



HIMACHAL PRADESH

DISTRICTS & HISTORY

A Complete General Knowledge Study Guide

Kangra • Chamba • Kullu • Mandi • Bilaspur • Una • Lahaul and Spiti • Sirmour • Hamirpur • Shimla •
Solan • Kinnaur

Comprehensive Study Material • 12 Districts • Geography • History • Culture

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DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

01 | Kangra

Land of Trigarta

❖ Geography of Kangra

- Kangra district ranks 4th in terms of area among the other districts.
- Population wise --Kangra is the biggest district.
- Kangra is bounded on the-
- South-West by Una district
- North-West by Gurdaspur district of Punjab
- North by Lahaul & Spiti and Chamba district
- East by Kullu and Mandi district
- South by Hamirpur district
- Kangra valley is the meeting place of Eastern and Western monsoon, which cause high rainfall in Dharamshala and adjoining areas.

❖ Mountain Ranges

- Dhauladhar- forms boundary between Kangra and Kullu.
- Hath dhar -forms boundary between Chamba and Kangra.
- Paprola range—separates Bir-Bhagal from Kangra valley.
- After crossing Binwa and Paprola it runs on the Mandi district where it is called Sikhandar Dhar.

❖ Rivers

- Beas is the main river which rises from Pir Panjal near Rohtang pass.
- Beas after flowing from Kullu and Mandi enters Kangra at Sandhol in Mandi district.
- Then it enters the Nadaun valley of Hamirpur district.
- At Mirthal ghat it leaves Kangra and enters Gurdaspur district of Punjab.
- Tributaries in Kangra district —
- Binwa
- Neugal
- Banganga river-forms the boundary of Kangra and enters Gurdaspur district of Punjab.

❖ Lakes

1. Dal Lake
2. Kareri Lake
3. Pong Lake
4. Dehnasar Lake

❖ Temples

- Jwalamukhi Temple
- Bajreshwari Temple-plundered and destroyed by Mahmud Ghazani
- Monolithic Temple (Masrur Temple)-Ellora of Himachal Pradesh
- Baijnath Temple
- Trilokpur Temple
- Bhadrakli Temple

❖ Tribes

Gaddis and Gujjars are only two famous tribal group found in Kangra district.

❖ Girath-

- mainly found in Kangra and Dehra Tehsil of Kangra district.
- Mainly engaged in Agricultural activities.

❖ Fair/Festivals /Dances

- Panch Bhisham Festival-at Jayanti Mata temple in Kangra
- Jwalamukhi Fair -held twice a year during navratras.
- Gugga fair- snake cult ,worshipped in district Kangra ,Hamirpur,Una Bilaspur and Mandi
- The Jhamakada Dance of Kangra district-integral part of marriage ceremonies

❖ Art & Culture

❖ Kangra Painting

- Kangra paintings are a Pahari school of paintings from Himachal Pradesh
- The Kingdom of Kangra's rulers, particularly Raja Sansar Chand, were patrons of Kangra paintings
- Kangra paintings are known for their delicate lines, vibrant colors, and portrayal of nature
- Themes of Kangra paintings include Radha and Krishna's love, Hindu deities, and mythology



- Kangra paintings are characterized by intricate brushwork, light colors, and subtle emotions through facial expressions and body language
- Kangra paintings were made using watercolors, gouache, and gold leaf
- Prominent Kangra artists include Nainsukh, Manaku, and Guleri
- Kangra painting received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag on April 24, 2020, under the Geographical

Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

❖ Kangra Clay dolls

- Kangra clay dolls are a traditional form of handicrafts made in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, India.

❖ Kangra District

- Kangra district derives its name from Kangra town which was previously known as Nagarkot in ancient times.
- The district was originally a part of the ancient Trigarta, which was a territory drained by three rivers- Satluj, Beas, and Ravi.
- Trigarta had two provinces, one in the plains with headquarters at Jalandhara or Jullundur and the other in the hills with headquarters at Nagarkot (Kangra).
- Remnants of the Stone Age have been found in various parts of the district, including Nadaun, Nurpur, and Dehra-Gopipur.

❖ Historical significance of Kangra district

- The first historical notice to Jalandhara, Cunningham says, is to be found the works of Ptolemy, the Greek geographer, where it is called KALINDARINE.
- The triumphant march of Alexander the great halted at Murthal by the Punjabis led by Porus in 326 B.C.
- Utbi who was private secretary of Gazni in his "Tarikh-i-yamini" called Nagarkot to Bhimnagar and Farishta refers it as Bhimkot.

❖ The European travelers who visited Kangra were

- 1) Thomas Coryat in 1615
- 2) Thevenot in 1666
- 3) Foster in 1783
- 4) Moorcraft in 1832
- 5) Vigne in 1835
- Both Foster and Moorcraft passed through the outer hills but did not visit Kangra.
- Hieun Tsang visited Jalandhara
- Kangra district has a rich historical significance as it was part of the ancient Trigarta region.
- Sir A Cunningham was the first to draw attention to the history of the royal family of Jalandhara and Trigarta in detail.



- The district has been mentioned in various ancient texts, including Mahabharata, Puranas, and Rajtarangini.

❖ Early history of Kangra district

The early history of Kangra district is ill-defined and not liable to a coherent chronological analysis.

- The Vamshavali contains nearly 500 names, including that of 'Bhuma Chand', the supposed founder of the district.
- The first historical mention of Trigarta is to be found in the 5th century B.C. in the writings of Sanskrit writer

Panini.

- It is mentioned by Panini as 'Ayudyajivi Sangha' and a confederation of six states known as Trigarta-

Shashthas.

Evidence of Stone Age Human Habitation in Kangra Region

- Dr. G.C. Mahapatra discovered 52 stone axes on the bank of Banganga river in the village RAHAUR.
- Remnants of the Stone Age have been found in NADAUN on the bank of the Beas river, its tributaries, and south of Nurpur town.
- An almond-shaped stone axe, possibly from the early or mid Stone Age, was found in the village of Nandrool on the meeting place of the Banganga and Patalganga near Kangra.
- Additional Stone Age remnants were found in Kuparlahar, Dehra-Gopipur (in Naker Khad), Dhawala village, Jamol village on the Thor Khad, and Panjasaran village of Sukhar-di-Khad near Raja Ka Talab on Nurpur-

Jawali road, 10 km from Jasur.

- 103 coins of Audumbaras out of a total of 360 have been found in Kangra, near Tripal and Jwalamukhi.
- Four coins of Kushana rulers were discovered in Kanihara and three of Kunindas in Jwalamukhi.
- In 1853, a ship carrying Audumbaras and Trigarta's coins to London sank near Sri Lanka, resulting in the loss of these coins forever.

❖ Story of Jalandhara

- According to him, the name of the place is said to have been derived from the famous Danava Jalandhara, the son of the Ganges by the Ocean, mention of which has been made in the 'PADMA PURANA'.
- The name of Jalandhara's wife was Vrinda or 'Bindra.
- Jalandhara was killed by Lord Shiva, so vast was his body that, it covered a circuit of 48 kos or about 64 miles, which is said to be the exact extent of the present pilgrims route called Jalandhara Tirath.
- His head was placed to the North of the Beas, with his mouth at Jwalamukhi, while his body covered the whole extent of the country lying between the Beas and the Satluj, his back being immediately beneath the district of Jalandhara and his feet at Multan.
- A glance at the map will show this version of the legend have originated in the shape of the country.
- According to the another version, Jalandhara was killed by Vishnu.
- A third version confines the demons body to the Kangra valley.

- According to it, the top of Demon's head lie under the temple of Nandikeshwara Mahadeva at Jindrangal on the Neugal river .
- The head is said to be under the Mukteshwar temple in the village of Sinsol near Baijnath.
- One hand is placed at the left bank of the Beas river, to the South of Jwalamukhi.
- All the places of note in this line of pilgrimage lie to the North of the Beas with single exception of Kalesar.
- The pine tree forts between Jindrangal and Palampur is called Bindravan after the wife of Jalandhara.

❖ Trigarta: An Independent Republic in Ancient India

- The name Nagarkot is mentioned by Alberuni in A.D. 1017-31 and Kangra's origin is uncertain but probably ancient.
- The capital of Trigarta is mentioned in records as Susarmapura.
- Trigarta's existence as an independent republic is indicated by a coin from the 2nd century B.C. and is also mentioned in Rajtarangini and Hiuen Tsang's narratives.

Mahmud of Gazni and the Capture of Nagarkot

- In A.D. 997, Mahmud of Gazni succeeded his father and in A.D. 1001, he invaded India.
- In his fourth expedition in AD 1009, he advanced into the Punjab and laid siege to Nagarkot after defeating a large army on the banks of the river, 'Indus' under the command of Anand Pal of Ohind and Lahore.
- The fort was called Bhimnagar from the mythical ancestor of the Katoch family or perhaps Bhim Sen, the hero of Mahabharata.
- According to Farishta's account, in Bhim fort were found 700,000 Dinars, 700 mans of gold and silver plates, 200 mans of pure gold in ingots, 2,000 mans of silver bullion, and 20 mans of various jewels.
- The Raja of the time is said to have been Jagdish Chand, who was 436 in descent from Bhuma Chand and 202 from Susharma Chand, the traditional founder of the state.
- Mahmud left a garrison in the fort on his departure, which held possession till A.D. 1043.
- In 1043 A.D the Raja of Delhi, of the Tomar line, collected a large army and marched against Hansi, Thanesar, and other places held by Mohammedan garrison under Modud, grandson of Mahmud and drove them out Nagarkot was also liberated after a four-month siege.
- In A.D. 1051-52, Abdul Rashid, a son of Mahmud, who had come into power, appointed Hashtagin Hajib

Governor of Punjab, and he recaptured the fort of Nagarkot.

- The Kangra Rajas were successful in recovering the fort only some time after about 1060 A.D.
- Till about A.D. 1170, the state continued undivided under one head.
- The Raja of the time is said to have been Padam Chand, and his younger brother Parab Chand founded the state of Jaswan.
- For nearly 200 years after Mahmud, the Mohammedans were unable to advance their frontier much beyond the Satluj.
- The next reference to the Rajas of Trigarta occurs on two slabs in the Shiva temple at Baijnath in the Kangra valley.
- Baijnath (Vaidyanath) was originally the name of the temple, the village in which it stands being called



Kiragrama.

- The name engraved of the Rana of Kiragrama was Lakshman Chandra.
- In the inscription, the name of the contemporary Raja is given as Jaya Chandra.

❖ Bhuma Chand (Mythical Progenitor)

- The first Raja according to local legend was not of human origin but sprang from the perspiration of the brow of the goddess at Kangra.
- He stands as the mythical progenitor of the Katoch line.
- His name was Bhuma Chand.

❖ Susharma Chandra

- Susharama Chandra, the 234th king of the dynasty has been identified with the king Susharma of the Mahabharata.
- In the Mahabharata war, Susharma sided with the Kaurvas and attacked the king Virata of Matsyadesa and marched in the South-Eastern direction.
- The original seat of the family is said to have been at MULTAN.
- After the great war, they retired under Susharma to the district of Jalandhara and built the fort of Kangra.

❖ Jaya Chandra

- He was ruler of Kangra.
- Reference about him has been found on the two slabs in the Shiv temple at Baijnath which was originally known as kiragrama.

❖ Prithvi Chand

- During his reign Kangra fort is said to have been captured by Mohammed Tuglaq in 1337 AD.

❖ Parab Chand

- Prithvi Chand was succeeded by Parab Chand in around A.D. 1345.
- In A.D. 1351, Mohammed Tughlaq, the ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, died.
- Firoz Shah Tughlaq succeeded Mohammed Tughlaq as the Sultan of Delhi.

❖ Rup Chand (1360)

- His name is found in the "Dharam Chand Natak" book written by Manik Chand.
- He made an expedition for the plains and plundered the country almost to the gates of Delhi, but on his return with booty he was looted by Shahab-Ud-Din of Kashmir.
- This expedition was not acceptable to Feroz Shah Tughlaq who marched with his army from Delhi toward

Nagarkot after the submission of Nagarkot, Feroz shah visited Jwalamukhi temple. There was library containing 1300 books.

- The famous writer Izzudin Khalid Khani translated books into Persian with new title "Dalal-i-firozshahi".
- Rup Chand died in 1375
- For 6 months the siege went on and finally a compromise was settled between two.
- The sultan forgave the Raja Rup Chand and his followers and gave him an umbrella, an embroidered dress and many horses.
- In reciprocation, Rup Chand also sent many offerings and horses of worth to Sultan.
- According to Ferishta's account the name of Nagarkot on this occasion was changed to Muhammadabad.
- After the submission of Rup Chand, Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq visited Jawalmukhi temple.

❖ Sangara Chand

- He gave refuge to Nassir-Ud-Din Tuglaq.
- In A.D. 1387, Feroz Tughlaq recognized his son Nasir-ud-din as his successor, but he was quickly driven out of power by his two cousins.
- Prince Nasir-ud-din fled to the mountains of Sirmaur and then retreated to Nagarkot, where he stayed until the end of A.D. 1389.
- Sangara Chand died around A.D. 1390.
- Megh Chand succeeded Sangara Chand as the ruler of Kangra.

❖ Megh Chand (1390)

- During his reign Mongol attacked India under the leadership Timur-i-lang.
- On his return from Delhi in AD 1399 Pathankot and Nurpur (Dhameri) must have suffered his attack, but he didn't attack Nagarkot.

❖ Hari Chand-I (1405 A.D)

- One day, while on a hunting expedition towards Harsar (Guler), the Raja got separated from his attendants and fell into a well.
- Despite an extensive search, the Raja couldn't be found, and it was believed that he had been killed by a wild beast.
- The officials returned to the capital, where the funeral rites of the Raja were performed, and even his Ranis became Sati.
- After twenty-one days, a passing merchant discovered the Raja in the well and rescued him.
- Upon hearing what had happened in Kangra, where his younger brother Karam Chand had been installed as Raja, Hari Chand founded the fort and town of Haripur on the junction of Banganga, Kurali and Neugal River and established an independent state.
- The merchant who rescued the Raja was rewarded with the remission of all duties on his goods in perpetuity.
- Guler began taking precedence over Kangra on all ceremonial occasions as it was ruled by the elder brother of the dynasty.



❖ Karam Chand (1415 A.D)

- There is nothing eventful about his period.
- This was the time, when north India was in turmoil and foreign aggression was order of the day.

❖ Sansar Chand-I (1430 A.D)

- He was son of Raja Karam Chand, succeeded about A.D. 1430.
- The next Rajas in succession were Devangga Chand A.D. 1450 and Narender Chand A.D. 1465.
- But there is nothing noteworthy about their reigns.

❖ Suvira Chand (1480 A.D)

- Narendra Chand died childless.
- But at the time of his death, one of his Ranis was pregnant.
- There were many claimants to the throne after the demise of Raja.
- Fearing a conspiracy against her child, in the event of bearing a son, she escaped to her parent's house in Poona.
- On the way, her son Suvira was born in a Kumhar's (potter) hut.
- Later on with the help of his-maternal grandfather, he set up his authority over Kangra.
- A Jagir was given to the Kumhar in whose house the future king was born.

❖ Prayag Chand (1490 A.D)

- He followed Suvira Chand.
- He was then followed by Ram Chand about A.D. 1510.
- Lodhi dynasty was ruling at Delhi at that time and Mughals under attacked Delhi.

❖ Jai Chand(1570)

- For some unknown reason, Akbar got suspicious about Jai Chand. And ordered Raja Ram Chand of Guler to arrest him.
- Jai Chand minor son Bidhi Chand assumed his father as dead and came into power and revolted against

Mughals in 1572.

- Akbar sent army under Khan Jahan Hussain Quli Khan who was viceroy of Punjab to acquire territory which was given to Raja Birbal by Akbar as Jagir.
- Now seize of Kangra fort was in process a news came that two relative of Akbar named, Ibrahim Hussain

Mirza and Masud Mirza invaded Punjab, which forced Mughal army to turn their attention away from Nagarkot to Punjab.

❖ Bakhat Mal (Raja of Nurpur)

● In A.D. 1556, Bakht Mal, Raja of Nurpur, had allied himself with Sikandar Shah and was executed by Bairam Khan, Akbar's General.

- Takht Mal, Bakht Mal's brother, was now ruling in Nurpur and decided to follow the policy of noninterference to keep himself out of danger.
- The fort of Kotla, located twelve miles beyond Nurpur, was under the possession of Kangra forces, which refused to surrender.
- After a short-lived battle, the Mughal army emerged victorious, and the fortress was handed over to the Raja of Guler.
- During the siege of Kangra fort, news came that two relatives of Akbar, Ibrahim Hussain Mirza and Masud Mirza, had invaded Punjab.

- To counter the attack of the Mirzas, Khan Jahan opened negotiations with the commander of the garrison, and the siege was lifted on his agreeing to the payment of five mans of gold and some valuables.
- According to a reference in the Tabakat-i-Akbair, Khan Jahan in 1572 A.D. captured the fortress of Bhun, which has an idol temple of Mahamai, and a number of Rajputs and Brahmins were killed in the temple itself.
- Nearly 200 black cows belonging to the Hindus were killed one by one by some savage Turks, and they filled their boots with the blood and cast it upon the roof and walls of the temple.
- After this expedition, Akbar deputed his great finance minister, Todar Mal, to Kangra to create an imperial demesne by confiscation of territory from the Hill states.
- There is no further mention of Nagarkot in the Mohammedan histories until A.D. 1583 when Akbar visited up to 'Dasuha' but returned without seeing Nagarkot fortress.

❖ Bidhi Chand(1588)

- He formed a secret confederation with the states between Jammu and Kangra in 1588 -89 to revolt against Mughals, but they were suppressed by Zain khan koka.
- All thirteen hill chiefs surrendered and later on their territory was returned to them with honor but Bidhi Chand had to leave his son Trilok Chand as a hostage at the Mughal court.

❖ Trilok Chand (1605)

- Jahangir also succeeded to throne of Delhi in 1605.
- It is said that when as a child Trilok

Chand was in Mughal court he had a parrot which prince Salim (Jahangir) wished to possess but Rajput prince refused to give parrot to Salim.

❖ Hari Chand II (1612)

- In 1615 Jahangir Sent Shiekh Farid with the title of Murtaza Khan and Raja Suraj Mal of Nurpur to capture

Kangra.

- In 1616, Raja Man Singh (Raja of Jaipur) was appointed to capture Kangra fort but he was killed by a Punjabi zamindar Sangram Singh before he took the command against Kangra fort.
- In 1618 third attempt was planned by Jahangir and Prince Shah Jahan recommended Suraj Mal along with Shah Quali Khan Mohammed Taqi to capture NagarKot fort
- Soon after reaching Kangra Suraj Mal Started quarreling with Tagi and sent complain to Shah Jahan that Tagi is competent, on this Taqi was recalled
- After Suraj mal's death his brother was summoned from Bengal to capture Nagarkot with Sunda Das Rai

Raiyan.

- They succeeded in their mission in 1620 Nawab Ali khan was appointed first kiladar of fort which remained under mughals control till 1873
- In 1622 Ab Jahangir visited Kangra with Noor Jahan in person, he returned by Dhameri and Pathankot. During this journey Dhameri was called Nurpur in the honor of Noor Jahan.

❖ Chander Bhan Chand

- After Hari Chand's death Chander Bhan continues to prosecute Guerila warfare against Mughals because

Kangra fort and whole territory was annexed in 1620, only the Jagir of Rajgir was left to the royal family.

- The Jagir of "Rajgir" is situated on the right bank of Beas.
- He built a fort near Nirwanah east of Dharamshala.
- He spent end period of his life at lofty hill on the outskirts of the Dhauladhar, whichs ever since called

"Chander Bhan ka Tilla".

❖ Vijai Ram Chand (1690)

- He founded the town Bijapur Bhim Chand (1690)
- He followed the policy of pacific recourse and regular attendance at Mughal court for which he was called

"Diwan"

- He built temple at Bijapur
- Udai Ram Chand (1687 A.D)
- Bhim Chand (1690 A.D)
- Alam Chand (1697 A.D) :He founded "Alampur" near Sujanpur

❖ Hamir Chand (1700)

- He reigned for forty seven years.
- He built the fort at place now called Hamirpur from which it got its name

❖ Abhaya Chand (1747 A.D)

- He built the Thakurdwara in Alampur .
- He also built a fort called Abhayamanpur'or Tira, in 1748 on the hill above Sujanpur.
- His reign lasted for three years.
- He died childless.

❖ Ghamir Chand (1750 A.D)

- Ghamir Chand was the younger brother of Hamir Chand and the uncle of Abhaya Chand.
- Abhaya Chand died without a male heir.
- Ghamir Chand died in 1751, leaving behind eleven sons who were disliked by the officials.
- The officials raised Ghamand Chand, a son of Ghamir Chand's younger brother, to power.

❖ Ghamand Chand

- In 1752, Delhi emperor ceded Punjab along with the hill state to Ahmad Shah Durrani.
- Taking advantage of this disorder Ghamand Chand recovered all the lost territory of his ancestors except

Kangra fort.

- He was next powerful in the region after Adina Beg khan governor of Punjab.
- Ahamed shah Durrani appointed him governor of the Jalandhar Doab in 1759.
- Ghamand Chand founded Sujanpur and dual name Tira-Sujanpur started form his reign.
- Tegh Chand (1774 A.D)

Raja Ghamand Chand died in 1774 and succeeded by his son Tegh Chand .

- He died quite early in A.D 1775.

❖ MAHARAJA SANSAR CHAND

- Maharaja Sansar Chand took the title of Chatrapati Naresh. For rewarding the artists he was called 'Hatim' of his age, and for generosity, the 'Rustam' of his time.
- His subjects called him the Pahari Badshah (the Emperor of the Mountains).
- He was born in 1765 at Bijapur/Vijaypur, a village about six miles from Lambagraon in Palampur tehsil of the Kangra district.
- MSC sat on the throne in 1775 AD just at the age of 10.
- His reign is known as golden age of the Kangra state.
- Maharaja Sansar Chand's primary aim was to regain the Kangra Fort, which was still being governed by aged

Saif Ali Khan on behalf of the Mughals.

❖ First Battle:

- In 1786, MSC launched attack on Kangra fort, which was under Jai Singh from Batala

❖ Second Battle:

- At Nerti (1794) with Raja Rai Singh of Chamba for fertile area of Rihlu.
- Raja Raj was killed in battle by Jit Singh Purbea and his Samadhi was created at place called Dehra. An annual fair is the organized here in his memory.
- In 1792, the state of Mandi was sacked and plundered
- In 1792, the state of Mandi was sacked and plundered Maharaja Sansar Chand entered triumphantly into the capital town of Mandi wearing armour made completely of gold
- The Raja of Mandi Ishwari Sen was taken as prisoner and held at the Chaumukhi fort of Nadaun for 12 years.
- The Raja of Suket did not oppose Maharaja Sansar Chand and rendered complete alliance to the kingdom of Kangra. The Raja of Suket Vikram Sen, advanced Rs. 80.000 also to prosecute the war with Mandi.
- The Raja of Kullu was allowed to continue the same treaty, which his ancestors had signed with Maharaja

Ghamand Chand

- Lahaul & Spiti (an area of almost 7000 sq. miles) was allowed to be ruled by their petty chieftains under the similar treaty of yearly revenue
- The State of Kutlehar was completely annexed and the Raja completely disposed.
- The state of Arki (Shimla hills) rendered his alliance to Maharaja Sansar Chand.
- Next was the state of Bilaspur - Maharaja Sansar Chand annexed half of the state There he built a massive fort to guard his frontier.
- In 1793, Maharaja Sansar Chand attacked on Kehlur/Bilaspur and captured Gadhi (Forts) of North Sutlej

River from King Mahan Chand

❖ Battle of Chartadu in 1793

- MSC fought another battle against Raja of Bilaspur & Raja of Sirmour, Dharam Prakash at Kehlur border.
- Before war he got prediction from Sain Fazal Shah Faqiir, who said that one of his "Fatoos" shall be killed in battle Raja did not sent his brother Fatheh Chand but sent Fatoos Bakshi, who was actually killed.
- Maharaja Sansar Chand, with all his vast resources and the large army that he controlled, started dreaming of regaining the far-reaching domains of his ancestors.
- In AD 1803-04, he invaded Bajwarah (Punjab) and occupied it. To commemorate his victory he built a palace with 7 large turrets two of which are still standing.
- This was the period in history when two other powers of equivalent might and resources were on the rise.
- The Gorkhas under the command of Amar Singh Thapa were dreaming of creating a large mountain kingdom.

They had already acquired Garhwal, Sirmour, and the other small hill states of Shimla

- Maharaja Ranjit Singh had already united all the Sikh Misls under his banner and had become the lord of

Punjab with his head quarters at Lahore.

- MSC attacked Bati in 1805 AD and captured it. Seeing no way out, the Kehlur Raja Mahan Chand invited Gorkhas who had already captured area between Ghaggar & Satluj.
- The 11 Kings who were under Kangra Super Kingdom met Gorkha Commander Amar Singh Thapa for helping Gorkha to topple Kangra Kingdom.
- It was decided that Gorkha would keep Trigart or Kangra Fort and rulers would return their territories after defeating Kangra King territories after defeating Kangra King.
- The first encounter took place at the fortified palace of Mahal Morian .
- Maharaja Sansar Chand and his army fought very bravely but were defeated.
- The second encounter was at Nadaun where the newly acquired army of Rohillas was defeated. The Raja of Mandi, Ishwari Sen (imprisoned since 1792 AD) was liberated from his prison in Nadaun.
- A new boundary was set on the river Beas & Maharaja Sansar Chand took up his position at Tira Sujanpur but he had to relinquish it and take position at Kangra fort.
- In AD 1808, the Gorkhas struck a decisive blow and captured the fort of Pathiyar (Palampur). On receiving this news Maharaja Sansar Chand took his family to Kangra fort.
- The Fort of Kangra had been well armed and rationed by Maharaja Sansar Chand and it is believed that there were enough provisions in the fort to last for 12 years.
- The Gorkha army advanced towards Kangra and for four years they besieged the fort, but to no avail.
- The supplies within the fort were running out and drastic action had to be taken.
- MSC, secretly opened talks with Maharaja Holkar (Maratha noble).
- It was decided that Maharaja Sansar Chand would invite Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab to fight the Gorkhas.
- This would make the two Maharajas (Holkar and Kangra) the Lords of the Himalayas and Punjab.
- MSC sent his brother Fateh Chand to persuade MRS for support. In May 1809 AD, Maharaja Ranjit Singh reached Jawalamukhi and camped at the Katoch fort of Jwalagarh.
- The wazir of Chamba was made the mediator of negotiations, MSC left the Kangra fort went to meet Ranjit Singh.

- They both signed a treaty, as per which Gorkhas would be driven out of Kangra by Maharaja Ranjit Singh .
- After a month long negotiations, it was agreed that MSC would surrender the fort of Kangra along with the 66 villages (which formed the ancient jagir)
- Kangra state would be given to MSC without any further conditions.
- The Gorkhas fled without a fight and were driven out as far as the river Gogra (where the British further defeated them).
- Maharaja Sansar Chand now faced even a bigger enemy than the Gorkha and decided not to fight but instead stand of Kangra was handed over to the Sikhs, for a few years the treaty was honored and Maharaja Sansar

Chand was treated with great respect.

- Desa Singh Majitha was appointed as Nizam/Governor of the fort
- Sansar Chand was extremely wealthy, possessing revenue of 35 lac rupees. The loss of most of MSC's territories to Ranjit Singh reduced his revenue to almost Rs. 9 lac per annum.



- Maharaja Sansar Chand died in December, AD 1823 after a long reign of 47 years.

❖ Anirudh Chand

- Prince Kharak Singh son of Ranjit Singh exchanged turban in token of brotherhood with Anirudh.
- In 1827 Raja Anirudh made his third visit to Maharaja's court Ranjit who put an unacceptable proposal, asked one of Anirudh's two sisters to marry to Hira Singh son of Raja Dhian Singh of Jammu who was prime minister of Raja Ranjit Singh.
- Raja Anirudh accepted the proposal under pressure
- Anirudh delayed marriage intentionally when one year had passed Maharaja preceded toward Nadaun to speed up marriage, if necessary by force.
- On hearing this Kangra Raja fled into British territory across Satluj with his family.
- Anirudh Chand got his two sisters married to Raja of Tehri Garhwal.
- When Ranjit came to Nadaun Fateh Chand the younger brother of Sansar Chand offered his own granddaughter in marriage to Hira Singh.
- After Raja Anirudh Chand left the Kangra state and the Sikhs occupied the entire state of Kangra.
- After Anglo-Sikh Wars, the area came under the control of British .
- In the treaty of 9th march 1846 between Sikh and Britishers Kangra directly came under the British control.
- After independence, on the reorganization of composite Punjab on the 1st November, 1966 the areas constituting Kangra district were transferred to Himachal Pradesh
- The present Kangra district came into existence on the 1st September, 1972 consequent upon the reorganization of districts September, 1972 consequent upon the reorganization of districts by the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

❖ Off Shoots of Kangra

Kangra

Jaswan Guler Kulehar Bangahal Nurpur

Sibba

Datarpur

❖ Jaswan State

- The Jaswan state was founded around AD 1170 by a cadet of the Katoch family named 'Purab Chand'.
- Prior to the founding of Jaswan, Kangra state was undivided and remained as one.
- Jaswan was the first offshoot from the parent stem of Kangra state.
- The capital of Jaswan state was located in 'Rajpura' and the clan name was Jaswal.
- The Jaswan state occupied a fertile tract in the Jaswan Dun of the outer Hills, currently in Una district of Himachal Pradesh.
- The Jaswan Dun is a long and narrow track about 40 miles long and five miles broad, with its boundaries being the Shivalik Hills and Punjab plains to the South and West, Siba and Datarpur to the North, and Kangra, Kulehar, and Kahlur to the East.



- The Jaswan Dun is a rich and fertile vale, drained by the river Swan and flanked on either side by sleeping hills.

❖ The Rajas after Purab Chand were :

- Parab Chand, Biswa Chand Gopal Chand. Sirbalik Chand, Dhula Chand, Sulochan Chand, Auki Chand Udhan Chand, Nirpat Chand, Udham Chand, Bhikh Chand, Sirkar Chand Mubarak Chand, Gobind Chand, Bikram Chand, Anirudh Chand, that is 17 Rajas in 400 years.
- Like other hill states, Jaswan was subject to the Mughals from the time of Akbar.
- In 1572 A.D, Jai Chand, the Raja of Kangra was arrested and put his minor son, Bidhi Chand, under the charge of Raja Gobind Chand of Jaswan.
- Raja Gobind Chand successfully defended the fort of Kangra against Mughal forces until he was offered a handsome surrender deal.
- In A.D. 1588-89, Anirudh Chand of Jaswan, grandson of Gobind Chand, joined a rebellion led by Bidhi Chand of Kangra, encompassing almost all hill states between the Chenab and Satluj rivers.
- The rebellion was suppressed and all participating states were pardoned, including Jaswan.
- The subsequent rulers of Jaswan state were Samir Chand, Man Singh, Ajab Singh, Ram Singh, Ajit Singh, Jagahar Singh, Abiram Singh, Jagrup Singh, Prit Singh, and Umed Singh.
- During the Gurkha invasion of Kangra, Jaswan supported the Gurkhas against Sansar Chand, while Umed Chand was in power.
- After Maharaja Ranjit Singh acquired Kangra Fort in 1809, Jaswan state was annexed to the Sikh kingdom in 1815 A.D.
- In the same year, Maharaja Ranjit Singh summoned all his forces and tributaries to assemble at Sialkot, but the Rajas of Jaswan and Nurpur failed to comply and were fined beyond their capacity.
- Raja Umed Singh resigned his state, accepting a Jagir of Rs. 12,000/- annual value.
- In 1848 A.D, during the second Sikh war, Umed Singh joined hands against British authority, for which he and his son Jai Singh were deported to Almora where they both died.

❖ Raja RAN SINGH (1863 to 1892)

- He was born in 1833 and received the jagir of Ramkot in Jammu when he married the Princess of Jammu.
- However, the title of "Raja" was not recognized by the British.
- In 1877, at the request of Maharaja Ranbir Singh of Jammu and Kashmir, the jagir in Jaswan, consisting of 21 villages in the Jaswan Dun, was restored to Raja Ran Singh.
- Additionally, the family garden at Amb and buildings at Rajpura were also restored to him.
- He married firstly, a granddaughter of the Raja of Baghal and secondly, a granddaughter of Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Raja Ran Singh passed away in 1892.



❖ Raja RAGHUNATH SINGH(1892 to 1918)

- Raja Raghunath Singh was the 30th Raja of Jaswan from 1892 to 1918, born in 1852.
- He was granted the personal title of "Raja" due to his ancient lineage and marriage connections with the Maharajas of Jammu & Kashmir.
- However, the title did not give him the right to administer law and order in his jagir, nor could it be passed on by inheritance.

❖ Raja LAKSHMAN SINGH

- Raja Lakshman Singh was the 31st Raja of Jaswan from 1918 to 1945, born in 1904.
- He was the head of the Royal family of Jaswan and resided at Ramkot.
- He died on 4 June 1945 in Ramkot and was cremated at Khoon, seven kilometers from Ramkot.

❖ Raja CHAIN SINGH

- Raja Chain Singh was the 32nd Raja of Jaswan from 1945 to 1948.
- He was educated at Aitchison Chiefs' College in Lahore.
- He moved to Amb at the time of partition in 1947, leaving behind the royal palaces empty at Ramkot.
- He died in 2014.

❖ Guler /Gwalior/Haripur State

- Original name of the state: Gwalior, from which Guler is derived
- Name derived from 'Gopala or Gwala', meaning cowherd
- Tradition states that a Gwala pointed out a site for Hari Chand's capital, where a tiger and goat were seen drinking water together.
- Hari Chand found it as a suitable place for his capital.
- Hari Chand was the ruler of Kangra in AD 1405 and founded the fort of Haripur on a ridge overlooking the Banganga river.
- Cowherd was offered as a sacrifice and his head was buried in the foundation for stability of the fort, following the custom of the time
- Two outer gateways of Haripur fort were demolished in 1847 and significant damage was caused by the earthquake of 1905
- The clan name associated with the area is Guleria
- In addition to the Haripur fort (Guler fort), there were six other forts along the frontiers of the state, namely, Mastagrah, Kotla, Nehklonok. 'Gandharp' Ramgarh' and 'Mastgarh Hari Chand also founded the town of Haripur on the flat below the fort.
- Very little information is available about the early history of the state. The Rajas after Hari Chand were Bhaun

Chand, Suvarn Chand Udhyan Chand, Narinder Chand, Udhar Chand, Ratan Chand.Nand Chand, Garuda

Chand Ghambir Chand, Abhaya Chand, Uttam Chand, Prithvi Chand and Karam Chand of whose reigns there are no records extant.

❖ Early history of Guler

- The Guler state was founded between 1405 and 1450 by Raja Hari Chand.
- According to legends, while hunting, Raja Hari Chand fell into a dry well and was presumed dead when no one could find him.
- His brother was then named the Raja of Kangra State.
- When Raja Hari Chand was eventually brought back alive from the well, he founded the town of Haripur on the valley below the fort by the Banganga River.
- Instead of fighting for his rights to the throne, Raja Hari Chand chose to start anew with the founding of Haripur.
- Its capital was the town of Haripur Guler.
- The kingdom was founded in 1415 by Raja Hari Chand, a scion of the ancient royal family of Kangra
- Guler State is famous as the birthplace of Kangra painting in the first half of the 18th century when a family of Kashmiri painters trained in Mughal painting sought shelter at the court of Raja Dalip Singh (1695–1741) of Guler.
- The rise of Guler Paintings or Guler style started in what is known as the early phase of Kangra art.
- Ram Chand (A.D. 1540)

Ram Chand was the fifteenth Raja after Hari Chand in direct succession.

- The Tarikh-i-Daudil' mentions the Guler state during the reign of Islam Shah, son of Sher Shah. Islam Shah is said to have subdued all the hill chiefs.
- Jagdish Chand (A.D. 1570)

Jagdish Chand was the Raja of Guler in A.D. 1570.

- Akbar sent a strong force in A.D. 1572 to suppress a revolt in the hills, but the Raja of Guler did not participate.
- Akbar restored the part of the Guler state which was seized by Dharam Chand and his son Jai Chand of Kangra.
- Bidhi Chand, son of Jai Chand, was the ruler of Kangra at that time.
- Another revolt occurred in Akbar's reign in AD 1588-89, but there is no reference to Guler's involvement.
- In AD 1594-95, a revolt involving most of the hill chiefs occurred, but the Raja of Guler was not a party to the group of rebels against the Mughal empire.

❖ Vijaya Chand (AD 1605)

- Succeeded his father Jagdish Chand as the Raja of Guler.
- Ruled for only a few years.
- Was succeeded by his younger brother Rup Chand.

❖ Rup Chand (A.D. 1610)

- Rup Chand was the most notable of the Gulería chiefs.



- He participated in the final seize of Kangra fort in the reign of Jahangir, which surrendered to the imperial army on 16 November 1620 A.D.
- In 1623-24, he was appointed to suppress the rebellion raised by Jagat Singh, the Raja of Nurpur, on the instigation of Prince Khurram (Shah Jahan).
- Raja Rup Chand received the title of Bahadur and a Khillat and two weapons from Emperor Jahangir for his services.
- In A.D. 1634, he assisted the Mughal army in the expedition to invade the Garhwal state ruled by Prithvi Shah.
- He stood firm in battle despite being deprived of all support, but was killed in the battle.

❖ Man Chand Singh (A.D.1635)

- Rup Chand's son, Man Singh, succeeded him as the ruler of Guler.
- Shah Jahan changed the family's suffix to Singh and called Man Chand 'Sher Afghan' for his bravery.
- Man Singh fought with the Mughal army in seizes of Maukot' and Taragarh in A.D. 1641-42.
- Man Singh is credited with conquering Mandi, Suket, Kullu, and Bushahr.
- He was also part of the Mughal army under Aurangzeb in the seize of Kandhar in A.D. 1647.
- Man Singh built the fort of Mangarh.
- He abdicated in favor of his son and retired to Banaras, where he died in A.D. 1661.

❖ Bikram Singh (A.D. 1661)

- Bikram Singh was known for his physical strength and ability to break a coconut with his fingers.
- He served on the North-West frontier against the Yusufzai Pathan Tribes.
- Bikram Singh was mortally wounded during his journey back and died at a place called Chauntra.

❖ Raj Singh (A.D. 1675)

- Bikram Singh was succeeded by his son Raj Singh
- The Viceroy of Lahore at that time was Khwaja Riza Beg, who used to make inroads in the hill states
- Raj Singh of Guler, Chatar Singh of Chamba, Kirpal Dev of Jammu and Dhiraj Pal of Basholi combined against him and recovered their lost territories
- Raj Singh defeated the Mughal forces under Hussain Khan, Alaf Khan, and Mian Khan to save Mandi and Kahlur from similar oppression.

❖ Dalip Singh (A.D. 1695)

- Dalip Singh was born in AD 1688.
- His father, Raj Singh, died in 1695 when Dalip Singh was only seven years old.
- Raja Udai Singh of Chamba was appointed as his guardian.

- With the help of Siba, Kahlur, and Mandi, Udai Singh drove out the Rajas of Jammu and Basholi when they invaded Guler, taking advantage of Dalip Singh's minority.
- The state subjects repulsed another invasion attempt by Hussain Khan (Kiladar of Kangra).
- Dalip Singh died around AD 1730.

❖ Govardhan Singh (A.D. 1730)

- Govardhan Singh had a quarrel with Adina Beg Khan, Governor of the Jalandhara Doab, about a horse, in which the Guler chief emerged victorious.
- He ruled for a longer period without any great events.

❖ Prakash Singh (A.D. 1760)

- In 1758, Guler was controlled by Ghamand Chand of Sangra, and later by Sikhs until 1776.
- Raja Sansar Chand acquired supreme power in the hills but Guler maintained its separate entity.
- Kotla ilaqa of Guler State, which had been under Mughal control, was evacuated in 1785 and captured by Dhian Singh, the Wazir of Guler.
- Dhian Singh made himself sovereign and successfully repulsed Raja Sansar Chand.

❖ Bhup Singh (A.D. 1790)

- Bhup Singh was the last ruling chief of Guler.
- In 1809, all states of the Kangra group came under the control of Ranjit Singh, and Bhup Singh was treated with respect.
- In 1811, Guler was the first to be annexed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh
- Bhup Singh died in 1820 and was succeeded by his son Samsher Singh
- Samsher Singh liberated Haripur fort from the Sikhs in the first Sikh war and died in 1877
- Raja Jai Singh succeeded Samsher Singh, followed by Raja Raghunath Singh who died in 1920
- The title of Raja was conferred on Raja Jai Singh as a hereditary distinction in 1878
- In 1920, Raja Baldeo Singh succeeded Raja Raghunath Singh and was residing at Nandpur within his Jagir
- Haripur fort was also in his possession, having been made over to the family by the government in the time of Raja Shamsher Singh
- Raja Baldeo Singh was first 'Viceregal Darbari' in the Kangra district.

❖ Sibba State

- Siba was an offshoot from Guler.
- Siba was founded in 1450 by Sibarn Chand, a younger brother of the ruling chief of Guler.
- The clan's name is Sibaia.
- Siba became independent of Guler in the 18th century.
- The state was annexed by Ranjit Singh in 1815 and became part of British India in 1846.



- These were 25 Rajas in succession after Sibram Chand: Hemi Chand, Prahlad Chand, Jeet Chand, Udhan

Chand, Autar Chand, Rup Chand, Manak Chand, Nirmadh Chand, Jai Chand, Kailash Chand, Prag Chand, Sansar Chand, Narain Chand, Trilok Chand, Kishan Chand, Jai Chand Prithi Chand, Amar Chand, Jaswant

Chand, Bhag Singh, Lakel Singh, Madho Singh, Sher Singh, Gobind Singh and Ram Singh.

- Siba State is mentioned in Jahangir's Memories as being visited by Mughal emperor Jahangir and empress

Noor Jahan in AD 1622.

- The state maintained its independence during the Mughal period but was subject to the Sikhs and Sansar

Chand of Kangra from 1786 to the Gurkha invasion in 1806.

- In 1808, Raja Bhup Singh of Guler invaded Siba and annexed it.
- In 1809, it came under Maharaja Ranjit Singh and in 1830, he restored it to Raja Gobind Singh.
- Siba became a tributary to the Sikh Army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh from 1830-1845, with one-third of the state under Raja Gobind Singh, one-fourth under Mian Devi Singh, and the fort under Sikhs.
- The state was divided into two parts - Siba State and Siba Jagir, which created two branches - Koi Branch and Kotla Branch.
- After the death of Raja Gobind Singh, his son Raja Ram Singh became Raja of Siba State. He fought against the Sikhs in the second Sikh war and was able to take the Siba Fort from them and oust his cousin Mian Devi

Singh from his jagir in Kotla.

- In 1848, the British rulers incorporated Siba Jagir along with its sister states, Datarpur, Jawan, and Guler, into the British district of Kangra. Raja Ram Singh retained the state and the Royal Chair of Raja.
- Only the share of Siba Jagir was restored to Bijai Singh son of Mian Devi Singh by the British in 1858 but did not acknowledge him as Raja. The British created Jai Singh son of Bijai Singh as Raja of Dada-Siba Jagir.
- Thakur Sunder Singh, brother of Raja Ram Singh, was exiled from Dada-Siba Jagir after a conflict with Britishers and members of Dada-Siba royal family.
- He migrated to village Chack Ladian of Kapurthala Princely State and established his own kingdom, presently known as Tantpalan.
- Raja Ram Singh died without an heir in AD 1874 and his Jagir was transferred to Bijai Singh, followed by Raja Jai Singh who died in 1920, Raja Gajindar Singh who died in 1926, and Raja Sham Singh who became the head of the family.
- The state is generally referred to as 'DADA-SIBA'.

❖ Datarpur

- It was an offshoot of Sibba.
- Sibba was an offshoot of Guler and Guler was an offshoot of Kangra
- Datarpur was founded by Datar Chand in about 1558.
- The clan name of the family is Dadwal from Dada, their original name.
- In 1786, the state came under Raja Sansar Chand.
- In 1806, Govind Chand of Datarpur sided with Amar Singh Thapa in their invasion of Kangra .



- In 1809, the state comes under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who reduced it to the status of jagir.
- Govind Chand died in 1818 and the territory was annexed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

❖ RAJA JAGAT CHAND

- In 1848 he revolted against British along with Katoch princes and was deported to Almora, where he died in 1877.
- Later rulers were - RAJA DEVI CHAND, MIAN SURMA CHAND. RAJA BALDEY CHAND.

❖ Kutlehr State

- The state was the smallest among the Kangra principalities, ruled by generations of 40 Rajas.
- The family's progenitor, a Brahman, became a Rajput after acquiring regal power.
- Jas Pal, the head of the family in the 10th or 11th century, conquered the taluqas of 'Talhati' and 'Kutlehr' and established the capital at 'Kot Kutlehr'.
- The states of Bhajii and Koti in the Shimla hills were founded by his son and grandson, respectively.
- The clan name is Kutlehria.
- In 1758, Ghamand Chand of Kangra annexed the Northern province of the state, 'Chauki'.
- In 1786, Sansar Chand completely seized the state but restored its Raja during the Gurkha invasion.
- From 1809, the state was under Sikh control, and in 1825, Ranjit Singh laid siege to the fort of 'Kotwalbah'.
- Raja Narain Pal led the defense and surrendered the fort after being promised a Jagir of Rs. 10,000/-.
- Raja Narain Pal died in 1864, and his son Raja Rajendra Pal succeeded him.
- The last known head of the family was Raja Brijmohan Pal.

❖ Banghal State

- The Bangahal state included territories such as Bara Bangahal, Chhota Bangahal, Paprola, Landoh, and Rajjer.
- The capital of the state was Bir in Bir Banghal.
- The founder of the state was a Brahmin who became a Raja and his descendants ruled the state for twenty generations until Prithi Pal was murdered in about A.D. 1720.
- The early Rajas used the suffix Pal with their names and were of the Chandravanshi race.
- The clan name is Bangahalia.
- Being close to Kangra, Mandi, and Kullu, the state was often a target for encroachments from these neighboring states.
- In A.D. 1240, Raja Madan Sen of Suket, and in A.D. 1554, Raja Sahib Sen of Mandi, likely annexed the state.
- In A.D. 1637, Suraj Sen of Mandi invaded Bangahal but was eventually driven back by Jagat Singh of Kullu, who took a portion of the state's territory adjacent to his own as a reward for his help.

