported By** : P.C.Roy Chaudhury, M.A., Special Officer, Gazetteer Revision Section, Revenue Department, Bihar, Patna (31<sup>st</sup> March, 1961)
- **Present Condition** : ruined/vanished; only some architectural pieces (lintels) are remains.
- **Type of palace** : Defensive Palace (Fort-palaces)



Fig-2 : Ruined Garh of Kakrigarh, Panki Block, Palamu, Jharkhand  
(Kakrigarh Palace)





Fig - 3 : Sandstone fragment (Lintel?) with repeated lotus-petal (Kamalakara) motifs



Fig - 4: Sandstone fragment (Lintel?) with semicircular motifs





**Fig-5 : Pottery Fragment ( Sherd)**

- **Name** : Terracotta fragment (broken pottery sherd?)
- **Material** : Terracotta (baked clay)
- **Condition** : Broken
- **Dimensions** : approx.9.4 x 9.3 (in cm)
- **Feature** : Incised linear decoration on surface
- **Context** : found in Kakrigarh Palace of palamu, showing association with structural or habitation debris.
- **Significance** :
  - ◆ Represents ancient ceramic tradition.
  - ◆ Useful for cultural identification & dating,chronological study.
  - ◆ Provides evidence of habitation & craftsmanship.



**Fig-6 : Pottery Fragment ( Sherd)**

- **Name** : Terracotta fragment (larger storage vessel or pot ?)
- **Material** : Terracotta (baked clay)
- **Condition** : Broken
- **Dimensions** :
- **Feature** :-
  - ◆ Multiple sherds embedded in soil.
  - ◆ One piece shows curved profile with rim portion (suggestion - it belonged to a **larger storage vessel or pot**)
  - ◆ Other sherds are plain body fragments without decoration.
- **Context** : found in Purana kila (old fort) of palamu, showing association with structural or habitation debris.
- **Significance** :-
  - ◆ Indicate functional pottery (domestic/storage use).
  - ◆ Helps in understanding the variety of ceramics at the site (decorated vs. plain, functional vs. ornamental)





**Fig-7 : Brick Fragment**

- **Name** : large weathered brick fragment
- **Material** : Burnt clay (brick)
- **Condition** : Broken, weathered & uneven surface with cracks
- **Color** : Dark reddish-brown, traces of burning & natural wear
- **Dimensions** : Approx. 17.7 x 18.5 (in cm)
- **Significance** :
  - ◆ Evidence of ancient construction remains.
  - ◆ Shows the durability of baked clay material.
  - ◆ Provides insight into the building practices of the past.



**Fig-8: Brick Fragment**

- **Name** : Rectangular Brick or Brick Fragment
- **Material** : Burnt clay (brick)
- **Shape** : Rectangular piece with worn edges
- **Condition** : Broken and weathered, found with other stone and soil remains.
- **Colour** : Light reddish – brown (with soil encrustation)
- **Dimensions** : Approx. 11 x 9.5 (in cm)  
[ with compare to above brick image]
- **Significance** :
  - ◆ Suggests remains of an old structure.
  - ◆ Provides evidence of construction activity at the site.





Fig-9 : Shivlinga (Medieval Period)





## 2. Chainpur Garh (Chainpur Fort)



- **Known as** – The Old Fort of Thakurais of Chainpur (Chainpur Fort)
- **Location** : Chainpur, Palamu dist., Jharkhand, India.
- **Date/Period** : 16<sup>th</sup> Century CE
- **Dynasty** : Chero Dynasty
- **Built by** : Chero rulers & Thakurais of Chainpur
- **Reported By** : P.C.Roy Chaudhury, M.A.,  
Special Officer, Gazetteer Revision Section,  
Revenue Department, Bihar, Patna (31<sup>st</sup> March, 1961)
- **Present Condition** : Ruined
- **Type of Fort** : combination of  
Hill fort & Plain fort
- **Key Features** :-
  - ◆ Early medieval-panchmukhi Shivling
  - ◆ (Shiva with Five Heads)
  - ◆ Water Tank
  - ◆ Decorated Gates & Doors
  - ◆ Secret Chambers and Tunnels