❖ Prithi Pal (A.D. 1710)

- Prithi Pal was the son-in-law of Sidh Sen of Mandi (A.D. 1684-1728).
- Sidh Sen had an eye on Prithi Pal's principality and invited him to Mandi.

- Prithi Pal was received with great honor, but within a month, he was taken into the 'Damdama Palace' and murdered.
- Prithi Pal's body was burnt, and the head was buried in front of the palace.
- Sidh Sen then sent an army against Bangahal.
- Prithi Pal's mother sought help from Man Singh of Kullu, who was married to Prithi Pal's sister.
- The Mandi forces were driven back, but Man Singh kept a large territory under his own control.

❖ Raghunath Pal (A.D. 1720)

- Raghunath Pal succeeded his father Prithi Pal.
- Sidh Sen attempted to seize Karanpur during Raghunath Pal's reign.
- Sidh Sen failed in his first attempt to capture Karanpur and was driven back with the help of Kullu.
- Sidh Sen made a second attempt and reached Kotharlu Galu but was again repulsed.
- Shamsheer Sen, son of Sidh Sen, seized Karanpur while Raghunath Pal was away in Punjab to meet Mughal

Viceroy.

❖ Dalel Pal (A.D. 1735)

- Raghunath Pal's son Dalel Pal succeeded him after his death in 1735.
- During Dalel Pal's reign, a joint attack was made on Bangahal by Mandi, Kullu, Kahlur, Nalagarh, Guler and Jaswan.
- The attack was repelled, but Bangahal suffered great losses.
- Dalel Pal died in 1749.
- After Dalel Pal's death, most of his territory was taken by Mandi and Kullu.

❖ Man Pal (A.D. 1749)

- Man Pal was the last ruling chief of Bangahal.
- He inherited the taluqas of Landoh, Paprola, and Rajjer.
- Man Pal died on his way to Delhi to seek assistance from the Mughal emperor.
- In his absence, Bangahal was captured by Kangra and Guler State.
- Landoh and Paprola were attached to Kangra, and the remaining territory went to Guler.
- Man Pal's widow and infant son, Nihal Pal, were given refuge by Raja Raj Singh of Chamba.
- In 1785, Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra married Man Pal's daughter and helped Uchal Pal, Man Pal's son, to try to recover his patrimony from Mandi, but they were unsuccessful.
- Kullu and Mandi Rajas paid five lakh rupees to Sansar Chand to secure their occupation of Bangahal.
- Uchal Pal died soon after, leaving three sons and a daughter under Sansar Chand's protection.
- Ram Pal, the eldest son, died childless in 1843, and his younger brother Bahadur Pal tried unsuccessfully to recover the family patrimony.
- Bahadur Pal died in 1854, and this marked the end of the mainline of heirs.

❖ Nurpur State

- The original capital and nucleus of Nurpur was Pathankot, which was known as Paithan in Mughal times.
- It is believed that Audumbara was the ancient name of the whole district, which included the two towns of Nurpur and Pathankot.
- The old Hindu name of Nurpur was Dhamera.
- The name was changed to Nurpur during the period of Raja Jagat Singh by Jahangir in honor of his wife, Noor Jahan.
- The clan name of the Nurpur Rajas is Pathania, derived from the place name Paithan.
- The transfer of the capital from Pathankot to Nurpur occurred during the time of Akbar, but Nurpur was probably in existence since ancient times.
- Descent and Ancient Name of Pathankot and Nurpur
- The Rajas of Pathankot and Nurpur were called “Pandi” or descendants of the Pandvas, a claim shared by other royal families in the region.
- They also claimed their descent from the Tomar Rajas of Delhi.
- According to the Vishnupurana and the Brihatsamhita of Varahamihira, the district was called Audumbara in ancient times.
- The name may have been derived from the abundant growth of the udumbara tree or the ruddy complexion of the inhabitants.
- The legends on coins found in the area also mention the name Audumbara, indicating that it was the name of the tract.
- Udumbra Tree/Ficus racemose

❖ Coins

- Paithan or Pathankot was an important junction where many trade routes passed through
- Sir Alexander Cunningham found coins at Pathankot belonging to Greek Zoilus and Gondophares.
- Coins from the reign of Mahmud Ghazani to Shahjahan have also been found in Pathankot
- Most ancient coins found in Pathankot are—
- thin pieces of copper either square or oblong with a temple on one side and an elephant on the other side
- Beside the temple, there are symbols of Swastika and dharma and underneath is a snake
- Before the elephant, there is a tree surrounded by a Buddhist railing with an Aryan legend on two sides of which one half reads Audumbara.
- Audumbaras coins have been found mostly in Pathankot , Hoshiyarpur , gurdaspur and Jawalamukhi region .
- They issued copper and silver coins dating back to 1st century B.C inscribed in Brahmi and Kharosthi script.
- The Audumbaras coin had an additional word “Mahadevsa ” along with the name of Raja or Rana of tribe.
- Mahadevsa was used for lord Shiva. Also supported by the figure of trident (trishul) on the coins.

1)Mahadevsa Rana Sivadasa Audumbrisa.

2)Mahadevsa Rana Rudradasa Audumbrisa

3)Mahadevsa Rana Dharaghossa Audumbrisa.

4)Bhagwati Mahadevsa Rajarama Audumbrisa

❖ Religion- Shaivites

- Trident and Bull on coins – Shaivite natures
- Prefix- Mahadevasa
- Kings name – Sivadassa , Rudradasa
- The early history of Nurpur is uncertain.
- Up to the reign of Raja Bakht Mal in Akbar's time (A.D. 1556), most of it is conjectural.
- The names of the rulers are not certain as shown by the vast variations in two lists of Rajas.
- One list was prepared by Sir Alexander Cunningham, and the other was given by Mian Raghunath Singh in his vernacular history "Twarikh-i-Rajan-i-Pathania".

❖ Chronology of Rajas

❖ Jhet Pal (1000 A.D)

- The founder Raja of Nurpur state was Jhet Pal, who was the younger brother of the reigning Raja of Delhi.
- Jhet Pal founded the state around 1000 A.D.
- The Rajas who succeeded Jhet Pal were Khetr Pal, Sushvin Pal, Jagat Pal, Ram Pal, Gopal Pal, Arjan (Ujjain)

Pal, Varsha Pal, Jatan Pal, Vidhurath Pal, Jagan Pal, Kirat Pal, Kakho Pal, and Jas Pal.

❖ Jas Pal (1313-1337 A.D)

- Ruled from A.D. 1313-1337
- contemporary of Ala-ud-din Khilji.
- Jas Pal had nine sons.

❖ Kailash Pal (A.D. 1353-97)

- The credit of defeating and injuring the Mohammedan General "Tatar Khan" who invaded Punjab is accorded to Raja Jas Pal, who ruled Nurpur from A.D. 1313-1337.
- He is also credited with constructing an irrigation channel from the Ravi to Pathankot.

❖ Nag Pal (A.D. 1397-1438)

- Raja Basu Dev was the eldest son of Kailash Pal.
- He was allegedly named after a snake that was born along with him.
- The snake was put into a well and is still worshipped as the family deity of the Pathania clan.



- Prithi or Phato Pal (A.D. 1438-73)
- Bhil Pal (A.D. 1473-1513)
- Bhil Pal was a contemporary of Sultan Sikandar Lodhi of Delhi (A.D. 1488-1516) and is said to have assisted him in his wars.

❖ **Bakht Mal (A.D. 1513-58)**

- The famous fortress of 'Maukot' was built in the state by Salim Shah Sur during Bakht Mal's reign.
- Bakht Mal supported Sikandar Shah Suri, who had taken refuge in Maukot, but was defeated by the Mughals after Akbar came to power in 1557.
- Bakht Mal was taken as a prisoner to Lahore and put to death by Bairam Khan in 1558.
- Bakht Mal is said to have built the fort of 'Shahpur' on the river Ravi, naming it after the Shah Sur family.
- Pathania chiefs were vassals of their more powerful neighbors, the Kings of Trigarta (Kangra), and held a secondary rank.
- They selected Mau as a place of seclusion and safety, and built a stronghold there.
- Owing to the dense thorny jungles and hills around it proved a source of trouble and defied the imperial power of Delhi.
- So much so that an expedition against it was regarded as a call of death.

“ Mau ki muhim yaro maut ki nishani hai”

- As masters of Paithan and Mau, the Pathanias were first noticed in the beginning of Akbar's reign.
- Bakht Mal is mentioned as a supporter of Sikandar Sur in the Akbarnama.

❖ **Pahari Mal (A.D. 1558-80)**

- Mentioned as 'Bihari Mal' by Cunningham and 'Takht Mal' in Mohammedan histories.
- His reign was peaceful and without any trouble.
- Pahari Mal realized the danger of having his capital at Pathankot and wanted to transfer it to Nurpur

(Dhameri), but he passed away before he could do so.

❖ **Bas Dev (A.D. 1580-1613)**

- He was also known as 'Basu'.
- He transferred the capital to Dhameri, which his son Jagat Singh renamed Nurpur.
- He revolted against the Mughals multiple times: in 1585, 1589-90, 1594-95, 1602-03, and 1603-04.
- Many of these revolts were on the instigation of Prince Salim against his father.
- In his first revolt against Akbar, the Mughal emperor, he sought mercy from Todar Mal, which was granted by Akbar.
- In his second revolt against Akbar, Mirza Rustam and Asif Khan were sent to capture him, but they refused to do so due to their old friendship with him.
- Jagat Singh, son of Raja Man Singh, was appointed Commander of the army to capture Raja Basu.



- In 1597, he captured the Mau fort located on the Pathankot-Nurpur road on the Eastern side of the Chakki river.
- Raja Basu was close to Jahangir and was deputed by him to capture Khurram (Shah Jahan) in March A.D. 1606.

❖ Nurpur Fort

- Nurpur Fort was built by Raja Basu in the 16th century.
- It was later expanded by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir in the early 17th century.
- It is believed that Nurpur Fort was one of Jahangir's favorite hunting spots.
- The fort has a unique blend of Mughal and Hindu architecture, with intricate carvings and beautiful paintings on the walls.
- The fort was occupied by the Sikhs in the early 19th century.
- It was later seized by the British in 1846 after the Anglo-Sikh War.
- During the British era, the fort was used as a jail and a hospital.
- An edifice in the western end of fort was built by Raja Mandata.
- This edifice is called Thakur-Dwara probably dedicated to Vishnu.
- It contains the image of Krishna called Braj raj-made of black marble.
- To the south of Thakur dwara there are two miniature temples.
- The major part of fort has been destroyed during Sikh wars.
- An audience hall (Diwan-i-Aam) was also there in the fort.
- The fort along with several other strongholds in the district was blown up during 1857 revolt .
- The most interesting building in the fort is the ruined temple that was excavated by Mr C.J. Rodgers in 1886.

❖ Suraj Mal (A.D. 1613-18)

- Among three brothers, Jahangir favored Suraj Mal to become the successor of Raja Basu.
- Suraj Mal was ordered to join Mughal army's commanders in the siege of Kangra fort.
- After Murtaza Khan's death, Suraj Mal was attached to the prince's force and was dispatched to lay siege to Kangra fort in 1617.
- Suraj Mal began to quarrel with other commanders and revolted against the imperial authority, ravaging most of the praganas at the foot of the hills.
- Jahangir sent a force under Sunder Das Rai Raiyan to suppress the rebellion, and Suraj Mal fled to Chamba state.
- The Mughal army captured smaller forts in the territory, including Kotla, which was held by Madho Singh, Raja Basu's youngest son.
- Madho Singh escaped to Chamba but eventually surrendered.
- In 1618, Bikramjit captured Mau, Nurpur, and Kangra, and Suraj Mal fled to the higher hills.
- In 1619, Suraj Mal and his younger brother Madho Singh were captured by Bikramjit, and Jahangir awarded them the death penalty.

❖ Jagat Singh (A.D. 1619-46)

- Jagat Singh was initially serving at the Mughal court.
- Later on Suraj Mal revolted, he was called from Bengal to assist in suppressing the revolt of Raja Suraj Mal.
- He was sent to assist the Rai Raiyan in suppressing the revolt and later ordered to assist in the site of Kangra fort.
- Kangra fort surrendered in November A.D. 1620.
- Jagat Singh seems to have taken up his residence at Nurpur after the fort's capitulation.
- In A.D. 1622, emperor Jahangir and his consort, Noor Jahan paid a visit to the valley.
- In A.D. 1623, Prince Khurram rebelled against his father Jahangir, and Jagat Singh, who had attached himself to the prince, was sent to raze the chiefs of Kangra hills.
- Jahangir sent Sadiq Khan, Viceroy of Punjab, to suppress the revolt.
- Raja Rup Chand of Guler was also engaged in the suppression of this revolt.

Battle of Dhalog (12 years war with Chamba)

- There was a war with Jagat Singh for twelve years from around A.D. 1613 onwards.
- The war ended in a final invasion of Chamba by Jagat Singh in A.D. 1623, who was assisted by Mughal troops.
- A battle was fought at 'Dahlog' near Dalhousie during this invasion.
- The Raja on the throne at that time was Balabhadra (A.D. 1589-1641).
- Balabhadra's son, Janardhan, was installed as Raja when he fled from the capital on the arrival of the Nurpur army.
- A twelve-year war with Chamba ended in a final invasion of Chamba by Jagat Singh in A.D. 1623.
- Janardhan was killed by Jagat Singh on the pretext of a conference.
- Basholi was the first state to come under Jagat Singh's control in A.D. 1614-15, when Raja Bhupat Pal was arrested on false accusations.
- Bhupat Pal returned to Basholi in disguise and expelled the Nurpur garrison in about 1627 A.D. But when he went to Delhi to pay his regards to the emperor, Jagat Singh got him assassinated.
- On the accession of Shah Jahan in A.D. 1627, Raja Jagat Singh assisted in a number of army expeditions and rendered valuable services to the throne.
- Jagat Singh revolted against the emperor along with his son Rajrup in A.D. 1640 to establish himself as undisputed authority.
- Shah Jahan sent his youngest son, Murad Baksh, to suppress the revolt, and Jagat Singh made a brave resistance to the overwhelming force sent against him but ultimately surrendered.
- Jagat Singh, along with his sons, submitted to the clemency of the emperor and had their honors restored after appearing in Darbar with halters around their necks.
- Jagat Singh strengthened the three principal forts in his territory, namely Maukot, Nurpur, and Taragarh, and the fort of Taragarh was erected by him on the summit of a high mountain.
- Prince Dara Shikoh visited the whole territory on November 23, 1642 A.D., and 'Najabat Khan' was appointed

Faujdar of the hill country of Kangra based on his report.

- The Maukot fort was completely demolished by Mughal forces, while Nurpur and Taragarh forts continued in use till after the 1857 revolt.



- Jagat Singh had great influence with Noor Jahan Begum, whom he addressed as beti, and his warlike exploits were the subject of a poem.

“The Rhapsodies of Gambir Rai-The Nurpur bard” (1650 A.D) was written after his death.

❖ **Rajrup Singh (A.D. 1646-1661)**

- After the death of Raja Jagat Singh, his son Rajrup was conferred with the title of Raja by Shah Jahan.
- Rajrup's status was gradually enhanced with more personnel and horses and he participated in several expeditions with Mughal generals and princes.
- In A.D. 1657, a conflict arose among Shah Jahan's four sons after his serious illness.
- Rajrup's attachment with Mughal princes after Shah Jahan's death is uncertain, but it is known that he spent his last years serving Aurangzeb and died in A.D. 1661.
- Bhau Singh, the younger son of Jagat Singh, served in the campaign in Badakhshan even after his father's death.
- In A.D. 1650, Shah Jahan granted Bhau Singh a fief, which included the talugas of 'Shahpur', 'Palahi and Kandi, and the capital of the state was Shahpur.
- In A.D. 1686, Bhau Singh embraced Islam and received the name of 'Murid Khan' from the emperor.
- The state was annexed by the Sikhs in A.D. 1781, and the descendants of the ruling family made Sujanpur near Madhopur their residence.

❖ **Mandhata (A.D. 1661-1700)**

- After the death of Raja Rajrup Singh, his son Mandhata was recognized as Raja by the emperor.
- Mandhata held high offices under the Mughals and was the last of the Pathania Rajas to hold office under the Mughal emperors.
- He also wrote half of the 'Rhapsodies' in praise of his grandfather.
- Mandhata was the last Pathania Raja to receive distinction from the Mughal emperors.

❖ **Dayadhata (A.D. 1700-35)**

- There is no detailed information available about the reign of Raja Mandhata in the records.
- He had four sons named Prithvi Singh, Indar Singh, Mahan Singh, and Sunder Singh, and they were born to different 'Ranis' (Queens).
- Indar Singh was married to a daughter of the Kangra Raja and settled in that state, becoming the ancestor of the 'Reh' branch of the family.

❖ **Prithvi Singh (A.D. 1735-89)**

- Prithvi Singh was recognized as the heir apparent and became Raja after his father Dayadhata's death.
- In 1752, the Punjab was ceded to Ahmad Shah Durrani by the emperor of Delhi, and all the hill chiefs took the opportunity to assert their independence and take back their territories that they had lost under Mughal rule.
- In 1758, Adina Beg Khan was appointed Viceroy and briefly brought all the hill states under his control, but he died the same year, and they regained their independence.

- In 1770, Jassa Singh Ramgarhia made several of the hill states his tributaries, including Kangra, Nurpur, and Chamba.
- Jai Singh Kanheya succeeded Jassa Singh and held supremacy until 1786.
- Nurpur acquired a portion of territory called 'Lakhanpur' from Basholi in 1785, which was considered Nurpur territory until 1846-47.
- Feteah Singh, Prithvi Singh's son, predeceased his father, leaving a son named Bir Singh, who succeeded Prithvi Singh in 1789.

❖ Raja BIR SINGH (1805-1846 A.D)

- Raja Bir Singh was the last ruling Chief of Nurpur, born in 1785
- He resisted Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Lahore but was eventually imprisoned in the fortress of Gobindgarh
- Bir Singh was ransomed by his brother-in-law, Sardar Charat Singh, for Rs.85,000/-
- In 1846, he raised the standard of revolt, besieged Nurpur, and died in battle before its walls
- Bir Singh married three times, to daughters of Raja Jit Singh of Chamba, Raja Sansar Chand II of Kangra, and Raja Bikram Sen II of Suket
- He had a son named Jaswant Singh, a minor, whose chief officer was Ram Singh, son of Shyam Singh, the last Wazir of the state. Bir Singh died in 1846.

❖ Raja JASWANT SINGH

- Raja Jaswant Singh was the ruler of Nurpur from 1846 to 1898.
- In 1846, Nurpur was merged with Kangra and Jaswant Singh was given an annual Jagir of Rs. 5,000/- by the British Government.
- Ram Singh, the last Wazir of Nurpur, tried to stage a revolt and declare Jaswant Singh as Raja in 1848, but he was defeated and banished to Singapur, where he died.
- Jaswant Singh was granted a doubled Jagir of Rs. 10,000/- in 1861 for his loyalty during the 1857 revolt.
- Their residence was located near the town of Nurpur.

❖ Raja GAGAN SINGH

- Raja Gagan Singh was the Raja of Nurpur from 1898 to 1952.
- He was born in 1882 and held the title of 6th Viceregal Darbari in Kangra District.
- Gagan Singh also served as an honorary magistrate in Kangra District.
- He was granted the hereditary title of Raja on 15 March 1909 by the Viceroy.
- He passed away in 1952.

❖ Raja DEVENDRA SINGH

- He was born in 1901 and passed away after 1960. He held the title in 1952.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

02 | Chamba

The Princely Hill State

❖ Geography of Chamba

To quote Dr. Vogel, the author of– “Antiquities of Chamba State”

"And truly delightful has been the task of revealing the antiquarian treasures hidden in that glorious mountain region, which a popular adage so rightfully describes as Chamba Achamba (Chamba the Charming)".

Chamba is the headquarters of the Chamba district, bordered by--

- Kishtwar and Doda districts of Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir to the north-west in the west Lahaul
- Bara Banghal to the north-east and east
- Kangra to the south-east and Pathankot district of Punjab to the south.

❖ Valleys in Chamba district

- Ravi valley or Chamba valley -the valley of milk and honey
- Chenab or Pangi Lahaul valley.
- The valleys on the south-west of district are fertile.

❖ Other Valleys-

- Churah valley
- Hudan valley
- Bhattiyat valley
- Sihunta valley
- Bhandal valley-Salooni is located here

❖ Dhars (Mountain ranges)

- Hathi Dhar - running parallel to south of Dhauladhar separates Chamba from Kangra.
- Dagani Dhar - forms boundary between Chamba and Bhadarwah in Jammu .Chatar Dhar ,Padri Dhar ,Pangi

Dhar, Drabla Dhar, Deorah Dhar, DodanaDhar, Sanini Dhar, Manimahesh Dhar.

❖ Peaks

- Pir Panjal
- Thamsar
- Gauri Devi Ka Tibba
- Narshing Tibba
- Hathi Dhar
- Lachalungla
- Kailash(bharmour)
- BaraKanda

❖ Rivers of Chamba

❖ Chamba has two main rivers-

❖ The Chenab or Chandrabhaga—

- rises near the top of the Baralacha pass in Lahaul from two streams the Chandra and Bhaga ,which unite at Tandi and forms the Chenab.
- Enters Chamba at Thirot and leaves at Sansari

Nala to enter Podar valley of Kashmir.

❖ The Ravi—

- rises in the mid Himalaya and Bara Bhanghal range
- Leaves Chamba at Kheri and enters into plains of Shahpur area of Kangra.
- Chamba town is situated on the right bank of Ravi river.

❖ Lakes

- Manimahesh Lake in Bharmaur—Fair is held here on the occasion of Radha Astmi.
- Khajjiar Lake—Also called mini Switzerland .
- Ghadasaru Lake
- Mahakali Lake
- Chamera Lake
- Chanderkup Lake
- Lama Dal Lake—Group of seven lakes.
- The local Gaddi tribals visit this lake on Janmashtami.

❖ Tribes in Chamba

- Gaddi Tribe—inhabited in Bharmaur tehsil of Chamba district.
- Pangwal—residents of Pangti valley of Chamba district.
- Bhots—occupy upper reaches of Chamba.
- Gujjars—cattle rearers

❖ Temples

- Lakshmi Narayan temple
- Champavati temple
- Kailash Manimahesh
- Shakti Devi temple (at Chatrari)-brass idol of goddess in the Kashmiri style
- Katasan Devi temple

❖ Fairs and Festivals

❖ Fairs--

❖ Suhi Mata Mela

- held annually in March–April for four days.
- to commemorate the sacrifice made by the queen of Chamba with her life, to bring water to the town.
- Minjar Mela
- held on the second Sunday of the Shravana month
- Marks the triumph of the Raja of Chamba over the ruler of Trigarta in 935 AD
- Also celebrates the paddy and maize crops grown at this time of the year.
- Phul Yatra fair-held at Killar in Pangti valley
- Bharmaur Jatra fair
- Chhatrari Jatra fair

❖ Festivals

- Baishakhi-called Lissho in Pangti –Chamba
- Chrewal- called Pathroru in Chamba
- Chet-called Dholru in Bharmaur area

❖ Dance/Dramas

❖ Dramas

- Jhanki and Hanter are famous dramas of Chamba
- The Jhangar Dance is famous dance of Chamba valley
- The Dangri and Sikri are some famous dances.
- Male dances include ---the Gaddi and Gujjar dances, Dandaras, Nat, Ghorda, Nachan, Dharumsde, the Khad-dumbi and the Chhinjhati.
- Female dances ---the Ghurei, Dangi and Kikli.
- Dances such as the Shain, Dhamal, Sohal, Sal Kukdi Nachan, Ratega and Til-Chauti are performed by both sexes.

❖ Chamba Art and Culture

- Chamba is noted for its miniature Pahari paintings, where Basohli style of Pahari paintings took roots with Nikku, the artist of Basohli migrating from Guler to Chamba in the eighteenth century.
- Raja Udai Singh and Raja Jai Singh patronised this school of painting.
- During the reign of Raja Charhat Singh, folk art developed and had a lasting influence on local artists.
- The paintings of Chamba encompass both miniatures and murals and the Mughal influence is clearly discerned in these paintings.
- Distinguished artists of Chamba who have painted in this art form include Lehru, Durga and Miyan Jara Singh.
- The paintings were generally painted with Hindu religious themes, particularly the legends of Hindu mythology such as Radha Krishna, Shiva-Parvati, RamaDarbar, Yashoda and Krishna, Gopis, love scenes, deer, birds and women, Daya Saptashati and Krishna - Sudama.
- Romantic ambiance of the monsoon season in Chamba has also been painted by the artists of Pahari miniature art, in various moods and styles in Basholi colours.

❖ Handicrafts

❖ Chamba Rumal-

- The Chamba Rumal or handkerchief is an embroidered handicraft that was once promoted under the patronage of the former rulers of Chamba kingdom.
- Earliest reported form of this rumal is the one made by Bebe Nanaki, sister of Guru Nanak in the 16th century, which is now preserved in the Gurudwara at Hoshiarpur.
- The Victoria Albert Museum, London has a rumal which was gifted to the British in 1883 by Raja Gopal

Singh and it has an embroidered scene of the Kurukshetra War of the epic Mahabharata.

- On 22 January 2007, "Chamba Rumal" was listed under the GI Act 1999 of the Government of India

❖ Early History of Chamba

- The land was inhabited by Kol People(2nd century BC).
- They were subjugated by Khasas.
- Audumbras conquered the land and set up their rule.
- Chamba in 4th Century AD: Audumbras set up a republican form of govt known as Janapad.
- In the 4th century AD during the Gupta period, the Thakurs and Ranas ruled.
- From the 7th century, the Gurjara-Pratiharas or Rajput dynasty came into power
- After it Thakurs and Ranas became controller.
- Chamba was tributary of Harshvardhan kingdom(606-647AD)
- Hieun Tsang visited Brahmapura, to which he refers as Po-Lo-Hih-Mo- Pu-Lo.
- The recorded history of the Rajput rulers is traced to an eminent individual named Maru who is said to have moved to northwest India from Kalpagrama, around 500 AD.
- He founded his capital in the Budhal river valley at a place called Brahmapura, which later became known as Bharmaur.
- For three hundred years, kings of Rajput Dynasty ruled from their capital in Bharmour.

❖ The Origin of Chamba name

- Rajatarangini of Kalhan--Chamba is mentioned as Champa or Champapuri..
- The name Chamba is derived from the flower yielding Champak trees (michelia champaka).
- Establishment of the town, was done according to the wish of Sahil

Varman's daughter, Champavati.

- A temple is dedicated to goddess

Champavati..

- Panini particularly mentions a tribe by the name Gabdika, which Dr.

V.S. Aggarwal has identified as well known Gaddi tribe of Chamba-Bharmour.

❖ Important facts about Varman dynasty

- All families of Kangra dynasties belong to Chandravanshi, except

Chamba that belonged to Suryavanshi and had 68 Kings from Raja Maru/Marut until merger of Chamba with Varman surname

- Aditya-Varman was the first king to assume the title of Varman.

❖ Vamshavali of Chamba Raja

- The Vamshavali of Chamba Raja begins from Vishnu or Narayana.



- Rama of Ramayana is sixty-third in the order of descent, which continued through Khusha ,the son of Rama.
- The original home of the family is said to have been in Ayodhya.
- But they moved at a very early period to the upper Ganges valley and settled in Kalpa.

❖ One Version

- Maru had three sons.
- One son was given the ancestral home ,other one settled in the mountains near Kashmir and the youngest

Maru founded the town of Bharmaur.

- Raja Maru-(Become Sadhu and retired to Kalpa)
- 3 sons – Jaistambh , Jalstambh , Mahastambh
- Jai-Stambh-The first ruling king of Chamba.

❖ Aditya Varman (620 A.D)

- Aditya Varman was the first Raja to adopt the title 'Varman'.
- Contemporary of Brahmo Pal , Raja of Kullu.

❖ Bala Varman

❖ Diwakar Varman-

“Chatrari inscription” his name occurs as Deva Varman , while in Bharmaur inscription as Divakara Varman

❖ Meru Varman(680-700 AD)

- He was famous as Shahjahan of Chamba .
- He was the first Chamba King to extend his boundaries by conquest of nearby territories , and was called

Maharajadhiraia.

- From an inscribed stone found at “Gun” erected by a feudatory of Meru Varman named Ashadha.
- War of Brahmapura between Raja of Kullu (Sri Datteshwar Pal) and Meru Varman .
- He built – Manimahesh temple, Lakshna Devi temple, Shakti Devi temple at Chhatrari, Ganesh temple

,Narsimha temple of Bharmour and Surajmukha Shrine at Bharmaur.

❖ Ajia Varman (760 A.D)

- Gaddi's came from Delhi during his reign and settled in Bharmaur.

❖ Suvaran Varman (780 A.D)

❖ Laxmi Varman (800 AD)

- Kullu remained under the influence of Chamba from Meru Varman until Laxmi Varman became Raja .
- Severe outbreak of plague/cholera, devastated the people of Chamba during his reign.
- Invasion of Kira (Tibetan or Yarklandis)
- Taking advantage of this epidemic, Kir tribe invaded and captured Chamba.
- King Laxmi lost his life and the Kingdom was lost by Varmans for about 2 decades.
- Some historians assume Kirs as Kashmir/Tibetan tribe or even tribe of Kirgram (Bajjnath)

❖ Mushan Varman (820 AD)

- Wazir and Purohit smuggled out Rani of Lakshmi Varman and her son, when the Raja was defeated by Kir community.
- On the way to their escape, the Rani gave birth to a son and the baby was left in a cave , in order to save him from approaching attackers.
- When the Wazir and the Purohit learnt about it, they came back and found the infant in the cave, protected by a large number of mice surrounding him.
- They brought the child back and both the mother and son took asylum in the house of a Brahmin.
- The name Mushan Varman was given because of the protection given by the mice in the cave.
- They lived there for 8-9 years without disclosing their royal identity.
- Subsequently, the Brahmin saw Prince's royal footprints imprinted on flour scattered on ground and identified him.
- Raja of Suket helped him and married his daughter to Mushan Varman.
- Killing of mice was banned in Chamba Royal family.

❖ Sahil Varman (920-940 AD)

- He was 20th King after founder Maru .
- He extended the kingdom beyond Budhal River Valley in Bharmour.
- He conquered the lower Ravi valley and transferred his capital from Brahmpura to Champa, now called

Chamba.

- He was childless and once 84 yogis visited him and they blessed him with 10 sons & a daughter Champavati.
- Chaurasi temple complex is a dedication to 84 Yogis. Also, Chamba territory was divided into 84 parts .

❖ Story Behind the name of Chamba

- In 920, Raja Sahil Varman shifted his capital from Bharmour to a more centrally located place in the lower

Ravi valley, and named the city Champavati, after his daughter.

- There is some variation in the story to how exactly this transition came about in the historical records of Chamba.
- One version tells It was Champavati who urged her father to build a new capital town in the valley.
- However, obstacles stood in the way to relocating his capital, given that the king had previously granted the land in the modern Chamba vicinity to the Kanwan Brahmins.
- A solution was found in the form of offering a gift of eight copper coins called chaklis on the occasion of every marriage that took place in the Brahmin family, if they would agree to surrender their land to pave the way for the new capital.
- With the land thus obtained, the new capital was built and named as Champa after Chamapavati, the King's daughter, which, over the years, was simply shortened to "Chamba".

Sacrifice of Rani Naina Devi (Wife of Raja Sahil Varman)

- The town lacked a convenient water supply according to legend.
- The Raja had a watercourse built from the Sarohta stream but water refused to enter it.
- The Brahmins believed the spirit of the stream needed to be tranquilized and a victim must be sacrificed, either Rani or her son.
- Rani Naina Devi offered to sacrifice herself and was buried alive near the village of 'Balota'.
- After the burial, water began to flow abundantly.
- A shrine was constructed in her memory on top of the hill by the Raja.
- A fair called 'Suhi mela' is held in her memory from 15th of Chait to the 1st of Vaishakh.
- Only women and children are allowed to participate, and they are entertained at the Raja's expense.
- The steps to the shrine were constructed by Rani Sarda, queen of Raja Jit Singh (A.D. 1794-1808.)

❖ Story behind Champavati/Chamasni Temple

- Champavati was of a religious disposition and used to visit a place of Sadhu
- The king, being suspicious of his daughter's fidelity, one day investigated and followed her to the hermitage, but surprisingly he found neither his daughter nor the hermit there.
- Suddenly he was said to have heard a voice which informed him that his suspicions were ill-founded, admonishing him and informing him that his daughter had been taken away from him permanently as a punishment for his lack of trust in her morals.
- The King, fully chastened, sought redemption for his sin by expanding the hermitage into a temple, named in his daughter's honour and built a city around the temple.
- Today this temple is called the Champavati Temple, belongs to the Royal family and the King's daughter is venerated as a goddess.

❖ War with Kullu-

- During the reign of Sahil Varman ,twelve year war took place between Chamba and Kullu.
- At last a peace was restored up and the Kullu people invited the Brahmpura soldiers to a feast which was held at night.

- In darkness the Chamba soliders were deceptively thrown down to the banks of Beas near Rehla where they fell over the rocks and were Killed and other got drowned in Beas.
- Since Raja Sahil Varman, the dynasty ruled without successful invasion for around a millennium, until the British gained power.
- The isolation of the town and its rugged hilly terrain is believed to have been a contributing factor to this unusual state of security.
- Later, Mughal emperors Akbar and Aurangzeb did attempt to annexed Chamba but were unsuccessful in subjugating this territory into their kingdoms.
- Chakli copper coins with pierced ear (dedicated to Yogi Charpat Nath), came during Sahil Varman.

❖ Division of territory

- Sahil Varman divided his kingdom into five zones known as Mandlas.
- These Mandlas were later renamed as Wizarats. (Wizarats Tehsils).
- These are Bharmour, Chamba, Bhattiyat, Churah and Pangi.

❖ Constructions during Sahil Varman Region

- Champavati (Chamesni) Temple and Laxmi Narayan Temple, Chandragupt, Kameshwar, and Vishnu Chander

Shekhar (at Saho) temples in Chamba

- He visited Kurukshetra on the eve of a solar eclipse and made Laxmi- Narayan as chief royal deity and Vaishnavism became chief sect of the state.
- He was given the title of Sahasank - "the Emblem of Courage, Nissan- Kamall- "Dauntless Wrestler" and Matamatasimha- 'Roaring Lion

❖ Yugankar Varman (940-960 AD)

- He had married Tribhuvan-Rekha Devi
- Temple of Narsingha at Brahmapura was erected by Rani.
- Yugakar Varman erected the temple of Gauri Shankar (Ishwar Gaurja) in Chamba near Laksmi Narayan temple.

❖ Vidagdha Varman (960 A.D)

- Son of Yugankar Varman
- A copper plate of his reign mentions his father Yugankar Varman and mother Bhogmati Devi.
- Dodak Varman (980 A.D)
- Vichitra Varman
- Dhairya Varman

❖ Salvahan Varman (1040 A.D)

- His name is known from three copper plates found in Chamba.
- In Rajtarangini (the historical chronical of Kashmir) ,it is mentioned that—
- Ananta Dev of Kashmir invaded Bharmaur during the reign of Salvahan Varman.
- After the invasion of Ananta Dev, Chamba remained more or less dependent on Kashmir for a considerable period.
- Two fountain slab of his time are found in Sal and Tissa area of Churah which was then a part of Balor

(Basholi state)

- Soma Varman
- Asata Varman-
- In Rajatrangini ,it is mentioned that Asata Varman,the Raja of Chamba visted Kashmir in the winters of 1087- 88 A.D in the reign of Raja Kalasa of Kashmir .
- Kalasa son of Raja Ananta Dev of Kashmir.
- Bappika sister of Asata Varman was married to Raja Kalasa of Kashmir.
- Harsha ,the son of Bappika succeded the throne of Kashmir after the death of Kalasa.

❖ Hindu Rulers of Kashmir

❖ Second Loharadynasty

❖ First Loharadynasty

(Side-branch of the Lohararoyal line)

Samgramaraja(founder of the Loharadynasty)

❖ Uccala

❖ Sussala –ChambaRaja UdayaVarman

supported him

❖ AnantaDeva

❖ Kalasa

- ChambaRaja AsataVarmansister married to him

❖ Harsa

- Chamba Raja JasataVarman supported him

Bhikschachra (grand son of Harsha)

❖ Jasata Varman (1105 A.D)

- In Rajtarangini, he is referred to support Harsha (his cousin & Raja of Kashmir), When Kashmir was invaded by the princes of the Lohara family in 1101 A.D.
- Jasata Varman was taken prisoner in the temple at Vijeshwara by Sussala (ruler of Lohara family).
- In 1112 A.D Jasata supported Bhikschara (grandson of Harsha) against Sussala ,who had occupied the throne of Kashmir.
- Being unsuccessful ,Bhikshachara retired to Chamba and stayed there for four-five years.
- Jasata Varman's reign lasted till about 1117-18 A.D.
- An inscribed stone of Jasata's reign exists at Loh-Tikri in Churah.

❖ Dhal Varman

- He was brother of Jasata Varman .
- 30th Raja of Chamba.
- He ruled from 1118 to 1120 A.D

❖ Udaya Varman (1120 A.D)

- During his reign Chamba had changed sides in the struggle for the throne of Kashmir.
- Udaya Varman lent his support to Sussala.
- The change of attitude was most likely due to the fact that ,Sussala had married the princesses Devalekha and Taralekha of Chamba family.
- In 1128 A.D on the death of Sussala both the princess become Sati.
- After the death of Sussala , Kashmir was in unsettled condition ,which provided an opportunity to Chamba state to assert its independence.
- After Udaya Varman ,the following Rajas ruled in succession. o Ajita Varman o Daityari Varman o Prithi Varman
- Nothing much is available about these rulers in the chronicle of Chamba empire.

❖ Lalit Varman (1175 A.D)

- Two slab inscriptions of his period have been found at Debri Kothi and Salhi in the Saichu Nala ,Pangati.
- Pangati is the ancient name of Pangi valley.

❖ **Vijaya Varman (1175 A.D)**

- The state's boundaries extended during his reign.
- He invaded Kashmir and Ladakh .
- The easy success came in his way due to the disorder and confusion prevailed after the attack of Mohammed

Ghori in 1191 A.D

- Vijaya Varman was succeeded by- o Lalit Varman o Vijaya Varman o Raja Varman o

Sar Varman o Kirti Varman o

Ajita Varman o Madana Varman (brother of Ajita) o Narakanjar Varman o

Asha Varman o Jimut Varman o Vairasi Varman (1330 A.D) o

Manikya Varman (1370 A.D) o Bhot Varman (1397 A.D) o Sangram Varman (1942 A.D)

❖ **Anand Varman (1475 A.D)**

- His mother name was Sampurana Devi.
- Anand Varman was very religious and was believed to have the power of working miracles.
- He was married to the daughter of the Raja of Kangra. o He died in 1512 A.D.

❖ **Ganesh Varman (1512-1559 A.D)**

- His reign in Chamba lasted for 47 years, making it the longest reign in the history of the region.
- Built the fort of Ganeshgarh in the Mothila area to protect his frontier.
- Mughal influence had started making itself felt in Chamba before the death of Ganesh Varman in A.D 1559.
- He had six sons in which Pratap Singh was eldest.

❖ **Pratap Singh Varman (1559-86 AD)**

- From 1559 AD, future kings, including Pratap, started putting Singh before Varman.
- He did construction and repair of many temples, including the Lakshmi-Narayana Temple.
- He defeated the King of Kangra and killed his younger brother Vijay Chand and seized a large area including

Guler.

- Pratap was contemporary of Akbar and Chamba might have become a tributary and remained loyal to the Mughal Empire.
- Todar Mal – Rihlu

❖ **Vir Varman (1586 A.D)**

- He was in power for only four years at the most.

❖ **Balbhadra (1589 A.D)**

- Famous for piety and great generosity.
- He gifted grants of land and other valuables to Brahmins, including to the Lakshmi Naryan Temple.
- People called him 'Ball-Karna' after two heroes of antiquity famous for their generosity.
- He regarded bestowing grants of land and other gifts as his highest and most imperative duty
- His lavish gifts caused excessive drain on the treasury and difficulty in meeting necessary state expenditure.
- He was removed from power and deported to the village of 'Baraia' by his son Janardhan due to his excessive gift-giving.
- He continued his generous acts in Baraia, causing the whole building and lands to be gifted away.
- Janardhan granted Balbhadra a fresh grant of land to continue his benefactions after learning about it.
- Balbhadra was restored to power on Janardhan's death and continued to rule the state in subjection to Jagat

Singh until his own death.

❖ **Janardhan (1613-23 AD)**

- Janardan was the eldest son of Balbhadra and succeeded him as the ruler of Chamba.
- A war broke out between Janardan and the Raja of Nurpur, Suraj Mal, and went on for twelve years without any decisive advantage.
- Suraj Mal rebelled against imperial authority in 1618 A.D. and fled to one of the Chamba forts where he was joined by his younger brother Madho Singh.
- Janardan and his brother Bishambar visited the Emperor when he came to Kangra in 1622.
- Hostilities were resumed between Chamba and Nurpur soon after.
- A decisive battle was fought at Dhalog on Sandhara road, where the Chamba army was defeated and Bishambar was killed.
- Janardan was killed by Jagat Singh by treachery around A.D. 1623.
- Chamba became subject to Jagat Singh's rule after Janardan's death and was ruled by his officials for twenty years.
- Jagat Singh built the fort of Taragarh within Chamba territory.
- Janardan left no heir, but his Rani was enceinte and gave birth to a son named Prithvi Singh.
- Jagat Singh ordered to keep strict watch on the palace and if the infant proved to be a boy, he was to be killed, and if a girl, she was to be married into the Nurpur family.
- The child Prithvi Singh was smuggled out of the palace by his nurse named 'Batlu' and sent to Mandi.

❖ **Prithvi Singh (1641-1664)**

- After the attack of Jagat Singh in 1623 AD, Dai Batlu, nurse of 4- year-old Prithvi smuggled him out safely.
- After attaining adulthood, he took support from Raja of Mandi (Suraj Sen AD 1637-64) and recapture

Chamba.

- Shahjahan presented him gifts during his visit to Mughal court, including family idol of Raghubirm

- Surname Varman was dropped during his reign.
- He introduced Rajput-Mughal arts in the area of Chamba.
- Prithvi Singh built a wooden palace known as Bharmour State Kothi.
- Prithvi Singh's nurse Batlu (who saved his life in infancy) had constructed and repaired some temples:

Khajinag at Khajiar, Hadimba at Mehla, and Sita-Ram at Chamba.

❖ Chatar Singh (1664-90 AD)

- In copper plate his name is mentioned as Shastru Singh.
- He was contemporary of Aurangzeb.
- In 1678 A.D Aurangzeb issued an order for the demolition of all Hindu temples of the state.
- Raja Chatar Singh refused to obey the order and in defiance to it ,he order to put a gilt pinnacle on each of the chief temples in Chamba.
- On hearing this, Aurangzeb summoned the Raja to Delhi.
- Instead of going himself ,he sent his brother Shokat Singh along with Raj Singh of Guler.
- But for some unknown reason ,they turned back from Bajwara before reaching Delhi

Invasion of Basholi and annexation of Bhalai area

- Raja Chatar Sing appointed his brother Jai Singh to the office of wazir.
- And sent him to Sangram pal of Basholi to demand the restoration of Bhalai area .
- This demand was refused by Sangram pal .
- Chatar singh invaded Basholi and reannexed Bhalai area to Chamba.
- He build a town and fort named Chatargarh.
- It was renamed Gulabgarh after Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu.
- He formed joined the confederation of the hill chiefs joined by Raj Singh of Guler, which defeated Mirza

Obed Beg, the Viceroy of Lahore.

- It was during the Chatar Singh's reign that Lahaul was divided between Chamba and Kullu and the state territory extended upto Tandi.
- Udai Singh (1690-1720 AD)

Udai Singh succeeded to the throne amidst prosperity and contentment.

- After the death of his uncle and advisor Jai Singh, Udai Singh gave in to his self-willed and pleasure-seeking nature.
- Udai Singh appointed his lover's father, a barber, as the Wazir, causing the officials to depose him from power.
- The officials deposed him from power ,appointed Ugar Singh as Raja.
- Ugar Singh was son of Mahipat Singh cousin of Udai Singh.
- Udai Singh was restored to the throne but relapsed into his former ways, causing his cousin Ugar Singh to flee to Jammu.

- The officials formed a conspiracy with Udai Singh's younger brother Lakshman Singh to kill him, but Lakshman Singh ultimately stood beside his brother.
- The officials killed Lakshman Singh and mortally wounded Udai Singh, who died in A.D. 1720.
- Neither Udai Singh nor Lakshman Singh had a child to succeed them as the ruler of Chamba state.

❖ Some mentions

- Udai Singh is believed to have employed painters to decorate the palace walls .
- It was during his period that a painter-carpenter family came to settle at Chamba.
- Dalip Singh of Guler became a minor King and Udai Singh was appointed as his guardian.
- Jammu, Bhadu & Basoli attacked Guler sensing the opportunity.
- Udai Singh drove out the invaders with the help of Sibba, Kehlur, and Mandi.
- Udai Singh's daughter Sushil Kaur was married to Sardar Banda Singh Bahadur.

❖ Ugar Singh (1720 A.D)

- Ugar Singh (Son of Mahipat Singh –Cousin of Uday Singh)
- Udai Singh was the ruler of Chamba who was murdered, leading to Ugar Singh fleeing to Jammu and serving as a soldier under Dhruv Dev, the Raja of Jammu.
- Dhruv Dev provided Ugar Singh with necessary assistance to return to Chamba where he was installed as the Raja.
- Ugar Singh built a temple at the site where Udai Singh was murdered to appease the ghost of the previous ruler, and imposed a small tax known as “Tusera Udai Singhiana Auteriana” for its maintenance.
- Ugar Singh earned disfavour from officials and was deposed by Dalel Singh, his cousin, who was appointed

Raja of Chamba with the help of officials who ensured his release from Mughal imprisonment by paying one lakh rupees.

- Ugar Singh did not resist the appointment but broke down the bridge over the Ravi and set fire to the town before retiring to the Chamunda temple and later fleeing to Kangra, where he died.
- Ugar Singh had two sons, Umed Singh and Sher Singh.

❖ Dalel Singh (1735-1748 A.D)

- New Raja had Ugar Singh's sons-Umed Singh & Sher Singh locked up in Lahore for 13 years
- Sons had supporters and a servant of Umed Singh helped him escape
- Umed Singh was recaptured but helped by the Viceroy to regain his territory
- Dalel Singh voluntarily abdicated in favor of Umed Singh and became a hermit
- Dalel Singh's daughter married the Raja of Jammu, Bajai Deo
- In 1744, Pathiyar Pargana in Kangra was granted as jagir to Raja Dalel Singh by a Sanad and continued to Raja Umed Singh.

❖ Umed Singh (1748-64 AD)

- He was elder son of Ugar Singh.
- Reigned under the regency of his mother until he came of age and assumed full ruling powers.
- In Chamba, Umed Singh accomplished the administrative reforms started by Prithvi Singh (1641 AD).
- During his reign, the state's territory expanded to the south of Dhauladhar, up to the border of Mandi
- His troops garrisoned the fort of Pathiyar near Palampur, and Bir-Bangahal was under his influence.
- During his reign, Chamunda temple at Devi-ki-Kothi in Churah, Khan- Chandi Palace, Rangmahal in Chamba town, and Rajnagar palace at Nada were built.
- Before his death, he ordered that no Rani would need to commit Sati after his death. This practice was ultimately terminated during the reign of Raja Charat Singh.
- Raja Umed Singh had brought under his control the fertile valley south of Dhaula Dhar and advanced upto

Rihlu, Pathayar fort near Palampur in 1752.

❖ Raj Singh (1764-94 AD)

- He was a minor (9 Yrs) at the time of Umed Singh's death.
- Opportunist King Ghamand Chand of Kangra seized the fort of Pathiyar, and drove Chamba army out of Bir

Bhanghal.

- Ranjit Dev of Jammu appointed one of his men, named Aklu, to the office of Wazir.
- When Raj Singh became adult in 1771 AD he arrested the Aklu and got rid of Jammu supremacy.

❖ Battle of Nerti Shahpur

- He took Sikh assistance (Jassa singh Ramgarhia) and drove away Jammu troops after three months.
- In 1794, Raj Singh countered MSC forces with help of Nurpur Raja, who ran away in crisis.
- Rai Singh along with his 45 followers fought bravely but was killed at Nerti near Shahpur.
- A fair was also associated with him in Nerti (called Dehra then) but was shifted to Rait near Shahpur.

Moreover, his son built a Shiva Temple at Nerti in the year 1796 AD

- Raj Singh died in A.D. 1794 at the age of 40, after ruling for 30 years.
- The region of Churah continued to be a disputed area between Chamba and Basholi.
- After Raj Singh's death, Basholi, with the help of Jammu, made a final attempt to reclaim the territory.

❖ Jit Singh (1794-1808 A.D)

- Jit Singh was 19 years old when he became the ruler.
- He faced a war with Basholi state led by Raja Bijai Pal.
- In 1800, Jit Singh invaded Basohli and restored it on payment of a war indemnity.
- During his reign, Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra was expanding his domain.

- In 1804-05, Raja Mahan Chand of Bilaspur and other states invited Gurkhas of Nepal to invade Kangra, and Chamba sent troops as well.
- Kangra became a feudatory of the Sikhs in 1809, and Chamba became tributary to Lahore.
- Jit Singh died in 1808 at the age of 33, leaving two sons - Charhat Singh and Zorawar Singh.

❖ Charhat Singh (1808-1844 AD)

- Six-year-old Charhat Singh was placed on the throne.
- During his rule, the state administration was in the hands of the queen mother Sharada Devi, a Jammu

Princess.

- She constructed Radha Krishan temple 1825 AD in Chamba.
- Charat got full powers of a Raja in 1821.
- Fertile belt However was lost to MRS and Chamba state was made to pay a yearly tribute of Rs. 12,000.
- Chamba was spared from further damage, because of Wazir Nathu of (of Bharatru family) of Chamba.
- Ranjit Singh held Nathu in high esteem as he had brokered treaty of Jawalamukhi (1809) with MSC.
- In February 1839, Chamba was for the first time visited by a European person (Vigne), and in the same year by General Cunningham who was first to examine the archaeological remains in the state at Bharmour.
- Charhat Singh died in 1844, at the age of 42.
- Two Ranis and six concubines performed Sati, this being the last occasion of such a ritual in Chamba.

❖ Sri Singh (1844-1870 A.D)

- Sri Singh became the ruler of Chamba at the age of five, and his mother held all the authority.
- Zorawar Singh, Sri Singh's uncle who had moved to Bhadrawah and then Jammu, died in 1845.
- In 1845, Prakim Singh, son of Zorawar Singh, was made Raja of Bhadrawah, but the state was soon annexed by Gulab Singh.
- Lakar Shah, a Brahmin from Basholi and a relative of Pandit Jalla, had great influence in the administration of Chamba state during Sri Singh's initial years.
- Under his orders, a new issue of Chamba copper coins was made and named Lakar-Shahi after him. However, his arrogance caused resentment among state officials and he was eventually killed in Bailj.
- Bhaga Wazir and two other state officials went to Lahore to pacify Hira Singh (Son of Dhian Singh of Jammu) but were imprisoned. An army was then dispatched to invade Chamba.
- The Rani took Sri Singh and fled up the Ravi valley to Basu when one division of the army came via Chun and Sandhara, and the capital was looted by the Sikhs.
- Another division coming through Nurpur was prevented at Jajri, and the Taragarh fort was kept under Chamba troops' control.
- News arrived that Hira Singh and Pandit Jalla had been assassinated by the soldiery in Lahore on December

21, 1844, and the invading army withdrew immediately.

❖ Chamba State under British Rule

- In 1846, the British came into control of the Jalandhara Doab and the hill country between the Beas and the Satluj under a treaty.
- On March 16, 1846, a separate treaty was entered into between the British Government and Gulab Singh of Jammu, transferring to him all the hill and mountainous country between the Ravi and the Indus, including

Chamba, but Chamba was later excluded from the treaty.

- Bhaga, a patriot, rushed to Lahore to restore the status of Chamba state with the sympathy of Sir Henry

Lawrence, and Chamba was granted a Sanad dated April 6, 1848, conferring the territory upon Sri Singh.

- In 1851, the desire for the establishment of a Sanatorium for Europeans within the territory was conveyed, and a site was selected on the Western extremity of Dhauladhar.
- In 1853, certain plateau from Chamba state were transferred with a reduction of Rs. 2,000/- in the amount of annual tribute, and on the recommendation of Sir Donald Macleed, the new sanatorium was named Dalhousie.
- In 1866, the Balun Plateau for a Recovering Depot of European troops and Bakloh plateau for a Gurkha cantonment were taken over with a further reduction of Rs. 5,000/- in the annual tribute.
- During the first war of independence in 1857, Sri Singh was loyal to the Government and sent troops to Dalhousie under Mian Autar Singh.
- Bhaga Wazir retired in 1854 and was succeeded by Wazir Billu, who held office till 1860.
- Major Blair Reid was appointed superintendent of the state in January 1863, and he devoted attention to the development of the internal resources of the state.
- In 1864, the State Forest Department was leased to the British Government for 99 years, subject to revision after every 20 years.
- In 1870, the Raja Sri Singh died after a short illness in the 27th year of his reign at the age of 32, leaving behind his only daughter who was married to the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir.

❖ Gopal Singh (1870-73 AD)

- On 13th November 1871, Lord Mayo. Governor General of India, visited Chamba.
- Raja Sri Singh initiated reforms which were carried forward by Gopal Singh
- Construction of new roads and beautification of the town were undertaken
- The primary school at Chamba was upgraded to middle standard
- The state hospital gained popularity among people who previously relied on orthodox medical practices.

❖ Sham Singh (1873-1904 AD)

- He was appointed as 'Raja' by General Reynell Taylor, Commissioner of Amritsar on the 7 October, 1873.
- Many important development projects happen during his time.
- A Postal Convention brought Chamba into direct connection with the Imperial Postal System in January

1887.

- Sheetla Bridge over Ravi was damaged by the floods in 1894 was replaced by a suspension bridge of iron at the cost of one lakh Rupees.
- On 1st January 1877, he took part in the great proclamation Darbar at Delhi.
- His progressive policies attracted the attention of the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, who personally visited Chamba in September 1900 and inspected several projects.
- He became seriously ill in October 1902 and his younger brother took on behalf until his health failed to improve and he abdicated in his brother's favour. Because of prolonged illness, Sham Singh abdicated in favour of his brother Mian Bhuri Singh.
- He was 39 years old and ruled Chamba for 30 years.

❖ Bhuri Singh(1904-1919 AD)

- On May 12, 1904, Mian Bhuri Singh was installed as Raja of Chamba by Sir Charles Rivaz.
- Bhuri Singh was highly cultured and had wide administrative experience and intimate knowledge of the state and its needs.
- He took special interest in public works, and the roads in the vicinity of Chamba town were widened during his rule.
- Bhuri Singh received his Knighthood from the King Emperor on January 1, 1906.
- In 1906, a new Dak Bungalow was built in the town, and a public reading room and library were opened.
- The famous Bhuri Singh Museum was inaugurated in 1908.
- Negotiations with the government regarding the forest lease were successful, and the forest management was put under the state's jurisdiction.
- Bhuri Singh attended Vice-regal Darbar at Agra and met Amir of Afghanistan in 1907.
- A power house was installed on the river Sal, and the town was electrified in 1910.
- Raja Bhuri Singh helped the British in World War-1 and was honored with Knighthood.
- Revenue rose to Rs. 7,00,000/- annum during his rule, and various departments of the administration were fully organized.
- Bhuri Singh had a stroke and died suddenly on September 18, 1919 at the Akhand Chandi Palace.
- He was succeeded by his elder son Tikka Ram Singh.
- Bhuri Singh had two sons and two daughters, and his elder princess was married to Tikka Brijmohan Pal of Kuthlehr and the younger to Raja Sir Hari Singh of Kashmir, subsequently Maharaja of the state.

❖ Ram Singh (1919-1935 AD)

- Raja Bhuri Singh died in 1919 and was succeeded by his elder son Ram Singh.
- He was installed Raja by Sir Eduard Maclagan K.C.S.I Governor of the Punjab.
- Mr.E.M Atkinson was Raja's tutor in earlier stage.
- Education was focussed upon so 15 new schools were opened and Physical education was also introduced.
- On 1st November, 1921 the state came under the direct control of the Government of India.

- Raja Ram Singh died on the 7th December, 1935 at Lahore.

❖ Lakshman Singh (1935-1948 AD)

- Raja Ram Singh was succeeded by Raja Lakshman Singh, who was a minor at the time of installation.
- The state remained under council of administrators consisting of three members, including a President until Raja Lakshman Singh came of age in 1945.
- Major Toulnim was the first President of the Council.
- During World War II, Chamba state contributed Rs. 1,09,992/- towards the war expenses and supplied 889 recruits.
- On the 8th March 1948, Chamba was merged with the India and became a district of Himachal.

❖ Chamba Agitation

- People of Bhattiyat Wazzirat protested against the unjust revenue collection system and Begar in 1896 but were suppressed.
- The people of Chamba who were in exile formed "The Chamba people defense league" with its Headquarter at Lahore in 1932.
- The main objective of this league was to highlight the repressive policies of the ruler and unjust taxes.

❖ Chamba Sevak Sangh (CSS)

- In 1936, Chamba Sevak Sangh (CSS) or Chamba servant association was established as a social service organization to provide assistance to the victims of fire in Chamba city.
- Later on, when CSS started speaking for people's rights, it was banned in Chamba.
- Thus CSS shifted its centre of activity to Dalhousie.
- Then after some time, Chamba Riyasati Praja Mandal (CRPM) was formed.
- Some members of CRPM (Vidhya Sagar, Vidhya Dhar Negi, Ghulam Rashul and Prithi Chand etc.) took part in AISPC Ludhiana session in 1939.
- Shri Jaswant Rai, Daulat Ram etc were other leading personalities of CRPM.
- Chamba state people Federation was organized in 1947.
- Finally Chamba was merged with Indian union on 15 April 1948 and became a part of Chief Commissioner's

Province of HP.

❖ Chamba Praja Mandal Movement

- The Tribune also praised the this awakening in its Editorial that the awakening even in sleepy hollow of Chamba, the democratic ideas have percolated through the hilly barriers that hit the state and people who have readily imbibed them for claiming for responsible government.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

03

Kullu

Valley of the Gods

❖ Geography of Kullu

- Present day Kullu district is bounded by-
- Lahaul in North & North East
- Kangra district in the East
- Kinnaur and Shimla district in South East

❖ Rivers

The Beas and Satluj are the main rivers of the district.

❖ Beas

- Main tributaries of Beas in Kullu district :

Solang , Manalsu

, Sujoin , Phozal Nala

, Sarvari Nala.

❖ Parbati river

- joins Beas at Bhuntar

❖ Hurlagoa stream

- joins Beas opposite of Bajaura

❖ Tirthan river

Rises from an offshoot of the great Himalayan range to the South-East of Kullu.

Meets Beas at Largi

❖ Sainj river

- originates from Supa koni peak
- Meets Beas at Largi

❖ Valleys and Passes

Kullu Valley-Sandwiched between Pir Panjal and Great Himalayan ranges.

- Solang Valley
- Parbati Valley
- Lug Valley
- Seraj Valley

❖ Lakes

1. Mantalai Lake
2. Deoria Lake
3. Hansa Lake
4. Bhrigu Lake
5. Shringtingu Lake
6. Nainsar Lake
7. Serolsar Lake
8. Dehnasar Lake
9. Saritak Lake

❖ Hot Springs

❖ ManiKaran

- on the bank of river Parbati
- Associated with Lord Shiva and Parbati

❖ Kasol

❖ Khirganga

❖ Vashisht

- Famous for temple of Vashisht Rishi and Lord Rama
- HP Tourism Development Corporation built Turkish type baths here.



❖ Peaks

- Shach Pass
- Pataalsu
- Inder Killa
- Srikhand
- Shitidhar
- Deo tibba
- Maiwa Kandinoo
- Solang
- Dibibokri Pyramid

❖ Fair and Festivals

- Kullu Dussehra
- Nalwari Fair
- Dungri Fair
- Manali winter Carnival
- Sarhi Jatra Fair –held at Nagar
- Banjar Mela and Bhuin Mela fair

❖ Temples

- Bajeshwar Mahadev Temple
- Pyramidical temple at Bajura, belonging to the 8th century A.D
- Bijli Mahadev Temple
- Ragunath Temple
- Parshu Ram Temple – Nirmand
- Doca-Moca Temple – at Gajan
- Mahisasuramardani Temple– at Bajaura
- Hidimba Devi Temple
- Tripura Sundari Naggar
- Triyugi Naryan at dyar , Kullu
- Adi Brahma at Kokhan

❖ Art and Culture

❖ Dances of Kullu

- Kharait, Philli, Ludi, Banthta, Basahri, Lahauli, Ujagima and Chandhgebrikar.
- All these dances are collectively known as 'Nati'.

❖ Other Dances are--

- Kadathi
- Lalhadi Dance
- Rujhka Dhili Nati
- Swang Tegi Dance
- Drori and Dharveni dance
- Kulluvi Nati made world record
- In 2014 Registered in “Limca Book of Records”
- 8540 women performed “Lalhri Naati” in Kullu Dussehra.
- Occasion celebrated as Beti Bachao.
- In 2016 registered in “Guinness Book of World Records”
- 9892 women performed naati in Kullu Dussehra
- For campaign- “Beti hai Anomal”

❖ Tit/Bits about Kullu

Bhuttico (Bhutti weavers cooperative society ltd at Shamshi)

- It came into existence in 1944.
- In 1956 ,a master weaver (Mr Ved Ram Thakur) having his private entrepreneurship joined Bhuttico on being motivated by Mr.Gurucharan Singh.
- Ved Ram Thakur is known as “Soul of Bhuttico”

❖ Kullu Apples

- Captain R.C. Lee of Bundrole orchard was pioneer in apple growing in Kullu .
- Local pioneer in apple growing was Padha Bansi Lal of Seobagh.

❖ Animal Husbandry

- Sheep breeding farm at Nagwain
- Angora rabbit rearing farm at Mohal

❖ Kullu State

❖ Kuluta (कुलूत)

- The area located in the upper Beas valley founded by Bihangmani Pal who came to the valley from Prayag.
- The state capital was Naggar
- Vishakha Dutta the author of Mudrarakshasa discuss Kuluta as different political entity.
- Early capital was at Nast or Jagat Sukh
- According to Hindu mythology, the valley is regarded as the cradle of all humankind
- Kuluta finds mention in the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Vishnu Purana, Brihatsamhita and Markandya Purana.
- A coin made up of copper found in Kullu in 100 A.D. bearing the name Virayasasyarajna Kulutasya'.
- The coin was inscribed in Sanskrit form and bearing the impression of Prakrit and Kharosthi on the reverse.
- Virayash King of 1st century A.D. issued the earliest coins found in Kullu.
- The state of Kullu, in the ancient times, was one of the largest and a prosperous princely state in the Northern

India.

- Kullu was the second oldest principality in the Western Himalayas after Trigarta.
- Kullu is known as 'Valley of Gods' because of the legend of Devta Jamlu, Rishi of Malana.
- He was carrying the Gods in a basket and while crossing Chanderkhani pass, a strong wind transported the Gods to various places in the valley.
- Kullu was earlier known as Ulut and Uluk.
- The name Kullu has been identified with Kullut, a name which occurs in Vishnu Puran and Ramayana.
- It is also mentioned in Mahabharat, Markandey Puran, Brihat Samhita, Rajatarangini and Kadambari.
- The tract has also been referred to as Kulantapitha, which translates to the territory which marks the end of Kula or habitation.
- Harcourt referred this word from the booklet "Kulantapitha Mahatmya".
- Kullu was called as Nyunti in Tibetan royal Chronicle
- Hieun Tsang visited this place in the 7th century and called it Kiu-lu-Te

❖ Mythological References of Kullu

- The name Kullu derives from the word "Kulant Peeth", meaning "end of the habitable world".
- As per legends, during the Great Flood, Manu visited this valley but was unable to cross the Rohtang pass.
- He named the last settlement he found as Kulant Peeth and chose to settle and meditate in what has now become the town of Manali (Manu's Place).
- The name further devolved into "Kulut", as the kingdom was known for a long time; before finally being known by the current name of Kullu or Kulu.

Manu Temple is an old temple located at Manali.

- The entire shrine of Manu Temple is dedicated to the Manu – the Indian Sage, who was acknowledged to be the creator of this world.

❖ Dynasties of Kullu

- Kullu was first ruled by the Pal kings.
- They were succeeded by the Singh Kings who believed to be descendants of the Pal kings only
- The rule of the Pal kings persisted from 2nd century AD until AD 1450, and Raja Kailash Pal was the last one.
- From 1450-1500 AD, Thakurs and the Ranas might have recaptured areas during this period and Pal's had to flee.
- The founder of the Pal line of Rajas in Kullu is believed to have come from the plains.
- The earlier seat of the family is said to have been at Prayag or Allahabad.

❖ Foundation of Kullu

- Kullu was founded by Vihangmani Pal, in the second century AD.
- The ruling family came from Mayapuri, Haridwar. However, they originally were from Tripura and came to Prayag (Allahabad) before Haridwar.
- Its capital was founded at Nast (Jagatsukh) which remained so until 10 generations.

❖ Capitals of Kullu-----Made by Ruler

JagatSukh BihangmaniPal

Naggar VisudPal

Sultanpur JagatSingh

❖ 7 Waziris

The Princely state Kullu was divided into 7 Waziris or Provinces

1. Waziri Parol
2. Waziri Rupri
3. Waziri Lag Maharaj
4. Waziri Saraj
5. Waziri Lag Sari
6. Waziri Bangahal
7. Waziri Lahaul

❖ Waziris (Provinces) Tract

Parol Proper Kullu

Rupi the tract between Parbati and Sainj nullah on the left bank of the Beas including the hills of the upper 'Parbati valley' tract known as 'Kanawar'.

Lag Maharaj the right bank of Sarvari nullah and Sultanpur and of the Beas from there to Bajaura.

Saraj the Northern portion of the state, divided into outer and inner Saraj by the Jalori range.

Lag Sari the tract between the Phojal and Sarvari nullah on the right bank of the Beas.

Bangahal a portion of Chhota Bangahal

Lahaul the tract of South-Eastern Lahaul.

- Naggar was founded by Visudh Pal and remained capital till it was transferred to Kullu (Sultanpur).
- During the rule of Raja Jagat Singh (1637-1672 AD) Sultanpur was made the capital which he won from Raja of Lag.
- Naggar castle was built by Raja Sidh Singh with stones brought from Garh Dhek & Sangor on the other side of Kullu Valley.
- Jagat Sukh (Nast) Naggar Sultanpur (Kullu)

❖ Pal Dynasty

- When Vihangamani Pal arrived in Kullu Valley from Haridwar, the territory was under Thakurs / chiefs
- Later he came to Jagatsukh and formed a kingdom after killing many of the Ranas and Thakurs.
- After a defeat, he was seen sleeping by a Pandit who prophesized that he will become a King of this country.
- The Pandit also promised that he will not disclose his identity and in return got assurance of property, if

Vihangmani Pal becomes the King.

- Later he was going to a fair called Jajoli Jatra where Vihangmani Pal got blessing of Hidimba Devi.
- Surprisingly, people in the fair gave him a royal salute 'Jai-dea' (Jayatu Deva) and assumed him to be a King.
- He overthrew the tyrannical Thakurs, and established the first ruling dynasty of Kullu.

❖ Major Kings

❖ Pachch Pal

- Pachch Pal who was next in succession continued to contest with local Ranas and Thakurs and ultimately forced them to become his tributary.
- Pachch Pal was followed by Vihang Pal and Durhin pal but nothing is known about the events of their rule.

❖ Surag/Swarg Pal

- Surag Pal had two sons, Shakti and Janak, by different Ranis.
- Shakti and Janak contested the succession as they were born around the same time.
- The purohit was consulted to determine who had the right to reign.
- The purohit decided in favor of Shakti Pal, as he was the son of the elder Rani.



- Shakti Pal succeeded Surag Pal as the next in line.
- Mahindra Pal, Om Pal, and Rajendra Pal succeeded Shakti Pal as rulers.

❖ **Rajender Pal**

- Surat Chand, the Rana of Gajan in Kothi Barsai, died without a male heir.
- Kothi Barsai area between Jagatsukh and Naggar.
- His daughter, Rup Sundari, succeeded him as the ruler.
- Rajendra Pal saw this as an opportunity to merge Kothi Barsai with his kingdom.
- He initially attempted to capture Kothi Barsai by force, but was unsuccessful.
- Rajendra Pal proposed a marriage to Rup Sundari, which she accepted.
- As a result of the marriage, Kothi Barsai, including the Gajan territory, came under Rajendra Pal's rule.
- Another version
- He attacked Kothi Barsai but lost his 11 sons in the fight with Rup Sundari of Gajan.
- Later Rup Sundari got married to Vishad Pal (Rajender pal's son) and peace was made.
- Rajendar Pal was succeeded by his son Vishad Pal .

❖ **Visal Pal**

- Visal Pal succeeded his father Rajendra Pal as the ruler.
- At that time ,Naggar was held by a Rana named Karam Chand.
- Raja waged a war against Karam Chand.
- Karam Chand was killed in the battle, and his son succeeded him as the ruler.
- Raja extracted tribute from Karam Chand's son.

❖ **Visud Pal**

- Visud Pal succeeded Visad Pal as the ruler.
- Previous rulers were recorded to have resided in 'Nast Jagat Sukh'.
- However, Visudh Pal had his capital at 'Naggar'.
- Uttam Pal, Dvij Pal, Chakar Pal, Karan, and Suraj Pal succeeded Visud Pal as rulers, but there is no record of them in the chronicles.
- Suraj Pal was said to have many illegitimate sons but no legitimate heir.
- Rakesh Pal succeeded Suraj Pal, but their relationship is unknown.
- Rakesh Pal died without any issue, and his brother Rudra Pal succeeded him as the ruler.

❖ **Rudra Pal**

- Initially, the brothers of Rudra Pal disputed the succession.
- They eventually recognized Rudra Pal as the ruler after seeing the challenge of Ranas to the throne.



- Ranas were defeated in the battle, and survivors were made to pay tribute.
- A new danger arose due to an invasion of Kullu by Rajendra Sen, the Raja of Spiti.
- Rudra Pal's country was subdued, and he was made to pay tribute to Spiti.

❖ Hamir Pal

- Hamir Pal succeeded Rudra Pal as the ruler and continued to pay tribute amounting to six anna in the rupee of yearly revenue to the Sen Raja of Spiti.
- On Hamir Pal's death, his son Parsidh Pal refused to continue paying the tribute.

❖ Prasidh Pal

- On Hamir Pal's death, his son, Parsidh Pal, declined to continue the payment of tribute and moved out with an army to oppose Chet Sen, the Spiti chief.
- The battle took place in the area near by the Rohtang Pass and Parsidh Pal liberated his country from Spiti.
- After this defeat Spiti was invaded by the Tibetans. This led to an end of pro-Buddhist Hindu dynasty in Spiti.
- Simultaneously, Lahaul was also freed from Chamba by Kullu
- Parsidh Pal was followed by Harichand Pal, Subhat Pal, Som Pal and Sansar Pal.

❖ Sansar Pal (600-650 A.D)

- During his reign , the final overthrow and extinction of the Pre-Buddhist Hindu dynasty in Spiti took place, when the country passed under Tibetan rule.
- Bagh Pal succeeded Sansar Pal and his claim was contested by his brother, Vibhay Pal.
- A war ensued between two brothers, which resulted in the death of Bhag Pal.
- He was then succeeded by Vibhay Pal, who in turn was followed by Brahm Pal.

❖ Raja Brahm Pal

- Brahm Pal had no legitimate son.
- The Rajas of Kangra, Bangahal, Chamba, Bushahr, Suket, and Ladakh agreed to make Ganesh Pal, an illegitimate son of the late Raja, his successor.
- The authenticity of this action is considered unreliable.

❖ Gambir Pal

- Gambir Pal succeeded Ganesh Pal.
- Gambir had two sons, named Bhumi Pal and Sukhu Pal, who contended for the gaddi.
- A contest took place in which Bhumi Pal emerged victorious.
- There is nothing much in the chronicle about the reign of Bhumi Pal.

❖ Sri Dateshwar Pal

- Bhumi Pal was succeeded by his son, Sri Dateshwar Pal.
- During the rule of Dateshwar Pal (680-700 AD) Kullu was lost to Chamba.
- It happened possibly during Meru Varman's reign in Chamba and Dateshwar was killed .
- Dateshwar Pal was defeated and killed.

❖ Amar Pal

- Dateswar's son Amar Pal became the king .
- He tried to oppose Chamba forces but was killed along with one of his sons in the battle with Chamba.
- Another son, Sital Pal fled to Bushahr, where the family seemed to have remained for long time.
- Sital Pal and five of his descendants never reigned, and probably were all the time at the Bushahr.
- Kullu state remained under the rule of Chamba until arrival of Raja Jaresvar/Jareshwar Pal.

❖ Sri Jareshwar Pal

- He was the 6th descendant from Sital Pal.
- Sri Jareshwar Pal liberated Kullu from Chamba with the help of Bushahr ruler.
- This event took place some time around A.D. 780-800, when Chamba was invaded by Kiras or Tibetans and the Raja of Chamba was killed.
- Sri Jareshwar was followed by 'Prakash Pal', 'Achamba Pal', 'Tapaneshwar Pal', 'Param Pal' and 'Nagendra

Pal', of whom nothing special is on record.

- These rajas had either very small period of reign or were greatly under the influence of their officials that is why nothing is recorded about them.
- Later during the reign of Narad Pal, Chamba was under Sahil Varman , He attacked Kullu and made fort below Rohtang pass.
- The Battle continued for 12 years and an insincere peace was made by Kullu

❖ Narad Pal

- Narad Pal's reign was marked by a twelve-year war with Chamba, which ended in peace.
- The Kullu people were insincere and were waiting for an opportunity to attack the invaders.
- A social gathering was arranged, inviting the Chamba people to cement the truce.
- According to local tradition, a significant portion of the Chamba army was deceitfully drowned in the river

Beas near village Kothi.

- The remaining Chamba force fled back to their country, and they were traditionally known as "the Gaddi Army."

❖ Bhup Pal

- 43rd in succession
- Contemporary of Raja Bir Sen of Suket.
- Bir Sen was the founder of Suket.
- Raja Bir Sen invaded Saraj ,defeated Bhup Pal and made him prisoner.
- Later on released on the condition that he had to pay tribute and feudal services to Suket.

❖ Anirudh Pal

- Bhup Pal was succeeded by his son Anirudh Pal who continued to pay tribute to Suket.
- Anirudh Pal's son, Hast Pal I, was freed from tribute on the condition of giving aid to Suket in a civil war.

❖ Hasat Pal-I

- He was freed from tribute on the condition of giving aid to Tribikram Sen of Suket in a civil war.
- Battle of Jiuri--
- Raja Bikram Sen,Grandson of Raja Bir Sen after ascending to the throne of suket,went on pilgrimage to Haridwar leaving his younger brother Tribikram Sen in charge of the state.
- While Bikram Sen of Suket was on pilgrimage, Raja Hast Pal planned a conspiracy with the rebel brother of Raja Bikram.
- Bikram Sen broke the conspirators with the help of Keonthal Raja who was from associated branch of Sen's.
- In the battle, both the rebels were killed at Jiuri on the satluj, Bikram Sen invaded Kullu and annexed the state, allotting a small Jagir to Hast Pal's son of Dhani Ram Pal.
- Next to Follow was Gopal Das, and Laxmi Das, who remained Zamindar only

❖ Hashir Pal

- Hashir Pal who was able to make his Jagir independent from Suket, during the minority reign of Raja Lakshman Sen of Suket.

❖ Tegh Pal

- Santokh Pal-I was succeeded by his son Tegh Pal.
- Tegh Pal conquered Baltistan by killing the chief named Mohammed Khan and making his son a tributary.
- However, the authenticity of these statements is doubtful.

❖ Uchit Pal

- During Uchit Pal's reign, Kullu became tributary of Ladakh under King.



- Lha-Chen-Utpala (1125-11505AD) Gya-mur-Orr, Ladakh & Baltistan made a combined attack & captured son of Uchit Pal near Bhubu Pass and made Kullu pay tribute in Dzos (cross of Yak & cow) & iron.
- This treaty was applicable on Kullu, until the Kailash does not melt down, and Mansrovar does not dry (but actually persisted till 1600 AD).

❖ Sikandar Pal

- Sikandar Pal (50th) took the help of Delhi King in order to expel Tibetans from his territory and captured Baltistan and Tibet until Mansarovar.
- Delhi Raja came himself, ousted Tibetan and made Kullu his tribute collector of nearby principalities.
- The Rajas of Gya Mur orr ,Baltistan and Tibet were made to pay tribute to Delhi through Kullu Raja,who was restored to his dominions.

❖ Hast Pal-II

- During reign of Hast Pal-II, Bushahr defeated Kullu, and the King had to pay a heavy tribute, lose territory and accept boundary at Satluj

❖ Gambhir Pal

- Gambhir Pal was able to take back areas from Bushahr and Satluj became the boundary with Bushahr.

❖ Narendar Pal

- Narendar Pal was the 60th king and during his tenure, Bhanghal subjected Kullu for ten years.

❖ Nand Pal

- During his reign ,Kullu became tributary to Kangra and continued so till the reign of Dhartipal.

❖ Inder Pal

- He recovered his independence from Kangra.

Mahi Chakar Pal , Jayadhar Pal and Keral Pal followed in succession.

❖ Keral Pal

- In Keral Pal's time (67th), the Raja of Suket, Madan Sen (1240 AD) captured area upto Siunsa (Manali)
- He also built a fort in Khokhan Kothi, which was named Madangarh.
- Rana Bhosal was a well-known petty chief who possessed the land between the Siunsa Nala and Bajaura on the right bank of the Beas.
- He was married to the princess of Suket Rupni and resided at the fortified palace of Garh Dhek.
- His capital was Sangor, located opposite to Naggar.

- The huge dressed stone fort of Baragarh was his chief defense.
- Rana married with princess of Suket, who gave birth to a son Ghungru & daughter Gudri.
- For opening a water course he made his wife perform sati on the advice of his official.
- Suket Raja retaliated with full measure, killed the advisor, and humiliated Rana Bhosal .

❖ Urdhan Pal

- Raja Urdhan Pal was the 72nd ruler of the Pal dynasty.
- He ruled Kullu between 1418 to 1428 A.D.
- During his reign, he built the temple of Sandhya Devi at Jagatsukh.

❖ Kailash Pal

- The successor of Urdhan Pal probably ruled until AD 1450.
- Last Raja of Kullu who bore the surname of Pal.
- He was driven out by a revolt of the ranas and retired to Haridwar.
- He waited for an opportunity to make a comeback which did not happen for 3 generations.
- This was end of Pal Dynasty .

❖ Singh Dynasty

❖ Sidh Singh (1500-1532 AD)

- Sidh Singh was the 1st amongst the kings with Surname as 'Singh'.
- Raja Sidh Singh was 74th raja from Vihangmani Pal.
- Legend says that he was blessed with kingdom by devi Hidimba.
- Hidimba is respected as the grandmother and the patron-deity by the royal family of Kullu.
- Sidh Singh having made himself master of all Kullu Parol died probably in 1532 AD.

❖ Jinna Rana-Powerful Chief

- At the start of Sidh Singh's reign, Jhinna Rana held both banks of the Beas above Jagatsukh.
- Jhinna Rana's chief strongholds were at Madankot and Manali, and he was too powerful to be attacked openly.
- Jhinna Rana had a groom of Dagi caste named Muchiani, on account of the length of his moustache, who was a noted sportsman with bow and arrow.
- Rana Jhinna had strong dislike for Muchiani's long moustache and ordered him to cut it, but he refused.
- Sidh Singh bribed Muchiani to kill Jhinna Rana, and he shot him dead when he was riding back from his rice fields.
- On hearing this news, Rani set fire to the fort and perished with all her women, including the Muchiani's wife.
- Muchiani was rewarded by Sidh Singh with the Kumanu rice fields.

- Jhinna Rana's pregnant wife was sent out of the fort before it was set on fire, and she gave birth to a boy who founded the Nuwani family.
- The Nuwani family had strong hatred for the Badani Rajas of Kullu.

❖ Capture of Baragarh Fort by Sidh Singh

- The fort of Baragarh was captured by Sidh Singh with the help of a woman living in the fort.
- After Rana Bhosal's death, the fort was under Suket's possession and held by a garrison.
- The garrison went down to Hurrah Kothi for the Pali jatra, and the woman then waved a red petticoat as a signal, which was seen from Naggar, and the Raja captured the fort.
- The first thing Sidh Singh did on entering was to order the women to be thrown down the precipice.
- Sidh Singh died probably in A.D. 1532 and was succeeded by his son, Bahadur Singh.

❖ Raja Bhahadur Singh (1532-1559 AD)

- Bahadur Singh lived in A.D. 1532 and was involved in the subjugation of the 'Ranas' and Thakurs.
- Bahadur Singh is said to have decimated several petty Thakurs of Ruppi and parts of Seraj were captured.
- He built Hidimba temple (1553 AD) to commemorate victory over Ranas & Thakurs.
- Though Naggar was the capital, Bahadur Singh rebuilt and resided at the ancient town of Makaraha/ Makarsa to control the area better.
- Sultan Singh, brother of Raja of Lag, founded Sultanpur.
- Similarly, Dhal Singh established Dhalpur.

❖ Makarasa story

- Makarasa was believed to be founded by Malas, one of the two sons of Vidura of Mahabharata, who married a daughter of Tandi, the local demon chief in the south of the Rohtang Pass and was brought up by Vyasa Rishi.
- The capital of the state remained at Naggar during his reign.

❖ Annexation of Waziri Ruppi

- Baja Arjun Sen of Suket was contemporary of Bahadur Singh of Kullu.
- The area of Waziri Ruppi was still under the possession of Suket, and Thakurs in the area paid tribute to Suket.
- The Raja of Suket was known for his arrogance, and once insulted the Thakurs of Waziri Ruppi by calling them "Crows of Ruppi" and refused their request.
- Thakurs of Waziri Ruppi decided to offer their allegiance to Bahadur Singh, who treated them respectfully by designating them as "Lords of Ruppi".
- The Thakurs of Waziri Ruppi formerly belonged to the Kullu state and desired to become so again.
- Waziri Ruppi was quietly made part of Kullu state.
- Bahadur Singh continued his mission against Thakurais and brought 'Harkandi Kothi', 'Chung Kothi', 'Kothi

Kot-Khandi', Thakur of 'Basa', and Thakur of 'Tandi' in Bhulan Kothi under his control.

- Bahadur Singh subjugated and killed Thakur Haul of Sainsar Kothi
- The policy of expansionism and annexation continued with subduing of Banogi, Nohanda, Kothi Bunga, Kothi Sarchi, Ramgarh, and Kothi Chahni
- Bahadur Singh and his son Pratap Singh extended the territories of Kullu state by conquering Ruppi and Lag area, Sarvari valley, the right bank of the Beas from Raisain to Bajaura, half of the inner Saraj, north-western portion of outer Saraj with portion of Chhota Bangahal
- A marriage took place between the royal families of Kullu and Chamba in A.D. 1559.
- Pratap Singh was the groom, and three Kullu princesses were married to him.
- Bahadur Singh was succeeded by Partap Singh, Prithi Singh, and Kalyan Singh
- There is no record of reigns of these Rajas
- Kullu was probably subjugated by Akbar in 1556 A.D.
- All the Rajas of hills used to pay tribute to the Mughal emperor of Delhi during the period these Rajas ruled in Kullu
- Delhi's Mughal emperors were Akbar, Jahangir, and Shah Jahan

❖ Jagat Singh (1637-1672 AD)

- Jagat Singh was the most powerful ruler of the Kullu dynasty.
- During his reign, the territory of the state was extended.
- He annexed the whole of the Lag area and Outer Saraj, which was a part of Suket and Bushahr
- Jagat Singh invaded the area and captured the forts of Narsinghgarh, Srigarh, and Himgiri
- Lag state was ruled by two brothers, Jai Chand and Sultan Chand.
- Jai Chand (or Jog Chand) residing at 'Dughi-Lag' and the other 'Sultan Chand' at 'Sultanpur'
- Lag was annexed to Mandi and Kullu, probably around A.D. 1650-55
- Jagat Singh transferred his capital from Naggar to Sultanpur (Lag principality) in about 1660 AD.
- He made a palace and a temple for the Raghunath Ji where he installed an image of Rama.
- Due to presence of Ragunathji (Lord Ram) idol, Makaraha is considered to be another Ayodhya.
- A series of letter still addressed to Jagat by these monarchs under the title of "Zamindar of Kullu" which show year 1640 and 1680.

❖ The story of Curse

- A Brahmin residing at Tippiari was said to have three pounds of pearls, and the Raja demanded them but was refused.
- On his way to Manikaran, the Raja again demanded the pearls but was angered by the Brahmin's reply that he would produce them upon the Raja's return.
- The Brahmin set fire to his house and perished with his family when the royal party approached.
- On arriving at Makarasa, the food set before the Raja turned to worms, causing restlessness.



- A pious Brahmin from Suket was sent, who revealed that the sin of the Brahmin's murder could only be expiated by bringing the image of Raghunathji from Ayodhya.

❖ Installation of the Idol of Raghunathji

- In 1653 A.D., Raja Jagat Singh of Kullu ordered the installation of the idol of Raghunathji.
- The idol was brought from Ayodhya by a Brahmin named Damodar Das.
- The installation was done to relieve the curse that had fallen upon Raja Jagat Singh.
- The image was placed on a gaddi and henceforth the Rajas of Kullu regarded themselves as only the vice- regents of Raghunathji.
- The Rajas ruled only in the name of Raghunathji (Ram) after the installation.
- Singh put the idol on the throne and himself became regent/first servant, thus an curse was averted.
- In this course Jagat Singh had turned his faith from Shiavite to Vaishnavism cult.
- Since then, the Rajas of Kullu ruled the state in the name of Raghunath, who became the principal deity of the Kullu valley.
- On the first fortnight of Ashwin (15 September to 5 October), Raja invited all the 365 Gods and Goddesses of the Valley to Dhalpur to perform a Yagna in Raghunathji's honor.
- Legend said that he became disciple of a Baba who had ability to turn into tiger.
- He was a contemporary of Shahjahan and Aurangzeb
- There are records of letters sent by Dara Shikoh & Aurangzeb to Jagat Singh.
- In 1657 AD, Jagat Singh captured Lag, which was under Mughal protection.
- Dara Shikoh ordered (a Farman) Jagat to free Lag, but he didn't comply as a war for throne was anticipated amongst Mughals.
- Aurangzeb, the Mughal emperor, was the only one to recognize Jagat Singh as the "Raja of Kullu."
- Jagat Singh died after 35 eventful years and was succeeded by his equally capable son Bidhi Singh.

❖ Bidhi Singh

- He became the King (1672-1688 AD) as his elder brother had died in a battle.
- Bidhi's younger brother Fakir Singh was sent as hostage at Mughal court.
- During the last quarter of the seventeenth century Raja Bidhi Singh brought the entire territory of upper

Lahaul under his sway, which led to an end of the supremacy of Ladakh over Lahaul.

- The married daughter of Chattar (Shatru) Singh of Chamba in 1680 .

❖ Man Singh (1688-1719 AD)

- Under him Kullu reached its climax in terms of area under control.
- Total area under his kingdom was about 10,000 sq, miles, which was highest ever for Kullu state.
- Raja Man Singh of Kulu invaded Spiti around 1690 and made it tributary to Kullu.

- He defeated Raja Sidh Sen of Mandi and captured salt mines of Drang, though he spared Mandi town on request of latter's queens.
- He captured the taluka of outer Saraj by taking the present Kullu Kothi of Pandrabis from Bushar and built the forts of Pandrabis , DabkoPochka and Tangusta.
- He protected Banghal from the invasion of Sidh Sen of Mandi but in return of this help to Banghal ,he captured some area of Banghal.
- He annexed Chota and Bara Banghal from Mandi state.
- He forced the ruler of Ladakh to fix boundary between Kullu and Ladakh at Lingti Plains.
- He also seized Shangari which was then held by a Thakur.
- He built the forts at Kalagarh, Sirikota, Salachani, Ratu, Rararana & Pagi and took tribute from Kotgarh, Kumarsain & Balsan.
- He also built a palace at Ratah Village.
- After some time Mandi invaded Kullu but Raja Man Singh repulsed them & forced the Raja of Mandi to- come to terms at a place called Dhangri.
- During his reign, Kullu was at the Zenith of its power & glory.
- His Kingdom comprised upper Lahaul, Bara Banghal and a part of Chota Banghal, while towards south it extended nearly to Shimla (Shangri State) and to the town of Mandi End .
- Raja Man Singh's reign came to a tragic end.
- Raja Man Singh was assassinated by the Rana of Kumharsain.
- The reason for the assassination was Raja's love affair with the Rana's wife
- The assassination took place at Srikot, across the Satluj river.

❖ Raj Singh (1719-31 AD)

- There is a hoax that Guru Gobind Singh (GGS) came for his help against Muslims, but he humiliated GGS and imprisoned him in a cage.
- GGS had already passed away in 1708 AD

❖ Jai Singh (1731-42 AD)

- A Wazir named Kalu of Diyar revolted and Jai Singh had to flee with 500 men to Lahore, appealing for Mughal viceroy's help.
- Fearing for his life he fled and retired at Ramdarbar, Ayodhya. And devoted himself to the worship of Raghunathji till his death.
- Meanwhile, Raja Shamsher Sen of Mandi captured area of Chuhar .

❖ Tedhi Singh (1742-1767 AD)

- Tedhi was a brother of Jai Singh and assumed charge of a King, though people were reluctant to accept him as they anticipated that Jai Singh might return.
- He recruited 1,000 Bairagis (wandering ascetics) as his own mercenaries and killed 360 dissidents in the palace.

- His reign was famous for revolts on one or other pretexts.
- It was probably during this period that invasion of Kullu took place and images on the Bajaura temple were mutilated, probably by Mohammeden mercenaries.

❖ Pritam Singh(1767-1806 AD)

- Pritam Singh succeeded Tedhi Singh in Kullu in A.D. 1767
- Pritam Singh invaded Mandi and recovered the forts of Deogarh, Mastpur, Sari, and Amargarh.
- Neighbouring rulers plotted against Pritam Singh, including Raja Samsar Sen and his son Mian Surma Sen of Mandi, Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra, and Raj Singh of Chamba, who planned to attack Kullu and seize

Bangahal and divide it equally among them

- In A.D. 1778, the plot was executed and the Wazir of Kullu, Bhag Chand, was captured and released later on payment of Rs. 15,000/-
- In A.D. 1786, another agreement was entered into against Kullu between Chamba, Mandi, and Bilaspur
- Sansar Chand II of Kangra came to power in 1775 and had already brought several hill states under his control by 1792, but Kullu was not interfered with as much due to its isolated position in the high mountains
- In A.D. 1801, Pritam Singh of Kullu promised assistance to Raja Jit Singh of Chamba in a united attack on Kangra
- Pritam Singh died in A.D. 1806
- The period from 1750 onwards was very turbulent in the history of Himachal Pradesh, with the rise of Raja

Sansar Chand of Kangra, invasion of Gorkhas, emergence of Sikh power under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and British ascendancy, all of which changed the political map of Himachal Hills.