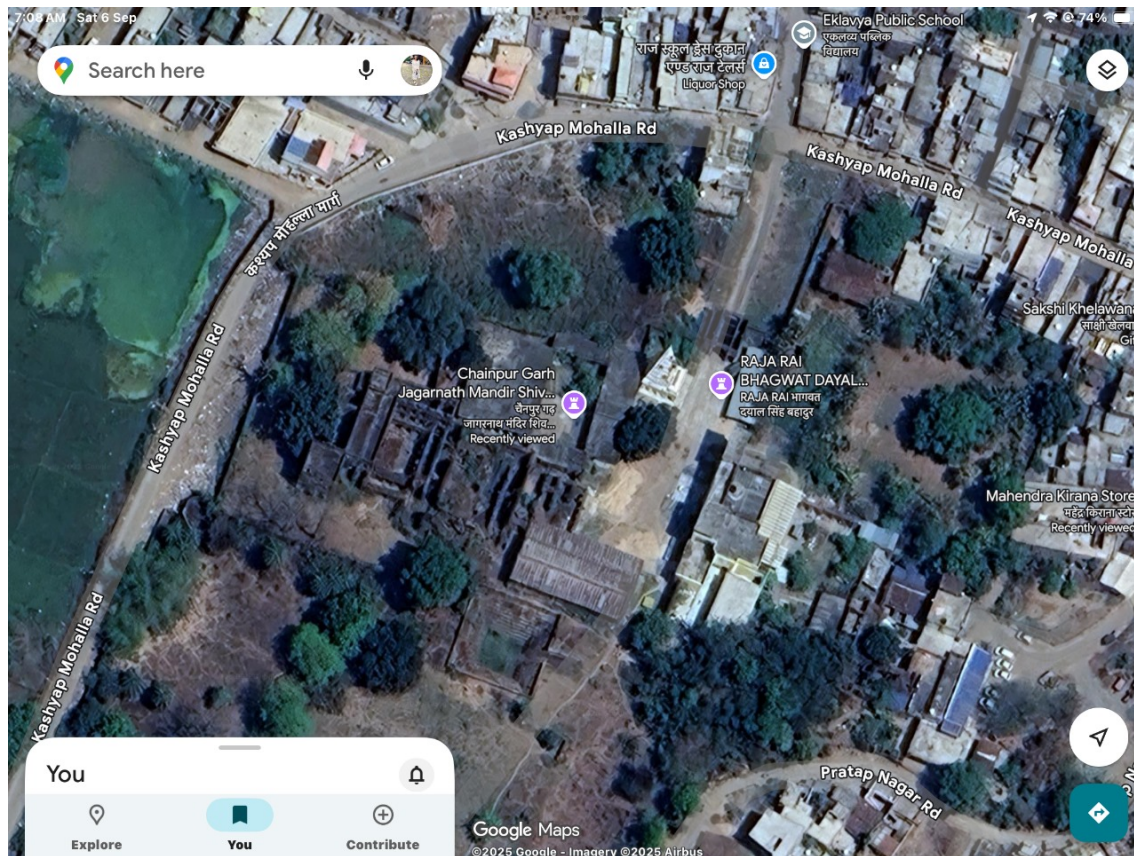


Fig -10 : Map of Chainpur Garh ( Chainpur Fort)





Fig-11 : Inner Gate of Fort



Fig-12 : Corridor of Fort



Fig-13 : Water Tank



Fig-14 : Fort from the  
backside



Fig-15 : Shiva Temple



Fig-16 : Shivling ( Early medieval-  
panchmukhi Shivling ?)





Antiquities found from Chainpur Garh (Chainpur Fort)





# 3. Ladi Palace



Fig -17 : The Ladi Garh

- **Known as** : Ladi Garh( Ladi Palace)
- **Also known as** : ‘The Seven Yards of House’.
- **Location** : Ladi,Chainpur Block,Palamu dist., Jharkhand,India.
- **Date/Period** :c. Late 18th-20th Century CE
- **Dynasty** : Biswen Rajputs, Manjhauli Raj family (Gorakhpur dist.)
- **Built by** :Kuar Ambika Prasad Singh
- **Reported By** : P.C.Roy Chaudhury,M.A., Special Officer,Gazetteer Revision Section,Revenue Department,Bihar,Patna (31<sup>st</sup> March,1961)
- **Present Condition** : Ruined
- **Type of Fort** : Plain fort
- **Key Features** :-
  - ◆ Seven Yards
  - ◆ Court of Kuar Ambika Prasad Singh
  - ◆ Secret Chambers & Tunnels