❖ Bikram Singh (1806-1840 AD)

- He captured back forts of Sari, Mastgarh and Deogarh from Mandi.
- Kullu came under the subjection of Ranjit Singh's Sikh empire after the possession of Kangra fort by the Sikhs in 1809.
- After the defeat of MSC, MRS sent a force to Kullu in 1810 AD and got a tribute of Rs. 40,000.
- In 1813 AD, the tribute was increased to Rs. 50,000, which was refused by Kullu.
- MRS sent a force under Diwan Mokham Chand that plundered the city, treasury, and Raja fled to Bangla village.
- Ironically, he had to pay an amount of Rs. 3,00,000 to Sikhs, including a bribe of Rs. 1 lakh to Diwan.
- Bikram Sen had to give tax to Gorkhas for the Shangri area till 1815 AD.
- Bikram sen died in 1816 AD

❖ Ajit Singh (1816-1840 AD)

- He was an illegitimate son, and Raja of Mandi did his investiture as Kullu King.
- As per the tradition, MSC used to do it for heir apparent of Kangra hill states.
- Irritated, MSC instigated uncle of Ajit Singh (Kishan Singh) to claim for throne and was supported by MSC with a force.



- Ajit Singh fled, and came back with the help of Raja of Mandi who imprisoned Kishan Singh and sent Kangra soldiers back in miserable condition.
- Mr. Moorcroft was the first European who visited Kullu in 1820 AD and arrived through Dulchi pass at Bajaura. He mentioned Ajit Singh as a boy under 10, supported by Wazir Sobha Ram.
- In 1839, after capturing of Mandi under Gen Ventura of Sikhs, a force was sent to Kullu where easy submission was presented.
- Raja Ajit Singh was treacherously captured and agreed to retire with a Jagir in Parol
- Ten days later Raja was taken for submission at Seraj where his people laid ambush and devastated the sikhs.
- However, Major Sikh force was present in Kullu and they sacked Seraj in revenge and gave to Raja of mandi for Rs.32000.
- Raja was deposed in 1840 AD and retired to small state of Shangri (under British) and died in 1841.
- Thakur Singh was confirmed the Jagir of Wazir Rupri but rest of Kullu, including Lahaul was placed under

Assistant Commissioner and District Kangra.

- Spiti was also removed from Ladakh and annexed in Kullu
- During 1857, son of Kishan Singh (uncle of Ajit Singh) made a claim to Kullu gaddi but was caught after creating tumult, He was hanged at Dharamshala after a trial.
- Dalip Singh (Minor) became Rai in 1869 and assumed this position in 1883 AD, after attaining majority he persisted till 1892 and was succeeded by Megh Singh(1892-1921)

❖ Kullu under British

- The First Anglo-Sikh War was fought between the Sikh Empire and the British East India Company in 1845- 1846.
- The Treaty of Lahore was signed on March 9, 1846, which ended the war and forced the Sikhs to cede some of their territory to the British.
- As a result of the treaty, the hill country between the Sutlej and Indus rivers, including Kullu, was ceded to the British.
- Kullu, previously a part of the Sikh Empire, came under British control and became a sub-division of the Kangra district.
- The British gradually expanded their control over Kullu and the surrounding areas, and established administrative and legal systems to govern the region.
- Kullu remained a part of British India until 1947, when India gained independence from British rule.

❖ Kullu State during Revolt of 1857

- Pratap Singh, who claimed to be the rightful Raja of Kullu, attempted to incite a rebellion against the British colonial authorities.
- Singh tried to give a communal color to his rebellion by playing on religious and ethnic tensions in the region.
- Major Hay, an assistant commissioner of the British government, detected Singh's activities and took steps to suppress the rebellion.
- Singh and his accomplice Bir Singh were arrested and put on trial for their actions.



- The trial took place in Dharamshala, a town in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
- The British colonial authorities found Singh and Bir Singh guilty of inciting rebellion and sentenced them to be hanged.
- The execution of Pratap Singh and Bir Singh served as a warning to others who might have considered challenging British rule in Kullu or other parts of India.

❖ Kullu in 20th Century

- Until 1960, the tract of Lahaul & Spiti was the part of the Kullu tehsil.
- Kullu was declared to be a district of Punjab in 1963 and on November 1, 1966 it became a district of Himachal Pradesh.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

04

Mandi

Chhoti Kashi

❖ Mandi Geography

Mandi district is entirely hilly except Balh area in Sundernagar and Chauntra in Jogindernagar tehsil.

❖ Mandi district is bounded by-

- Kangra on the North-West
- Hamirpur and Bilaspur in the West
- Arki tehsil of Solan district in the South
- Shimla district on the South-West
- Kullu district on the East

❖ Rivers

Two main rivers which pass through the district are the Beas and the Satluj.

❖ Satluj River

- Enters Mandi district near Firnu village in Chwasigarh.
- Main tributaries of Satluj in Mandi-
- Khadel, Bhagwati, Bantrehr, Siwan Behna, Kattu, Bagra, Bahlu and Siun.
- It forms boundary of Mandi in the East and South.

❖ Beas River

- Enters Mandi district at a village near Largi, where Sainj and Tihan streams join the river.
- Main tributaries of Beas in Mandi—
- North bank— Uhl, Luni and Rina
- South bank ---Janjehli, Suketi, Bhakhar, Son, Ramoli and Jiuni



❖ Valleys and passes

❖ Jiuni Valley

- Kamru Nag ,Shikari Mata ,Dev Bala Tikka ,Devi Tanndi temple lies in this valley

❖ Balh Valley

- Also known as Sunder Nagar valley
- Suketi stream divides this valley roughly into two parts.

❖ Kamru Valley

❖ Baldwara Valley

❖ Sandhol Valley

❖ Janjheli Valley

❖ Barot Valley

- The valley is known for its trout fish farms.
- Nargu Wildlife Sanctuary is located in this valley

❖ Chauntra Valley

- Located in Joginder Nagar
- Famous for paragliding and tea cultivation

❖ Chuhar Valley

- Uhl river after originating from Dhauladhar mountains flows down through this valley.
- Imla-Vimla Valley or Karsog Valley
- Situated between the Shikari dhar to Parlog of Mandi District.
- Karsog town is located in this valley.
- The valley is crisscrossed by several brooks and the 'twin' Imla and Bimla streams.



❖ Hill Ranges (Dhars)

❖ Dhaula Dhar

- Covers the part of Suket area
- Nagru is the highest peak

❖ Ghogar Dhar

- It enters Mandi district at “Harabagh” in Jogindernagar tehsil
- It has natural salt mines of “Gumma” and “Darang”
- Jhatingiri place lies on this hill, which used to be summer seat of Mandi Rajas.

❖ Sikander Dhar

- Name attributed to Sikander Lodhi, crossed it on his way to the conquest of Kangra.
- Kamla range and Lindi Dhar are its two sub-ranges.

❖ Dhar Vairkot

- It starts from Rewalsar and extends towards Suket

❖ Lakes

1. Kumarwah Lake
2. Prashar Lake
3. Rewalsar Lake
4. Kamrunag Lake
5. Kunt Bhyog Lake
6. Kalasar Lake
7. Machhial Lake
8. Pandoh Lake

❖ Rewalsar Lake

- Lake known for its floating island
- Padma Sambhava stayed here
- Abode of Lomasha Rishi
- 10th Sikh Guru Govind Singh also stayed here.

❖ Prashar Lake

- Situated on a cup like valley
- Has pagoda like three storeyed temple dedicated to Rishi Prashar

❖ Kamru Nag Lake

- Lake was formed by Pandvas on their way after Mahabharata with Deity Kamrunag
- Situated in the Chachyot tehsil

❖ Macchial Lake

- Sacred lake named after Macchendru Devta or Matasya Avtar of Lord Vishnu

Kunt Bhayog Lake ,Kalasar Lake , Sukhsar Lake

- Situated at the hill top of Rewalsar town

❖ Pandoh Lake

- Lake formed due to the construction of Pandoh dam after diverting the water of Beas river to Satluj at Slapper

❖ Kumarwah Lake

- Situated in Chachiyot tehsil of Mandi district

❖ Fair and Festivals

❖ The Shivratri fair

- held in the month of February on Shivratri day in Mandi (on Paddal ground).
- Started by Raja Ajbar Sen and Raja Suraj Sen gave it the look of a cultural festival.
- Specific observance of this festival as fair, starting with Shivaratri is linked to Raja Ishwari Sen.

❖ Skodi fair

- held at Dohg village adjoining at Joginder Nagar Mandi district .
- Fair is held in honour of a woman who performed Sati there.

❖ Kao Fair

- Held in Kao village
- Started during World War-II to pray to goddess Kamesha to end the war.



- Mahunag Fair
- Held in honour of Mahunag ,the incarnation of Raja Karan of Mahabharata

❖ Mamail Fair

- Held near Karsog

❖ Nalwari Fair

- Held at different places Sundernagar , Bhangrottu and Barchhwar Rakhi festival
- It is celebrated all over Himachal Pradesh.
- It is known as ‘Salunnu’ in Mandi .

❖ Temples

❖ Kameshwar Temple (Mandi)

- Domed style temple

❖ Shikari Devi Temple (Janjehli)

- Roofless temple of Shikari Devi(Goddess of hunters)is situated on Shikari peak.
- Temple is said to be made by Pandavas.
- Sage Markandya meditated here.

❖ Tarna Temple (Mandi)

- Stomed style temple

❖ Panchavaktra Temple

- This temple belongs to “Panchanna Shiva’.
- Built sometime in the 14th century A.D. and resembles Triloknath temple.
- Situated at place where the confluence of the river Beas and its tributary Suketi is formed in Mandi district.

❖ Bhootnath Temple

- It is Shikhara type temple situated in the midst of the town Mandi.
- Raja Ajber Sen with the construction of this temple founded the new township Mandi in 1527AD.

❖ Parashar Temple (Mandi)

- Pagoda style Temple of Rishi Parashar is situated on the bank of Prashar Lake.
- This temple was built around 1300 AD by Raja Ban Sen, the Parashar Rishi temple had originally been a Nag Temple.

❖ Art and Culture

- Banthra or Bathra is the main folk dance/drama of Mandi.

❖ Mandi District

- The present district of Mandi was formed with the merger of two princely states 'Mandi' and 'Suket' on 15th April 1948, when Himachal Pradesh came into existence.
- Chiefs of Mandi, Suket, Keonthal, and Kishtwar claim their descent from a common ancestor of the 'Chandravanshi' line of Rajputs of Sen dynasty of Bengal.

❖ Early History

- They also claim their descent from 'Pandavas' of the Mahabharata.
- Ancestors of this line are believed to have ruled for 1,700 years in Indraprastha(Delhi) ,until Khemraj was driven out by his Wazir, Bisarp, who took over the throne.
- Khemraj fled eastward and settled in Bengal, where 13 of his successors ruled for 350 years.
- From there they had to flee to Ropar in Punjab, but there the king, Rup Sen, was killed.
- One of Rup Sen's sons, Bir Sen, fled to the hills and reached Suket.
- Bir Sen is said to have founded the state of Suket.
- He is an ancestor of the Sen Dynasty of Bengal, from which the chiefs of Mandi and Suket claim their descent.
- The separation of Mandi from Suket happened around 1200 A.D.
- Until that time, the two states had been united.
- The separation occurred due to a quarrel between the reigning chief of Suket Sahu Sen and his younger brother Bahu Sen.
- Bahu Sen left Suket to seek his fortune elsewhere.

❖ Bahu Sen

- Bahu Sen after leaving Suket settled at Manglan in Kullu, where his descendents lived for 11 generations.
- Then then chief, Kranchan Sen was killed fighting against the Kullu Raja and his Rani, who was pregnant at that time. fled alone to her father who was the chief of Seokot, who had no son.
- Here she gave birth to a baby boy who was named Ban, the tree under which he was born. Ban had hardly crossed the age of 15 when he defeated the chief of Kilti who used to plunder travellers.



- On the death of the chief of Seokot, Ban succeeded to the chiefship of Seokot. He, after some time killed the Rana of Sakor and took possession of his lands. he then changed his residence to Bhiu, on the banks of Beas and a few miles from the present Mandi town.
- Mandi emerged as a separate state in the begining of the sixteenth century. Down the line of descendants of Ban came Ajbar Sen, nineteenth in descent from Bahu Sen, who founded Mandi Town in 1527 AD, the capital of the erstwhile state of Mandi and the headquarters of the now Mandi District.

❖ History of Suket

- The origin of the name 'Suket' is derived from the word 'Sukshetra', meaning 'the good land', according to J.

Hutchinson.

- Prior to its foundation, the whole tract was under the title of 'Rana' or 'Thakur'.
- Sir A. Cunningham assigns the foundation of Suket to an early period (A.D. 765).
- According to him, it is probable that there was an early Sen dynasty in Bengal, whose ancestor named Vira

Sena reigned in the seventh century and from whom the later Sen dynasty was descended.

- Suket was founded by Vira or Bir Sen.

❖ Capital Raja

Pangana Bir Sen

Lohara (Balh plain) Madan Sen

Kartarpur (purana nagar) Kartar Sen

Baned (Sundernagar) Bikram Sen

- The descendants of the common ancestor were three brothers named—

❖ 1. Vira or Bir Sen-founded Suket

❖ 2. Giri Sen-founder of Keonthal

- He founded the State of Keonthal.
- Keonthal was originally a part of the Suket State.
- The exact date of Keonthal's foundation is uncertain, but it is believed to have been founded in the 16th century.
- Keonthal was one of the most important feudatory states of the Shimla Hill States.

❖ 3. Hamir Sen - Founder of Kishtwar

- He founded the State of Kishtwar.
- Kishtwar is located in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir state in India.
- The exact date of Kishtwar's foundation is uncertain, but it is believed to have been founded in the 16th century.



- Kishtwar was one of the smallest states in the Jammu and Kashmir region.

❖ **Rajas of Suket**

❖ **Bir Sen**

- He beats all Ranas & Thakurs of nearby areas: Karoli, Batwara, Nagra, Chiragh, Sanyarto & Khunu.
- He built a palace near Kunnu Dhar, and named it 'Narol'
- Later he built another palace at Pangana at Surhi area and established his capital.
- He had built fort of Garh Chawasi and conquered fort of Birkot towards Kumarsain.
- Chawasi helped him to capture many forts in Siraj Area.
- He also invaded Parol, Lag, Ruppi, Sari & Dhumhri (in Kullu).
- Raja Bhup Pal of Kullu was made a tributary during Bir Sen's reign.
- The Rana of Hatli was defeated and a fort, named Birkot, founded to commemorate the event.
- The name is nowadays pronounced as Biharkot.

❖ **Bikram Sen**

- He was of religious bent of mind and spent 2 years in pilgrimage.
- He assigned his brother Tribikram Sen as regent of state.
- Interestingly, Tribikram tried to become King himself with the help of Kullu Raja Hast Pal (grandson of Bhup Pal).
- Tribikram was finally slayed at Jiuri, when Bikram Sen took the help of Keonthal chief and Hast Pal was fell in the battle.
- In retaliation, Bikram Sen attacked Kullu and demoted Hast Pal's son to a mere Jamindar of Kullu.
- His tenure lasted for 10 years only.

❖ **Laxman Sen**

- He became king at the age of two and was the grandson of Dhartari Sen.
- After getting the opportunity the Kullu state got its areas back from Suket.
- After 14 years, Lakshman Sen defeated Raja Surat (Hashir) Pal of Kullu, grabbed lag-Sari, Ruppi, Parol Waziris.
- On Lakshman Sen's death, after a long reign his son Chander Sen, who also had a reign of 10 years, and died childless.
- Chander's brother Vijay Sen /Bijai Sen was installed to the gaddi and he ruled for 15 years. Vijay Sen had two sons, out of which elder Son; Sahu Sen became the next King.

❖ Sahu Sen (1000 A.D)

- Sahu Sen and Bahu Sen were the sons of Bijai Sen, who was the ruler of the combined states of Mandi and Suket in the early 11th century.
- Sahu Sen, the elder brother, succeeded Bijai Sen as the ruler of the combined states.
- Bahu Sen, the younger brother, had a falling out with Sahu Sen and left to establish himself as a petty chief in Manglor, which was then in Kullu.
- Bahu Sen's descendants in the twelfth generation founded the Mandi state, which later merged with the Suket state to form the present-day Mandi district.

❖ Bilas Sen

- Rattan Sen succeeded Vira Sen as the ruler of Suket state in A.D. 1020.
- Very little is known about Rattan Sen's period, except that his elder son, Bilas Sen, succeeded him to the throne.
- Bilas Sen was a tyrant and was poisoned after four years of his oppressive rule.
- Bilas Sen's brother, Samudra Sen, was then installed as the new Raja by officials.
- Bilas Sen had an infant son named Sewant Sen, who was in danger, and the Rani fled with him to Saraj and found refuge with a Zamindar.
- Samudra Sen ruled for four years and left two minor sons named Hawant Sen and Balwant Sen at his demise.
- Both Hawant Sen and Balwant Sen in succession were placed on the throne but died before attaining their majority without any heirs.
- A search was initiated to find Bilas Sen's infant son, Sewant Sen, to restore him his legitimate rights.

❖ Semant Sen (1120 A.D)

- Sewant Sen conferred a Jagir to a Zamindar in gratitude for the kindness shown to him and his mother.
- He built a fort in the village and named it "Rani Ka Kot".
- Sewant Sen had a long and prosperous reign and was succeeded by four Rajas named Dilawar Sen, Biladar

Sen, Ugar Sen, and Bir Sen.

❖ Madan Sen (1240 AD)

- Liyun-Phiyun was selected amongst Sen relatives, but he was incompetent.
- To remove Liyun-Phiyun, Courtiers devised a plan to select another Raja amongst other kins.
- A false story of revolt in Nachan area was told in the middle of feast.
- Hearing this, Raja Liyun Phiyun did not budge. Mian Madan sprang into immediate action leaving the food in the middle.
- His anxiety impressed courtiers of state, and they made him the King of Suket.
- Madan went on his first expedition against the Rana of Nachan, immediately after becoming King.
- However, he found that area was control & courtiers fabricated story to make him head of state.
- 'Sri Mangal', Rana of Batwara, allied with Kahlur and rebelled against Madan Sen.

- Madan Sen defeated Sri Mangal and expelled him from the state.
- Sri Mangal founded the principality of 'Mangal'.
- Madan Sen dealt severely with the rebellious Rana of 'Hatli' and Thakurs of 'Mahal Morian'.
- Madan Sen built the forts of Katwalwah (on the border of Kutelehr).
- He recaptured forts of Seoni and Teoni now in Bilaspur, and erected the fort of Dehar.
- In his dreams, a Devi had told him that Roral Palace is built on her own place
- Taking the clue Raja shifted his capital from Pangna to Lohara in 1240 AD
- He later built a temple of Asthambarnath at Pangna
- Madan Sen built two forts near Pangna and named one as Madankot
- He captured areas upto Beas and salt mines of Darang.
- He subdued Rana of Gumma
- He also captured some areas under Kullu and Kehlur.
- On his return journey from Kullu expedition, he built the fort of Madanpur, in Kothi Khokhan in Kullu.
- Bhajji, Shangri and Kumarsen had refused to annual tribute, so Madan Sen marched against them and reduced them to submission.

❖ Mahan Sen (1480 A.D)

- Mahan Sen bears an evil reputation in the record, which ultimately led to his death.
- As Mahan Sen had no son, he was succeeded by his uncle 'Haibat Sen'.
- This kind hearted ruler was followed by 'Amar Sen' and 'Ajimardan Sen'.

❖ Parbat Sen (1500 A.D)

- Parbat Sen was believed to have been cursed by a Purohit , who had committed suicide after being disgraced for having intimacy with a bandi or slave girl.
- He sought to expiate the curse by conferring the Waziris of Lag and Sari on the Brahmin's family in Jagir but to no purpose and died soon afterwards.
- From the Purohit's family was descended the line of 'Logwati Rajas' and they, then extended their sway over the main Beas Valley until finally overthrown by Jagat Singh, Raja of Kullu about A.D. 1650.

❖ Kartar Sen (1520-40 AD)

- This Raja believed that his palace in capital Lohara was cursed due the Brahmin affair during last Raja's reign.
- Therefore, he changed his residence towards Taramari forest and named new capital below it, as Kartarpur (Purana Nagar).
- Kartar Sen had a long and prosperous reign.
- His queen was a Jaswan princess, was known for her generosity towards public.

❖ Arjun Sen (1540 A.D)

- He was contemporary of Raja Bahadur Singh of Kullu.
- He was arrogant and of overbearing nature.
- Many of the Ranas and Thakurs revolted against him.
- He called the chiefs of Rupri as "crows of Rupri". The chiefs thus changed their side and became tributary to Kullu Raja -Bahadur Singh, who called them "Lord of Rupri".
- During his reign ,half the territory was alienated from the state and never regained.

❖ Uday Sen (1560-90 AD)

- Suket may have been a subject to Akbar during those times.
- He tried to reclaim his territories but met a partial success only.
- He subjected Rana of Cheddi and built a fort named Udaipur after himself to commemorate his victory.

❖ Shyam Sen (1620-50 AD)

- He had two Ranis: of Bushahr and Guler who gave birth to children at same time.
- Rani of Guler gave birth to Ram Sen and he was made heir apparent.
- Second Rani of Bushahr gave birth to a son Hari Singh.
- She tried to kill heir apparent with help of a Mian Jughanun.
- Bushahr Rani was banished from state and family of Mian Jughanun was executed.
- On orders of Shah Jahan(Aurangzeb given in sources***), Mughal Emperor Shyam Singh & his brother captured a fort in plains.
- Shyam Sen was offered Khilat and was permitted usage of coinage by his name.

❖ War with Kahlur

- Shyam Sen's daughter was married to Kehlur Raja Kalyan Chand in 1630 AD.
- One day Kalyan Chand and his Suketi Rani were playing chess, when hill bards in his praise, called him "The Lord of seven dhar".
- After knowing the names of these 7 dhars, the Rani remarked that one of them was in Suket.
- This enraged Kalyan Chand and he struck her on the forehead with that chess board and drew blood.
- Soon afterwards he issued orders for an invasion of Suket, and Sent envoy to Suraj Sen of Mandi for help.
- The Rani sent a letter secretly to her father, written in blood from the wound in her forehead to warn him of the danger.
- The battle took place near Mahadeo in which the alliance of Kahloor and Mandi was defeated and the Suraj

Sen fled from the field.

- Injured Kalyan Chand tried to borrow a horse from a 'Sanghwal Mian' (a Kinsman in his service) but Mian refused.

- Finally Kalyan Chand was handed over to some Brahmins but he died on the way at a place which is still called "Kalyan Chand Ki Dwari".
- The Brahmins were rewarded for their service.
- The sanghwal Mians and the descendent were forbidden the use of horses from Kahloor for their disloyalty.
- The Shyam Sen refused to support Mughals in an expedition to Jammu, as he was having matrimonial alliance with Jammu Royals.
- Making it a case of disobedience, Jagat Singh of Nurpur registered false complains to Mughals against and Shyam Sen, and his brother Naurang Singh. Both brothers along-with Guler Raja Man Singh were imprisoned.
- While Raja was in Jail, Suraj Sen of Mandi & Jagat Singh of Kullu captured much of his territory. in the same year, Jagat Singh of Nurpur had also revolted and was defeated by Mughal forces 1641.
- Shyam Sen prayed to Mahunag for his release, and Mahunag came in form of Bee and soon both Suket & Guler Rajas were released in 1641.
- However, Naurang Singh died in jail itself.
- Shyam Sen got a tribute of Rs. 50,000 from Bushahr and built a fort called Mangarh.
- In another story, Shayam Sen was given Chola (external attire) by a jogi named Chand Piri.

❖ Ram Sen (1650-63 AD)

- Lepel Griffith said that area of Balh was always a bone of contention between Mandi and Suket.
- Mandi Suket were normally on war and dominance of either of Rajas decided boundaries between the two states.
- Ram Sen had to build fort of Ramgarh to get protection from Mandi.
- Due to the manipulating Purohits, he got doubts on his daughter and drove her out of palace.
- The princess committed suicide, and later appeared in his dreams and complained about Purohits.
- Subsequently, out of regret Raja turned insane and died.

❖ Jit Sen (1663-1721 AD)

- Jit Sen lost almost all the battles which he fought and tragically, lost 22 children in their infancy.
- This was attributed to the spirit of his sister, who died unceremoniously during Ram Sen's reign.
- Moreover, Purohit families who were responsible for conspiracy against her were banned from entering

Pangna.

- A battle was the result of these arguments, which led to a bitter defeat of Jit Sen.
- Jit Sen died childless and had turbulent time at helm of affairs.

❖ Battle between Jit Sen and Shyam Sen

Jit Sen also fought a battle against Shyam Sen, Raja of Mandi.

- The battle took place near Lohara on the Balh plain
- Jit Sen was defeated and fled from the field.
- He was chased and overpowered by a Katoch Mian in the service of Mandi

- Katoch Mian spared the life of Jit Sen but snatched the insignia of royalty from his head dress and took them to Shyam Sen .
- Katoch Mian was rewarded with a quantity of salt from the Drang Mines
- As a result of this battle, Mandi annexed the Balh plain as far as the Suket Nala.

❖ Sidh Sen

- Sidh Sen, the next Raja of Mandi, along with Bhim Chand of Kahlur, seized the Dhar of Hatli and the fort of Birkot from Suket.
- Bhim Chand of Kahlur also seized the Maryauli fort.
- The state Wazir, a Purohit named Anup, played treachery and assisted Raja of Mandi (Sidh Sen) against the Rana of 'Nachan'.
- The Rana of Nachan fought bravely for two years and was killed, while his son Harnath fled to Kahlur.

❖ Garur Sen (1721-48 AD)

- Who was the son of Bushahr Rani & Shyam Sen (1620-50)
- During Shyam Sen's reign, Hari Sen was banished along with his mother, who conspired to kill heir apparent, born of Guler Rani.
- The Raja of Bushahr supported his claim.
- Garur Sen faced opposition from people of Suket and the administration remained in the hands of the Prithipur

Mians.

- Fearing for his life, Garur Sen retired to Kullu and then to Kangra, where he was honored.
- On his way to Kangra, he married the daughter of the Rana of Himli.
- The support from Kullu and Kangra led to the people of Suket eventually recognizing Garur Sen's authority.
- Baned (Sundernagar) was founded during his reign, which became capital during the reign of later King

Bikram Sen.

- Garur's queen constructed Suraj Kund temple.
- Brahims (who had fallen into disfavour after the false accusation against the daughter of Shaym Sen) and Wazir Anup were excommunicated and were called Na-chhuan or untouchable.
- Garur Sen died in A.D 1748.

❖ Bhikam Sen (A.D 1748-62)

- It was the time when Mughal Empire was weakening and Ahmad Shah Durrani was launching attacks on India.
- Ahmad Shah Durrani invaded the Suket province in 1747 and it was ceded to him by Ahmad Shah of Delhi in 1752
- From 1765-70, many hill states declared their independence.
- Adina Beg Khan, the Mughal Viceroy suppressed the hill chiefs in 1758 when they were attaining independence by taking advantage of Durrani's invasion.
- Adina Beg also built Adina nagar near pathankot.

- Adina Beg died in 1758.
- Meanwhile ,the Sikhs had been emerging as a strong force.
- And Jassa Singh Ramgarhia was the first to invade the Kangra Hills and possibly Suket as well.
- Raja Bhikam Sen had two sons, Ranjit Sen and Kishan Singh
- Ranjit Sen succeeded his father after his death in 1762

❖ Ranjit Sen (1762 A.D)

- Ranjit Sen was a ruler in the 18th century.
- He wanted to recover Nachan from Mandi, a neighboring state.
- Ranjit Sen sent his younger brother Kishan Singh to recover Nachan.
- Kishan Singh captured Shivapuri or Hat after severe fighting.
- However, he ran short of lead and powder and sent a messenger to Suket for supplies.
- Messenger proved disloyal and unfaithful and instilled confusion into the Raja's mind against Kishan Singh.
- In the absence of supplies, Kishan Singh was forced to abandon the expedition.
- Kishan Singh went to Sansar Chand of Kangra, his son-in-law, for help.
- With Sansar Chand's help, Kishan Singh sacked and burnt Suket.
- Ranjit Sen had two Ranis, one from Sirmaur and the second from Guler.
- The Sirmauri Rani had a son named Bikram Sen and Guleria Rani's sons were Amar Singh and Mian Singh, both died young.
- The administration of Ranjit Sen was in the hands of an able and faithful minister named 'Narpat'.
- Bikram Sen and minister Narpat were not in good terms, and Bikram once drew his sword in anger towards

Narpat.

- Ranjit Sen intervened and Bikram withdrew to Mahal-Morian, where he resided till his father's death in 1761 AD from poison accidentally administered by a physician.
- In 1775 A.D., Ranjit Sen retired to Jaganath.
- Jassa Singh Ramgarhia, who made several hill states his subjects, retired from the hills in the same year after being defeated on the plains.
- Authority in the hills was left in the hands of Jai Singh Kanheya, who held it till 1786.

❖ Bikram Sen (1791-1838 AD)

- There were internal conflicts in Mandi state and their Wazir Bairagi Ram solicited Maharaja Sansar Chand's (MSC) help.
- Instead of help, in 1792 MSC invaded Mandi and Bikram Sen supported him in expedition.
- Kishan Singh, who had retired to Jagannath after sacking his brother's Suket, accompanied Sansar Chand's force.
- Kishan with a changed heart supported Bikram, and submitted Rs. 80,000 of his own money to accomplish the war with Mandi.
- With the help of Sansar Chand's troops, six Mandi forts were submitted to Suket.

- Minor King of Mandi, Ishwari Sen and his cousin Zalim Sen was imprisoned and sent to Chaumukhi fort in Nadaun for 12 years.
- Changing from Suket (Nagar) he made Bana town as his capital which earlier founded by Garur Sen.
- In 1805, Gorkhas arrived to attack MSC with help of other hill Kings.
- Bikram Sen was persuaded by Wazir Aklu to go for Gorkha's meeting invitation of Kehlur by Ablu the Wazir.
- There, Bikram got into the trap and was imprisoned for 6 months.
- Some of his territories were taken under pressure during his confinement in Kehlur (1808).
- Fortunately, for Bikram his men secretly freed him in a night and left his Huqa-Bardar there.
- After the treaty of Jwalamukhi in 1809, Suket came under Sikhs and they decided the tribute (Dhal) of Rs.22,000.
- Moorcroft, probably the first European in Suket, visited during Bikram Sen's reign in 1820.
- Raja Bikram Sen died in 1838 after the long reign of 47 years.

❖ Ugar Sen (1838 AD)

- Suket was visited by Vigne during Ugar Sen's reign in 1839.
- In 1840, Nau Nihal Singh, grandson of MRS, ordered an expedition to Mandi, Suket & Kullu.
- Sikhs were undertaking an attack towards Tibet, for which these territories were required to be under control.
- Suket submitted to General Ventura of Sikh forces, and remained less affected
- Ugar Sen's son Rudar Sen had issues with father, and run away from him on 3 occasions.
- In 1845 Sikhs invaded in British territories, and they demanded troops from Suket.
- But immediately after the battle of Sabraon, Ugar Sen expelled the Sikhs from the State.
- In October 1846, a Sanad was conferred upon Ugar Sen by British stating Raja's rights over his state.
- Mandi and Suket being within the ceded territory came directly under British control, and were placed in charge of the Commissioner of Jalandhar.

❖ Dhum Uprising

- with an intention to gain the favour of the British Raja Ugar Sen came forward
- As a result. Government stopped intervening in the internal affairs of the State
- Narotam Parohit, the Wazir contributed in establishing intimate rapport between the British and the Raja.
- Narotam Parohit was elevated to the post of the Prime Minister of the State
- Nationalists of Suket could not receive co-operation on behalf of State to undertake struggle against foreign rule.
- Narotam Parohit continued to hold the office of Wazir
- He made a law that widows should be sold and the income credited to the State and their property to the Narsinghji temple
- Public turned against him on this illegal treatment being meted against the wretched widows.
- Narottam appointed Laongu as his deputy and placed hill tract under him.
- This very step brought about the dismissal of Narottam from office.
- Dhungal, Laongu's brother took over the charge of Wazir.

- Dhungal's administration was oppressive.
- Dhungal Wazir realised the fines 'dand' from distinguished people and innocent masses.
- Oppressed and aggrieved people decided to stand up to his atrocious custom
- Dhungal was on visit to the hills, irate people seized and kept him as captive for twelve days in Garh Chawasi.
- He was released only on the receipt of the Raja's order. This kind of uprising is locally called 'Dum' (Dumh)
- Ugar Sen imprisoned Dhungal for nine months and fined Rs. 20,000. Dhungal was removed from office and his younger brother Laongu was appointed Wazir.
- Dumh was a non-violent movement against authorities, but people some time resorted to violent methods if the exploitation would breach all the barriers of tolerance

❖ Rudar Sen

- On hearing of his father's death Rudar Sen came to Suket from Haripur, and was installed as Raja by Col.

Davies. Commissioner of Jalandhar.

- Dhungal re-appointed and dismissed in the next year and Ramditta Mal was made next Wazir. Taxes and Land revenues increased at exorbitant rates.
- On his return he imposed revenue of Rs. 4 to 8 per khar, called Dhal, instead of a tax, on each house
- Due to mal-administration & Taxes, British deposed Rudar Sen in 1879, After living sometime in Lahore and Jalandhar, he finally settled in Hoshiarpur, where he died in 1887.

❖ Suket Mutiny of 1876

- Rudar Sen's reign aroused the aggrieved populace because of his exploitative policies.
- Rudar Sen's rule became more and more oppressive than the times of Narottam Pandit heavy taxes were imposed on timber, grass and cattle land revenue was increased and other exactions were levied on the Zamindars till disaffection was created.
- At Karsog incensed people resorted to open rebellion against their ruler.
- As a result. State officials were made to flee and took refuge at Sundernagar, the capital of the State
- As the conditions assumed serious proportions the commissioner of Jalandhar had to intervene.
- British Government took over the State administration in its hand.

❖ Dusht-Nikandan Sen (1879-1908 AD)

- The Raja being a minor the administration remained in the hands of the Superintendent, until in 1884.
- A School was established in 1893 AD at Bhojpur, followed by Post office in 1900 AD and telegraph office in 1906 AD.
- Significant reduction in taxes was also undertaken. The administration was reorganised, unnecessary posts were abolished and considerable economies effected.
- In 1902, Assistant Commissioner of Kullu was made Political Assistant of Suket.
- He died in 1908.

❖ Bhim Sen (1908-1919 AD)

- He built King Edward Hospital at his capital Baned.
- In recognition of World War-I services the Raja received distinction of Knighthood in the Most Eminent

Order of the India Empire (KCIE).

- Some 250 men & 3 lacs Rupees were contributed by Suket for British cause.
- He built Dak bungalows at Baned, Seri and Debar and constructed a motor road between Baned and Mandi.
- He died in 1919 due to pneumonia without any heir.

❖ Laxman Sen (1919 AD)

- He was the younger brother of Bhim Sen, and succeeded as King. He introduced reforms in land revenue settlements, Health, Education And Judiciary.
- On 1st of November 1921, Suket was transferred from Political control of the Punjab Government to the Government of India.
- In 1924 the Raja changed the name of his capital to Sundernagar.
- During the reign of Lakshman Sen people protested against Taxes and Begar by a revolt in 1924.
- The Raja ran away and took refuge at Dehradun in British territory.
- In 1945, Mian Rattan Singh led the activities of the Praja Mandal movement.
- The Suket Satyagrahis started movement at Sunni in February 1948 under Shri Padam Dev and Mian Rattan

Singh.

- On 10th February 1948, a non-violent protest was started in Suket by the Satyagrahis with objective to set up a democratic state.
- On 25th February 1948, the Suket State administration was taken over by the Government of India.
- On 15th April 1948 Suket state was also merged with Himachal Pradesh.

❖ Suket Rebellion of 1924

- The Rowlatt Act Of 1919 Was Criticised with a popular cry no dalil ,no vakil,no appeal.
- After-effects of non-co-operation movement brought about the ntiona; dimension of in dependence struggle.
- struggle against atrocities and oppressine rule emboldened the people of suket.
- influence of Gandhi Jji

❖ History of Mandi

- Mandi formerly known as Mandav Nagar is a major town and a municipal council of Himachal Pradesh.
- Mandi district is currently the 2nd largest economy in the state next to Kangra.
- As a tourist place, Mandi is often referred to as "Varanasi of Hills" or "Choti Kashi" or "Kashi of Himachal".

❖ Origin of name “Mandi”

- The name "mandi" (and the former name "Mandav Nagar") is derived from the word "Mandavya Rishi," a sage from the Hindu epic Mahabharata, who is believed to have meditated in this region.
- Another theory suggests that it comes from the word "Mandapa," meaning a porch or entrance to a temple, as the town was a gateway to the Kullu Valley.
- Yet another theory suggests that the name comes from the word "Mandira," meaning a temple, as there are several temples in the area.
- The exact origin of the name is not certain, and it may be a combination of these theories.

❖ Mandi State-Historical Background

- Mandi means market and the town was at a favourable position on the Beas River, at the junction of the two roads from the west and south.
- Mandi had valuable mines of iron and black salt in its vicinity, which accounted for its prosperity
- Moreover, Mandi was a centre of trade on the main route from Yarkand, Ladakh to Hoshiarpur and the plains.
- Mandi was called 'Zahor' by the Tibetans.
- Tibetan Buddhists who were the followers of 'Padmasambhav, (who lived from 750-800 AD) built a Buddhist temple at Rewalsar.
- Kolarian people were found here who were the descendants of the Neolithic people .
- Dravidians defeated the Kol people of Mandi area.
- Nagas, the offshoot of Kirat (Mongols) were venerated in this region, even very recently.
- Khas were related to Kanet's and Rao's in this region

❖ Shaping of Mandi State

- The separation of Mandi from suket took place about the year 1200 AD.
- Upto that time, it was the single state of Suket.
- Hence, Mandi State was the off-shoot of Suket State.
- In the reign of Sahu Sen (1000 AD), He was 10th in succession from founder Bir Sen.
- Sahu Sen had differences with his brother King Bahu Sen, so Bahu Sen and left abruptly.
- After leaving he made Hat as his capital.
- Later, Bahu Sen settled at Manglore, within the territory of Kullu.
- He acquired territory from Kullu and was recognized Rana or local chief.
- Thus, Bahu Sen shall be considered as the founder of Mandi State.
- His descendants lived at Manglore, till Kalyan Sen.

❖ Major Kings of Mandi

❖ Kanchan Sen (1278AD)

- He was the 11th descendent of Sahu Sen, and was married to daughter of Rana of Seokot.
- Kanchan was attacking nearby Ranas, who were in the control of Kullu Raja.
- Ranas took the help of Kullu Raja, and Kanchan Sen was killed.
- After fight, his fort of Manglore was burnt down.
- His queen was forced to flee for her life. In the night she gave birth to a son under a Baan or Oak tree.
- It is because of association with Baan tree, kid was named Ban Sen.
- Later, Queen along with Ban Sen were carried to his maternal grandfather, the Rana of Seokot.
- The Rana of Seokot having no heir, adopted Ban Sen as his successor and who later became the chief of Seokot (Shivkot) after Rana's death .

❖ Ban Sen (1280-1304 AD)

- At the age of 15, he defeated Rana of Kilti and later took the territory of the Rana of Sakor by killing him.
- He also built the temple of Parashar Dev in Uttarsal Valley.
- Ban Sen settled at Bhiuli around 1280 AD and died in 1304 AD

❖ Kalyan Sen (1304-1332 AD)

- He shifted the capital from Bhiuli to Batahuli at the right bank of the Beas.
- Kalyan Sen had this land from a Rana, who was subject of Raja of Suket.
- It was the first capture of Suket territory by a Mandi King.
- Batahuli was the capital of Mandi State until the foundation of Mandi town in April 1527.
- During these times, small states were added to Mandi state

❖ Hira Sen(1332-1360 AD)

- Kanwal district was added, but Hira Sen was killed in struggle with Rana Gandharb.
- He was succeeded by Dharitri Sen (1360 AD), Narinder Sen (1400 AD), Harjai Sen (1440 AD) and Dilawar Sen in 1470 AD

❖ Ajbar Sen(1500-1534 AD)

- He was the 8th in succession from Ban Sen.
- Ajbar built capital at the present Mandi town (Sadhiana), at left bank of Suketi & Beas in 1527AD.
- He had to control the constantly revolting Ranas and his contemporary Kings; (Raja Sidh Singh and later

Bahadur Singh of Kullu).

- Raja Ajbar Sen became the first Mandi chief who assumed the title of Raja.
- Chiefs earlier to him were having status of Ranas only.
- He also built a small fort with four towers, called Chauki Temple of Bhootnath was built by him.
- Trilokinath temple was built by his queen, Saultana Devi(Surtrana)

❖ Charat/Chatter Sen (1534-54 AD)

- He had a reign of 20 years according to Cunningham and built fort of Lakargarh, in Kalar district.

❖ Sahib Sen (1554-1575 AD)

- He married Prakash Devi, daughter of Kehlur (Bilaspur) Raja.
- King Pratap Singh of Kullu and Sahib Sen together, defeated Rana of Khaj (Waziri) and divided Siraj into two parts. (mentioned in some sources)
- In 1557 Mandi came under the control of the Mughals (Akbar) and the tax was fixed at 500 rupees.
- Sahib Sen won over Rana of Drang, and got salt mines of that state.
- Fort of Jajru-Kupru is also associated with his name.
- Sahib Sen formed an alliance with Raja Jagat Singh of Kullu
- Together they defeated Jai Chand, the Raja of Waziri Laksari' and took possession of a great part of his territory
- Mandi got 'Saraj Mandi', including 'Bokla', 'Palaham', 'Trilokpur' and 'Fatehpur'
- Kullu obtained 'Saraj Kullu', Birkot, Madanpur with 12 neighbouring villages
- In the second joint expedition against Jai Chand, Mandi got Sanor and Bada.

❖ Raja Narayan Sen (1575 A.D)

- Raja Narayan Sen of Mandi subdued the Rana of 'Ner', 'Bandoh' and 'Chuhar
- Raja Narayan Sen is said to have been stunted growth as well as crippled and deformed, but is said to have been cured by a Pir named Sidh Chuni Muni , who visited Mandi.
- He built the fort of Naraingarh and annexed a large portion of Suket fixing the boundary at Balh and Lohara.

❖ Keshav Sen (1595-1623 AD)

- Mandi came under Mughal control and had to pay tribute.
- Sati monument/pillars called Barselas, which were privilege of Royals, were found of his reign.
- In one of Barselas, a standing Raja was sculptured along with Ranis, Khwasias (concubines) and Rakhails is depicted.
- These scripture also provide a valuable source of information about chronologies .

❖ Hari Sen (1623-37 AD)

- Kamlahgarh fort was founded in his time during 1625-1630 AD, though completed in times later to his reign.
- During his reign, Jagat Singh of Nurpur defeated Raja Janardan of Chamba in the Battle of Dhalog and took over Chamba state.
- The heir apparent of Chamba, Prithvi Singh, was smuggled by a nurse named Batlu to Mandi for his safety.
- Prithvi Singh grew up under the care of Mandi Rajas Hari Sen and Suraj Sen.
- Under his reign, a four-year refugee prince of Chamba, Prithvi Singh was given a asylum in Mandi for 17 years.
- Prithvi was supported by Suraj Sen in 1641 AD & Kullu army to get his Kingdom back in 1641.
- Hari Sen died in 1637 and Suraj Succeeded to throne.

❖ Suraj Sen (1637-64 AD)

- Suraj Sen had to become king in his childhood but State-work remained in the hands of Kirori Khatri.
- Kirori Khatri has conspired to kill Suraj Sen with Raja Jagat Singh (of Nurpur).
- He was invited to Marry Raja Jagat Singh's (Nurpur) daughter but it was a trap, which was disclosed by Jagat

Singh's queen.

- He also constructed Damdama Mahal & Naina Devi Temple near Rewalsar
- Kamlagarh fort was built by Suraj Sen in 1625 A.D.

❖ Dispute with Jagat Singh of Kullu

- Suraj Sen made an attack on Banghal but Raja of Kullu and Banghal together defeated the Mandi forces.
- The for Karanpur, Shahpur and Shamsheerpur were captured by the Kullu Raja who also took Dewal, Sansal and Bir from Banghal as a prize of his help.
- Kullu Raja also took possession of Gumma and Drang Salt Mines.
- Suraj Sen was finally compelled to pay tribute to Kullu on which the lost territory was restored and the boundary between Mandi and Kullu was fixed at the villages of Bir and Ahju.
- Suraj Sen had eighteen sons who all died during his lifetime, leaving him without an heir.
- In disappointment, he had a silver image made and named it 'Madho Rai' to assign the kingdom to it.
- The people carry the silver image in procession during fairs and festivals as a mark of respect and adoration.

❖ Shyam Sen (1664-1679 AD)

- Since Suraj Sen had no heir, his younger brother Shyam Sen was made king.
- Shyam Sen's skin colour was dark, and Suket's King Vijay Sen used to call him 'Thikar -Nath' by being rude.
- Episode of war discussed under Jit Sen (of Suket) also happened during his reign.
- He built a temple of Shyama Kali(Tarna Devi) under it a fair is held for 9 days in Asuj month.
- He took territory of Dunjgarh from kullu in 1659 and also conquered Lohara from Suket.
- Ironically, Kullu army killed Shyam Sen, while his way back from victory over Raja Bidhi Singh of Kullu.

❖ Gaur Sen(1679-1684 AD)

- He reigned for 5 years and established shrine for an idol brought from Jagannath
- Gaur Sen attacked Kullu in order to seek Shyam Sen's revenge, but he was defeated.
- During this time, Mughal army under Jafar Beg attacked Mandi, but went back as they heard news of death of Sirhind's Nawab.

❖ Sidh Sen (1684-1727 AD)

- He was a great warrior who captured areas from Bhanghal, Suket & Kullu.
- He built the fort of Sidhkot.
- Mandi was defeated and lost Drang salt mines to Raja of Kullu Man Singh, who presented a dagger to Sidh

Sen.