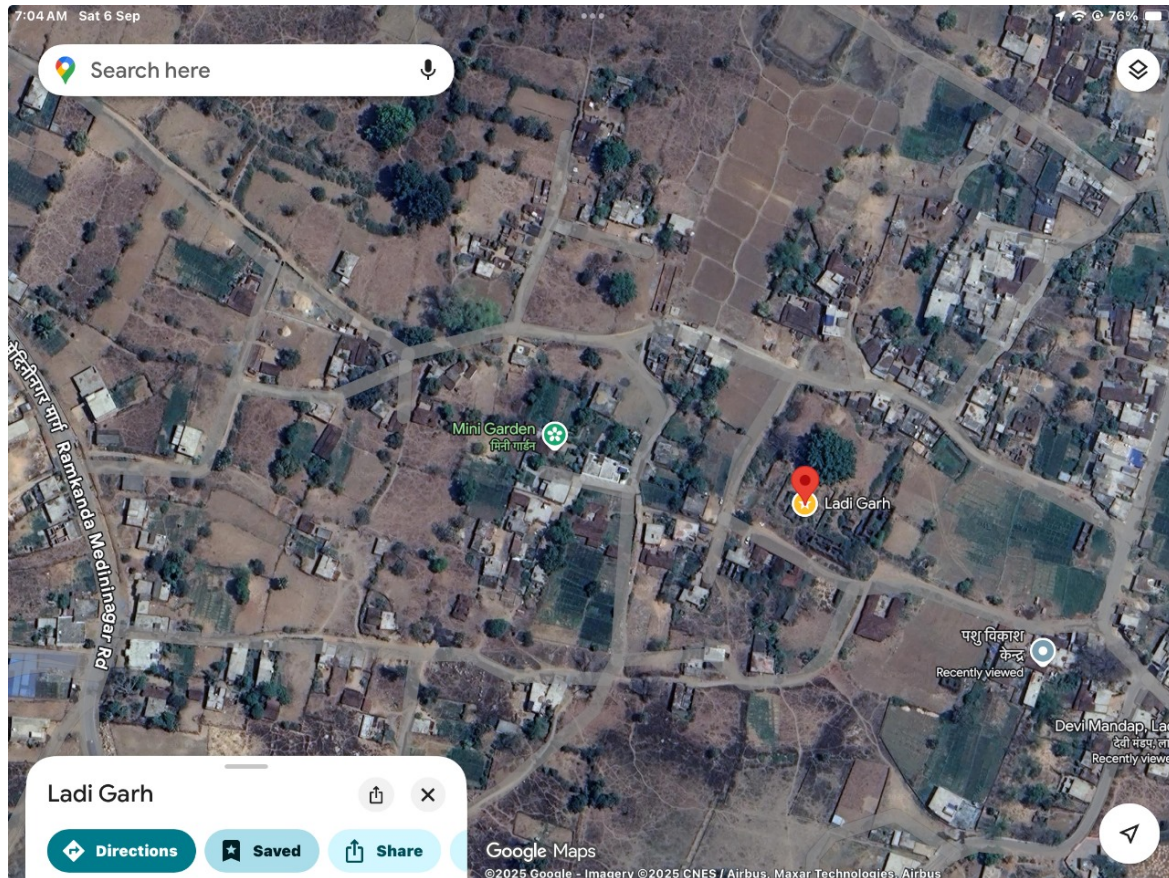


Fig -18 : Map of Ladi Garh





Fig – 19 : Well or a Chamber

### ❖ Deepmandav (Lamp Niches)

#### Definition:

Small recessed spaces made in the fort walls.

#### Purpose:

Used to place earthen lamps (diyas).

Served for lighting, decoration, and ritual purposes.

#### Context (Palamu Forts):

Also found on the walls of Palamu Fort.

Reflect architectural style and cultural practices of the **Chero period**.