- He won Nachan, Hatli, Madhopur and Lad from Suket.
- In 1719 AD Sidh Sen invited Raja Prithvi Pal of Bhanghal to Mandi, who was his son in law.
- Sidh Sen killed him treacherously after a month, and his head was buried in front of Damdama palace.
- He built temple of Sidh-Ganesh and Sidhbhara.
- Guru Gobind Singh (GGS) was respectfully received by Sidh.
- Guru Ji blessed Mandi by saying:

'Mandi ko jab lootenge, Asmani gole chutenge'

❖ Guru Govind Singh visit to Mandi

- Guru Govind Singh visited Kullu and asked for help against the Mohammadans
- The Raja of Kullu treated the Guru badly and imprisoned him at Sultanpur
- Guru Govind Singh escaped by miraculous power and visited Raja Sidh Sen of Mandi
- Raja Sidh Sen of Mandi gave Guru Govind Singh an honorable reception and entertained him with great hospitality.
- Before leaving, Guru Govind Singh offered to fulfill one wish of Raja Sidh Sen
- Raja Sidh Sen requested an assurance that his capital would never be occupied by an enemy
- Guru Govind Singh granted the wish with the words
- "Mandi ko jab lootenge, to asmani gole chhutenge"

❖ Shamsher Sen(1727-81 AD)

- Shamsher was indulgent and was low on intelligence.
- In 1745-46, Adina Beg Khan advanced towards Kamlahgarh fort, but returned seeing it as a difficult one to conquer
- Wazir Mian Jippu took care of administration as King was in infancy, but was killed.
- He was replaced with Dhul-chatia as Wazir, who controlled the rule along with a minister
- Dhul-chatia and minister conspired against heir apparent Surma Sen.

- Surma along with Bairagi Ram, took refuge from Maharaja Sansar Chand at Nadaun.
- Later Maharaja Sansar Chand gave a force to Surma, and Dhul-Chatia and minster were expelled from the state.
- During his minority the administration was carried on by Mian Juppu (illegitimate brother of Sidh Sen).
- Raja Jai singh of kullu was his contemporary who left to Lahore after facing a revolt by his wazir kalu ka diyar.
- In absence of Kullu Raja, Shamsheer Sen conquered Chabroi, Ramgarh, Deogarh, Hashtpur and sarni from kullu state.
- He reconquered Madhopur from Kullu.
- Shamsheer Sen died in 1781 AD after a reign of 54 years.

❖ Ishwari Sen (1788-1826 AD)

- He was a minor, so Bairagi Ram was made his regent.
- Mians were raising their heads against administration.
- Bairagi Ram asked for Maharaja Sansar Chand's help, who in turn invaded Mandi in 1792 with the help of Suket.
- However, MSC was not able to capture Kamlahgarh fort.
- Ishwari Sen was taken to the prison and was kept at Chaumukhi fort of Naduan for 12 years, until he was freed by Gorkhas invasion of Kangra.
- After treaty of Jwalamukhi, MSC lost hold of Mandi & it came under Sikhs, whom tribute was to be paid.
- Ishwari Sen became king of Mandi.
- Moorcroft was the first European to visit Mandi and he came through Kehlur and Suket in 1820 AD.

❖ Zalim Sen (1826-39 AD)

- Ishwari Sen died without any legal heir, so his younger brother became the King.
- He introduced taxes on revenue collected (Balich) by local officials which further led to discontentment.
- He was one of the worst rulers of Mandi, and 1500 people were hanged during his reign.
- He also instigated murder of Wazir Dhari, who was instrumental in saving Mandi from annexation by MRS.
- He grabbed some area of Kullu with the help of Lahina Singh, a Sardar of Ranjit Singh.
- Strangely he nominated illegitimate son of Ishwari Sen as next King but not his illegitimate son.

❖ Balbir Sen (son of Ishwari Sen)

- He became the King in 1839 AD.
- Vigne visited him in the same year who witnessed sati performed in Mandi.
- After MRS death in 1839 AD Sikh army became idle and dangerous to Kingdom, so they were engaged to attack Mandi and nearby states.
- Sikhs sent a force under General Ventura, so that they could capture Mandi and control the route in vicinity of their Ladakh and Tibet expedition later
- Seeing Sikh force, Raja Balbir asked to British help under Col. Tapp, political agent of Subathu.

- Mandi was plundered and even Kamlahgarh fort was captured after 3 months of siege under Col. Foulkes of Sikh Army Amritsar.
- Raja paid tribute to Sikhs but was still arrested by treachery and imprisoned at Gobindgarh fort in Amritsar.
- After 1841 AD, Shamsheer Singh became Maharaja of Lahore (after brief stints of Khadak Singh & Nau Nihal).

Nihal).

- He released Balbir Sen along with image of Rupeshwari Devi looted by Sikhs from Kamlahgarh fort.
- A Sanad was granted from British to Mandi Raja for his rights to the state on 24th Oct 1846 AD
- Barnes was the 1st Deputy Commissioner of Kangra settled boundaries between Kangra, Mandi & Suket.
- Balbir Sen died on 26 Jan 1851 AD leaving behind 3 infant
- On 21st February 1846, the chiefs of Mandi and Suket paid a visit to Mr. Erskine, the Superintendent of the Hill States for the British Government.
- During their visit, they pledged their allegiance to the Britishers and sought their protection.
- On 9th March 1846, a treaty was signed between the British Government and the Sikh Durbar.
- As per the treaty, the whole area of Doab between the Beas and the Sutlej was ceded to the British

Government, which included the states of Mandi and Suket as well.

❖ Vijay/Bijai Sen (1851-1902AD)

- Vijay Sen was 4 years old when he was king.
- Wazir Gosain took control in the early years and Pandit Shiva-Shankar saw the King's education.
- In Nov 1863 AD, Vijay met Lord Elgin while he was coming back from Kullu. Unfortunately, Elgin caught pneumonia and died in his way back at Chauntra (later buried at Dharamshala).
- In 1863, Mr. Clarke was appointed to superintend the Raja's education
- In Oct 1866, Vijay Sen was finally made the King after attaining majority in age.
- During his reign, a number of reforms were introduced such as the reduction of forced labour and remarriage of widows.
- School, Hospital & Post Office in Mandi town and Mule road from Baijnath to Sultanpur
- Boundary between Suket and Mandi was finalised by Commissioner of Jalandhar.
- In 1871 AD, Lord Mayo visited Mandi and Nawa Mahal was constructed for his welcome.
- He built the Victoria Bridge in 1877 to commemorate coronation of Victoria as Empress of India, which costed one lac Rupees.
- In 1881, new roads were constructed under the Engineer Purkis.
- In 1888, H J Maynard was taken as administrative support who reformed Law system and made rule for Begar and Agriculturist's rights.

❖ Bhawani Sen(1903-13 AD)

- He was an illegitimate son of Vijay Sen, had to be made a minor King
- A severe Earthquake of 1905 took place shortly which was destructive, even Raja was buried under DAK



Bangla of Palampur, but got safe.

- In 1909 an agricultural movement took place, where many big officers were imprisoned by the farmers.
- The leader of Shobha Singh movement of Sarkaghat (Gadhiyani village) who laid the foundation of Mahavir

Dal.

- Bhawani Sen died in Feb 1912 after attending Darbar of Delhi in Dec 1911.
- On 1st November 1921, the political control of Mandi State was transferred from Punjab Government to the Government of India.
- Mandi State remained under the control of the Government of India until 15th August 1947, when India gained independence.
- On 8th March 1948, the last Raja of Mandi, Col. Jogender Sen, decided to abolish the separate symbol of Mandi State.
- Finally, Mandi State became a part of the newly formed state of Himachal Pradesh on 15th April 1948.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

05 | Bilaspur

Land of the Kahlur

❖ Geography of Bilaspur

❖ Bilaspur

- Bilaspur district is situated in Satluj valley in the outer hills of Himalayas.
- Area wise it is second smallest district in H.P.
- It is bounded on—

North by Mandi and Hamirpur district o West by Hamirpur and Una district o South by Nalagarh area of Solan district o

It is encircled on the East and South East by solan and Mandi districts.

- It is said to be first planned hill town of the country.
- Languages spoken in Bilaspur—Kehluri ,Hindi and Punjabi

❖ Rivers

❖ Satluj River

- Bilaspur stands divided into tow natural parts formed by Sutlej river.
- It enters Bilaspur at village Kasohal and leaves at village Naila in Pargana Kot Kehlur.
- It was Sutlej river over which a treaty was signed between British and Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1809.

❖ o Ali stream

❖ o Ghambar Khad

o

❖ Seer Khad

- Largest tributary of Satluj which rises in Mandi district



❖ Hill Ranges

- There are seven main ranges of hills.
- These are- Naina Devi, Kot, Jhanjhar, Tiun, Bandla, Bahadurpur and Ratanpur.
- These have been so prominent that the erstwhile princely state at times used to be called “Sat-dhar-Kahlur”, meaning Kahlur of the seven hills.

1. Naina Devi Hills
2. Kot Hill
3. Jhanjhar Hill
4. Tiun Hill
5. Bandla Hill
6. Bahadurpur Hill
7. Ratnapur

❖ Sat-dhar-Kahlur (Seven Hills)

❖ Naina Devi Hills

- temple dedicated to Naina Devi
- Kot Kahlur fort and Fatehpur fort are located on this range.

❖ Kot Hill

- Bachhretu ,Basiah , Naun or Shiwala Bachhretu kot and Dagoga Malhot forts are located on this hill.

❖ Jhanjhar Hill

- Seer Khad divides this range into two parts.
 1. Northern part known as Jhanjhar and Souther part is known as Badol.
 2. Jhanjhar is the highest peak in this range.
- Devi Badoli and Guga Gherwin are famous temples located in this range.

❖ Tiun Hill

- Highest point is Sarium peak.
- Sariun fort ,Nauragarh fort and Tiun fort are located in this hill.
- Peer Bhiyanu ,Haramba Devi and Sidh Gurunath temples are located here.
- Bandla Hill
- Present town of Bilaspur is located in the foothills of Bandla hill.

❖ Bahadurpur Hill

- Ali Khad divides this hill into two parts.
- Norther part known as Tatoh and Southern part is known as Bahadurpur.
- Bahadurpur fort-Summer abode of Raja Bijai Chand is located here.

❖ Ratnapur

- Ratanpurt fort is located here.
- It was from this fort ,General Ochterlony inflicted defeat on Amar Singh Thapa.

❖ Three famous valleys in the Bilaspur district

❖ The Satluj Valley

- The Satluj flows for about 90 km within the district, starting from Kasol hamlet, where the river enters the boundary of the district and running upto village Naila', where it leaves the district.
- The Satluj valley is famous for variety of fauna and flora.
- The villages located in and around the Satluj valley are utilizing the water of river Satluj for agriculture, vegetable production and horticulture.
- There are a number of streams flowing through this valley

❖ The Chaunto Valley

- Stretching nearly 13 km near Bhakhra dam, is flat and has very fertile soil.
- The Chaunto valley, having proximity to Punjab and lower Shivalik hills having same type of climate and economic viability from agriculture and allied activities point of view.
- The formation of Govind Sagar Lake, due to the construction of Bhakhra

Dam has added a new dimension to the economy of the district.

❖ The Danwin Valley

- It is located between Bahadurpur and the Bandla hills .
- It is about 10 km in length and 5 km in width.
- It is famous for its produce of maize, rice, sugarcane, ginger and wheat crops.

❖ Lake and Springs

❖ Govind Sagar

- Largest Artifical lake of H.P formed as a result of Bhakhra Dam



❖ Luhnd Spring

- at Dadrana near Swarghat

❖ Bassi Spring

- Sacred water spring at village Bassi
- The Highest peak is of Dhar Bahadurpur at 6164 feet.
- A recent foundation stone of the AIIMS hospital in Bilaspur has also been done.
- Deoli- Asia's largest trout fishery (breeding) farm in Bilaspur was established in 1962 AD.
- A.C.C. Cement Factory is located in Barmana Bilaspur. Animal disease control room is located at Swarghat.
- The first bank 'Bank of Bilaspur' was established in Bilaspur on 1944 AD.
- The first branch of the HP State Cooperative Bank was established in 1956 in Bilaspur.
- An animal breeding center is located at Kothipura (Bilaspur).
- The bridge is the tallest bridge in Asia at Kandroun in Bilaspur which was built between 1959 and 1964 AD on the Sutlej River. Its height is 80 meters.

❖ Fair and Festivals

❖ Nalwari fair

- Idea of this fair was conceived by W.Goldstein in 1889.

❖ Naina Devi fair

- Held thrice in a year during Chaitra, Shravan and Ashwin Navrati .

❖ Markanda fair

- Gugga fair at Gehrwin

❖ Temples

❖ Sri Rangnath Temple

- Ancient temples submerged in Gobind Sagar lake.



❖ Shi Gopal Krishna temple

❖ Murli Manohar Temple

❖ Narsingh Temple

❖ Naina Devi Temple

❖ Bilaspur

- Bilaspur was the capital of a state of the same name founded in the 7th century, also known as Kehlur.
- The ruling dynasty were Chandela Rajputs, who claimed descent from the rulers of Chanderi in present-day

Madhya Pradesh.

- The town of Bilaspur was founded in 1663.
- The state later became a princely state of British India, and was under the authority of the British province of Punjab.

❖ Origin of the Ruling Family

- The ruling family of Kehlur claims descent from Sishupal, a character of the Mahabharata, who belonged to Chanderi in Bundelkhand (MP). Hence, they were called Chandel Rajputs
- Harihar Chander handed over kingdom to his eldest son and came with other 4 sons to Jhendbari(Hoshiarpur).
- In a tent pegging competition near Jwalamukhi, Harihar lost his son due to treachery of Kangra King.
- In retaliation, Chandels also killed Kangra King.

❖ Foundation of the State

- After Harihar his second son, Bir Chand took command of forces.
- An area was captured and state was founded near Satluj in (697-730 AD) by Bir Chand Chandel.
- Another theory says that a Gujar, a Kehlu Namak, told that a goat was standing on the rock in the same place and that he had killed a hidden tiger with his horns.
- This statement inspired the king to build a fort near it.
- Perhaps the name of the state may have been called as the Gujar name, although it does not seem logical.
- According to Kindavati, a person told Bir Chand that there is a rock on the hill on which a cow leaves the seed of the constituent milk.
- When the stone was removed, it found the statue of Durga Mata.
- After that, he named him Naina Dhar and built a temple of Mata Naina Devi.

❖ Other states by of Chandel descent

- Govind Chand ,Bir Chand ,Gambir Chand ,Kabir Chand and Sabir Chand were the five sons of Harihar chand.
- Chanehni State was founded by Gambir Chand in Jammu.
- Kabir Chand founded a state in Kumaun.
- Govind Chand took possession of his ancestral kingdom.
- And much later Nalagarh state by Kehlur Prince Bir Chand.

❖ Major Kings of Kehlur

❖ Raja Bir Chand (900 A.D)

- The founder of Bilaspur state.
- Waged many wars during his reign of thirty three years.
- He subjugated more than fifteen neighbouring states.
- The Raja of Sirmaur with whom he concluded treaty of peace, halted his winning spree.
- Bir Chand and his descendents took tribute from Jubbal, Keonthal, Dharni, Kuthar, Baghat and Mangal & Balsan till almost 1815.
- He built a temple of Goddess Naina Devi on one of the seven Dhars now called Dhar Naina Devi. And below it founded its capital.

❖ Kahal Chand (1057 to 1099 AD)

- He was the 11th Raja and had three sons Ajit Chand, Ajay Chand, and Tegh Chand **
- After Kahal's death, they captured state of Hindur (Nalagarh).
- Hindur was ruled by a Brahman Thakur, called Handu who was displaced.
- Ajit Chand succeeded Bilaspur kingdom, his brother Ajay Chand (1100 AD), is known as founder of Nalagarh principality

Raja Kahal Chand (8th King from 894-902 AD)

- He built the Kot Kehlur fort after his name, and the State consequently derived its name from him .

❖ Raja Ajit Chand

- Kahal Chand had four sons— Ajit Chand , Ajai Chand ,Tegh Chand and Suchet Chand.
- Ajit Chand founded the ruling dynasty of Hindur(later came to be known as Nalagarh).
- According to other account- Hindur was founded by Ajai Chand.
- Raja Sangar Chand (16th Raja 1197-1220 A.D)
- He had 10 sons, seven of whom founded Jagiri families in the state of Kehlur .
- Families namely--



- Darol ,Jhandwal ,Sangwal,Ghal,Nanglu,Meghari and Dohkli

❖ Raja Megh Chand

- Eldest son of Sangar Chand.
- His rule was harsh and tyrannical.
- Thus he was forced by people to leave the state.
- He took asylum in Kullu.
- Ultimately,with the help of Delhi's Sultan Shamsu-ud-din Iltutmish regained his lost kingdom.

Raja Abhaysaar Chand/Abhisand Chand (1302 to 1317 AD)

- He was the 21st ruler .
- He was contemporary of Sikhandar Khan Lodhi of Delhi.
- He captured butchers of an Amir's force, who were about to slaughter cattle.
- In retaliation, the Amir (Tatar Khan) attacked Kehlur, but was killed by Raja Abhaysaar Chand
- Later Raja and his son Sunder Chand were treacherously killed, after they went to meet enemy camp for reconciliation.

❖ Raja Sampooran Chand (1317-1351 A.D)

- His rule continued for a short-while.
- He was occupied by ill-feeling with younger brother Ratan Chand.
- He was Killed by his brother Ratan Chand.
- This was rare case among Hindu ruler when a younger brother killed his elder brother for the throne.

❖ Raja Rattan Chand (1355-1406 A.D)

- He killed a lion that was a terror for public .
- For this feat he received a reward of one lac and a quarter.
- He had a long reign marked by the cordial relations with Delhi court.

❖ Raja Narinder Chand

- Ratan Chand had two sons– Narinder Chand and Mian Mithu.
- He succeeded his father Ratan Chand.
- His subsequent successors were Fateh Chand,Pahar Chand ,Ram Chand and Uttam Chand.

Raja Gyan Chand or Ayam Chand (1518-1555 A.D)

- He was the 28th king of Bilaspur.
- He was the contemporary of Akbar.



- He lost battle against muslim governor of Sirhind and was imprisoned.
- Governor was impressed by Gyan chand and married his daughter to him .
- Moreover Gyan chand was persuaded to convert to Islam.
- He died in 1555 and was buried at Kiratpur.

❖ **Raja Gyan Chand had three sons-**

- Bik Chand , Rama and Bhima Chand
- Rama and Bhima embraced Islam with large numbers of people.
- Bik Chand remained under the influence of Hindu faith.
- He married the daughter of Raja Trilok Chand of Kangra.
- The Muslim inhabitants of Bilaspur today are largely the descendants of converts who were originally Hindus.

❖ **Raja Bik Chand/Bikram Chand (1555-1593)**

- He was the elder Son of Gyan Chand.
- He remained under the Hindu faith.
- He fled across the Satluj to a place sunhani and won kingdom after battle with his muslim kins.
- He abdicated during his lifetime in favour of his son Sultan Chand who also had to fight for the kingdom with his half brothers.
- Kehlur became tributary to the Mughals during the reign of Raja Bikram Chand in 1570.

❖ **Sultan Chand (1593-1600 A.D)**

- When Sultan became king, sometime later his brother Keshav Chand attacked Kehlur
- After fleeing Sultan Chand, he had to seek refuge with his maternal grandfather for 7 years in Kangra.
- 1600, Sultan Chand attacked Keshav Chand with the help of King Raja of Kangra, but it was decided that Sultan and Keshav Chand would fight in order to avoid the loss of life and property and this would decide who become the king.
- Unfortunately, both brothers were killed in this competition and Kalyan, son of Raja Sultan, was made the king .

❖ **Raja Kalyaan Chand 1630-1645 A.D**

- He was the 30th Raja of Kehlur and married daughter of Raja Shyam Sen of Suket.
- One day Kalyan chand and his Suketi Rani were playing chess, when hill bards in his praise called him “The Lord of seven dhars”.
- After knowing the names of these 7 dhars ,the Rani remarked that one of them was in Suket.
- This enraged Kalyan Chand and he struck her on the forehead with that chess board and drew blood.
- Soon afterwards ,he issued orders for the invasion of Suket and sent envoy to Suraj Sen of Mandi for help.
- The Rani secretly sent a letter to her father to warn him of the invasion.
- The battle took place near Mahadeo in which alliance of Kehlur and Mandi was defeated.

- Suraj Sen fled from the filed and injured Kalyan Chand tired to borrow a horse from his Kinsman Sanghwal

Mian but he refused.

- Finally Kalyan Chand was handed over to some Brahmins but he died on the way at a place which is still called “Kalyan Chand Ki Dwari”
- In 1645 Queen committed Sati after the death of the Kalyan.
- Kalyan Chand built a fort on the border of Hindur which caused a war between Bilaspur and Hindur.
- He also gave the land to Guru Har Govind Singh ji at Kiratpur & Kalyanpur.

❖ Raja Tara Chand (1645 A.D)

- Eldest son of Kalyan Chand.
- He was weak and timid Raja.
- He built the Taragarh fort in Hindur.

❖ Raja Deep Chand (1653-1665 A.D)

- He assisted the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, for which he received a khillat of 5 lakh rupees.
- Moreover, he also got a Sanad for control over 22 states including Kullu, Kangra, Mandi, Suket and Chamba.
- He shifted his capital from Sunhani to a place close to temple of Rangnath- Shiv and cave of Rishi Vyas.
- This capital was named Byaspur, which later was converted to Bilaspur.
- He also built Nahar Singh temple at Dholra for health of his Rani from Kullu.
- However, on way home from the imperial army, the Raja of Kangra (Chander Bhan Chand) poisoned him at Nadaun.
- Raja Deep Chand fixed the Saluts

❖ o Jai Deva to Raja

o

❖ Jai to Mians

❖ o Ram-Ram for the Ranas

❖ Raja Bhim Chand (1665-1692 A.D)

- He was born in 1651 and became a king when he was minor of 14 years.
- He resisted attack of Kangra, to save his position from his rebel uncle, Manak Chand.
- Sidh Sen of Mandi helped Bhim Chand in this expedition held at Jaboth near Bhambla.
- He defeated the Rajas of Bushahr, Mandi and Kotkhai, he subjected the 22 hill states who were under Kehlur, since times of Aurangzeb.

❖ Battle of Bhangani (1686)

- CONFLICT B/W GURU GOVIND SINGH AND RAJA BHIM CHAND OF KAHLUR
- He had 20 years of war with Guru Govind Singh in which he got defeated.
- In 1685 ,Bhim Chand along with Raja of Guler attacked Sikhs but got defeated.
- In 1686 ,Battle of Bhangani took place.
- In 1700 Raja Bhim Chand and Alam Chand of Kangra attacked sikhs but got defeated.
- In the last days of his life he spent as faqir after abdicating in favour of his son.
- He died in 1712 A.D
- He built the temple of Murari Devi
- Banswara wrote a couplet about his domination over the hill chiefs
- He along with Raja of Kangra & Guru Govind Singhji defeated the Mughal Governor Alif Khan in a battle.

❖ Battle of Nadaun (1691)

❖ Raja Ajmer Chand (1712-41 A.D)

- Ajmer Chand was the 34th Raja of Bilaspur.
- He was a strong ruler and took tribute from nearby states
- He married daughter of Raja Fateh Shah of Garhwal .
- Battle of Bhangani, 1686 AD occur during his marriage.
- Ajmer Chand built Ajmergarh fort on the border of Hindur and even pounded Sirhind's subedar.
- He died in pilgrimage to Kashi.

❖ Raja Devi Chand (1741-78 A.D)

- He helped Ghamand Chand of Kangra against Abhai Chand of Jaswan.
- Later on, Abhai Chand of Jaswan was expelled by his brother Jagrup Chand and Devi Chand restored him his state.
- He built a fort and tank at Mahal- Morian in Kangra, fort of Bhamaikot/Dhawaikot.
- During his reign,a revolt took place in Hindur and Raja Mahan Chand and his son both were killed.
- Devi Chand intervened and installed Gaje Singh Hindurea,a member of Hindur ruling family as Raja.
- He gave Ramgarh fort to Bejai Chand of Hindur.
- He also recovered his territories from the Mughals and Adina Beg Khan (Nawab of Jalandhar at that time).
- He was contemporary of Nadir Shah.
- His reign was prosperous and even people from outside of state settled here.
- Raja Devi Chand was married to Katoch Princess called Nagar Devi and both had a son, named Mahan Chand (born 1772 AD), Raja die when Mahan was of 6.

❖ Raja Mahan Chand (1778-1824 A.D)

- Mahan being a minor, his mother and Ramu Wazir (Raman of Darol family) carried on administration for some time.
- In 1792 AD, Mahan Chand got majority and took over the Kingdom but he was indulgent and state went to disaster for many years.
- Kangra and Kehlur had boundary disputes, which made Rajmata to support Mughal Governor of Kangra fort, against MSC (Maharaja Sansar Chand).
- MSC was angry with Kehlur for supporting Mughal Governor Saif Ali Khan, during Kangra fort seized laid by him in 1781-83 AD.
- MSC took revenge and later harassed Kehlur Kingdom in coming years.
- In 1793 AD. MSC beat Mahan Chand of Kehlur. Moreover, Rajmata invited Raja Dharam Prakash (brother- in- law of MSC) and gave assurance of the payment of Rs. 50,000.
- Dharam Prakash had earlier been humiliated many times by his wife (sister of MSC) while praising MSC.
- Therefore, he was keen to prove a point, but was killed by MSC, in a duel while supporting Kehlur in 1893.
- After beating Kehlur, MSC constructed 'Chhatipur' fort (fort on chest of Bilaspur) on Janjar Dhar/ Chanjar

Dhar

- After the defeat in Punjab plains in 1803-04 AD by Mahraja Ranjit Singh (MRS), MSC in 1805 AD, attacked

Kehlur and captured pargana of Batee in Mahal Morian.

- He also captured two fortresses named Tiwan and Sariwan from Kehlur. However, Kulwant Rai, an official of Bilaspur tried to persuade MSC to give back forts, which was rejected out-rightly.
- Frustrated, Mahan Chand invited Gorkha, Amar Singh Thapa (Gorkha) in 1805, but after intervention of MRS, Gorkhas were compelled to retire across the Sutlej in 1809.
- When British commander Arnold captured Bitasnur, city.
- Mahan Chand was in dilemma that British would hand over his Kingdom to other person.
- There was marriage between Bilaspur King Family and Amar Singh Family.
- However, after British capturing Bilaspur, Mahan Chand left Amar Singh Thapa and took shelter under

British.

- During Anglo-Gorkha war in 1814 AD, Mahan Chand helped Gorkhas, but later conceded to British and got

Sanad on 6th March 1815 AD.

- In spite of the treaty with British, he lost claims on principalities of Shimla hills and Jhandhari.
- In 1819, the Sikhs under Desa Singh Majitha with support of MSC troops invaded Bilaspur territory on the right bank of the Satluj and occupied Dhar Kot.
- Moorcroft visited Bilaspur in 1820 AD.

❖ Raja Kharak Chand (1824-1839 A.D)

- He was born in 1813 and there was an astrological prediction that Kharak Chand will bring disaster to Bilaspur. Father, Mahan Chand was advised by astrologers not to see him for 12 years.

- Mahan saw him after 10 years, and it is perceived that this action might have caused Mahan's death in 1824 AD.
- Kharak Chand got reins at age of 11 years, and ruled for period which is called as darkest hour of Bilaspur state.
- He was indulgent and cruel, and use to publicly hang people without any reason.
- When his atrocities became unbearable ,the people went to Mian Jagat Chand (Raja's Uncle) and begged for help.
- A revolt was led against the Raja and fighting continued for some time.
- Raja contracted smallpox and died in 1839, at the early age of 26 years.
- The German traveller Warrenhegel (1835) and G. Teivigne (1839) had visited Kehlur.

❖ Raja Jagat Chand (1839-1857 A.D)

- Kharak Chand died issueless and his Wazir Mian Jangi (Jagat Chand) was made king.
- One of the two Ranis of Kharak Chand was pregnant and gave birth to a son at her parental house in Sirmaur.
- The Ranis then returned to Bilaspur with an army furnished by the Raja of Sirmaur and a force from Suket to claim the gaddi.
- Raja Jagat Chand fled to Hindur to save his life.
- On receiving this information,the political agent of Ambala George Russel clerk restored Jagat Chand again to power.
- Raja Ram Saran of Hindur also helped Jagat Chand.
- In 1847 ,Jagat Chand got back the territory annexed by Sikhs in 1809 on the right bank of the Satluj.
- Raja Jagat Chand had only one son named Narpat Chand who died in 1844,leaving a son named Hira Chand.
- In 1850,Jagat Chand abdicated the throne in favour of his grandson and retired to vrindavan.
- Later in 1835 & 1839 AD, French Traveller, Vigne passed through Bilaspur and met Raja Kharak Chand.

❖ Raja Hira Chand (1857-1882 A.D)

- Hira Chand extended valuable support to the British during 1857 revolt .
- In acknowledgement of which a salute of eleven guns was granted as a honour to the state.
- His reign is remembered as the Golden age in the history of Bilaspur.
- He introduced positive changes in administration and revenue.

❖ Land /Revenue Reforms by Raja Hira Chand

- Till 1863 the revenue was payed in kind i.e 1/3rd of produce.
- He recognized this system and made revenue demand payable partially in cash and partly in Kind in certain selected portion of the territory.
- In 1867 a strip of land called "Based" "Bachhretu" was restored to state .
- In 1867, the long strip of territory called Kot Dhar, which had been occupied by the Sikhs in 1819, was restored to Bilaspur.
- Lord Mayo visited Bilaspur in 1871 AD.
- Hira Chand attended proclamation Darbar of 1877, and got a medal.



- He also started building new palace in Bilaspur at Sandhu near Satluj.
- In 1882 ,Hira chand accompanied by his son paid visit to Shimla.
- Raja develop serious illness , while his way back from Shimla and died on the way at Mahol.

❖ Raja Amar Chand (1883-1888 A.D)

- Raja Amar Chand was installed in January 1883, and had a short reign of 6 years.
- He faced Jugga of people in 1883-84 AD. i.e Jugga movement in Bilaspur took place during his regin.
- He was having an artistic temperament and was first amateur painter of Kangra & Shimla Hills.
- Amar Chand abolished begar and introduced a tax at the rate of 25% called Bathanga.
- He started practice of maintaining accounts in Devnagari, opened first hospital in the State and organized a Forest Department.
- He constructed a suspension bridge over Satluj.
- He constructed a suspension bridge across the Satluj at Bhajwani. He died in 1888 at the age of 31 years.
- Raja Amar Chand of Bilaspur introduced system of confiscation of shashanas (revenue free grants), which led to the Jhugga movement in 1883-84.
- Bijai Chand of 16 years was made next chief, and he got majority in 1893.
- Raja was finding it difficult to manage affairs of state and tolerate British intervention

Raja Bijai Chand (43rd Raja 1889 to 1927 A.D)

- He effected many reforms in the state administration.
- The system of court fee and non judicial stamps were introduced for the first time.
- Laid water supply system in Bilaspur town.
- Irritated with British interference, he left his kingdom for Banaras in 1902, and came back in 1909.
- In the first World War (1914-18) ,he extended all possible help to the British.
- In acknowledgment of his services he was decorated with the title of Knight companion in the most Eminent order of the Indian

Empire (K.C.I.E)and the honorary rank of a major.

- In 1927, he abdicated in favour of his son

Anand Chand, and again retired to Banaras.

- He built the 'Rang Mahal' the Raja also has an estate at Banaras called 'Bilas-Bhawan

❖ He built his residence at various places—

- In Varanasi (1896-1902)
- Summer house at Bahadurpur
- At a place called Haridwar near Bilaspur
- Rang Mahal palace at Bilaspur

❖ Raja Anand Chand (1933 to 1948 AD)

- He was born on 26th January 1913 and acceded to gaddi in 1928.
- He was educated at Mayo College Ajmer.
- He married Princess Umawati of Jubbal (1931 AD) and 'barat' met Gandhiji who was on his way to meet the Viceroy Lord Irwin (for Gandhi-Irwin Pact).
- Anand Chand became Chief Commissioner of Bilaspur on 12th of October 1948 AD, which was made a part 'C' state.
- He handed over the charge of Chief Commissioner to Chand Chhabra , who continued till 1953 ultimately submitted reins to Major Gen Himmat Singh.
- On 1st July 1954 Bilaspur was merged within in HP.
- He was decorated with K.C.I.E (Knight Companion in the most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire)
- He abolished child marriage ,Begar and introduced prohibition of liquor in Bilaspur by an act in 1942.
- He constructed new roads linking Bilaspur with Suket and Mandi.
- He opened new schools and health centre.
- Also Built Shri Gopalji temple and a new palace, which are now submerged.
- He authored a book—Bilaspur past ,present and future



DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

06

Una

Gateway of Himachal

❖ Geography of Una

- Una is a district located in the south-western region of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is bordered by---
- Kangra in the North
- Hamirpur in the East
- Bilaspur district in the South
- Hoshiarpur district of Punjab in the West

❖ Rivers

❖ Swan River

- Originates in the lower Shivalik Range
- Swan River originates in the lower Shivalik Range.
- It is a seasonal river that flows across the Jaswan valley towards the south.
- Merges with the Satluj near Anandpur.
- Also called “River of Sorrows” by local people.
- Intersects Una district in almost two equal parts.

❖ Sombhadra River

- Originates in the lower Shivalik Range and joins the Beas River.

❖ Palkhad River

- Originates in the lower Shivalik Range joins the Beas River.
- A popular spot for fishing and boating.

❖ Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan (C-DAP)

❖ Location and Geographical Units

The district is located in the sub-mountainous zone of Himachal Pradesh along the interstate boundary between Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. It extends from 31°-17-52" to 31-52'-0" north and 75°-58- 02" to 76-28'-25" east longitude. The total geographical area of the district is 1540 sq. km which is 2.8 % of the total area of the state. The major portion of the district falls in the structural valley (valley formed by techtonic processes like folding and faulting), locally called as doon, which is drained by river Soan (also spelled as Swan) and its tributaries. Prior to reorganization of Punjab in 1966 the district was part of Hoshiarpur district of Punjab as one of its tehsils with tehsil headquarters at Una.

❖ Hill ranges

- Una district is in Himalayan foothills and is bounded by plains of Punjab in the West and Solahansinghi Dhar in East.
- The sub-Himalyan hills commonly known as Solahsinghi or Jaswan

Dhar range commences near Talwara on the Beas where the river touches the district running southeast.

- Solahsinghi Dhar forms the border between the Una district and Kangra district.
- Una district is divided into three tehsils: Una, Bangana, and Amb, which are further subdivided into 13 blocks.
- It is situated in the lower Shivalik hills.
- The district is drained by the Sutlej river and its tributaries, including the Swan, Chintpurni, and Sombhadra rivers.
- Major towns in Una district include Una, Mehatpur Basdehra, Santokhgarh, and Amb.
- Una town is the headquarters of the district and is located on the banks of the Swan river.
- The town is known for its historical significance and is home to several ancient temples, including the Chintpurni Temple and the Dera Baba Bharbhag Singh Temple.

❖ Valleys

- Bangana Valley
- Amb Valley
- Gagret Valley
- Chintpurni Valley
- Dera Baba Bharbhag Singh Valley

❖ Fair and Festivals

❖ Chintpurni Fair

❖ Piplu Fair

- 3-days District –level fair
- Held at Thakurdwara (Lord Narsingh temple) in Piplu village of Bangana

❖ Baba Balak Nath Fair

- Una district was mainly under Jaswan princely state and Kulehar princely state.
- Earlier both the princely states were part of Kangra princely state.

❖ Jaswan Princely State

- Most part of the of Una district came under Jaswan princely state which was the branch of Kangra princely state.
- Jaswan princely state was founded by King Purvachand / Purab chand of Katoch dynasty of Kangra in 1170 AD.
- Its capital was located at Rajpur near Amb.
- Jaswan was the first princely Kangra, break away from Kangra.
- This princely state was ruled by 27 kings from Purvachand to Umaid Singh.
- During the Mughal period, the princely state of Jaswan came under the Mughals at Chand of Akbar.
- At that time the king of Jaswan was Govind Chand.
- Govind Chand's grandson Anirudh Chand rebelled against the Mughals twice.
- Jaswan came into the possession of Sansar Chand at the time of Sansar Chand's invasion.
- The princely state of Jaswan was captured by the Sikhs in 1815 AD.
- In the second Sikh War in the year 1848.
- Umaid Singh sided with the Sikhs against the British.
- Umaid Singh and his son Jai Singh were arrested and sent to Almora where he died.

❖ Kulehar Princely State

- Kulehar princely state was also a part of Una district-which was broken from Kangra princely state.
- Kulehar principality was formerly known as Chowki Kulehar.
- Kulehar was the smallest princely state of Kangra region. This princely state was ruled by 40 kings.
- Kulehar principanty was founded by a Brahmin named Jaspal, He established his capital at Kot-Kahlur.
- Jaspal's son and grandson established the princely states of Bhajji and Koti.
- The northern province of Kulehar principality was captured by Ghamand Chand in 1758 AD.
- Sansar Chand captured Kulehar in 1786 AD,



- In the year 1809 AD, the state came under the Sikhs.
- Raja Narayan Pal of Kutlehar fought Ranjit Singh for the Kautwalwah Fort in 1825 AD.
- The last king of the princely state of Kutlehar was Brijmohan Pal.
- Bedi Vikram Singh revolted against the British in 1848 AD.

❖ Brij Mohan Pal

- Raja of Kutlehar from 1928-1937 .
- He was born in 1890 .
- 5th Viceregal Darbari in Kangra district.

❖ Formation of Present day Una District

- The present Una district was tehsil of Hoshiarpur district of Punjab before 1966 AD.
- Una was a part of Kangra district from 1966 AD to 1972 AD.
- In 1972, the Himachal Pradesh government reorganized the then Kangra district into three districts namely

Una ,Hamirpur and Kangra.

- The foundation of the city of Una was laid by Baba Kaladhari.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

07 | Lahaul and Spiti

The Cold Desert

❖ Geography of Lahaul Spiti

- Lahaul-Spiti became a district of Himachal Pradesh (Punjab hill areas) in 1960.
- It is one of the frontier districts (border separating two countries) of India.
- It is separated in the North from Jammu & Kashmir, Tibet in the East, and Kullu, Kinnaur in South-East, and Chamba in the South-West and West.
- The two valleys, Lahaul and Spiti, have a tenuous link over the Kunzam pass. The threshold of the Lahaul plateau is nourished by the Chandra and Bhaga rivers.
- The region is dry and very cold and is surrounded by high mountains on all sides, with the Great Himalayas to the North, the Pir Panjal to the South, and the Spiti and Chandra watershed to the East.

❖ Rivers

❖ Chenab River

- One of the major rivers in Lahaul.
- Originates from the glaciers in the upper Himalayas and flows through the region before joining the Indus

River in Pakistan.

❖ Bhaga River

- Tributary of the Chenab River and flows through the Lahaul Valley.
- It originates from the Baralacha La pass and merges with the Chandra River to form the Chenab River.

❖ Zaskar river

- Rises in extreme north of Lahaul region and meets Bhaga river at Darcha.

❖ Chandra River

- Tributary of the Chenab River and originates from the high-altitude glaciers in the region.
- It flows through the Lahaul Valley and is known for its scenic beauty and crystal-clear waters.

❖ Spiti River

- The Spiti River is a tributary of the Sutlej River and flows through the Spiti Valley in Lahaul.
- It flows in both district of Lahaul and Kinnaur.
- It meets sutlej at Khab/Namgiya Khab.
- Guindi Nala ,Pari lungbi chu ,Pin river and Lingti river are its main tributaries.

❖ Mayar Nallah

- A small tributary of the Bhaga River and is known for its trout fishing.
- The river flows through the Mayar Valley and is surrounded by beautiful mountains and forests.

❖ Valleys and Passes

❖ Valleys

❖ Lahaul Valley

- lies to the North of the Pir Panjal and main Himalayan ranges.

❖ Chandra Valley

- locally called 'Rangoli'.

❖ Bhaga Valley

- locally called 'Gara'.
- Pattan Valley or Chandra-Bhaga Valley
- It is also called as orchards and granary of Lahaul-Spiti.

❖ Spiti Valley

- formed by the Spiti river.
- It is situated between the main Himalayan and Zaskar ranges.
- The length of valley from Kunzam pass to Sumdo.

❖ Pin Valley

- formed by the Pin river, which rises on the eastern slopes of Parbati pass and meets the Spiti river exactly opposite Lingti village.
- It has been declared a national park.

❖ Lingti Valley

- Largest and Longest side valley of Spiti.
- a living geological museum
- ‘Gya peak’ is also there in Lingti valley.

❖ Mulang Valley

- Pari Lungbi

❖ Passes

❖ Rohtang Pass

- Links between Lahaul with Kullu.
- (Ro-thang means-- plain of corpses) claims some human lives every year.

❖ Banghal Pass

- lies between Lahaul and Bara Banghal.

❖ Shing-dkon Pass

- Falls between Lahaul and Zanskar.

❖ Baralacha Pass

- (Para-latse = Pass with cross roads on summit, where roads from Zanskar ,Ladakh , Spiti and Lahaul meet.

❖ Kugti Pass

- Lying between Lahaul and Bharmaur (Chamba).
- It is used mostly by the Gaddi shepherds

❖ Kunzam Pass

- located between Lahaul and Spiti

❖ Glaciers in Lahaul & Spiti

- Glaciers in local language are known as Shigri.
- The prominent glacier of Chandra valley in Lahaul are
- Bara Shigri , Chhota Shigri, Pacha, Kulti, Shipting, Ding Karmo, Tapn, Gyephang, Shili, Bolunag and Shamundri.

- The main glacier in Pattan valley are—
- Shila, Kugti, Lainghar, Doksha and Nilkant.
- The important glacier of the Bhaga valley are --Milang, Mukkila, Lady of keylong and Gangstang.

❖ Bara Shigri Glacier

- It is one of the largest glaciers in Himachal Pradesh and is located in the Chandra Valley.
- Source of the Chandra River.
- in the year 1936 this glacier caused a great havoc in Chandra valley and formed a Chandertal lake.

❖ Gyepang Glacier

- Named after the supreme Gyeppang deity of Lahaul valley which had temple at Sarahan.
- The Gyeppang peak is shaped somewhat like Matterhorn in Switzerland.
- The local fanatics considered it the Manimahesh of Lahaul.

❖ Kulti glacier

- It is near Koksar.

❖ Milang glacier

- to the North of Kulti is located between Darcha and Khekrar.

❖ Taragiri glacier

- It is also located near Milang glacier.

❖ Samundri Tapu Glacier

- source of the Bhaga River.

❖ Sonapani Glacier

- It is located in the Miyar Valley and is the source of the Miyar River.

❖ Lady of Keylong Glacier

- This glacier is located near Keylong and is visible from the town.
- Named after Lady Elashaingly
- Gepang Gath Glacier: It is located in the Pattan Valley and is the source of the Chandra River.

❖ Gangtang Glacier

- Located near the village of Kaza in the Spiti Valley and is the source of the Spiti River.

❖ Lakes

1. Chandratal Lake
2. Suraj Tal Lake
3. Deepaktal Lake
4. Yunam-so Lake
5. Neelkanth Lake (Tappan Valley of Lahaul)
6. Dhankar Lake
7. Sissu Lake

❖ Fairs

❖ La Darcha Fair

- Held in the month of July or August every year in the village of Kaza in Spiti.
- major attraction and is attended by traders, tourists, and locals from all over the region.

❖ Pauri fair

- It is held at Trilokinath Temple in Udaipur village.

❖ Festivals

❖ Halda Festival:

- This is a winter festival celebrated in the month of December or January in the Pattan Valley of Lahaul.
- People light bonfires and offer prayers to the deities for a good harvest and prosperity.
- Halda is a festival of lights celebrated in Magha Poornima.

❖ Lossar Festival:

- This is a New Year festival celebrated in the month of February in both Lahaul and Spiti.

❖ Tsheshu Festival:

- This is a summer festival celebrated in the month of June in the Kibber region of Spiti.
- It involves traditional masked dances, music, and feasting.

❖ Ghantal Festival:

- This is an annual fair held at the Guru Ghantal Gompa in Lahaul in the month of June.
- Lamas and Thakurs participate in the fair, and traditional dances and music are performed.

❖ Gotsi /Gochi Festival:

- celebrated in Chandra and Bhaga valley
- Celebrated at a house where a son is born during preceeding year.

❖ Fagli Festival

- It has the same importance as Shivratri has elsewhere in India.
- This festival is locally known as Kus or Kuns and is the most important festival in Pattan valley.

Gyalto festival --People bid farewell to the old year.

Bumkhor festival -- religious festival related to agriculture.

- People believe that if the religious books are taken around the fields,there will be bumper crop.

Chhishu or Shisha festival-- Symbolic of good times in the region.

Dachang festival --It is festival of arrows..

Thon-thon festival --marks the end of the winter.

Yane festival --In this festival God Triloknath is worshipped by old men and women.

Namgan festival -- Celebrated in the month of September on the occasion of the harvest.

Chho Thang festival -- Lama is called from Gompa and he reads “Tanjives” consisting of 108 scriptures.

Bhinger festival-- Celebrated on the birth of Son or first daughter .

Gutor festival -- Festival of Spiti region held in the monasteries of Kee , Tabo , Dhankar and Pin in the month of November.

Jigied festival -celebrated in Spiti region at Thang Jayl monastery

❖ Chakhr festival

- It is celebrated every four years.
- Lamas worship God Chikchait , for six days and continue performing Chham dance.

❖ Sonchoti festival

- Post death ceremony
- It is a peculiar festival of Pin valley



❖ Galten Amchauth

- Festival of Diyaas
- This festival is celebrated on the account of the birthday of preacher of Buddhism J.Chaukava.
- On this day , the people of Spiti light their homes with 'Deepaks'.

Lachhang --Celebrated for the welcome of winter season.

Pingri-- Celebrated to mark birthday.

Paklen --Celebrated at the time of marriage.

❖ Tribes

❖ Lahauls

- dwellers of Lahaul area are known as Lahauls.
- They are mainly Buddhist and their dialect resembles Tibetan.
- Lahaul have evolved from the cross breeding of Aryan and Mongolian racial types.

❖ Khampa

- believed to have migrated from Tibet.
- Kham is the name of a state in Tibet and the people state are known as 'Khampa'.
- They are scattered in Kullu, Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti district.

❖ SWANGLA

- scheduled tribe exclusively living in the Pattan valley tract along the Chandra-bhaga in Lahaul Spiti district.
- Manchhad and Chinali two types of languages spoken by the Swanglas.

❖ Temples

❖ TRILOKINATH TEMPLE

- Located at Village 'Tunde' in district Lahaul-Spiti and is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Temple represents Kashmiri-Kannauj art which flourished during the period of Raja Lalitaditya of Kashmir

(725-756 A.D.).

- Temple is sacred to both Buddhists and Hindus alike.

❖ MRIKULA DEVI TEMPLE

- This temple is located in the town of Udaipur and is dedicated to Mrikula Devi, a local goddess.



- The ancient name of 'Udaipur' was 'Moorgul' or 'Mrikul'.
- This temple was built by Raja Ajay Varman of Kashmir.
- It has a unique architecture and is believed to be more than 1,400 years old.

❖ Keylong Chaam Temple

- This temple is located in the town of Keylong and is known for its traditional dance festival called "chaam" which is held during the month of July.

❖ Monasteries in Lahaul

❖ Guru Ghantal Gompa:

- in village Tupchiling
- Belongs to 8th century A.D., consecrated by Guru Padamsambhav
- One of the 84 sidhas of Buddhists performed tapasya' here
- Idol dedicated to Bajreshwari Devi in the Gompa

❖ Gemur Monastery:

- Located in Bhaga Valley
- Sculpture of 'Marichi Vajravarahi' belongs to 11th-12th centuries A.D.
- Figure of the goddess in Kashmiri style

❖ Sashur Gompa :

- Built in the 17th century by 'Deva Gyatso'
- Belongs to red hat sect

❖ Kardang Gompa:

- Situated in the village Kardang at h Rangch peak'
- Erected around A.D. 900, renovated by Lama Norbu in 1912

❖ Tayul Gompa:

- Built in the 17th century by a 'Lama Sarjan Rinchain'
- Statue of 'Padma Sambhava' and his two manifestations as 'Singhmukha' and "Vajravarashi
- Library houses 101 volumes of 'Kangyur'and 'Tankhas'.

❖ Monasteries in Spiti

❖ Ki Monastery:

- Located in the village of Kibber, this monastery is one of the largest and oldest in Spiti Valley.

❖ Tabo Monastery:

- Built by Western Tibet ruler named “Ye-Sashoad” .
- Known as Ajanta of Himalayas.
- known for its ancient paintings, murals, and sculptures and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

❖ Dhankar Monastery:

- This monastery is located in the village of Dhankar and is one of the oldest in Spiti Valley.

❖ Kungri Monastery:

- Located in the Pin Valley.
- It is also home to a sacred pond and is considered a spiritual center by the locals.

❖ Tangyud Monastery:

- Located in the village of Komic,.
- This monastery is one of the highest in the world, located at an altitude of 4,587 meters.
- It is known for its ancient murals, manuscripts, and thangkas.

❖ Lhalung Monastery

- is located in the village of Lhalung

❖ Famous Dances-

- Bhudden Dance
- Lang-dar-ma (an evil king dance)
- Kayad Dance
- The Shabu dance-- is danced at festivals and depicts the beliefs and feelings of the people in this area.
- Chhanak Chham
- Shunto - This dance is performed by men to a song in praise of Budha.
- Shenai- performed by both men and women
- Ghure- dancers move in a circle and semi circle without linking their arms to one another

- Garphi- oldest dance in Lahaul & Spiti
- Chham Dance-- performed by the Lamas during Buddhist festivals. The dancers wear colorful masks and costumes, and perform intricate movements to the accompaniment of traditional music.
- Gochi Dance-This is a traditional dance of the Gochi community of Lahaul.
- Kharait Dance
- This is a traditional dance of the Kharait community of Spiti.
- The dancers perform in a circle, holding hands, and sing songs about their history and culture.
- Shand Dance
- The dancers wear colorful costumes and perform movements that mimic the movements of animals, such as the deer and the snow leopard

❖ People of Lahaul & Spiti

- The people in the valleys of Gara and Rangoli (Bhaga and Chandra) have marked admixture of Mongoloid and Indian features in both men and women.
- People of the Spiti and Pin valleys have completely Mongoloid features.
- The people of the Lahaul are a mixed race.
- Linguistic researches have proved that in remote past, Lahaul was the home of an aboriginal tribe whose language and features resembled those of the 'Munda tribes' of Bengal and Central India.
- At a later period Tibetan settlers who came from the South and West, settled in Lahaul.
- The Saka and Khasa tribes of Central Asia were driven out by the Huns between the 6th century B.C. and the 5th century A.D.
- Many of these settled down in the Mid Himalayas between Garhwal and Ladakh.
- There is a nullah near Keylong known as the 'Shaks nullah' which seems to have taken its name after the Saka tribe that is believed to have settled in the Bhaga valley.
- Thus Lahaulis are the ultimate product of these different races.

❖ Lahaul

❖ Lahaul Geography

- Andrew willson a European traveler called Lahaul “A valley of Glaciers”.
- The small province of Lahaul is known by three different names viz. Lahaul, Garzha and Swangla.

❖ Origin of name “Lahaul & Spiti”

- Lahaul & Spiti now form a district of Himachal Pradesh and border Tibet.
- At one time, they were separate Himalayan waziries of the Kullu sub-divisions.
- Kullu itself formed a part of the Kangra district of Punjab.
- The district comprises two different mountain tracts, one known as Lahaul and the other as Spiti.

- The name of the district came into being with the formation of these two parts into a revenue district.
- The names Lahaul & Spiti have different origins.
- Origin of name “Lahaul”
- According to Cunningham, the name Lahaul comes from the Tibetan word "Lho-yul", which means "southern country".
- This view is not acceptable because the name Lahaul existed as early as 7th century A.D and was known to the people of Kullu as such from whom Hiuen-Tsang learned about it.
- Yet another theory suggests that it is derived from the word "Lho-yag", which means "southern pasture" in Tibetan.
- According to Rahul Sankritayan, Lahaul means “the country of God” (Lha-yul) .
- Another meaning could be as the "country of passes”(Lha-yul), this would be infact the most appropriatemeaning.
- Andrews willson suggested that lahaul is a Hindustani word signifying a wilderness

(Uncultivated/Uninhabited).

- Gargans suggested that lahaul is a word of Tha-Pa in the Dialect of Tod.
- Hiuen Tsang stated that Lahaul was 1800 or 1900 li (575 or 610 Km) distant by road from the middle of Kiu- lu-to (Kulu).
- This is a gross overestimate as the first village in Lahaul is only about 70 kms from Sultanpur.
- Despite this error, Lahaul is clearly the country referred to in Hiuen Tsiang's account.
- However, the Tibetan Li-yul has also been identified with Khotan, which could explain Hiuen Tsiang's confusion.
- It is possible that Hiuen Tsiang confused the two countries as Li-yul (Khotan) and Lo-u-lo (Lahaul) in his estimate of distances, which was derived from hearsay.
- Gharza is used in the dialect of Tinan, Punan and Stod of Lahaul and languages of Spiti ,Zanskar ,Ladakh and Tibet.
- Francke suggested that the word Garzha is made up of two original names Jha- Signifying an ancient tribe and Dkar-Jhwa meaning white cap.
- The Buddhist scriptures, Padma Thangyang and Mam-kambum, mention a country called Khasa or Hasha located south of Ladakh and Zanskar. It's possible that Garzha is a corruption of Khasa or Hasha.

❖ Swangla –

- in the dialect of Manchad, Lahaul is known as Swangla.
- Rahul was the son of Buddha and name Lahaul is derived from Rahul.

❖ Spiti

- Spiti ---Si- means 'Mani'(Pearl), Piti- means place.
- Spiti- “the place of Mani”
- Spiti is also called "Piti" a veritable.
- Spiti is protected by the main Himalayas in the East , Chocho-Lang “Kilta peak” in the North , 'Manirang peak' in the South of Spiti and is is separated from Lahaul by the Kunzam range in the West.
- Spiti is a living museum, geographically and archaeologically.

❖ Spiti has four distinct regions:

Sham, Pin, Bhar, and Tud

❖ Sham

- lower region situated on both sides of the river Spiti between its confluence with Lingti and its junction with Pare.

❖ Pin region

- Situated on either side of Spiti river.

❖ Bhar

- the middle region is located midway of the river above Kaza

❖ Tud

- the higher region includes areas above Spiti and waste tracts of Tsarab

❖ Location of Shangri-la:

- Shangri-la is a cold mountain desert located on the Tibetan border
- It is flanked on the Southeast by the district of Kinnaur, Northeast by Tibet, North by Ladakh, West by Lahaul, and South by the district of Kullu.

❖ Early history of Lahaul and Spiti

- Manu was one of the earliest rulers of the land and ruled between 3100 B.C. and 2550 B.C.
- Lahaul-Spiti must have been either part of the 'Kalakluta' or 'Mandamati' territory in ancient times.
- The Himalayas were part of the Ashokan empire and from the period of Kanishka, Kashmir to Kafiristan, there was a great Janapada 'Ki-Pin'.
- The Kunindas tribe was ruling in the neighbourhood of Yamuna, Satluj and Beas, and Lahaul-Spiti must have been a part of it.
- Kullu was inhabited by Kulutas and the territory to the east of Kangra was occupied by Audumbaras.
- Yashodharman of Malwa (A.D. 530-540) had his empire up to the Himalayas in the North.
- All the kingdoms of 'Kapisa', 'Kashmir', 'Kuluta', 'Satadur', 'Mo-li-pa-La' and 'Suwarbngootra' were situated in the high Himalayas, ruled by women and was known as the Kingdom of women.
- During the Kushan Empire, North India including Central Asia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and East Iran were united under a single state formation.
- Coins and inscriptions from this period have been found in Kanihara in Kangra and a stupa named 'Kanishka

Chaitya' has been found in Zaskar, indicating that Ladakh was part of the Kushan Empire. It is likely that Lahaul also formed part of this empire.

- During the Gupta period, Lahaul was probably an outland. The most powerful of the Guptas, Samudragupta's empire extended only up to the Beas Valley.
- However, during the reign of Harshavardhana of Thanesar (A.D. 606-664), Lahaul again became connected with the great empires. The principalities of Brahmpura and Kullu were included in the empire of Harshavardhana, which led to Lahaul's connection with the empire.
- In the Kullu annals, it is stated that Chamba founded in A.D. 550 with its capital at Brahmpura (Bharmaur), conquered Lahaul in A.D. 600 but soon lost it, perhaps only a portion, to Kullu.
- Hieun Tsang visited Kullu in A.D. 635 and mentioned Lahaul as 'La-hua-La'.

❖ History of Spiti

- Spiti was ruled by the Sen Kings, with Samudra Sen as one of the earliest known rulers.
- Kullu became tributary to Spiti during the reign of Rajendra Sen.
- Spiti's fortunes declined during the reign of Chet Sen and it was annexed by Ladakh in the 7th century.
- During the rule of Skyid-Lde-Ni-Ma-Mgaon, Ladakh's kingdom extended from Northern mountain ranges to Raduk, including Demchong, Guge, and modern district of Lahaul-Spiti.
- Spiti's rulers were the 'Nonos' from the beginning and during Ladakh's strong rule, it was an integral part, while during the weak rule, it was an autonomous state.
- in the 8th century AD, the Raja of Chamba became a vassal of Kashmir, indirectly bringing Lahaul under the influence of Kashmir.

❖ Source of Kashmir influence on Lahaul

- Carved wooden reliefs in the mixed Kashmir-Kannauj style of Lalitaditya's period have been found at Maylang in Lahaul, indicating the influence of Kashmir art and culture in the region.
- Vestiges of Kashmir art can also be traced at Markula-Udaipur and Trilokinath.
- Two inscriptions in Sarda Character, possibly belonging to the period of AD 900-1000, have been found near Tinan.
- The influence of Kashmir lasted till the 11th century AD, and a pure Kashmiri temple was erected or reconstructed at Markula-Udaipur, leaving its mark in the region's cultural history.

❖ Rule of Ladakh over Lahaul

❖ Lha-Chen Utpala (1080-1110 A.D)

- Lhachen Utpala was an early ruler of Ladakh.
- Ladakh's rule over Lahaul began when Lha-chen Utpala invaded Kullu and the Raja of Kullu Sikender Pal

(Son of Uchit Pal) promised to pay tribute in the form of iron and mdsos (crossbreed between yak and cow).

- It is believed that Lahaul was conquered by Ladakh during this invasion because mdsos could only be found in Lahaul, and the king of Kullu promised to give them as tribute.

- Lahaul may have been a province of Kullu before Ladakh's invasion, with some parts possibly held by Chamba.
- Chamba may have held the main valley of Lahaul almost as far as the junction of Chandra and Bhaga rivers at Gus, while Kullu had some influence in the Chandra and Bhaga valleys.
- In early times, Kullu had its capital at 'Nast' (Jagat Sukh) and Chamba at Brahampur (Bharmaur), which could have given them easy control over Lahaul.
- According to one tradition, Chamba appears once to have been ruling all over Lahaul.
- In the 'HISTORY OF GODS' it is related that one of the gods went to Chamba to demand half of his kingdom from the Raja of that country.
- Moreover, Lahaul is accessible more conveniently from Chamba than Kullu.
- King Utpala is believed to have subjugated entire Lahaul, converting Marikula Devi temple into a shrine of Marichi Vajravahni.
- Prior to his accession to the throne, King Utpala was a chieftain of a small principality under the suzerainty of Guge.
- King Utpala's successful wars enabled him to subjugate Kullu and end the suzerainty of Guge over Ladakh.
- After King Utpala's invasion, the subordination of Kullu and Chamba came to an end in Lahaul.
- The local chiefs were then made directly responsible to the king of Ladakh.
- The Jos' (Thakurs), related to the kings of Ladakh, were installed at this time by the king of Ladakh.

❖ Kullu's Rule over Lahaul

- Kullu's rule over Lahaul first recorded during Bahadur Singh's reign (1532-1559) in the Chronicle of Tinan.
- Bahadur Singh annexed a considerable portion of Lahaul to Kullu.
- Kullu's rule over Lahaul was unbroken from the reign of Bahadur Singh till both Kullu and Lahaul were conquered by the Sikhs around 1840.
- It is said that there is an eclipse of Kullu rule for thirty-five years.

❖ Invasion of Ladakh by Mongols

- In 1683, during the reign of bDe-legs-rnam-rgyal Ladakh was invaded by the QALMAQS (Mongols) during a conflict between two religious sects in Tibet.
- Ladakh supported the Dugpa sect (who wears red hat) while the Gelugpa sect (who wear yellow hat) invited the Mongols for help.
- Lahaul, whose lamas were followers of the Dugpa sect, was also invaded by the Mongols.
- The invasion is known as the Sog-po invasion in Lahaul and as an invasion by Tibet in the Chronicle of Keylong.
- The Mongol army stayed in Lahaul for two years, stormed the fort of Keylong, and was ultimately defeated by a glacier near 'Tinan'.
- The Ladakhis sought aid from the Mughals, who sent troops commanded by Fidai Khasn from Kashmir.
- The Mughals defeated the Mongols and returned with much booty.
- bDe-legs-rnam-rgyal had to pay a heavy bill for the aid rendered by Fidai Khan.
- Bidhi Singh of Kullu helped the Mughals and was rewarded with the annexation of the portion of Upper

Lahaul, called 'Dartse'.

- Kullu could never extend its reign beyond Thiroth towards Triloknath, which remained the dividing boundary between Kullu and Chamba since Bidhi Singh's time.
- Raja Man Singh (A.D. 1688-1719) of Kullu fixed the boundaries with Ladakh at Lingti around 1700 and entered into a trade contract with the kings of Ladakh.
- After the Tibetan-Ladakhi Mughal war of 1681-83, Spiti was nominally under Ladakh but practically free.
- Raja Man Singh invaded Spiti, extracted tribute and established loose authority over the region.
- Man Singh built Gondhla Fort (Rani Ki Kothi) and married the daughter of Gondhal Thakur.
- Around 1695, Raja Udai Singh of Chamba renamed Margul to Udaipur and elevated it to the status of a district center in Lahaul.
- During Raja Tedhi Singh's reign (1742-1767), a skilled goldsmith named Phuntsog from Shansha in Lahaul was called upon to manufacture a golden parasol for Raghunathji.
- Phuntsog pleased the Raja with his work, and the latter offered him an estate, which he declined as he was content with his humble profession.
- During the reign of Raja Pritam Singh of Kullu, a Lahaul contingent fought alongside Kullu in a war against

Mandi at Bajaura and emerged victorious under the banner of Gepang Lha.

- Bikram Singh's name is mentioned in an inscription on a stone slab at Gemur Monastery, along with Jo

Dharma Singh of Khangsar, whom Moorcroft met in 1820.

- In 1820, Moorcroft and Trebeck passed through Lahaul, they found four villages still paying revenue to the State of Ladakh, which continued until stopped by the British Government in 1862. These villages were Barkalanak, Mooling, Shipting, and Gus or Gushal.
- In the past, 'Tandi' was the capital of Lahaul, where the administrators and representatives of the Rajas of Kullu resided.
- During that time, Baliram of Phurah was the judge, and his office was located in Tandhi.
- Baliram's method of punishment involved tying the culprits to a tree and flogging them instead of fining them.
- The tree where the punishment took place was still shown by the people around 1910.
- Later on, during the British period, the capital was shifted from Tandhi to Keylong.

❖ Lahaul under Sikh and British Rule

- Lahaul came under the direct control of the Sikhs after they invaded Kullu in 1840 and Jit Singh, the Raja of Kullu, was deposed and made a prisoner.
- When Cunningham visited Lahaul in 1839, he found it already under the Sikhs. House tax was being collected by the Sikh government, and rates of toll were being adjusted by Zorawar Singh, the Governor of Ladakh.
- Zorawar Singh did not capture Lahaul as he found it already under the Sikhs when he invaded Ladakh, Zaskar, and Spiti during 1834-35.
- In 1839-40, Sikhs invaded Mandi and Kullu. Lahaul then along with Kullu came under direct control of Sikhs.
- In 1841, Zorawar Singh with force of 6000 men attacked Tibet but was killed.

- In 1842 ,Tibetan army invaded Ladakh but they were defeated by the army of Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Tibetan Genral Sukhang was taken Prisoner.

❖ Treaty of Amritsar 1846

- Lahaul was retained under British rule after the treaty of Amritsar between the British Government and Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1846, which ceded all the hilly and mountainous country East of the Indus and West of the Ravi to the Maharaja.
- The boundary between Lahaul and Chamba was marked by the Nullahas of 'Chukam' and 'Nalda' on the right and left banks of the Chandrabhaga and between Lahaul and Ladakh by the Baralacha range.
- The area lying below Thiroth was left with Chamba even after the annexation of Lahaul to the British territory, and was known as "Chamba Lahaul."
- The two parts were united finally in 1975.

❖ British Administration in Lahaul

- Lahaul was important for the British Government as an important trade route passed through it to Central Asia and Tibet.
- Lahaul and Kullu were annexed in the British territory in 1846, and Lahaul was made a part of the Kullu subdivision.
- The whole of Lahaul was divided into thirteen, later fourteen, 'Kothis'.
- The highest office in Lahaul was that of 'Negi', who had his headquarters at Keylong and was invested with both criminal and civil powers.
- The Negi was also responsible for arranging for begar , procuring supplies for travellers, and carriage of their baggage.
- Bali Ram was the first Negi of Lahaul appointed by the British government.
- Thakur Tara Chand of Khangsar was appointed the next Negi after Bali Ram but declined to fill the post.
- The post remained hereditary till 1941 when a Naib Tehsildar was appointed.
- In 1864, Nono became Wazir of Spiti and was granted a Jagir.
- During the First World War, Wazir Amar Chand of Lahaul helped the British Government in recruitment and took command in Jamadar in the 6th Labour Corps, for which he was given the title of 'Rai Bahadur' in 1917.
- In 1941, a sub-tehsil of Lahaul and Spiti was created with Headquarters at Keylong.
- In 1960, the Govt. of Punjab converted Lahaul-Spiti area into a district with Headquarters at Keylong.
- In 1966, it was transferred to Himachal Pradesh.
- In 1840 Lahaul along with Kullu went to Sikhs. Lahaul automatically came under Britishers as it was ruled by Kullu Rajas in 1846, when Kullu came under the British rule.
- In 1941 AD - Lahaul-Spiti became the Sub-Tehsil (sub-district) and its headquarters was Kyelong.
- The Punjab government made Lahaul Spiti a district in 1960. In the year 1966, Lahaul Spiti was merged with Himachal Pradesh.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

08

Sirmaur

Land of the Renuka

❖ Geography of Sirmaur

- The Sirmaur district is bounded by-
- Shimla district in North
- The river Tons & Yamuna in the East
- District Ambala of Haryana in the South
- District Solan in West and North-West
- Sirmaur district lies in outer Himalayan ranges, commonly called as Shivaliks.

❖ Rivers

❖ Yamuna

- Rises from Yamunotri
- Separates Kayar-Da-Dun valley from Dehradun and forms boundary between Sirmaur and Uttarakhand.
- Tons, Bata & Giri are its main tributaries.

❖ Giri

- Rises in the hills of Jubbal
- Divides Sirmaur into two parts
- Falls in Yamuna at Rampur Ghat

❖ Tons

- Rises from Yamunotri mountains
- Enters Sirmaur near village Koti & separates it from Jaunsar area.
- Joins Yamuna near Khodar Majari

❖ Jalal

- Tributary of Giri river
- Rises near village Bani below Nehi in Tehsil Pachad



- At Dadahu in Renuka tehsil it falls into Giri River.

❖ **Markanda**

- Rises at Baraban in the hills of Katasan Pass below a temple of Katasan Devi
- Leaves HP at Kala Amb & enters Ambala district of Haryana

❖ **Bata**

- Rises from Siora Spring in Dharti Range ,village Bagna ,Nahan.
- Divides Kiyar da dun valley into two parts
- Joins Yamuna at Bata Mandi

❖ **Ghaggar**

- Rises near Lawasa in Sirmaur district
- Enters Haryana near Priti Nagar

❖ **District is divided into 3 parts**

❖ **1. Trans –Giri Region**

❖ **2. Cis –Giri Region**

1. The plains of Kyar-da-dun valley or dun valley

❖ **The Trans-Giri region**

- Consist of wild mountains culminating into Chur Peak (Chur Chandani ki dhar)
- Famous ranges-
- Dhar Taproli- Jadol ,Dhar Nohra ,Haripur Dhar ,Dudham Dhar , Dhar Nigali and Dhar Shillai.
- Dhar Kamru and Dhar Shillai form the valley of Naira river which ultimately falls in the Tons river.

❖ **The Cis-Giri region**

❖ **1. Sain Dhar**

❖ **2. Dharthi Dhar**

- Jalal river flows between Sain Dhar and Dharthi Dhar.



- Markanda river flows in the western half of low flat range.
- Bata river ,originating from Darthi range flows from East to West in the flat valley.

❖ Kiyar-Da-Dun valley

- Kiyar-Da-Dun valley is fertile and useful from the agricultural point of view.

❖ Hills/Dhars

❖ Jaitak Hills

- name given to two peaks
- Battle between the British forces and the Gurkhas were fought here.
- The fortress was constructed by Ranjor Singh Thapa (Gurkha leader),when he attacked and sacked Nahan in about 1810.

❖ Haripur Dhar

- A fort was built on this range by the rulers of erstwhile Sirmaur State.
- To guard the state frontiers with the neighboring Jubbal State as there were constant boundary disputes.

❖ Lakes

❖ Renuka Lake

- Biggest natural oval lake near Dadahu
- Shaped like sleeping women
- Founded when mother Renuka was sacrificed by her son Parshuram

❖ Saketi Lake

- Located near Shivalik Fossil Park in Sirmaur

❖ Fair and Festivals

❖ Jagra

- festival is held at night in month of september
- Mahasu Devta is worshipped in upper Shimla hills , Kinnaur and Sirmaur region.



❖ Renuka Fair

- celebrated 10 days after Diwali festival
- Declared international fair in october 2011

❖ Trilokpur Fair

- held at village Trilokpur near Nahan

❖ Budhi Diwali

- After one month of Diwali in the hill areas.
- the fact that the information about Rama's return to Ayodhya reached late and celebrated Diwali about a month after Diwali on the mainland.
- In Sirmaur, it is celebrated by the name of Manshaari in less advanced areas across the Giri in Sirmaur.

❖ Temples

❖ Trilokpur Temple

- built in A.D 1573 by Raja Dip Parkash.
- The temple of goddess Bala Sundari stands on a hillock.
- There are 84 bells tied together at the entrance of the temple.
- The goddess is also known as "Chaurasi ghanto wali Devi".
- On the Eastern side is the temple of "Laya Devi" , the goddess of dissolution.

❖ Gayatri Temple

- situated on the left bank of the Renuka lake
- built by Sri 1008 'Mahatma Payara Nanda Brahmachari'.

❖ Jagannath Temple

- built by Raja Budhi Parkash of Sirmaur in A.D 1681.
- 'Sawan Dwadashi' festival is celebrated here.

❖ The Math

- constructed by the invading Gurkhas in 1814
- The temple house the image of Renuka Devi, Parshuram's mother.

❖ Art & Culture

Folk dance and drams of Sirmaur district -

❖ Nati - Nati

❖ Rasa

- It is performed by a group of men who wear brightly colored costumes and carry sticks.

❖ Jhuri - Jhuri

- dance form that is performed by women and is usually performed during the harvest season.

❖ Gee - Gee

❖ Thoda - Thoda

- is a martial dance form that is performed by men in Sirmaur district.
- It involves wielding swords and shields and is performed to commemorate the bravery of the local heroes who fought in battles in the past.

❖ Dress

❖ Loia

- Loia is a word derived from lio meaning a woolen or pashmina blanket or sheet.
- used by menfolk of Sirmaur district
- It is a woolen gown, supported on the shoulders and hangs down over the back.
- The sleeves of the loia are seldom worn though no loia is ever without them.
- The Himachal Pradesh University has adopted, loia and Pahari cap and its academic robes which are used by degree holders at the time of convocation.

❖ Tribes

❖ Hatti Tribe

- got their name from their tradition of selling homegrown items at small markets called 'haat' in towns.
- The Hattis live in the trans-Giri area in HP & Jaunsar in Uttarakhand.

❖ Turi

- also known as Dhakis or Bajgi are agriculturists.
- main occupation is music and dancing
- Main concentration is trans –Giri tract of Sirmaur

❖ Bhat

- Found in trans-giri & cis-giri tracts
- Traditionall genealogist & while rulers moved from place to place or when they marched towards battle fields,they followed the troops narrating family histories & heroic deeds of the rulers.

❖ History of Sirmaur Sources

- Kanwar Ranzor Singh – “Tarikh-i-Riyast Sirmaur”
- Rajban Kalsi Ratesh Kot Deothal Nahan

❖ Origin of Name “Sirmaur”

- There are several theories regarding the origin of the name of Sirmaur, though none of the interpretations can be said to be beyond doubt.
- One view is that it derived its name as Sirmaur because of the senior position it held amongst the princely states.
- Another version is that at the earliest times, the capital of the state was Sirmaur and so state derived its name from its capital.
- Third version is that (Also written by Kanwar Ranzor Singh)
- 'Raja Rasaloo' founded the state.
- He was the son of Raja Salvahan of Jaisalmer .
- Sirmaur was the son of Buland ,the brother of Raja Rasaloo, after whom the state took its name.
- Rasalo ka tibba a place near Nahan is one of the significant evidence supporting this doctrine.

❖ Another Story is that--

- The state was originally named after its capital, Sirmaur.
- The capital was located in Sirmaur until the time of Raja Madan Singh.
- Raja Madan Singh was one of the Rajas who ruled over the state.
- It is unclear exactly when Raja Madan Singh was in power, but it would have been prior to the relocation of the capital.
- After Raja Madan Singh's time, the capital was moved to a new location.
- The state continued to be known as Sirmaur even after the capital was moved.

❖ According to other story—

- There was a king named Sirmaur in the state, which is confirmed by the traditional worship of a Devta known as Sirmuria in the District.
- This Deity occupies a position next to Mahasu (who was perhaps the first to acquire the faith of the people of area).
- The earliest name of Sirmaur is believed to be Sulokina.

❖ Another theories behind the origin of Name

- There are many other legends about Sirmour --
- Another legend about Sirmour is that the famous King Chandergupta succeeded in winning battle against

Nandvansh (Nand dynasty) with the help of the king of Kulind (The contemporary name of Simour) and as a token of gratitude Chandergupta honoured the contemporary Sirmour king, with the title of SHIROMORYA

(Crown of Morya dynasty); with the passage of time, under the influence of local dialect, this Shiromorya is pronounced as “Sirmour” by localities.

- There is also another saying that “Sirmour” got its name on the name of Sirmouri Taal (pond) near Ponta

Sahib, which used to be the capital of Kulind state.

- The linguistic analysis of Hill dialect reveals that the word Sirmour originates as a combination of two words

Ser (pond) and Mour (palace) meaning a palace on the periphery of pond and this word sermour ultimately changed to Sirmour.

❖ Early History of Sirmaur

- The early inhabitants of Sirmaur were Kulindas or Kunindas.
- Kulindas are believed to be the ancestors of modern-day Kanets.
- The Kulindas formed a significant portion of the population in the Kullu, Shimla, and Sirmaur hills.
- The Kulindas were a part of the early history of human existence in Sirmaur.

❖ Rule of Local Chiefs (Rana or Thakur)

- Madna was a chief in the northern region of what is now called Sirmaur.
- The Rana of Paonta gave him a ultimatum of war and Madna accepted it.
- A fierce battle took place, in which Madna chief was defeated and killed by Rana of Paonta.
- Badal was the chief at Shialra/Khalna, he gave away lands to devas/Brahmins and Rawats/Rajputs for their subsistence.
- Brahmins were headed by Kamana and Rajputs by Kir Chand.
- A fight between Brahmins and Rajputs took place, in which Kamna was killed.
- Kamna's wife avenged his death by killing Kir Chand.
- The ancient state capital was Kiyar-da-dun



- The original capital of Sirmaur was devastated by a flood in the Giri River, which is believed to have been caused by a curse from a woman on Raja Madan Singh.
- As a result of the flood, the state was left without a ruler.

❖ Story of Curse given to Madan Singh

- The legend goes that during the earliest history of Sirmour State when Raja Madan Singh used to rule, a woman knowing necromancy presented before the Raja and talked about her acrobatic skill. Raja being susceptible about it, promised her half of his kingdom if she displayed her skill by crossing over the river Giri by means of acrobatic rope. To his surprise, she succeeded in crossing and when she was returning on the rope one of the courtiers of the Raja feeling apprehensive, cut the rope and consequently the woman was drowned in the river. This treachery on the part of Raja resulted in a flood, which swept the town, and the entire princely family perished leaving the state without a ruler.
- Then Pandits and astrologers were consulted. They visualised that many miles East of Sirmour state, there was a Raja just and pious, whom they decided to visit. He had three Ranis and all of them enceinte. The delegation of Sirmour Pundits requested the Raja of Jaisalmer to send one of his Ranis to Sirmour, so that her offspring may become the ruler of the state.
- The Raja, after some hesitation, persuaded the chosen Rani to go to Sirmour. When she entered the boundary of the state, she gave birth to 'Badan Singh', Under a 'dhak' tree.
- This tree is still worshipped by the females of Sirmour.
- Thus from Raja Badan Singh, there has been an unbroken line of rulers.
- Another version which is generally accepted as tradition of the dynasty says that for some time after the devastation, the people of Sirmour resolved to send a messenger to Jaisalmer to bring a prince of royal blood.
- Consequently, a 'Rai Bhat' was deputed.
- The Raja of Jaisalmer Salvahan II was requested to send a prince, to which he agreed and granted his third son 'Hasoo', to accompany the Bhat to Sirmour.
- The prince along with his wife reached Sirhind where he died all of a sudden.
- But soon it came to be known that the wife of 'Prince Hasoo' was pregnant and she, in due course, gave birth to a child under a tree of 'dhan plass' (Butea Frondosa) at Poka, near Sirmauri Tal.
- The prince was named as 'Plasso' after the plass tree and the rulers thereafter were called 'Plassia'.

❖ According to another version--

- In about 1097 AD, the Raja of Jaisalmer, Ugar Sen, visited Hardwar on pilgrimage and learned that the throne in the nearby state was vacant.
- Ugar Sen sent his son, Soba Rawal, to conquer and establish his kingdom with the capital at Rajban, taking the title of Subans Parkash.
- Soba Rawal ruled the state until 1099 AD, when he died after four years of rule.
- The name "Parkash" in the princely family of Sirmour continued to be used until the date of the lapse of paramountcy.
- The same dynasty continued to rule Sirmour State until the lapse of paramountcy.

❖ CHRONOLOGY OF SIRMAUR RULERS

❖ Subhans Prakash (1195-1199 AD)

- Founder of Sirmaur state.
- He Made Rajban his capital.

❖ Mahe Prakash (1199 AD)

- He attacked Shrinagar Garhwal and advanced upto Malda on the Bhagirathi river and captured the fort of Malda.
- He built the temple of Laxmi Narayan on the bank of Bhagirathi to commemorate his victory and named it after his own name Mahe Dewal

❖ Raja Udit Parkash

- He ascended the throne in the year 1217 .
- Shifted his Capital from Rajban to Kalsi (now in uttarakhand)
- He abdicated in favour of his son Kaul Prakash in A.D. in 1227.

❖ Kaol Prakash

- He made the rulers of 'Jubbal', 'Balsan' and Tharoch' his tributaries.
- He ruled till A.D. 1239.
- It is about this time that the earliest mention of Sirmaur by Mohammedan historians occurs in the TABAKAT-

I-NASIRI

- when Nizam- ul-Mulk Mohammed Khan rebelled against Razia Sultan, took refuge in the hills of Sirmaur Bardar (Bhadraj Tibba).

❖ Sumer Parkash

- Sumer Parkash came to power in A.D. 1239.
- He first plundered and annexed the fort and then hill state of Ratesh.
- The annexed area became a part of the Keonthal state, which Sumer Parkash made his capital.
- Sumer Parkash passed away in A.D. 1248 after a reign of nine years.

❖ Raja Suraj Parkash

- Raja Suraj Parkash then ascended the throne in A.D. 1248.
- While at Ratesh, he got a news from Kalsi that his subjects had risen in revolt and devastated the capital at Kalsi and also attacked the palace.

- His daughter played a significant role in suppressing the revolt, although some sources claim that she died in the process.
- After re-establishing order, Raja Suraj Parkash invaded and made the Thakurs of Jubbal, Balsan, Kumharasin, Ghund, Theog, Sairi, Rawin, and Kotgarh pay tribute.
- During this period, the Mohammedan army entered the area for the first time, chasing Qutlugh Khan from Hindustan to Lahore.
- Mahmud Shah-I attacked the fort of Santurgarh (now in Ambala), but Qutlugh Khan had already fled.
- In the event of the failure to capture Qutlugh Khan, the territory of Sirmaur was devastated.
- Raja Suraj Parkash ruled for eleven years and died in A.D. 1259.
- The next century from A.D. 1259 to 1374 was uneventful.

❖ Raja Bhakat Parkash

- Raja Bhakat Parkash ruled from 1374 to 1386.
- In 1379, the Sirmaur state was made a tributary by 'Firoz Shah' of Delhi.

❖ Raja Jagat Prakash (1386 A.D)

- His reign was famous for maladministration.
- His subjects, the rulers of Jubbal, Balson, Rawain, Kumharsain and other fiefs revolted and ceased to be subordinate to him.
- He died after two years reign in A.D, 1388.

❖ Raja Veer Parkash

- Raja Veer Parkash came to power in A.D. 1388.
- He built a devi temple dedicated to Goddess Durga on the bank of the Pabbar river in the area of Hatkoti at the junction of the boundaries of Jubbal and Rawain states.
- He also built a fort, known as Rawingarh .
- He had defeated all the chiefs, who revolted against his father and made them tributaries once again.
- He died at Hatkoti in 1398, after ten years reign.

❖ Raja Nekat Parkash

- Became the ruler of Sirmour in 1398 A.D.
- 'Village Neri' was his place of residence and seat of government.
- Ruling for 14 years, he was succeeded by Raja Garbh Parkash in 1414 A.D.

❖ Raja Garbh Parkash

- He moved his residence from Neri to Jagri fort in Ratesh, where he ruled for 18 years.
- He died in 1432 A.D., and Ratesh is now in the Shimla district.

❖ Raja Braham Parkash (1432 A.D)

- Raja Braham Parkash ascended the throne in A.D. 1432 after the death of his father Raja Garbh Parkash.
- According to Kanwar Ranzor Singh, he made Kot Deothal, in Sirmaur his capital.
- The old gazetteer however, mentions that he made 'Kot' and 'Gijari' in Ratesh Pargana, his capital.
- He ruled for fourteen years and died in A.D. 1446.

❖ Raja Hans Parkash (1446 A.D)

- Raja Braham Parkash was succeeded by his son Hans Parkash.
- He ruled from Kot Deothal .
- After a reign of twenty five years, died in A.D. 1471.

❖ Raja Rattan Parkash (1471 A.D)

- Raja Rattan Parkash ascended the throne in A.D. 1471 and ruled till A.D. 1495.
- Raja Prithi Parkash reigned from A.D. 1495 to A.D. 1522 followed by Raja Bahubal Parkash.

❖ Raja Bahubal Prakash

- He ruled at 'Kot Deothal' till 1538.
- It is believed that he shifted the seat of government to 'Kalsi'.
- But Kanwar Ranzor Singh mentions that it was done by the next Raja.

❖ Raja Dharm Parkash

- He succeeded in A.D. 1538.
- It is believed to have shifted his place of residence to 'Kalsi' .
- After a reign of thirty two years, died in A.D. 1570.
- Raja Dharm Parkash was succeeded by Raja Deep Parkash, who ruled for fifteen years and died in 1585.
- He was followed by Raja Bhakat Parkash, who died at Kalsi in A.D. 1605, after a reign of twenty years.

❖ Raja Bhakat Parkash

- He mounted throne in 1585.

Story of Raja Bhakat Parkash and Man Chand (Thakur of Kotah)

- Man Chand was one of the fourteen Thakurs of Kotah, which he had received as a Jagir from the Raja of Sirmaur.
- Bhakhat Parkash, the new Raja of Sirmaur, demanded Man Chand's daughter in marriage, but he refused, and the Raja prepared to attack him.



- Man Chand fled with his daughter to Emperor Jahangir at Delhi and converted to Islam, taking the title of 'Raja Mohan Murad'.
- Emperor Jahangir supported Man Chand in recapturing his territory, which he named Kotaha, and fixed its boundaries at the "Bhursingh Deo Range."
- Man Chand reigned for twelve years, after which he poisoned himself, his wife, and children.
- The state then passed into the possession of the Mirs of Kotaha.

❖ Raja Budhi Parkash/Bhupat Parkash

- He mounted the throne in A.D. 1605.
- He shifted his residence and seat of government from "Kalsi to Rajpur"
- He died in A.D. 1615.
- He was followed by Raja Udai Parkash, who ruled for one year and died in A.D. 1616.

❖ Raja Karam Parkash

- Raja Karam Parkash ascended the throne in A.D. 1616 and reigned till A.D. 1630.
- For the first six years, he continued to reside at Kalsi and then in A.D. 1621, he laid the foundation of the city and the fort of 'Nahan'.
- It is believed that formerly the state was called Nahar, meaning lion, after the lion companion of a saint who was living there.
- Raja Karam Parkash was disciple of Baba Banwari Dass, whose descendents still hold the temple of Jagganath at Nahan .

❖ Raja Sobhag Parkash

- Raja Sobhag Parkash ascended the throne in A.D. 1647.
- The Emperor Alamgir conferred upon him the territory of Kalankbar for mismanagement and it seems to be the present area of Kolagdh, near Dehradun.
- Srinagar was conquered during his reign and he was granted the territory of Kotaha for his services to the Emperor.
- Before his accession, Aurangzeb sent two firman to intercept correspondence and assist in an attack against

Srinagar.

- The area of Kalesar was given to the Raja, in lieu of his services.
- Raja Sobhag ruled for twelve years at Nahan and died in A.D. 1659.

Raja Budhi Parkash (Bihari Mal or Mahi Chand)

- Raja Sobhag Parkash had two sons, Bihari Mal and Hari Singh.
- Bihari Mal succeeded his father in A.D. 1659, under the title of Budh or Bidhi Chand Parkash.
- His succession was recognised in the 10th year of Emperor Alamgir's reign.

- Raja Mahi Parkash seized Pinjaur, Sahwana, the forts of Jagatgarh and Muzzafargarh, and Bairath Kalsi from the Raja of Srinagar.
- Raja Mahi Parkash demanded a daughter in marriage from Raja Rup Chand of Keonthal, which was refused by the latter. This led to a war in which Rup Chand was vanquished and his son gave his sister in marriage to Mahi Parkash.
- Raja Budh Parkash (Mahi Parkash) died in A.D. 1678.

❖ Medni Prakash/Jog Raj

- Jog Raj succeeded in A.D. 1678 under the title of Medni Parkash
- In the 31 year of his reign, Aurangzeb recognized him as the Raja of Sirmaur with the title Mast Parkash
- During his reign, the 10th Guru, Guru Govind Singh came to Sirmaur state.
- Between the Guru and Raja Bhim Chand of Bilaspur a rift had cropped up over a white elephant given to Guru by Raja Man Singh of Bangala (Assam**)
- The Raja expelled Guru Govind Singh from Anandpur, where upon the Guru camped in village Mirpur

Gurudwara of tehsil Nahan.

- Raja Medni Parkash invited the Guru to Nahan where he stayed for some time. From Nahan, the Guru migrated to Paonta Sahib in Kiarda Dun and stayed there for years.

❖ Battle of Bhangani

- While the Guru was at Paonta Sahib, marriage of a son of Raja Bhim Chand of Bilaspur was settled with the daughter of Fateh Shah, the Chief of Garhwal and friend of the Guru.
- On this auspicious occasion, the Guru sent gifts to Fateh Shah.
- When it came to the knowledge of Raja Bhim Chand, he wrote to Fateh Shah reminding the latter about old enmity between him and the Guru and informed him that marriage would not take place if the friendship between Fateh Shah and the Guru continued.
- Consequently, Fateh Shah had to return all gifts much to the displeasure of the Guru.
- The Guru took it as an unprovoked indignity and he threw down the gauntlet, when the Raja of Bilaspur was returning after the wedding of his son.
- A fierce battle was fought at Bhangani, near Paonta Sahib.
- Raja Karpal Chand Katoch, Raja Kesari Chand Jawanwala, Sukhdev Chand Jasrota and Raja Hari Chand of Hindur were the allies of Raja Bhim Chand.
- But fortune of the blood predominating battle was decided in favour of the Guru and Raja Hari Chand, Raja

Kesari Chand and Raja Sukhdev Chand fell in the field.

- There still remains a tomb, assumed to be the monument in commemoration of the Ranis of the fallen Rajas.
- Guru Govind Singh set a Jhanda at Bhangani, where a Gurudwara also exists.
- After a reign of sixteen years in Nahan, the Raja died issueless in A.D. 1694
- Raja Mast Parkash did not have a direct male heir, so his uncle Hari Singh ascended the throne as Raja Hari

Parkash in A.D. 1694.

- In the forty-sixth year of Shah Alamgir's reign, Raja Hari Parkash was recognized as the 'Raja of Sirmaur'.
- Raja Hari Parkash ruled for nine years and died in A.D. 1703.
- Bhup Parkash succeeded Raja Hari Parkash in A.D. 1703 and was honored with the title of Bhim Parkash and recognition as ruler by Shah Mohammed Moazam Bin Alamgir, Emperor of Delhi, by a royal order.
- Bhup Parkash ruled for ten years and died in A.D. 1713.

❖ Raja Biji Parkash (1713 A.D)

- Biji Parkash succeeded Bhup Parkash.
- He married the daughter of Kalyan Chand, ruler of Kumaon.
- Biji Parkash and his wife were religious, and they bought an Idol of Kali from Kumaun and installed in a temple, which still exists as 'Kalistan'.
- Biji Parkash's wife also built a large tank and a well for drinking water at Nahan.
- Biji Parkash ruled for thirty-six years and passed away in A.D. 1749.

❖ Raja Pratap Parkash

- He occupied the throne in 1749.
- His period was marked with revolts by many feudatories who challenged his supremacy.
- After eight years rule, he died in A.D. 1757, leaving behind four sons, namely Kirat Singh(the heir-apparent), Jiwan Singh, Muhkam Singh and Ishri Singh.

❖ Raja Kirat Parkash (1757 A.D)

- Kirat Singh became the ruler of Sirmaur at a young age in 1757 and gained control over all feudatories.
- The Mughal Empire was collapsing, and the Sikhs were challenging their authority.
- Kirat Singh defeated the Sikh forces and took control of several forts, including Ramgarh and Dhaindharoo.
- He also seized the Pinjaur fort from Gharib Dass, the founder of the Mani Majra family, and drove out

Hidayat Khan Rasuria from Loharpur fort.

- Kirat Singh built a temple dedicated to Jaganath in commemoration of his victory in 1767 and formed an alliance with Raja Amar Singh of Patiala.
- He helped Raja Amar Singh to put down a rising, engineered by Ganga Ram and Himat Singh, and also assisted the Kehlur chief against the attack of Ghulam Qadir Rohilla.
- Kirat Singh engaged the Gurkhas in Garhwal, but for unknown reasons, the Garhwal chief abandoned the field.
- According to the treaty concluded by them, the Ganga was accepted as the boundary line between the Gurkhas and the State of Sirmaur.
- Kirat Singh died at the age of 26 in 1773, at Lakar Ghat, on the shores of the Ganga.

❖ Raja Jagat Singh

- Jagat Singh, son of Kirat Parkash became Raja of Sirmaur in A.D. 1773, taking the title Jagat Parkash
- To counter the advance of the Sikhs, he appointed Mir Baqar Ali Khan of Garhi as the Nizam of Kotah area.
- Mir Baqar Ali Khan was a descendant of Quasim Ali Khan, a royal physician granted revenue-free land in Garhi area.
- British Government separated Garhi area from Sirmaur and bestowed it upon the descendants of Mir Baqar

Ali Khan in recognition of their services during the Gurkha war.

- Raja Amar Singh of Patiala, an old friend of Sirmaur, helped Jagat Parkash in defeating local rebellious chiefs and defeating Ghulam Qadir Rohilla in the battle of Katasan.
- In commemoration of his victory over Ghulam Qadir Rohilla, Jagat Parkash built a temple of Devi of Katasan.
- Raja Mahan Chand of Kahlur attacked Hindur (Nalagarh) and occupied its fort. Upon the request of Raja Ram

Singh of Hindur, Raja Jagat Parkash sent an army and restored the territory to him.