Fig 20 : Secret Tunnel





### Arched Gateway

- ❖ **Material:** Made of stone and brick with plaster.
- ❖ **Design:** Features a scalloped arch (curved and decorative) supported by side pillars.
- ❖ **Condition:** Weathered with signs of age, showing cracks and vegetation growth.
- ❖ **Significance:**
  - Served as an entrance passage.
  - Reflects the Indo-Islamic style used in the fort architecture.
  - Highlights the artistic detailing of the Chero period.





## **Court of Kuar Ambika Prasad Singh**

**Court of the Ruler :** The main hall or open space inside the fort where the king/ruler conducted administrative and judicial activities.

### **Functions:**

- Place for official meetings and discussions.
- Ruler heard petitions and delivered justice.
- Ceremonial gatherings, cultural programs, and royal announcements.

### **Architectural Features:**

- Large open courtyard or pillared hall.
- Sometimes decorated with arches, carvings, or elevated throne space.
- Located at the central/important part of the fort or palace.



The Cultural Heritage of Palamu Unfolds Through These Tables 1 & 2 of Forts And Palaces :-

Table -1 :- List of Forts & Palaces of Palamu (Jharkhand)

No.	Forts & Palaces	Places	Date or Period	Dynasty	Built By	Key Features	
1.	Purana Kila (Old Fort)	Palamu Fort (Twin Fort)	Medininagar Palamu dist. Jharkhand,India	16th Century CE	Chero Dynasty	Raja Medini Rai	➤Singh Darwaza, ➤Inscription on the arch of North Gate, ➤Secret Chamber & Tunnels
2.	Naya Kila (New Fort)		Medininagar Palamu dist. Jharkhand,India	17th Century CE	Chero Dynasty	Raja Pratap Rai	➤Nagpuri Gate, ➤Arabesque motifs, ➤Inscription on pillar ➤SecretChambers & Tunnels
3.	Kakrigarh Palace	Kakrigarh,Panki block,Palamu dist., Jharkhand,India	16th Century CE	Chero Dynasty	Raja Medini Rai	➤Sandstone fragment with repeated lotus-petal (Kamalakara) motifs ➤Sandstone with semicircular motifs	Architectural Remains

**Table -2 :- List of Forts & Palaces of Palamu (Jharkhand)**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Forts &amp; Palaces</b>	<b>Places</b>	<b>Date or Period</b>	<b>Dynasty</b>	<b>Built By</b>	<b>Key Features</b>
4.	Chainpur Garh (Chainpur Fort)	Chainpur, Palamu district, Jharkhand, India	16th Century CE	Chero Dynasty	Chero rulers & Thakurais of Chainpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Early medieval-panchmukhi Shivling (Shiva with 5 heads),</li> <li>➤ Water Tank,</li> <li>➤ decorated Gates &amp;</li> <li>➤ Secret Chambers and Tunnels</li> </ul>
5.	Shahpur Fort (Shahpur Palace)	Shahpur, near Medininagar (formerly Daltonganj), Palamu dist. Jharkhand, India	Late 18th Century CE	Chero Dynasty	Raja Gopal Rai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mysterious Passages</li> <li>➤ Secret Chambers</li> </ul>
6.	Ladi Garh (Ladi Palace)	Ladi, Palamu district, Jharkhand, India	c. Late 18th-20th Century CE	Biswen Rajputs, Manjhauli Raj family (Gorakhpur dist.)	Kuar Ambika Prasad Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Seven Yards Seven Yards</li> <li>➤ Court of Kuar Ambika Prasad Singh</li> <li>➤ Secret Chambers &amp; Tunnels</li> </ul>



# Conclusion

- ❖ Palamu is well known for its **rich biodiversity, natural beauty, and cultural heritage.**
- ❖ Its charm lies in **scenic rivers, rolling hills, and fertile cultivated fields.**
- ❖ The soul of Palamu's heritage is reflected in its **forts and palaces,** which showcase a unique blend of **Mughal elegance and local tribal traditions.**
- ❖ These historic structures are not just architectural marvels but also **living storytellers of the past.**
- ❖ It is our responsibility to **conserve and preserve them for future generations,** so that the story and culture of Palamu continue to inspire.

# **Thank You**

Is there any Question?