- After reigning for nineteen years, Raja Jagat Parkash died in A.D. 1792.

❖ Dharam Parkash

- Raja Sansar Chand
- Raja Mahan Chand of Kehlur
- Raja Ram Singh of Hindur
- Raja Dharam Parkash fought against Ram Singh, the ruler of Hindur, who had captured some areas under the control of Sirmaur state. A battle was fought at Chhalra Bhaira, and Ram Singh's ally Raja Jagat Singh of Baghat was captured.
- Raja Ram Singh entered into a peace treaty with Sirmaur and returned all the wrested areas.
- Kanwar Parkash Shah of Srinagar invaded and seized the fort of Khushalpur near Dehradun, but Ishri Singh, along with a force, defeated him and regained the possession of the fort.

❖ 1796 – Battle in Chararatu

- Katoch chief of Kangra, Raja Sansar Chand, was taking possession of some areas and forts of Kahlur. Help was sought from Raja Dharam Parkash by Mahan Chand of Kahlur, and he agreed to help in exchange for a lakh of rupees as nazrana.
- Raja Dharam Parkash marched with Sirmaur and Kahlur troops and fought against Raja Sansar Chand at the boundary of Kangra and Kahlur ,place named Chararatu in 1796.
- Raja Dharam Parkash died in the battle due to a gunshot from his enemy, Raja Sansar Chand.
- Raja Sansar Chand wanted to take away the dead body of Raja Dharam Parkash as a trophy, but his men were stopped by Dharam Parkash's soldiers, who laid their lives on the spot to protect the body.
- Raja Dharam Parkash ruled for four years till 1796 and died without leaving any heir.

❖ Karam Prakash (1796AD)

- Younger brother- Ratan Singh
- Kishan Singh
- Flew to Dehradun
- Amar Singh Thapa
- Ranzor Singh
- Ambala

❖ Arrival of Gurkhas to Sirmaur

❖ Raja Karam Singh

● Karam Singh became the ruler of Sirmaur in AD 1796 with the title Karam Parkash, succeeding his brother Raja Dharam Parkash.

- Karam Parkash's reign was marked by conspiracies and mismanagement.
- Mehta Prem Singh Wazir initially supported Karam Parkash but later turned against him, instigating Raja Ram Singh of Hindur to invade Sirmaur and encouraging Kanwar Kishan Singh to rebel.
- Kishan Singh looted Nahan, the capital, and made Naraingarh fort his base. Maharaja Ranjit Singh subdued Kishan Singh, and his territory was given to Sardar Fateh Singh.
- Mehta Prem Singh was beheaded and his property confiscated for conspiring against Karam Parkash. This led to resentment among his subjects, and some feudatory chiefs declared themselves independent
- This action of the Raja led to a large scale resentment amongst his subjects and officials belonging to 'Kanet' and 'Bhat' communities, became unruly.

❖ Gurkhas and Sirmaur

- In AD 1799, Gurkhas occupied Dehra Dun and its forts in defiance of earlier treaties.
- Sikhs, who were already looking for such an opportunity, jumped into the fray and in the South, took possession of the Pinjaur territory.
- Mian Maldey and Narain Singh, administrators of Ramgarh, declared themselves independent.
- The areas of trans-Ghaggar and cis-Ghaggar at that time belonged to the state of Patiala and Sirmaur respectively.
- In the meantime, sons of 'Mian Kushal Singh', namely Mian Maldey and Narain Singh, administrators of Ramgarh on behalf of the state, declared themselves independent.
- On learning that a conspiracy was being hatched against him, Raja Karam Parkash, along with his family members in A.D. 1803 went to the fort situated on the top of a hill in Kayarda Dun, near Nahan and began to reside there.
- The Raja's absence was seen as a good thing by disloyal officers
- A group led by Ajib Singh, Prem Singh, and Kishan Singh conspired with Kanwar Ratan Singh to put him on the throne.

- Another group led by Kanwar Kishan Singh began looting and pillaging
- The state army turned against the Raja during this time.
- To arrest or assassinate him, they besieged the Kangra fort.
- A fight took place in which one Cholu Mian, who closely resembled to Karam Prakash was killed and the rumour spread that the Raja had been killed.
- Taking advantage of this rumour, Karam Prakash managed to escape with his family to Kalsi .
- In Nahan, the mischief mongers seated Kanwar Ratan Singh on the throne under the title of 'Ratan Parkash', while Kanwar Kishan Singh continued his activities of plundering and harassment.
- Raja Karam Parkash then went to Dehradun where he met Amar Singh Thapa, a senior military officer of Nepal and sought his help for crushing the conspirators.
- Karam Parkash sought Amar Singh Thapa's help to crush the conspirators.
- Gurkhas expelled Ratan Parkash and set up their own government, leaving Karam Parkash in no better position.
- Amar Singh Thapa conquered Hindur state and attacked Kangra.
- Amar Singh Thapa repaired the 'fort of Morni' to stay there.
- Instead of restoring Raja Karam Parkash to the throne of Sirmaur, Amar Singh Thapa appointed his son

Ranzor Singh as an administrator and sent him to Nahan.

- Ranzor Singh constructed a fort on the hill of Jaitak where he lodged himself.
- Raja Karam Parkash sought asylum at Buria in Ambala district due to rebellion and unrest in Sirmaur state.
- While Raja Karam Parkash was living an exiled life at Buria, the Guleri Rani appealed to Colonel Ochterlony, the then Political Agent at Ludhiana.
- In the first instance, town Nahan was captured and then a bloody battle took place for capturing the 'fort of Jaitak' by the British forces.
- In A.D. 1815, this was occupied by a British force. With this, the Gurkha war came to an end
- Raja Karam Parkash, for his notorious behaviour, was excluded from the succession and succession passed onto his eldest son Fateh Parkash.

❖ Raja Fateh Parkash

- Fateh Parkash became Raja of the state in 1815 and was sent to Nahan under the guardianship of Rani Guleri and Captain George Birch.
- Aziz-Ullah-Khan was appointed administrator of the state during Fateh Parkash's minority period.
- In 1823, Mian Devi Singh and Dalip Singh executed a deed of allegiance, attaching Ramgarh firmly to the state.
- Fateh Parkash attained majority in 1827, and the British Government of India granted him full administrative and revenue powers.
- He also attended the Durbar held at Shimla by the British India Government in the same year.
- Rana Puran Chand of Jubbal sent his Wazir to the court of Raja Fateh Parkash to set up good relations.
- Fateh Parkash removed all causes of maladministration, built the Sheesh Mahal and the Moti Mahal, and constructed a temple in the vicinity of the palace.

- In 1833, Fateh Parkash asked the British government to restore the area of Kayar-Dadun, excluding Kalsi and Jaunsar Bawar, for a consideration of Rs. 50,000/-. He paid Rs. 20,000/- by way of indemnity and got back

Kayarda Dun.

- In the Punjab war of 1845, Fateh Parkash placed the state troops commanded by Kanwar Madan Singh at the disposal of the British Government.
- Fateh Parkash celebrated marriages from the royal houses of Keonthal, Bilaspur, Baghat, Kuthar, and Kumharsain.
- Raja Fateh Parkash died in 1850 after a reign of thirty-five years.

❖ Raja Raghubir Parkash

- Raghubir Parkash succeeded his father as Raja in A.D. 1850
- Crafty courtiers instigated him to confiscate Jagirs granted to the Raj Kumars in the second year of his reign.
- The Raj Kumars appealed to Lord Dalhousie, the Governor General of India, and the villages were restored to them
- The government proposed a cash grant in lieu of the villages, which was accepted.
- In 1856, the Superintendent of Shimla Hill States cautioned Raja Raghubir Parkash against his courtiers and deterioration of law and order and administration.
- Distressed by this, Raja Raghubir Parkash fell ill and died of piles on January 20, 1856, at the age of 27.
- The Kanwars were living separately at the time of his death, and a committee was set up to administer the state due to their participation in state affairs not being looked upon favorably
- The administration could not be run properly under the appointed administrators
- The Kanwars and Judges were ultimately appointed to determine judicial cases
- Kanwar Surjan Singh remained associated with state administration during the minority of Raja Shamsher

Parkash

- Sirmaur assisted the British during the 1857 uprising and was granted a certificate and Khillat in recognition of their services
- Kanwar Sujjan Singh and Kanwar Bir Singh invested their capital in business and property purchase.

❖ Shamsher Prakash

- Raja Shamsher Parkash ascended to the throne in 1856 ruled till A.D. 1898 for 42 years.
- In lieu of his services during 1857, the British Government awarded him a costly robe and entitled him to Salute of seven guns.
- For his administrative skill and performance, in 1867, salute was increased from seven to eleven.
- He had married to the daughter of Raja of Keonthal. She was very adept in judicial and administrative skill and was an asset to the Raja.
- In her memory, Raja laid the garden known as Ranital Bagh.
- Raja Shamsher Parkash constituted Forest Department on organized and regular lines for the supervision and administration of forests.
- His organized state forces.

- In 1880, a separate cantonment was built on a nearby hillock, known as 'Satyon-Ka-Pahar.
- In 1888, Raja raised a body of Imperial Service troops, consisting of five infantry with thirty sappers, along with two companies of pioneers
- In 1889, these were formed into the 'Imperial Service Sappers and Miners and served with distinction in the 'Tirah campaign' of 1897-98
- In 1896, the Sirmaur State was taken out of the political control of Superintendent of Shimla Hill State, sanad was placed under Commissioner of Delhi.
- To give a new look to the administration and to the process of organization, Urdu knowing clerks were replaced by those conversant with the English language in A.D. 1890.
- The Raja purchased a tea garden in 1890, named Enfield, in 'Dehradun' and yet another garden at 'Cherapani' in the Kumaon district
- It was during Raja Shamsher Parkash's period that agricultural exhibitions and Dussehra celebrations were introduced in the state.
- Nahan became first municipality in the principality during his time.
- His greatest achievement was said to be the colonization of Kayar-Da-Dun which was hitherto a wild dense forest track
- By way of social reforms, the Raja prohibited the custom of 'Siyapa' (bewailing) at the time of death.
- Raja Shamsher Parkash suffered a stroke of paralysis while in Kayar- Da Dun, and continued to suffer for about two and a half years before passing away on 2 October 1898.

❖ **Tikka Surinder Bikram Singh**

- The Raja was appointed a 'Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India' (KCSI) on the 9th November 1901.
- In 1902, he was appointed a member of the Imperial Legislative Council and remained so for five years.
- In 1906, he was given unrestricted power to pass sentence of death upon his subjects.
- Raja Surinder Bikram Parkash was highly successful in integrating administrative, economic and political efficiency of the state.
- He took great interest in the development of communication and valuable forests of the state.
- He ruled for thirteen years.
- He helped the British army with men and material, in South Africa.
- He died on the 4th July 1911 at Mussorie.

❖ **Maharaja Amar Parkash**

- Maharaja Amar Parkash succeeded his father formally on 26th October 1911.
- He was installed with full powers by the Lieutenant-Governor.
- In 1910, he married the eldest daughter of ex-Prime Minister of Nepal.
- During first world war (1914-18), the Maharaja rendered invaluable service to the British government.



- In 1914, he sent his small well knit army, four hundred strong, of Sirmaur Sappers and Miners to Mesopotamia and when this unit was besieged, another unit was raised.
- He inaugurated 'Mahima Library' and got the road metalled from Nahan to Kala Amb, which was completed in 1927.
- While in Europe in May 1933, for the treatment of the Maharani, he breathed his last in Vienna' on 13th

August 1933.

- During the absence of the Maharaja, a council was set up to look after the administration of the state.
- Maharaja Rajinder Parkash (1933 A.D)
- He was member of the Standing Committee of the Princes' Chamber (Narender Mandal)
- He was entitled to a salute of eleven guns.
- The 'Praja Mandal Sirmaur' was formed some time in 1935-36.
- Till 1936, the work was done from behind the curtain and it was only in 1937 that regular Praja Mandal was formed under the presidentship of Chaudhary Sher Jung
- Some of the important leaders of the Praja Mandal is Sirmaur were, Sarvshri Nagendra Singh, Devendra

Singh, Rajender Dutt ,Kishan Singh , Hari Chand and Hitender Singh.

- Pajotha movement took place 1942 under his regin.
- 1942- Pajhota Andolan was started under aegis of the Kisan Sabha (key role -Lakshmi Singh and Vaid Surat

Singh)

- On 13th April 1948 Maharaja Rajender prakash signed the merger document at Nahan.
- But Merger was legeally recognized from 15th April 1948.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

09

Hamirpur

Land of the Brave

- Hamirpur is the most literate district in Himachal Pradesh.
- It has highest Road density amongst all the districts in India

❖ Geography of Hamirpur

- Hamirpur district is located in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.
- The tract is hilly covered by the Shivalik range.
- The district in the North is bounded by the river Beas which separates it from Kangra district.
- In the West lies the Una district and in the South Bilaspur district.
- In the East Seer Khad separates it from Mandi district.
- Barsar tehsil is on the South -West of Hamirpur district, Sujanpur Tira in the North, Nadaun in the North-

West and Bhoranj is towards Eastern end of the district.

❖ Ranges/Dhars

❖ Jakh Dhar

- The "Jakh Dhar" runs in continuation of the 'Kali Dhar' range in the Kangra district.
- It enters Hamirpur district near Nadaun and traverses it in South-Eastern direction.
- The town of Hamirpur lies to the East of this range.

❖ Chabutra Hills

- Have the same dip and strike as in the Jakh Dhar and continue beyond the river Beas as a mass of rugged and broken hills.

❖ Sola Singhi Dhar

- The 'Sola Singhi Dhar' is the longest range of the tract and is known by various names such as 'Chintpurni and Jaswan Dhar in Una and 'Sola Singhi in Hamirpur.

❖ Rivers

❖ Beas River

- The Beas river flows through the district in the north and northwest direction.

❖ Seer Khad

- Originates from the lower hills of Hamirpur district.
- The river flows towards the north and joins the Beas river near Mandi district.

❖ Kunah Khad

- Kunah Khad is a small river that flows through the eastern part of the district.
- Originates from the hills near the town of Sujanpur and flows towards the east before joining the Sutlej River in Punjab.
- The main streams of the district are Bekar Khad, Pung Khad, Sundran Khad, Kunah Khad, Hathali Khad and Maan Khad.
- All of them drain into the river Beas.
- Sukar Khad and Mundkhar Khad drain into Seer khad which ultimately drains into the river Satluj.

❖ Fairs and Festivals

❖ Gasota Fair

- Held in the month of May at place Gasota in Hamirpur

❖ Holi Fair

- Held in March at Sujanpur
- Accorded the status of a state fair

Cattle fairs— at Jahu, Chakmoh and Dhirar

- Festivals— Sair , Lohri , Baisakhi (Basoa)



❖ **Baba Deotsidh fair**

❖ **Ghasian fair**

❖ **Awah Devi fair**

❖ **Jhaniary fair**

❖ **Piplu-ra-Mela**

❖ **Sair fair held at Ladraur**

❖ **Baggi Mela**

❖ **Tauni Devi fair**

❖ **Markanda fair**

❖ **Folk Songs and Dances**

- Jatras involve young girls singing folk-songs and men performing group folk songs called Jheras.
- Jheras means battle.
- The most common Jhere is the Gugga Chauha.
- Other Jheras sung in the district include Raja Sansar Chand, Raja Bhargal, and Raja Sirmaur.

❖ **Folk Dances**

- Women perform the Gidha folk dance.
- Men perform the Chanderwali dance.

❖ **History of Hamirpur**

- Hamirpur's history is linked with the Katoch dynasty which ruled between the Ravi and Satluj rivers.
- In ancient times, Hamirpur was a part of the Jalandhar-Trigarta empire, as per the "Puranas" and Panini's "Ashtadhyai".
- Panini described the people of this kingdom as great warriors and fighters during the Mahabharata period.

- The tradition of the people being great warriors has continued, as many people from the region serve in the Indian Defence Forces.
- The Gupta dynasty is believed to have ruled Hamirpur in ancient times.
- During the middle ages, the area fell under the control of Mohammed Gazani, Timurlang, and later Sultans.
- At the time of Hamir Chand, a Katoch ruler, the area was under the control of 'Ranas' .
- Prominent Ranas were Ranas of Mewa, Ranas of Mehalta, and Dhatwal.
- The Katoch dynasty put these Ranas under its control to ensure an orderly society.
- The Katoch dynasty became predominant during the period of Hamir Chand who ruled from 1700 A.D. to 1740 A.D.
- In 1700 AD, after Alamchand's death, Hamirchand became the ruler of Kangra.
- At that time the Kangra Fort was under the Mughals. Hamirchand ruled the Kangra princely state from 1700 AD to 1747 AD.
- The place on which Hamirchand built a fort in 1743 AD, was later called Hamirpur.
- Hamirpur Fort was made Tehsil Office in 1884 AD.
- In this way, Hamirpur was made Tehsil Headquarters in 1868 in place of Nadaun.

❖ Hamir Chand (1700 -1747 A.D)

- Hamir Chand, a Katoch ruler, reigned over Hamirpur from 1700 A.D. to 1740 A.D.
- The Katoch dynasty gained dominance during Hamir Chand's reign.
- Hamir Chand built the fort in Hamirpur, and the present town of Hamirpur is named after him.

❖ Raja Sansar Chand-II (1775-1823 A.D)

- Hamirpur gained prominence during the reign of Raja Sansar Chand-II.
- Sansar Chand made Sujampur Tira his capital and constructed palaces and temples in the area.
- He wanted to establish the old empire of Jalandhar-Trigarta which his ancestors had held.
- He tried twice but failed due to the rise of Raja Ranjit Singh and the Gurkhas.
- Sansar Chand then focused on the local Hill Chiefs and attached Mandi state, making Raja Ishwari Sen a prisoner for 12 years at Nadaun.
- He also obliged the Suket ruler to pay an annual tribute and annexed parts of Bilaspur state on the right bank of Satluj.
- The Hill Chiefs joined forces and invited the Gurkhas to stop Sansar Chand's uncontrolled might.
- The combined armies fought at Mahal Morian in Hamirpur, but Sansar Chand's army emerged victorious.
- Sansar Chand replaced the existing army with Rohillas, which proved to be a self-defeating move.
- The combined forces attacked again in 1806 and forced a crushing defeat on the Katoch army.
- The Gurkhas sieged Kangra fort, looted the area, and destroyed villages. Sansar Chand had to seek refuge in the fort.
- Raja Ranjit Singh on the request of Sansar Chand waged war against the Gurkhas and defeated them in 1809, but Sansar Chand lost Kangra fort and 66 villages to the Sikhs.

- The Sikhs maintained their sovereignty over Kangra and Hamirpur until they were defeated by the British Army in the first Anglo-Sikh war.

- The British continued their rule in the area, which became a part of the British Empire.
- Sansar Chand died disillusioned, and his successor, Raja Pramodh Chand, tried unsuccessfully to dislodge the British with the help of Sikhs and other rulers.
- Hamirpur was under the control of the Sikhs from 1806 to 1846.
- In 1846, Hamirpur came under the British.

❖ British Rule on Hamirpur District

- Kangra was made a district by the British, which included Hamirpur, Kullu, and Lahaul-Spiti.
- Nadaun was made the tehsil headquarters in 1846 after the annexation of Kangra, but this was revised in 1868 and Hamirpur became the new tehsil headquarters.
- Palampur tehsil was created in 1888 by merging parts of Hamirpur and Kangra tehsils.
- Hamirpur remained a part of the Punjab province until November 1, 1966, when it was merged into Himachal Pradesh following the reorganization of Punjab.

- Construction of the District Hamirpur district was a part of East Punjab in 1966 AD.
- Hamirpur was merged with Himachal Pradesh in 1966 as a Tehsil of Kangra District.
- Hamirpur was separated from Kangra on 1 September 1972 and made a district.
- Hamirpur district was formed from Hamirpur and Badsar 2 tehsils.
- Sujanpur Tira, Nadaun and Bhoranj tehsils were formed in the year 1980 AD.
- Currently, Hamirpur district has 8 tehsils, 2 sub-tehsils, and 5 revenue sub-divisions.
- The district is divided into 6 development blocks: Hamirpur, Bijhari, Bhoranj, Nadaun, Sujanpur, and Bamsan at Touni Devi.

❖ Places of Historical Interest

❖ Sujanpur Tira

- Founded by Raja Abhay Chand Katoch in 1758, Sujanpur comes from the word Sajjanpur- which means 'the town of honest and gentle people.'.
- The tomb of Nawab Gulam Mohammed of Rampur is located here.
- There are five old temples at Tira and Sujanpur, including the Gauri Shankar temple, built during the time of Raja Sansar Chand in 1793 A.D. in the sacred memory of his mother.
- Mahadev temple, Devi temple and Vyasheshwar temple dedicated to Rishi Vyas also located here.
- The Bara-Dari (Court Room) of Raja Sansar Chand at Sujanpur is another notable historical monument in the town.
- Obreen's horse grave (Raja Sansar Chand's commander) is also located in Sujanpur.
- In 1748 AD, King Abhaychand of Kangra built forts and palaces on the hills of Sujanpur which became famous as Tira.

- The city of Sujanpur was founded by Ghamand Chand.
- Ghamand Chand built the Chamunda temple in Sujanpur in 1761 AD.
- King Sansar Chand built the Gauri Shankar Temple at Sujanpur in 1793 AD.
- The Nardeshwar Temple of Sujanpur was built by Sansar Chand in 1823 AD.
- Sujanpur Tira was visited by William Moorecraft and George Trivek in 1820 AD
- Holi fair
- The Chaugan (ground) of Sujanpur hosts a famous 4-day State Level Holi Fair during the Holi festival.
- Held in the month of march every year in Sujanpur, Hamirpur.
- It is started by Raja Sansar Chand.
- This fair has been accorded the status of a International fair.
- It exhibits traditional limelight of Holi,the festival of colours.
- A religious procession in the town and prayer are performed at the heritage Murali Manohar temple.
- exhibitions set up
- Saras fair, displaying handloom and handicrafts from over 14 states.
- the fair would provide an appropriate platform to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Himachal Pradesh and to promote the traditional handicrafts and cuisines of the state.
- Its history is about three hundred years old.
- Maharaja Sansar Chand of Katoch dynasty, played Tilak Holi for the first time in 1795 with the people in Chaugan of Sujanpur, Hamirpur, Himachal, with a special type of gulal prepared in the palace.
- Holi was started by Maharaj from about 300 years old Radha Krishna temple in one end of the city.
- This has been revealed in the research of the National Research Institute Neri, which is conducting the research on the Katoch dynasty.
- According to the research, King Sansar Chand used to be seen by the common people only on the day of Holi in the whole year.

❖ Nadaun

- Presently, it is a part of Hamirpur District but in the past it was a part of Kangra princely state.
- The Jagir of Nadaun was granted to 'Jodhbir Chand' (the son of 'Raja Sansar Chand-II' of Kangra) in 1823 by British.
- Bulleh Shah mentioned Nadaun as a city of Innocent. He is said to Have written the famous saying about

Nadaun- 'Aye Nadaun Jaye Koun' in his poem.

- There was a saying current in Kangra hill
- “Who that comes to Nadaun will not go away”.
- This is explained by the fact that there were two hundred singing and dancing girls at Nadaun and whoever come under the spell of these enchantresses never thought of leaving.
- Thus writes Ghulam Mohiuddin in Tarikh-i Punjab.



❖ RAJA JODHBIR CHANDNAD

- First Raja of Nadaun from 1823-73.
- In 1846, after 1st sikh war the territory came under British who granted a sanad in favour of Jodhbir chand in recognitions of his services.
- 1846- After annexation of Kangra, Nadaun was made the Tehsil HQ.
- In 1868 the Tehsil HQ was changed to Hamirpur.

❖ Narendra Chand

- Conferred KCSI in 1907 and title of Raja as a hereditary distinction on 15th March 1909 by the vice of India

Lord Minto.

- Till 1st Nov. 1966, Hamirpur remained a part of Punjab province under district Kangra.
- Nadaun used to be the headquarters of the Nadaun Jagir during the Princely days.
- Maharaja Sansar Chand of Kangra used to hold his court during summer in Nadaun for several years during his reign.
- Nadaun is known for the Bilkleshwar Mahadev temple, which is believed to have been founded by the Pandavs.
- Nadaun is famous for its beautiful people and a Gurudwara founded in A.D. 1929.
- Nadaun was a prominent place, during the reign of Sansar Chand II.

❖ Mahalmoriyan

- In 1806 AD at Mahalmoriyo of Hamirpur, the Gorkhas defeated Maharaja Sansar Chand, after which Sansar

Chand had to take refuge in Kangra Fort.

- Mahal Moriyan place is in Hamirpur near Kharwar in Bhoranj tehsil.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

10

Shimla

Queen of the Hills

- The name Shimla has been derived from the name of a village called Shimlah' or 'Shumlah'.
- Another belief is that , the name "Shimla" is derived from the Himalayan goddess Shyamala Devi, who is worshipped in the region.

❖ Geography of Shimla

- Shimla district derives its name from Shimla town which was once a small village inhabited by the Charcoal manufacturers.
- Shimla District is bounded by –
- Mandi and Kullu in the north,
- Kinnaur in the east,
- the state of Uttaranchal and Sirmaur district in the south,
- Solan district in the south west.
- Shimla district in its present form came into existence from 1st Sept,1972 on the reorganisation of the districts of the state.

❖ Rivers

- Shimla district has the 'Satluj', 'Pabbar' and 'Giri' flowing through it.

❖ Satluj river

- Originating from Mansarovar Lake (Rakshas Tal)
- After flowing through Kinnaur, it enters Shimla district at 'Badhal' in Rampur tehsil and takes course by touching Kumharsain and Sunni tehsil.
- It forms boundary line of Shimla district with Nirmand and Anni tehsils of Kullu district and Karsog tehsil of Mandi district.
- The main streams falling in the Satluj in Shimla district are Nogli', 'Machhada', 'Bhaira', 'Kingol', 'Khekhar', 'Chamda', 'Savera', 'Bagh'.

❖ Giri river or Giri ganga

- Originates from Kupaar peak located north of Churdhar .
- It is tributary of Yamuna.

- The main tributary of the Giri is Ashni which rises near Mahasu in the Shimla range .

❖ Pabbar river

- Originates from the base of Chandranahan peak in between Sangla tehsil of Kinnaur district and Rohru tehsil of Shimla district.
- It passes through tehsil Rohru, Jubbal and merges with the river Tons at Tiuni' in Uttrakhand.
- Main tributaries--Shikhari, Andhra, Pejore, Hatkoti.

❖ Valleys

❖ Pabbar Valley

- Also known as “Rohru valley”.
- Drained by the river Pabbar .
- The valley extends from Hatkoti upto Tikri at the base of Chansal.

❖ Peaks

- Jakhu in Shimla town
- Siah near Chail
- Chooradhar near Chaupal tehsil (In both Shimla & Sirmaur district)
- Chansal in Rohru tehsil
- Hattoo in Kumharsain tehsil
- Shali in Sunni tehsil.

❖ Temples

❖ Pyramidical architecture temples of Shimla

- Hateshwari Devi at Hatkoti
- Shiva temples at Mahasu
- Shiva temples at Deora in Jubbal

❖ Marich Havan Kund

- It is located in Kumarsain area near Dholaseri,
- It was reopened after 900 years on 22nd February 2005.

❖ Kalibari Temple

- Ram Charan Brahmchari, a Brahmin from Bengal, built it in the year 1845 AD.
- Dedicated to Shyamakali or also known as Shyamala Devi.

❖ Fairs

❖ Shimla Summer Festival

- The Shimla Summer Festival is a five-day carnival .

❖ Taradevi fair

- Held on ashtami in Navratras of Asawin at Durga Devi temple of Tara Devi.

❖ Lavi

- Held in Oct-Nov every year at Rampur-Bushahr.
- Trade fair of the greater Himalaya.
- Linked to the historic treaty b/w Bushahr State and Tibet concluded during the rule of Raja Kehri Singh.

❖ Ghund Fair

- Held at Ghund near Theog in Shimla district.
- Archery is the famous sport of this fair.

❖ Purag Fair

- Held in Kot Khai area of Shimla district in the month of April .
- It is held in honour of the Mahadev Devta.

❖ Pather-Ka-khel Fair

- Held at village Halog in district Shimla.
- People throw stones on one another.

❖ Jaganath Yatra

- The first Jaganath Yatra was taken out in Shimla town on 27th October 2012.

❖ Jorna fair

- The fair 'Bishu of Jorna' (Pul Bahal) is held in Chopal on 14th and 15th of Baishakh (April) every year.



- Archery (Thodo) is played .

❖ **Thalog Fair**

- The Thalog fair (Bishu) is held at the end of Baishakha in Pargana Jakholi of Chaupal.
- The game of archery is also played.

Rampuri Jatra fair-held in district Shimla at village Rampur near Jubbal town ,in the month of July.

Buffalo fair - held at village Kufri near Mashobra , in the month of September.

Sipi fair-held near Mashobra , in the mont of September.

Rohru Jatar fair - held at Rohru town , in the month of April.

❖ **Festivals**

❖ **Baishakhi**

- It is known as Bissue in Shimla hills .
- In upper hills(Shimla and Sirmaur region) people perform “Thonda dance” and “Mala dance” with bow and arrow.

❖ **Haryali**

- This festival is celebrated on the 1st Sawan.
- It is known as Rahayali in upper Shimla.
- Farmers do not yoke oxen on this day.

❖ **Rakhi**

- Known as ‘Rakhpunya’ in Shimla hills.

❖ **Bhunda , Shant and Bhoj**

- Festivals are celebrated like the ‘Khumbha Mela’ after every 12 years.
- Parshuram puja is performed at five places such as Cao and Mamel in Mandi , Nirmand and Nirath in Kullu and Dattanagar in upper Shimla.

❖ Art and Culture

❖ The Dodra Kavar Dance (Mahasu area)

❖ Geh or Ghee Folk Dance –

- Famous folk dance of Giripar area of Sirmaur and Theog, Chopal, Jubbal, Kotkhai region of Shimla.
- It is sung and danced in the form of Question-Answers.

❖ Hudak

- Popular dance of the Chopal region of Shimla
- performed with a hudak (damru) instrument.

❖ Bisua Birsu Dance

- Performed along with Birsu folklore in Shimla and Sirmaur.
- Also performed by the people of Khund caste (war-caste).

❖ Ghughti Dance

- Famous dance of Shimla district in which the dancers place their hands on the shoulders of the next dancer.

❖ Munjara

- It is a solo dance which is more prevalent in homes in Shimla and Sirmaur.

Chhohara - This is the folk dance of Mahasu.

❖ Folk Drama

- The Bura and Sih (Jubbal and Rohru Valleys of Shimla Hills)
- This is the name of 'ballet and opera' in local language.
- Keonthali ,Kochi ,Brari ,Mahasui ,Hindi and Punjabi are the languages spoken in Shimla district.
- Development of Shimla as Summer Capital

Shimla was developed as a large town by the British due to its favorable climatic conditions.

- In 1864, Lord Lawrence and the members of Supreme Council moved to Shimla, making it the formal seat of the summer capital of the government of India.
- From 1871 to 1947, Shimla served as the summer capital of the Punjab Government.
- After the partition of Punjab, Shimla continued to serve as the headquarters of Punjab Government until its offices moved to Chandigarh.

❖ History of Shimla District

- Present district of Shimla includes the following princely states.
- Balsan, Bhajji, Koti, Bushahr, Darkoti, Tharoch, Dhadi, Kumarsain, Khaneti, Delath, Dhami, Jubbal, Rawingarh , Ratesh, Sangri, Keonthal, Ghund, Madhan, Theog, Kotkhai, Karangla, Sairie.
- Bushahr is the largest and Ratesh (2 sq mile) is the smallest princely state among the Shimla hill states.

❖ State Founder Offshoot/Descendents/Origin

Balsan Alak Singh Rathore family of Sirmaur

Bhajji Cheru (Udaipal) descendants of Kutlehar (Kangra)

Koti Chand Thakur Descendants of Kutlehar

Bushahr Pradhuman (son of Lord Krishna)

Darkoti Durga Singh Scion of house of Jaipur (Marwar)

Tharoch Kishan Singh (Sisodia Rajput) Descendant of Deo Karan (Prince of Udaipur)

Dhadi Sisodia Rajput Offshoot of Tharoch

Kumharsain Kirat Chand Came from Gaya ,Bhiar

Khaneti Sabir Chand

Dealth Prithi Singh

Dhami Govind Pal Descendents of Prithvi Raj Chauhan

Jubbal Karan Chand Once rulers of Sirmaur state

Rawingarh Duni Chand

Sairie Mool Chand

Ratesh Rai Singh

Sangri

Keonthal Giri Sen Descendent of Sen dynasty of Bengal

Ghund Jan Jaan Singh

Madhan Bhup Singh

Theog Jayas Chand

Kotkhai Ahimal Singh Scion of Kumharsain

Karangla Sansar Chand Scion of Kumharsain

❖ Balsan State

- Area -51 square miles
- Balsan princely state was founded in the 12th century by "Alak Singh", a Rathore descendant of the princely state of Sirmaur.

- At the time of the Gorkha invasion (in 1805 AD) it was the estate of the princely state of Kumarsen and was ruled by Jog Raj Singh.
- Jograj Singh assisted the British government in the Gorkha war and handed over the Nagan fort to David

Ochterlony.

- The independent treaty was conferred on Thakur Jograj Singh, the ruler of Balsan in 1815 AD.
- The Balsan princely state supported the British government in the Revolt of 1857 and many European citizens took refuge in it.
- Jograj, the ruler of Balsan, was given the title of "Khilat" and "Rana" by the British government in 1858 AD.
- The last Rana of Balsan principality was Ran Bhadur Singh.
- "History of Balsan State" is a book written by him.
- On 15th April 1948 Balsan state was merged with Himachal Pradesh.
- At present it is a part of "Theog" tehsil of Shimla district.
- Origin of Bhaji and Koti
- The Rajas of Bhajji and Koti were real brothers.
- The twenty fourth ruler of Kutlehar Jaspal had five sons.
- Four among them- 'Cheru', 'Chand', 'Shogu' and 'Bhogu' along with their sister crossed over the Satluj river and settled at 'Mool Bhajji'.
- Shogu and Bhogu along with their sister moved towards Fagu.
- Bhogu married a Kanet maiden and founded the village 'Fagyana', while Shogu and his sister turned towards spiritual world.
- Shogu is worshipped as a 'Devta' in Fagu area, while his sister as 'Devi' in Keonthal and Tharoch.
- Local residents held them in high esteem.
- Cheru founded Bhajji.
- Chand founded Koti.

❖ Bhajji State

- Bhajji --Area 96 square miles
- Located on the banks of the river Nauti Khad and the Satluj.
- Shali peak is located in this ancient princely state.
- Bhajji
- Founder: Cheru (descendent of Jaspal of Kutlehar) .
- After the foundation of Bhajji he changed his name from Cheru to Udai pal.

❖ SOHAN PAL

- He founded 'Sunni' village and transferred his capital from Mul Bhajji to Sunni.
- Bhajji was plundered by Gurkhas between 1803-15.

❖ RUDAR PAL

- He helped British during Anglo Gurkha war and for his services he was conferred a Sanad after the war.
- The last Rana of the state was Ram Chand Singh Pal.
- In 1948, Bhajji was made a Tehsil of HP and at present Bhajji is a part of Sunni tehsil of Shimla District.

❖ Koti State

- Area –70 square Kilometer
- Koti princely state was founded by Chand, brother of Cheru, a descendant of Kutlehar princely state of Kangra.
- For long period 'Mool Koti' remained the capital of the state.
- Tara Chand Thakur changed its capital from 'Koti' to 'Kayar Koti', which continued so till 1947.
- The princely state of Koti was annexed by the Gorkhas in 1809 AD.
- In 1815 AD, the princely state of Koti again became the estate of Keonthal.
- Hari Chand helped the British in 1857 AD, in return for which he was given the title of 'Rana'.
- In 1948 Koti princely state became part of Kusumti tehsil and merged with Mahasu district.

❖ Darkoti State

- Area—8 square mile
- Darkoti princely state was founded by Durga Chand, who came from Marwar (Jaipur).
- The Darkoti princely state currently falls in the Kot Khai tehsil.
- Darkoti was merged with Mahasu district in 1948 AD.

❖ Tharoch State

- Area-75 square miles
- It was lying on the banks of the Tons beyond Jubbal and close to Dehradun border.
- Tharoch princely state was founded by the prince Kishan Singh of the Sisodia dynasty of Udaipur, who received the Tharoch jagir from the princely state of Sirmaur.
- Thakur Surat Singh, the last ruler of the princely state of Tharoch, received the permanent title of "Rana".
- The princely state of Tharoch was merged into Chaupal (Mahasu district) on April 15, 1948.

❖ Dhadi

- Offshoot of Tharoch.
- Founded by a Sisodia Rajput, who settled near the confluence of Tons' and 'Pabbar' and founded Dhadi on the right side of the river Pabbar.
- Formerly, a dependency of Tharoch and then Bushahr, Dhadi was annexed to Rawingarh at the time of Gurkha supremacy.
- In 1891, British decided to separate Dhadi and Rawingarh as independent from each other.

- But later on in 1896 both, Rawingarh and Dhadi were made feudatory to Jubbal state.
- On 15th April 1948, Dhadi became part of Jubbal tehsil of Mahasu district.

❖ Kumharsain

- Area –90 square mile
- Located on the left bank of Sutlej ,immediately below Kotgarh and north of Narkanda.
- Capital –Kumharsain village
- Kumharsain ,Khnaeti ,Dealth , Karangla and Kotkhai had common origin.
- Kumarsen
- The princely state of Kumarsen was founded by Kirat Chand who came from Gaya (Bihar).
- Ajmer Singh defeated Raja Man Singh of Kullu and captured the 'Sarai' and 'Shangri fort.
- At the time of the Gorkha invasion, Kumarsen was a fief of the state of Bushahr.
- Rana Kehar Singh of Kumarsen took refuge in the princely state of Kullu at the time of the Gorkha invasion.
- Rana Vidyadhar Singh was the last ruler of Kumarsen.
- Kumarsen became part of Mahasu district on April 15, 1948.

❖ Khaneti

- Khaneti princely state was founded by Sabir Chand, the son of Kirat Chand, the founder of the Kumarsen principality.
- In the 15th century Thakur Tara Chand of Khaneti defeated Garhwal state but later on Kullu defeated

Khaneti.

- After Gurkha expulsion ,Khantei became feudatory of Bushahr state.

❖ Delath

- Area-4 square miles
- The state of Delath was founded by Prithvi Singh, brother of Kirat Chand,the founder of Kumharsain.
- It was also a fief of the state of Bushahr in 1815 AD.
- Delath was amalgamated into the Bushahr princely state on April 15,1948 and made part of Mahasu district.
- Presently it is a part of Rampur Bushahr Tehsil.

❖ Dhami State

- Area- 26 square miles
- Dhami princely state was founded by Govind Pal, a descendant of Prithviraj Chauhan who came to Dhami from Rajpura (Patiala).
- The capital of the princely state of Dhami was 'Halog'.
- Raja Raj Singh of the Dhami princely state started replacing the suffix “Pal” with the “Singh”.

- Before the Gorkha invasion (1805 AD), Dhimi was the estate of the princely state of Bilaspur (Kahlur).
- Dhimi was occupied by the Gorkhas from 1805 to 1815.
- Rana Govardhan Singh also assisted the British in the Revolt of 1857 AD.
- Rana Dalip Singh imposed complete prohibition of Liquor in his state in 1930.
- On 16th July 1939, Dhimi firing tragedy took place during Rana Dalip Singh's reign.
- Dhimi was merged into Mahasu district on April 15, 1948, as part of the Kusumpatti tehsil.

❖ Jubbal State

- Area -288 square miles
- It was lying to the East of Shimla between Sirmaur and Rampur Bushahr.
- Jubbal
- The princely state of Jubbal was founded in 1195 AD by Karma Chand, son of Ugra Chand and brother of Shubhansh Prakash.
- The princely state of Jubbal was initially the estate of the princely state of Sirmaur, which became independent after the Gorkha-British war.
- Karma Chand established the capital of the princely state of Jubbal in Sonapur, which he later shifted to Purana Jubbal.
- Raja Bhag Chand expanded his state which resulted into dispute with Garhwal Rajas. They attacked Jubbal and arrested him. He escaped from prison and reached back to Jubbal.
- Gohar Chand /Gir Chand shifted his capital from Purana Jubbal to Deorha(Present Jubbal).
- Gurkha invasion took place during the reign of Rana Puran Chand. At this time Jubbal was tributary of Sirmaur.
- The state of Jubbal became an independent principality in 1815 AD.
- The British government conferred the title of 'Rana' to Rana Puranchand (in 1815 AD) and granted independent sanad.
- In the state of Jubbal, Tharoch was merged in 1841 AD, Ravin and Dhadhi were merged in 1896 AD.
- Bhagat Chand attended coronation Darbar in Delhi, 1911. He represented the Shimla hill states in the council of princess /Narender Mandal from 1921-24.
- Bhagat Chand, the ruler of the princely state of Jubbal, was conferred the title of "King" in 1918 AD.
- The last ruler of the princely state of Jubbal was Digvijay Chand.
- The state was one of the first princely Kingdom to avail itself of electricity with the construction of a hydroelectric plant in 1924.
- In 1896, Rawingarh and Dhadi were Declared subordinate to Jubbal.
- Jubbal was merged into Mahasu district on April 15, 1948.

❖ Ravingarh (Ravin)

- Area-7 square mile
- Rawingarh was a feudatory of Jubbal state.
- Ravinagarh princely state was founded by Duni Chand, the third son of Ugra Chand.

- The state was originally fief of Tehri- Garhwal but the eastern portion was run by Bushahri forces before

Gurkha invasion and the ruler was then Himmat Singh.

- After Gurkhas defeat, the state was partitioned between the British, Raja of Tehri Garhwal and the Rana of Rawain.
- The portion retained by British was in 1830 given to Keonthal in exchange of land taken up for station of Shimla..
- Raja Veer Prakash of Sirmaur established the Ravingarh fort on a hill to the left bank of Pabbar river.
- The last ruler of the princely state of Ravingarh was Tikka Fateh Singh.
- In 1948 ,it was merged with H.P and at present it is a part of Jubbal tehsil of Shimla district.

❖ Ratesh

- It was a fief of Keonthal state.
- Ratesh princely state was founded by Rai Singh, brother of Karma Prakash
- King Somar Prakash made Ratesh the capital of the princely state.
- Ratesh was the smallest hill state .
- In 1925 , Last ruler Thakur Shamsher Singh signed the document of accession with H.P.

❖ Sangari State

- Area -40 square kilometer
- It is located on the south bank of Sutlej above Kotgarh and near Kumharsain
- Originally belonged to Bushahr but later conquered by Raja Man Singh of Kullu
- From 1803-15, Gurkhas occupied the hills and Kullu Raja paid tribute to Gurkhas
- In 1815, the state was restored to Bikram Singh.
- Raja Jeet Singh of Kullu took refuge in Sangri on the British side when Sikhs invaded Kullu in 1840.
- In 1841,Sangari was separated from Kullu and was incorporated with Shimla hill states.
- Raghubir Singh was officially the last Raja of Sangri.
- In 1948 Sangari became part of Mahasu district of H.P.

❖ Keonthal State

- Area- 260 sq km.
- Koti , Theog , Madhan , Ghund and Ratesh are five petty states are subordinate to the Raja of Keonthal.
- Keonthal princely state was founded in 1211 AD by Giri Sen, younger brother of Birsan the founder of Suket princely state.
- The founder of Suket ,Mandi , Keonthal and Kishtwar were from the common Sen dynasty of Bengal.
- In 1379 AD, the princely state of Keonthal came under Firoz Shah Tughlaq.
- Before 1800 AD, there were 18 Thakurias under the princely state of Keonthal. Koti, Ghand, Theog, Madhan, Mahlog, Kuthar, Kunihar, Dhami, Throch, Shangri, Kumarsen, Razana, Khanetti, Maili, Khalsi, Baghari, Dighayali and Ghat.
- At the time of Gorkha invasion (1809 AD), Rana Raghunath Sen fled to Suket.

- The 18 Thakurais of Keonthal separated in 1814 AD.
- During the Gurkha invasion, most of the 18 Thakurais freed themselves from Keonthal, while others became absorbed in other states.
- In September 1815, a sanad invested the chief of Keonthal with authority over the Thakurais of Theog, Koti, Ghund, and Madhan, requiring tribute payments.
- In 1823, the pargana of Punar was transferred to Keonthal by another sanad.
- Until 1857, the Keonthal chiefs were called Ranas, but in that year, their status was raised to the rank of Raja.
- Raja Sansar Sen was given Killat for his loyalty in 1857 revolt.
- In 1830, the British portion of Rawingarh was given to Keonthal in exchange for the territory taken for founding Shimla town.
- Bijai /Vijay Sen ceded full jurisdiction over lands within the state required for Kalka Shimla railway in 1901 and attended the Delhi Darbar of 1911.
- In 1948 Keonthal became part of Mahasu district of H.P.

Common origin of Madhan, Ghund, and Theog principalities

- Madhan', 'Ghund' and 'Theog' all three principalities are said to have common origin.
- It is said that a Chandel Rajput of Jaipur, while on pilgrimage to Badrinath, settled at Ram Sarai in Garhwal because of his liking for hill country.
- It is also said that after his movement to Kahlur in the time of Raja Bhim Chand around A.D. 1667, his sons moved further to upper Shimla Hills.
- His three sons Jais Chand', Jajan Singh' and 'Bhup Singh' founded Theog, Ghund and Madhan states respectively.

❖ Madhan

- Area-9 square mile
- Madhan princely state was founded by Bhup Singh, the second son of Raja Bhim Chand of Kahlur princely state
- Madhan was the estate of the princely state of Keonthal.
- In the beginning it was under the control of Kumharsain.
- Gurkhas annexed Madan in 1810 and remained under their control till 1815.
- In 1815 British government put it under the control of Keonthal.
- Narendra Singh was the last ruler of the princely state of Madhan.
- On 15th April 1948, Madhan was merged with Theog and became part of Mahasu district.

❖ Theog

- Theog state was founded by Jaischand (Jayachandra) of Kahlur.
- Theog State was the fief of Keonthal.
- From 1810-15 it remained under Gurkhas.
- In 1815 British government put it under the control of Keonthal.
- Krishan Chand was the last ruler of the princely state of Theog.



- Theog princely state was the first princely state to be merged with India.

❖ Ghund Fief

- Area-28 square miles.
- It was a fief of Keonthl state.
- It was founded by Jan Jaan/Jajan Singh.
- After the expulsion of Gurkhas the British put it under the control of Keonthal.
- During Praja Mandal movement the Thakur Kishan Singh banned the entry of Praja mandalist in the territory.
- On 15th April 1948 Ghund became a part of Mahasu district of H.P

❖ Kotkhai Thakuri

- Kotkhai princely state was founded by Ahimal Singh of Kumharsen.
- Kotkhai was the fiefdom of Kumarsen, Kullu and Bushahr.
- For 10 years ,Kotkhai remained under Kullu and then annexed by Bushahr which retained it for next 40 years till Gorkha invasion.
- After the Gorkha-British War (1815) Kotkhai was given to Rana Ranjit Singh and the Kotgarh was kept by the British themselves as it was strategically important.

❖ Karangla Fief

- Karangla was founded by one Sansar Chand, the scion of Kumharsain state.
- Owing to its small size it was a fief of Bushahr.
- After Gurkhas invasion, it was finally merged with Bushahr state and now forms the part of Himachal Pradesh.

Pradesh.

- Sairie Fief
- Sairie was founded by Mool Chand (the second son of the Raja Ugra Chand of Sirmaur) .
- Whenever Bushahr state found it opportune, it attacked Sairie and kept it under its control .
- Rohru was also under Sairie Thakurais
- Puran Sing was last ruler of Sairie , who died fighting against Gurkhas and without leaving an heir.
- Ultimately, the rani took over the control of administration in her own hands.
- After the rani's death in 1864, the British government handed over Sairie to Bushahr as Nazarana.
- Currently, Sairie is a part of Shimla district.

❖ Bushahr State

- Area-3820 square miles
- After Kashmir it was one of the oldest of the hill states in the Western Himalayas.
- The princely state of Bushahr was founded by Pradyuman, son of Shri Krishna.

- He had come to marry his son Anirudh (grandson of Shri Krishna) to the daughter of King Banasura of Sonitpur (Sarahan).
- After Banasura's death, Pradyuman established the Bushahr princely state and made Kamru the capital of the Bushahr princely state.
- Raja Chatar Singh, the 110th descendant of Pradyumna, moved the capital from "Kamru" to "Sarahan"
- Raja Kehri Singh - Raja Kehri Singh was called "Ajanubahu" because he could stand upright and touch his knees.
- Aurangzeb honored Kehri Singh (1639-1696) in the title of 'Chhatrapati'.
- Raja Kehari Singh started the Lavi Fair.
- Kehri Singh got the Hangrang Valley as a jagir from Tibet. He had retreated the territory of Tibet to the present limits by a treaty.

❖ Raja Ram Singh (1767 AD 1799)

- Raja Ram Singh shifted the capital of Bushahr princely state from Sarahan to Rampur.
- Gorkha Invasion - At the time of Gorkha invasion in 1810, most of the Bushahr state (except Kinnaur) was occupied by Gorkhas. After Raja Mahendra Singh drove out the Gorkhas, the British government granted an 'independent sanad' in 1815 AD.

❖ Raja Shamsher Singh

- Raja Shamsher Singh did not support the British in the Revolt of 1857 AD.

Integration of Rampur Bushahr with the Union of Indian

- Sarahan is the ancient capital of Bushahr State located near Rampur.
- In March 1948, a public meeting was organized at Sarahan presided over by a freedom fighter named Master Annu Lal.
- The meeting highlighted the grievances of the people and the injustice perpetuated by state officials against innocent masses.
- Police arrested the leaders including Annu Lal, but the agitated masses freed them at Gaura.
- State officials arrived at Gaura with armed forces, but the people faced them with great courage and arrested all the officials.
- The people then reached Rampur, where people's rule was declared.
- The Diwan of the state Baldev Singh moved from Shimla to Rampur with a section of armed police, leading to a fierce battle in which many people were killed and their dead bodies were tied with stones and thrown in the Sutlej river.
- This act agitated the masses even more, and sensing serious trouble, Raja Padam Singh had no option but to accept the integration of the state with the Indian union.
- Ultimately, in April 1948, Rampur Bushahr became a part of the Chief Commissioner Province of Himachal Pradesh.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

11

Solan

Mushroom City

- Solan is named after the Hindu goddess “Shoolini devi”.
- Also known as –“Mushroom city of India”

❖ Geography of Solan

❖ Solan district is bounded by –

- Shimla district in the North
- Ropar district of Punjab and Ambala district of Haryana in the South
- Sirmaur district in the East
- Bilaspur district in the West.
- Mandi district touches the boundary of Solan district in the North-East.

❖ Rivers

- Solan district has catchment areas of three major rivers: Satluj, Yamuna, and Ghaggar.
- The main tributaries of the river in Solan district.
- Yamuna river ----- Asni is main tributary.
- Satluj river -----Kiar-Ka-Nala, Ghambhar, Dabar Khad, Kuthar Nadi.
- Ghaggar --Kaushala stream is the main tributary.
- In the Nalagarh subdivision , the Sirsa river is the main stream.

❖ Valleys

- The terrains are mostly mountainous except 'valleys of Saproon' in Solan tehsil, 'Doon' in Nalagarh tehsil and 'Kunihar' in Arki tehsil. Doon valley is the most fertile area of the district.

❖ Sarsa Valley

- Also known as Industrial Valley.

❖ Kunihar Valley (Arki)

- Also known by the names ‘Hatkot’ and ‘Choti Vilayat’.
- It is named Kunihar because of the Kuni river that flows by and is shaped like a garland(haar).

❖ Saproon Valley

❖ Doon Valley

- It is in Nalagarh Tehsil of Solan district.
- Ajoining to the Kiarda-dun valley of sirmaur district is the Dun and Sproon valley of the Solan district.

❖ Fair and Festivals

❖ Solan Mela

- Celebrated in honor of the goddess ‘Shoolini ’, whose temple is situated in the nearby village ‘Solan Gaon’.

Solan town is named after this goddess.

❖ Sayar

- It is a famous fair observed in the month of September at a number of places such as Bakloh (Kangra), Karsog (Mandi) and Subathu (solan).

❖ Sair Fair

- Held in district Solan at town “Arki” in the month of July.
- This fair is famous for the Bull fighting.

❖ Temples

❖ Shoolini Mata Temple

- Dedicated to the goddess Shoolini Mata.

❖ Jatoli Shiv Temple

- The Jatoli Shiv Temple is located in the village of Jatoli, near Solan.
- An ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and is believed to have been built during the 9th century AD.

❖ Kali Mata Temple

- Located in the town of Baddi and is dedicated to the goddess Kali Mata.

❖ Narayan Temple

- Located in the town of Arki, near Solan.
- Present Solan district comprises of the erstwhile princely state of Baghal ,Baghat , Kunihar,Mangal,Beja , Mehlog ,Hindur (Nalagarh) and parts of Keonthal and Koti and hilly areas of composite Punjab state which merged in H.P on 1st Nov 1966.
- Solan district is a part of the princely states of Shimla hill including Baghal-120 sq mi, Mahlog, Baghat-33 sq mi, Kuthar-21 sq mi, Mangal-14 sa mi, Kunihar-27 sg mi and Beja.
- These seven hill states combined to form the Solan and Arki tehsils on 15 April 1948, which were the tehsils of Mahasu district.

❖ State Founder Offshoot/origin/Descendent

Baghat Basant Pal/Hari Chand Pal Panwar Rajput from Dharana Giri

Baghal (Arki) Aje Dev Panwar Rajput from Ujjain

Kunihar Abhoj Dev/Deo Akhnoor in Jammu

Kuthar Surat Chand Rajput of Kishtwar in Kashmir

Mehlog Bir Chand Raja of Ayodhya

Beja Raja Dhol Chand Rajput of Tunar Gotra

Mangal Attri Rajput from Marwar (Rajasthan)

Nalagarh (Hindur) Ajit Chand /Ajay chand Offshoot of Bilaspur

❖ Baghat

Area-36 square miles

- The city of Solan and Kasauli were part of Baghat State.
- Baghat means 'Bahu Ghat'(many pass).
- Baghat state was established by Pawar Rajput Basant Pal (Harichand Pal) from Dharana Giri in the Deccan.
- Rana Inderpal named the princely state of Baghat.
- Baghat state became independent from Bilaspur in 1790 AD.
- Rana Mahendra Singh became the first independent ruler of the princely state of Baghat.
- Rana Mahendra Singh died without any children in 1839 AD after which the princely state came under the control of the British government.
- Rana Vijay Singh became the ruler of Baghat after Rana Mahendra

Singh.

- After the death of Vijay Singh in 1849 AD (without any son), the princely state of Baghat came under the British policy.
- Lord Dalhousie annexed Baghat under “Doctrine of Lapse”.
- Umed Singh, a cousin of Vijay Singh, claimed his right to the throne and presented his case to England.
- In 1860, Lord Canning, the Governor-General, recommended that Umed Singh's claim be accepted, and it was officially recognized in 1862.
- Unfortunately, Rana Umed Singh, who had been waiting for thirteen years for his claim to be acknowledged, was on his deathbed when he received the news.
- He survived only a few hours after hearing the good news before passing away.
- In 1901, Rana Dalip Singh ceded land within the state required for the Kalka Shimla rail line, Solan & Kasauli cantonments and to Subathu and Dagshai water works.
- In 1933, Raja Durga Singh was elected as member of the Chamber of Princess.
- Durga Singh was also the Chairman of Solan constituent assembly held on 28th January 1948.
- He was last ruler of the state.

❖ Baghal State

- Area- 124 square miles
- Clan name--Bagalia
- Arki presided over by Raja Durga Singh.
- The princely state of Baghal was founded by Pawar

Rajput Ajaydev who came from Ujjain.

- The state of Baghal was located around the river

Gambhar.

- The capital of the princely state of Baghal was Siri, Dhoondan, Dugali and Darla mentioned in some sources***
- Baghal territory was likely divided among feudal lords when 'Aje Dev' settled in the village of Sairi.
- The earliest capital of the state was Damras, but it was later shifted to Darla by Nand Dev, Aje Dev's son.
- Another version suggests that Aje Dev settled in Sairi and his descendants shifted the capital from Dhundhan to Dughli, Damras, Darla, and finally to Dhundhan around A.D. 1300.

❖ Rana Sabhachand

- Rana Sabhachand made Arki the capital of the princely 131 state of Baghal in 1643AD.
- He is considered the first ruler of the princely state of Baghal.
- The Arki city was founded by Rana Sabha chand.
- Gurkha invasion took place during the reign of Rana Jagat Singh
- The state of Baghal remained under the control of the Gurkhas from 1803 AD to 1815 AD.
- Arki was the headquarters of the Gorkhas.

- Rana Jagat Singh took refuge in the princely state of Nalagarh for 7 years.
- The British government removed control of the Gurkhas from the princely state of Baghal in 1815 AD.
- Raja Shiv Saran Singh gave shelter to Raja Anirudh Chand (1823-1829) of Kangra on his flight from Kangra in 1828 to avoid arrest by the Sikhs on his refusal to marry his sisters to Raja Hira Singh, son of Raja Dhian

Singh Dogra of Jammu.

- Shiv Saran Singh built the 'Diwankhana' at Arki during his reign.
- Kishan Singh was known for his patronage of building and painting, including the reconstruction of Arki

Bazar.

- Around 1850, Kishan Singh had the Diwankhana at Arki adorned with murals.
- During the 1857 revolt, Rana Kishan Singh sent a contingent of forty men under his brother Mian Jai Singh to support the British forces.
- As a reward for their loyalty, Kishan Singh and Jai Singh were granted the title of Raja and bestowed with Khilat in 1860.
- The last ruler of the princely state of Baghal was Rajendra Singh.
- He was the founder of Himachal Home Guards. And remained its honorary commandant General for 20 years.
- On 15th April 1948 Baghal state merged with H.P
- The modern name of Jagatgarh fort of Baghal state is Jatog (Shimla).

❖ Kunihar

- Area-15 square miles
- Kunihar princely state was founded by Abhoj Dev from Jammu (Akhnoor) in 1154 AD.
- The capital of the princely state of Kunihar was Hatkoti.
- Gorkha was the ruler of the princely state at the time of the war.
- Rao Hardev Singh was the last ruler of Kunihar.

❖ Kuthar

- Area-20 square miles
- Founded by Surat Chand Rajput of Kishtwar in Kashmir), who had fled from the Mohammedan invaders.
- In early times, Kuthar was a tributary to Nalagarh and Bilaspur.
- During the Gurkha invasion, Kuthar was under the rule of Rana Gopal Chand and was a tributary to Keonthal.
- Rana Gopal Chand fled to Manimajra in Ambala district due to the Gurkha onslaught and passed away while returning to Kuthar at the end of the war.
- In 1815 AD, the British government liberated Kuthar from Gorkha control and granted Sanad (in 1815 AD) to Rana Bhup Singh.
- Sabathu, who was a part of Keonthal, was later merged with the Kuthar principality.
- On 15th April 1948, Kuthar was merged with Baghat and subsequently became a part of the Mahasu district until August 1972, when it was included in the Solan district.

❖ Mehlog

- Area--43 Square miles
- Mahlog State was founded by Veer Chand who came from Ayodhya.
- According to another version ,the name of founder was Hari Chand ,who visited Mansarover lake in Tibet

,founded the state.

- Veer Chand initially resided in Patta village near Nalagarh border and made it his capital.
- Raja Uttam Chand was initially defeated by the Raja of Sirmaur in 1612 and lost his state, but he regained it with the help of his father-in-law, the Rana of Keonthal, and established his capital at Kot Gharsi.
- Mehlog, a small state, was under the control of Keonthal until 1780 when Khoshala conspired with a Brahmin named Devi Saran, poisoned the chief Prithvi Singh, and ascended the throne with the assistance of the Kahlur

State, accepting the overlordship of Bilaspur.

- Mehlog was occupied by the Gurkhas from 1803 to 1815, during which Thakur Sansar Chand sought refuge with Raja Ram Saran of Hindur, who was at war with the Gurkhas.
- The Raja of Kangra annexed nine or ten Parganas (administrative divisions) of Mehlog, handing them over to Baghat, resulting in the Mehlog chief being known as Rana instead of Raja.
- After the Gurkhas were driven out by the British government in 1815, the Rana of Mehlog was restored to his state, obligated to pay a tribute and render military service when required.
- On 15th April 1948 Mehlog was merged with H.P and formed a part of Solan tehsil of then Mahsu district.
- At present Mehlog is the part of Kasauli tehsil of Solan district.

❖ Beja

- Area-4 square mile
- Beja princely state was founded by Tanwar/Tunar Raja Dhol chand of Delhi while according to the second

Janushruti, Beja princely state was established by Gaurav Chand, 43rd descendant of Dholchand.

- The Beja principality was under Bilaspur (Kahlur).
- In 1790, after the defeat of Kahlur by Hindur, the princely state became independent.
- Maan Chand was the head of the princely state at the time of Gorkha invasion. Man Chand possessed extensive knowledge of herbs and their medicinal properties, and he treated numerous Gurkha soldiers.
- In recognition of his services, Gorkha Chief Amar Singh Thapa granted him a sanad for his state.
- Later on Man Chand helped the British to expel Gurkhas from the territory.
- As a result, the state was restored to Man Chand, and he was given the title of Thakur.
- On 15th April 1948 Beja was merged with the then Solan tehsil of Mahasu district.

❖ Mangal

- Area –12 square mile
- Mangal state was lying on the banks of Satluj near Bilaspur.

- Mangal princely state was founded by Atri Rajput from Marwar (Rajasthan).
- The founder Raja of Mangal state served the Raja of Kahlur and was known for his bravery and loyalty.
- As a token of appreciation for his loyalty and bravery, the Raja of Kahlur granted him the territory of Mangal.
- Mangal princely state was named after Mangal Singh (son of the founder Raja) in 1240 AD.
- After the liberation from Gurkha control in 1815 AD, the British government granted independent sanad to 'Rana Bahadur Singh'.
- In 1921 British government, took away all the rights of Rana Shiv Singh to rule over the state.
- Then Lala Bhagwan Dass, Wazir of Baghal state was appointed wazir of Mangal state.
- On 15th April 1948, Mangal was merged with Arki and became part of Himachal Pradesh.

❖ Hindur State (Nalagarh)

- The state was historically referred to as Hindur.
- In the 15th century, the capital city of Nalagarh was established.
- Consequently, the state became known by its second name, derived from its prominent town, Nalagarh.
- It was an offshoot of princely state of Bilaspur.
- The chief of Hindur, Kahlur and of Chaneni in Jammu hills trace their origin to a common ancestor "a Chandel Rajput who came from Garh -Chanderi"
- Ajit Chand, it is said was installed there and founded the ruling dynasty of Hindur.
- Yet another story is that, Ajit Chand conquered Nalagarh and gave it to his brother Suchet Chand, from whom the ruling family of Nalagarh descended.
- According to another version--
- The princely state of Hindur was founded around 1100 AD by Ajay Chand, the elder son of Kahal Chand of Kahlur.
- Ajay Chand killed the unpopular Thakur of Hindur and setup his authority there.
- His younger brother Ajit Chand succeeded to the throne at Kahlur State.
- In 1398 Taimur Lang invaded India, the Raja of Hindur at that time was Alam Chand (1356-1406).
- Taimpur raided Delhi, Meerut, Haridwar, Kiar-da- Doon and then reached the border of Hindur.
- Alam Chand, realizing his inability to counter Taimur Lang's force, offered full assistance to the invader and paid him rich tributes to safeguard his state.

❖ Vikram Chand (1421-1435 AD)

- Founded the city of Nalagarh.
- Vikramchand made Nalagarh the capital of the princely state of Hindur.

❖ Raja Narayan Chand (1477-1522 AD)

- During his reign, the Raja of Nurpur traveled through Hindur to Haridwar and proposed a marriage alliance between his daughter and the Raja of Hindur, which was declined by Raja Narayan Chand.

- As a result, the Raja of Nurpur arranged his daughter's marriage with the Raja of Kahlur and instigated the Kahluria Raja to attack Hindur.
- During this conflict, the Satgarh fort was seized and occupied by the forces of Kahlur.

❖ Ram Chand (1522-1568 A.D)

- A great lover of architecture.
- He built the fort of 'Ramgarh' and made 'Ramshahar' as summer capital of the state.

❖ Sansar Chand (1568-1618 A.D)

- Built a beautiful palace in Nalagarh and also got repaired an ancient 'Sarovar Kala Kund'.

❖ Dharam Chand (1618-1701 A.D)

- He twice had war like exchange with Aurangzeb's soldiers and both times emerged victorious.
- When Kalian Chand became the ruler of Bilaspur in 1630 A.D., he constructed a fort on the border of Hindur, leading to hostile feelings and ultimately resulting in a war between the two states.
- During the war, the Raja of Hindur was killed, leaving behind his infant son.
- To protect the state and ensure the safety of the young prince, the Rani took a bold step by seeking the protection of Kalian Chand, who was a near relative.
- Kalian Chand accepted the responsibility, placed the infant prince on the throne, and acted as his guardian in the management of the state until he came of age.

❖ Raja Himmat Chand (1701-1705 A.D)

- During his reign Pathan attacked the state thrice and he died fighting them in the battlefield.

❖ Raja Man Chand (1756—1761 A.D)

- His period was marked by dissensions and assassinations within the state.
- Factions emerged, with the Mattiana Kanets supporting Man Chand and the Thuana Kanets siding with Padam

Chand, the younger brother of the late Raja Bhup Chand.

- Padam Chand assassinated his nephew Man Chand and seized the throne but was subsequently killed by the Mattianas.
- Raja Devi Chand of Kahlur, was approached by the people of Hindur to take over the state, but he declined and installed Gaje Singh Hindurea, a member of the Hindur ruling family, as the new Raja.
- Another account suggests that—
- a Sikh named Bhai Kharak Singh, from the neighboring state of Mehlog, facilitated reconciliation between the factions and convinced Gaje Singh to become the ruler, refusing to accept the Gaddi .
- Raja Gaje Singh ruled from 1761-88 and was the founder of the present dynasty of Hindur.
- Raja Ajmer Chand of Bilaspur built a fort called Ajmergarh on the border of Hindur.

❖ Raja Ram Sharan (1788-1848 AD)

- Raja Ramsharan supported Sansar Chand of Kangra and annexed a part of Kahlur and burnt Bilaspur town..
- He defeated Fatehpur, Ratanpur and Bahadurpur Fort in 1790 AD by defeating the princely state of Kahlur.
- Raja of Kahlur and Gurkhas jointly broke the Ram Sharan's power .
- At the time of the Gorkha invasion, King Ramsharan had to hide in the Ram city fort for 3 years.
- The Gorkhas captured Ramshahr in 1804 AD.
- King Ramsharan was a close friend of Sansar Chand. King Ramsharan took refuge in the Fort of Plassey

(plains between Nalagarh and Ropar) for 10 years.

- Pahari (Kangra) painting developed in Hindur during the time of King Ramsharan.
- Raja Ramsharan, along with David Ochterlony, drove the Gorkha invaders from Hindur in 1814 AD.
- A battle was fought at the pass of Ramshahr in 1814 and another at Lahar Ghati near Malaon Fort
- Gorkha commander Amar Singh Thapa surrendered on 15 May 1815 AD at Maloun Fort in the princely state of Hindur.
- In 1815, Raja Ram Saran was offered the hilly district of Barauli as a reward for his services in the war but he refused.
- Barauli was transferred to another chief while later it became part of the Shimla district with the Subathu cantonment.
- In 1830, three Barauli villages were exchanged with the Maharaja of Patiala for four villages in Shimla.
- Raja Ram Saran returned the Satgarha fort to the Raja of Bilaspur after the Nepalese war.
- King Ramsharan died in 1848 AD. Raja Vijay(1848–1857) became king after Raja Ramsharan.
- Ishwari Singh became king in 1878 AD.
- Raja Joginder Singh helped British during the 1st World war. And in 1918, during his reign a revolt took place in Nalagrah , which was suppressed by him with the help of Britisher.
- On May 2, 1948, the states of Kalsia and Nalagarh were merged with the Eastern Punjab states during the reign of Raja Surendra Singh.
- On 15th July, 1948, Nalagarh was further merged with PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union).
- In 1966, when Punjab was reorganized based on linguistic basis, Nalagarh became a part of Himachal

Pradesh.

- Nalagarh was designated as a tehsil of the Solan district after its merger with Himachal Pradesh.

DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

12 | Kinnaur

Land of Gods & Fairies

❖ Geography of Kinnaur

- The name "Kinnaur" was officially introduced on 1st May 1960 when the district was carved out of the Mahasu district.
- Before the formation of the district, Kinnaur was known as the 'Chini' tehsil of Mahasu district.
- It had various nomenclatures in the past, including 'Kanawar', 'Kanaur, Kanauring', 'Kunavur', 'Kunawr', and 'Koonawur'.
- Kinnaur shares its eastern boundary with Tibet.
- The Zaskar mountains form the international frontier between Kinnaur and Tibet.
- The international border starts at a point called 'Parechhu' and extends through Shipkila, the Rainso Pass, the Shimdang Pass, and the Gumrang (Khimokul) Pass.
- The border reaches a point flanking the Chor Gad valley in the east.
- On the south and southeast sides of Kinnaur, it is bordered by Uttar Kashi district in Uttarakhand.
- On the western side, it is bordered by Shimla district.
- To the north and northwest, Lahaul and Spiti districts are situated adjacent to Kinnaur.
- Kullu district touches Kinnaur from the west.

❖ Three parallel ranges in Kinnaur district--

- Zaskar mountains in the East
- the Great Himalayas which stretches from the North-Western corner of the district to its South Eastern extremity and
- the crest of the Dhauladhar range forms the Southern boundary of the district.

❖ Valleys and Passes

❖ Valleys

❖ Satluj valley

- Largest river valley in Kinnaur
- Cliffs in this valley are– Taranda , Wangtu and Rogi .



❖ Hangrang or Spiti Valley

- Drained by the river Spiti or Lee.
- Valley joins the main valley on the Spiti near Khab village.
- Only the lower portion of this valley is located in Kinnaur while the upper part lies in the Lahaul Spiti district.

❖ Ropa or Shyaso

- Also called Shiasu, Shyasu and Chhiasu or Sunam valley.
- Drained by Ropa stream.

❖ Baspa valley or Sangla valley

- Drained by the Baspa river.
- Named Sangla valley after the name of the Sangla village.
- At the head of this valley lies Chung Shakhago pass
- The historic village Kamru (Mone) is situated in this valley.
- Chitkul is the last and highest village in Baspa valley.
- Connected with Garhwal by several passes.
- Situated along the Southern ridge of the valley these passes from the West to East are: Burua pass or Buran

Ghati , Kimilay or Khamilogo Pass , Borsu Pass and Lamkhaga Pass .

- The Shinka, Kimilay and Borsa Passes lead to the famous Har ki Dun valley.

❖ Tidong valley

- Most rugged glen of the district.
- It is often called 'a scene of savage grandeur'.

❖ Ribba Valley

- Famous for grapes

❖ Bhabha Valley

- The small wooded valley has the largest Bhabha village of the district.
- The Wangpo or Bhabha, the Gyanthing or Nesang , the Pejur or Leppa , the Kashang ,the Mulgoon and the Yula are other valleys in Kinnaur district.

❖ Peaks

❖ Peaks Altitude Location in About

❖ (meters) Himalayas

Leo Pargial 6791 Zanskar mountains rises from the spiti on one side and from the Satluj on the other side

Parasala 6608 Zanskar mountains

Kinner Kailash or 6500 Great Himalayas dwelling place of Lord Shiva and his Consort

Raldang Kailash Parbati or Durga

Shilla 6132 Great Himalayas

Jorkaden 6473 Great Himalays highest peak in the Kinner Kailash range of the Greater Himalayas

❖ Rivers

❖ Satluj river

- Divides Kinnaur almost in two equal parts.
- The river traverses for about 140 Km in Kinnaur.
- Tributaries of Satluj in Kinnaur
- The river Spiti joins it at Khab Village.
- Pejur or Taiti is one of the largest feeder of Satluj
- Kashang river ,Mulgoon river and Yula also joins Satluj

❖ Spiti river

- Originates from Kunzum pass
- Tributaries in Kinnaur-- Zupkia, Thatang, Bering, Rutki , Suthi and Yolong
- The Yolong originates between Shialkhar and Leo.

❖ Ropa river

- Rises on the declivity of the range that divides the district of Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti.
- Merges with Satluj near Shiasu.

❖ Lakes

❖ Nako Lake

- Located in Nako village of Hangrang sub-tehsil of Kinnaur .
- It is famous for skating during winter.

❖ Sorang Lake

- situated above the villages of Jani and Ramni in Nichar tehsil.
- It is locally called 'Sorang'.
- Springs here are mostly snowfed. One such spring is found at Nathpa, three at Tapri and one at Joktiaring.

❖ Fair and Festivals

❖ Lavi fair (Rampur Bushahr)

- It is the biggest trade fair of the greater Himalaya.
- The Lavi Fair, dates back to time when Raja Kehari Singh of Rampur Bushahr state signed a treaty to promote trade with Tibet.

❖ Baishakhi

- This festival is celebrated on 13th April.
- It is known as Beesh in Kinnaur .

❖ Haryali festival

- This festival is celebrated on the 1st Sawan.
- It is known as Dhakhrain in Jubbal and Kinnaur.

❖ Phulech / Ukhyang festival

- Festival of flowers.
- Celebrated in the latter part of Bhadon or in the beginning of “Asuj” only in Kinnaur region.
- It is also called Namamgam ,Ukhing ,Chamang ,Minthiko.
- In August ,it commences in Rupri and in oct-nov ends in Jangi.
- People from each household proceeds towards hill tops to collect flowers, which are offered to village deity.

❖ Dakrein festival

- Celebrated in the month of July - August
- Starts with the singing of Vulgur song.
- After the song is over, people indulge in loose talk.

❖ Chaitral festival

- Celebrated at Chirgaon village.
- In ancient times, the demon used to visit and kill people of the village. The Devta of the village checked the entry of demon in the village. The occasion is now celebrated to commemorate that.

❖ Sazo or Sajo

- Sajo festival is related to the farewell of the gods.
- The deity goes to Indralok from the temple on this day. The temple gates are closed on this day.
- This festival is also called Shu-Pitang-Hoorang means the bolts of Devta's door.

❖ PHAGULI/LUSKAR festival

- festival Celebrated in mid Feb- mid March.
- In kamru, it starts on Basant Panchami and run for 5 days.
- In Ropa, it is called phalguni.
- In Lippa, it is called lamoch.
- In Jangi, it is celebrated twice.

❖ LOSAR festival

- Lo means new and sar means year
- It is an important festival of Tibet which is limited only to upper kinnaur where Tibeteen influence is at climax
- SHIRKIN festival
- Celebrated on Kartik month (Oct- Nov), when semi nomads/ shepherds migrated to the plain areas

❖ JAGRO festival

- It is celebrated in the villages of Morang, kamru and Ribba
- Mahasu god is worshipped.
- It is also called Jagang which means night long awakening.

❖ KHEPA festival

- Celebrated in Ropa valley --- village of Ropa, Gyabong, Sunam rushkling.

❖ RANG RORANG CHIN festival

- It is only celebrated in those mountains which have clear view of Kinner kailash group of mountains.
- It means delight of mountain.

❖ DEEWAL/Chotta Deewal festival

- Deewal is celebrated in entire Kinnaur however Chota deewal is popular in Sangla valley.

JATRANG festival - It is celebrated in Thangi area.

SHUKTOK festival - it is celebrated in Namgia (Khab) in month of July - August.

SHIVRATRI festival - it is purely a Hindu festival mostly celebrated by the Hari-jans of Kinnaur.

Toshim/ Toshing Toshiming festival.

- It means to take rest or to enjoy together.
- It is celebrated by young unmarried boys, however, in some cases girls do participate in it.
- Boys do drink local liquor called " Ghanti".

❖ CHANGO SHESHUL festival

- Kinnour mahotsav
- It is celebrated since 1994 from 30th Oct to 2nd Nov at Ramleela ground, Reckong Peo.
- It is a State level festival.
- Earlier names of this festival were: Janjatiya utsav, Phulaich Utsav or Tribal festival

❖ Temples

❖ Chandika Temple Kothi--

- Located in village Kothi.
- Dedicated to goddess Chandika, more especially designated as Shuwang Chandika .
- There is an image of gold, seated in an ark.
- Story of Goddess Chandika
- Her legend goes that she was the daughter of the demon devta Banasur who presided over the Kinnaur.
- He had 18 sons and daughters.
- Chandika was the eldest among all.
- She presided over Sairag the heart of Kinnaur. But establishing her hold on the area was not so easy.
- The thakur of Chini ruled Sairag with the aid of a powerful demon. To defeat this enemy, Chandika took the aid of a cunning female relative called Byche. Byche duped the demon into placing his long hair between the grinding stones of a water mill.
- Then Chandika sprang on the helpless giant and severed his head with her sword.



- But a new head immediately replaced the old. Repeated swishes of her sword only brought forth more grinning faces. Frustrated and tiring, Chandika was soon in danger of drowning in the sea of blood created by her actions.
- Forsaking her pride, she appeared to her brothers for assistance.
- Chagaon Maheshwar responded and told her to kill the life sustaining beetle, hovering over the demon's head.

Chandika maintains her chief abode at Kothi in the middle of Sairag.

❖ Kamakshi Temple

- Kamru Fort is an ancient fort that houses the Kamakshi Temple dedicated to Goddess Kamakshi.
- The temple is known for its intricate woodwork and a beautiful idol of the goddess.

❖ Nako Monastery

- Situated in the village of Nako, Nako Monastery is a prominent Buddhist monastery in Kinnaur.
- It is known for its stunning location near Nako Lake and houses several ancient Buddhist murals and scriptures.

❖ Kalpa Chini Temple

- Located in the picturesque village of Kalpa, the Kalpa Chini Temple is dedicated to the local deity, Goddess Kali.

❖ Bering Nag Temple

- Situated in the village of Bering Nag, this temple is dedicated to Lord Jagas, a local deity worshipped for good fortune and protection.

❖ Charang Temple

- Situated in the village of Charang, this ancient temple is dedicated to the local deity Charang Rangrik, considered to be a manifestation of Lord Shiva.

❖ Mathi Temple

- Located in the village of Chitkul,
- Mathi Temple is a revered temple dedicated to the local goddess, Mathi Devi .

❖ Rarang Monastery

- Situated near the village of Rarang, this Buddhist monastery is known for its serene ambiance and beautiful wall paintings.

❖ Lagang temple

- Located at village Nako

❖ Tribes

❖ Kinner or Kinnaura

- The inhabitants of kinnaur district are known as Kinnaura , Kinara , Kanawara , Kinnaura and Kinnaurese.
- Kinners trace their origin from divine sources-
- According to “Bhagwat Purana”, Kinner trace their origin from the shadow of Lord Brahma.
- Yet another legend says they sprung from the toe of Brahma along with the Yakshas.
- Kinners are also known as “khas” and “khasia” .
- Kinnauras primarily have been agro-pastoral tribe.
- Fraternal polynadry is practised in Kinnaur.

❖ Art and Culture

- Kinnauri (Hamskad) ,Sangnaur ,Jangiam ,Shumecho are the languages spoken in Kinnaur district.
- Kinnauri Shawl is the 4th product of Himachal Pradesh registered as GI product in 2011.
- Folk Dances of Kinnaur district are---
- Chhamb , Kayang ,Bakayang , Banyangchu , Jataru Kayang , Japro Dance (Hangrang valley) , Chohara

Dance

❖ Kinnaur District History

❖ HISTORY

- As far as historical evidence has been able to reveal, right upto Indian independence in 1947, Kinnaur had been a part of the Rampur Bushahr
- There is reference in the famous Sanskrit Classic AMARKOSA about the tribes and castes in India which claim their origin from divine sources Gandharvas, Yakshas, Vidyadhars, Apsaras, Siddhas, Guhak Kinners, Pishachas, Rakshasas, Bhutas etc. find mention in the class
- In mythological and legendary accounts, the 'Kinners' are described as a race of demigods.
- The encyclopedia of religion and ethics portrays 'Kinners' with a horse's head and the Kimpurshas with a human body.
- These descriptions likely led to the epithet of Kimpurushas, meaning "what kind of human beings?"
- Tibetans refer to Kinnaur as 'Khunu' .
- Kinnaur has also been referred to as 'Kurpa'.
- In Leh, the area is called 'Maon'.

- 'Mone' or 'Maon' have also been names used for Bushahr state. (Kinnaur has been a part of the Rampur Bushahr State)
- Kamru, a seat of the former Bushahr state, is also known as Mone.
- The Kinners, who are now called Kinnauras, are also known as 'Khas' or 'Khasia'.

❖ Mythological and Historical References

- According to Indian scholars, there was a region inhabited by the Kinners in the High Himalayas, west of the Kailash mountain and Lake Mansarover.
- The five Pandava brothers from the Mahabharata are said to have spent a significant part of their 12-year exile in Kinnaur.
- The famous book "Kumarasambhava" by Kalidasa also mentions the Kinners.
- In the "Vayu Purana," the Kinners are described as inhabitants of the Mahanand mountains.
- The book "Vimanvathu" by Sutpitak, written in the second and third century B.C., contains a verse supporting the presence of the Kinner tribe in the region.
- The Himalayan Kingdom of Kimpurushavarsha or Kimpurshavarata is also mentioned in ancient texts, referring to the habitat of the Kinners.

❖ Early History of Kinnaur

- The Khasas are believed to have inhabited the Himalayas before the arrival of the Vedic Aryans, and they were already present when the Aryans reached the region.
- The Khasas and Aryans shared a common ancestry and were able to live harmoniously together.
- The sub-sect known as "Kanait" or "Kunait" emerged as a result of the assimilation between the Khasas and Kinners.
- The Kinnaura Rajputs in Kinnaur were primarily divided into two groups: Kanait and Jads.
- The people residing in the Hangrang valley and some other villages near the Indo-Tibet border speak dialects similar to Tibetan, indicating close linguistic connections.
- On the other hand, the Kinnauras living in Nichar tehsil and the lower parts of the Sangla Valley speak dialects that differ from Tibetan.
- By the seventh century A.D., the people of this region had adopted a settled way of life and established peaceful coexistence and trade relations with the Bhoteas (people of Tibet).
- Rampur Bushahr and Sangla emerged as important markets for trade, where goods purchased in these territories were sold. This led to the birth of the renowned 'Lavi Fair,' which is still celebrated with grandeur in Rampur Bushahr.
- From the 7th to the 10th century A.D., the Kinnauras came under the strong influence of Buddhism and the Bhotea language.
- The entire Kinner tract fell under the dominion of the Guge empire of Tibet during this period.
- By the end of the 12th century, the Guge empire began to decline, and the last Bhotea emperor, Partampal, witnessed the disintegration of his ancestors' empire.

- In Kinnaur, each valley or group of villages became a separate Thakurai (ruling authority), leading to a fragmented political landscape and the establishment of defensive and offensive sites.
- Historic forts, such as Labrang, Morang, and Kamru, which now lie in ruins, serve as remnants of that era.
- In the early 16th century, the Thakur of Mone gained significant power and successively defeated other

Thakurs, expanding his domain to include Rampur Bushahr, which is geographically outside the Kinnaur region.

❖ Kamru fort

- Kamru village is an ancient capital of the Bushahr state.
- It is especially known for the tower-like fort at its highest point, which was made by Lord Badrinath Ji thousands of year ago.
- Inside the fort there are about 33 types of gods and goddess.
- There is also a shrine to Kamakhya Devi inside the fort ,which was brought there many years ago from Assam.
- Kamru a seat of former Bushahr state
- They established a peaceful coexistence and trade contacts with the 'Bhoteas' living in Tibet.
- Some of these also established contacts with the outer valleys.
- Rampur Bushahr and Sangla became two such markets where materials purchased in these two territories were marketed.
- From the 7th to 10th century A.D., the Kinnauras came under the strong 'influence of Buddhism' and the Bhotea language.
- The entire Kinner tract came under the Guge empire of Tibet.
- In the beginning of the sixteenth century, the Thakur of Mone became so powerful that he defeated one by one all other Thakurs.
- Then he extended his domain to Rampur Bushahr which physiographically falls outside the Kinnaur tract.

❖ Legends and Divine Intervention in Kinnaur

- In the ancient past, three gods (devtas) appeared in Mathura - Tapa Puran, Anna Puran, and Deva Puran.
- Tapa Puran ---settled in Badri Nath
- Anna Puran---- in Tehri Garhwal
- Deva Puran ----in Kamru Badri Nath.
- Deva Puran played a heroic role in shaping the future of Kinnaur by eliminating the Thakurs (rulers) of Kamru, Sangla, Chini, and Chuling.
- Deva Puran eventually reached Sarahan, where he defeated and killed Banasur, the ruler of the region.
- Praduman Singh, a descendant of Dashratha from Varanasi, was brought to Kamru by Deva Puran and crowned as the king.
- Since then, Kamru has been recognized as the place for crowning the Kinnaur kings

❖ Rajas

Historical records of this state go back only upto the time of Raja Chatar Singh

❖ Chatar Singh

- He was the 110th ruler of the ruling Rajput dynasty of Bushahr.
- He made the Bushahr state one of the three paramount powers in the Shimla Hill states of that time.
- The other two prominent states during that time were Bilaspur and Sirmaur.
- He was succeeded by his son Kehri Singh.

❖ Kehri Singh

- He is said to possess the physical ability of an 'Ajanvahu,' meaning he can touch his knees with his hands while standing straight, similar to Lord Rama.
- Kehri Singh's power and influence extended beyond Kinnaur, as he was able to humble the rulers of Garhwal, Sirmaur, Mandi, and Suket.
- In addition to these regions, he also subdued the Thakurs (feudal lords) of Keonthal, Kotkhai, Kumharsain, Balsan, Theog, and Darkoti.
- Kehri Singh -- honored with the title of 'Chattarpati' by Aurangzeb
- Story behind the title Chhatarpati
- Once the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb held a great durbar of the hill chieftains, which Raja Kehri Singh also attended.
- To the surprise and wonder of onlookers in Delhi, wherever Raja Kehri Singh went, he was accompanied by a small cloud above him in the shape of a 'Chhatra' (umbrella), providing shade from the sun's rays.
- When Aurangzeb inquired about this phenomenon, Raja Kehri Singh attributed it to the favor of the gods and goddesses of his land, who wished to protect a hill man from the unfamiliar heat of the plains.
- Delighted by the response, the emperor bestowed upon Raja Kehri Singh the title of Chhatarpati.
- Raja Kehri Singh and the Treaty with Tibet
- Raja Kehri Singh, a contemporary of 'Grajayadoke', the ruler of Tibet, lived in the later half of the 17th century.
- When the Raja of Ladakh annexed a portion of Tibetan territory, a Tibetan Commander named 'Guldenchhen' prepared to reclaim the land.
- Kehri Singh became aware of the situation and initiated negotiations, leading to a treaty being concluded between Kinnaur and Tibet.
- In a subsequent battle, Raja Kehri Singh defeated Tibetan Commander Guldenchhen.
- As part of the treaty, specific terms were established, including the following---
- "Till the black crow does not run white, till Mansarovar does not go dry, till the whole of the snow from above the Kailash does not melt, the Kailash will remain the boundary line between Kinnaur and Tibet."
- Raja Kehri Singh and the Tibetan-Ladakhi-Mughal War
- The Tibetan-Ladakhi-Mughal war took place between 1681-83 A.D.

- Raja Kehri Singh of Bushahr sided with Tibet and emerged victorious in this war against Ladakh.
- For this gesture of friendship, he received the Hangrang valley from Tibet as a Jagir and also right to free trade between Tibet and Bushahr State.
- During the war, there was an alliance and a general agreement of friendly relations and envoy exchanges between Raja Kehri Singh and the Government of the VI Dalai Lama.
- The treaty stated that the boundary line between Bushahr and Tibet would be the Kailash mountain, and both regions would maintain friendly relations.
- Trade between Kinnauras and Tibetans remained tax-free until the international border was sealed in 1962.

❖ Raja Ram Singh

- He made Rampur his capital.
- During his reign Kullu Raja Bidhi Singh invaded Bushahr and annexed the Kothis of 'Dhawal', 'Kot Kandi' and 'Balramgarh' in outer Saraj.
- Raja Man Singh (1688 to 1719) of Kullu captured a 'taluka' of outer Saraj which to-date forms part of Kullu.

❖ Raja Ugar Singh

- He captured the pargana of 'Suhel' and handed over it as a gift to Raja of Kumharsain.
- He ended a long standing hostility b/w the states of Sirmaur and Bushahr by marrying Sirmour princess.

❖ Raja Mahinder Singh

- Raja Ugar Singh died in 1811 and succeeded by his eight year old son, 'Mahinder Singh'.
- During the minority of Raja Mahinder Singh, the state was administered by the Rani, his mother and the hereditary wazirs.
- Bushahr had a weak army, which proved disadvantageous when the Gurkhas invaded the country, taking advantage of the young Raja's minority and the weak military.
- The minor Raja and his mother sought refuge in Kamru (Kinnaur) as they could not withstand the invasion.

The Gurkhas looted treasuries and destroyed state archives and records.

- The Gurkhas attempted to reach the state treasure in Kamru, where the young Raja had taken refuge but were surprised and heavily defeated by the Kinnaura guerrilla force at Sholtu bridge.
- From 1803 to 1815, most of the Bushahr state, except Kinnaur, was under Gurkha control.
- After the British declared war against the Gurkhas in 1814, the hill people joined forces to drive them out, led by Wazir Tikka Ram and Badri Dass.
- A decisive battle took place at Sholtu bridge near Chargaon village, where the march of the Gurkhas was halted.
- The destruction of the Wangtu bridge on the Satluj River further sealed the fate of the Gurkhas.
- After the defeat of the Gurkhas, Raja Mahinder Singh, his mother, and the Rani returned to Sarahan in 1815.
- The British government granted a Sanad to Raja Mahinder Singh, restoring his former territories, except

Rawin and Kotgarh, which remained under British possession and were later exchanged with Keonthal for Shimla.

- The state of Bushahr became a British protectorate.
- Raja Mahinder Singh passed away in 1850, succeeded by his minor son, Shamsher Singh.
- Hereditary Wazir Families of Bushahr: Pawari, Kohal, and Shua
- In the state of Bushahr, there were three hereditary wazir families: Pawari, Kohal, and Shua, who held influential positions next to the Raja.
- The Pawari family-- originated from Kullu.
- The Kohals---- migrated from Garhwal seven generations ago.
- The Shua wazirs ----were native to the state.
- Notable figures from the Pawari family of Kinnaur include Manohar Dass and Ran Bahadur Singh.

Raja Shamsher Singh (Only Raja to act with hostility towards the British)

- As Raja Shamsher Singh of Bushahr reached adulthood, he became increasingly dissatisfied with the interference of the British in his state.
- The opportunity for rebellion came with the first war of Indian Independence in 1857, and Raja Shamsher

Singh chose not to offer assistance to the British.

- This act of defiance angered Mr. William Hay, the Deputy Commissioner of Shimla and Agent of the Hill states at the time, but the issue was eventually overlooked.
- In 1859, a revolt erupted among the people of Bushahr against the new revenue payment system introduced by Munshi Ram Lal in 1854.
- To settle the dispute, Mr. G. Barnes, the Superintendent of Shimla Hill States, arrived in Bushahr.

❖ Padam Singh

- Padam Singh was the ruler of Rampur Bushahr during India's independence in 1947.
- As the princely states integration process was taking place across the country, Padam Singh initially showed reluctance to merge his state with the greater nation.
- Master Annu Lal, a freedom fighter, led the merger movement in Rampur Bushahr.
- Baldev Singh served as the Dewan of the State during this time.
- Despite the initial opposition, in March 1948, Rampur Bushahr became part of the centrally administered

Chief Commissioner's province of Himachal Pradesh.