



# **JOKTA** Academy

**IAS/HAS**

# **AWSM**

*Answer Writing & Syllabus Mastery*



## **HIMACHAL PRADESH**

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**ANALYSIS: SYLLABUS AND PREVIOUS YEAR PAPER****History of Himachal Pradesh****1. Ancient History**

- Ancient Janapadas in Himachal.
  - ❖ Audumbaras
  - ❖ Trigarta..
  - ❖ Kuluta
  - ❖ Kunindas
  - ❖ Disappearance of Himalayan Republic states during 3rd and 4th century AD.

**2. Medieval History**

- Turkish Invasion
- Tuglaq Period and Kangra
- Taimur Invasion
- Emergence and growth of early medieval states: Kangra, Kullu and Chamba.
- Hill States and their relations with the Mughals and the Sikhs.
- Gorkha invasion- its nature and consequences, Treaty of Segauli.

1. Which ancient literary sources find reference to Kulluta region of Himachal Pradesh?(2016, 4 marks)
2. Enumerate any four welfare schemes executed by Raja Bhuri Singh of Chamba princely State.(2016, 4 marks)
3. Explain the relation of Sikhs with hill states in the 19th century.(2017, 8 marks)
4. Discuss critically the relation of Mughals with Kangra Hill State (1556-1707AD)(2019, 8 marks)
5. Throw light on the emergence and growth of early medieval state of 'Kangra'(2020, 4 marks)
6. Examine critically the Mughals and Hill state relations between the period 1605 A.D. to 1658 A.D.(2021, 8 marks)
7. Discuss critically Sikhs and Hill states relations during the later 18th century and the first phase of the 19th century(2021, 8 marks)
8. Discuss critically the relationships between Mughals and Sirmaur.(2022, 8 marks)
9. Throw a light on emergence of Kullu state and also highlight the reign of Raja Jag at Singh of Kullu.(2022, 8 marks)
3. 10. How did the invitation to the Gurkhas by Raja Mahan Chand of Kehlur changed the whole course of history of Shimla and Punjab Hill States?(2016, 8 Marks)

**4. Modern History**

- ❖ Hill States under the Colonial power: Political and Administrative History.
- ❖ Grants, Sanads and territorial aggression.
- ❖ Social and Economic conditions under colonial period with special reference to social practices of Beth, Begar and Reet.
- ❖ Establishment of British Cantonments.
- ❖ National Movement with special reference to Praja Mandal movements in Himachal Pradesh, 1848-1948. (\*Also Cover GS2)
- ❖ Five Year Plans and vision for the developed Hill State.

1. Identify any three considerations on which the British policy towards the Shimla Hill States was based.(2016, 4 marks)
2. Explain the major agrarian unrest in Shimla Hill states during the colonial era?(2016, 20 marks)
3. Comment on the Jhugga agitation of Bilaspur and Dumh movement of Bushahr.(2017, 8 marks)
4. Define the term 'Sanad'? Describe the objectives,nature and extension of Sanad(2018, 8 marks)
5. Write a critical note on the Dandra incident of Bilaspur.(2022, 8 marks)
6. What do you mean by Bethu System? Discuss?(2017, 4 marks)
7. Define the term 'Reet'. Discuss the attitude of hill states toward 'Reet' custom(2020, 8 marks)
8. Write a critical note on 'Suket Satyagrah'(2018, 8 marks)
9. Highlight the Activities of Sirmaur Praja Mandal and Chamba Praja Mandal in Himachal Pradesh.(2019, 8 marks)

## 5. Emergence and History of Important States

### ➤ District wise

- ❖ Chamba
- ❖ Kangra
- ❖ Hamirpur
- ❖ Una
- ❖ Kullu
- ❖ Lahoul and Spiti
- ❖ Mandi
- ❖ Bilaspur
- ❖ Sirmour
- ❖ Shimla
- ❖ Kinnour
- ❖ Solan

## 6. Cultural Heritage

- ❖ Survey of artistic and cultural Heritage
- ❖ Temples
- ❖ Buddhist Monasteries
- ❖ Paintings

1. Write a brief note on major shrines of Himachal Pradesh(2018, 4 marks)
2. Throw light on the important Buddhist Monasteries and their salient feature in Himachal Pradesh.(2019, 8 marks)
3. Highlight the cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh with special reference to popular temples(2020, 8 marks)
4. Describe in brief the hill paintings of Himachal Pradesh ?(2017, 8 marks)
5. Throw light on the main features of 'Basholi and Kangra' style painting of Himachal Pradesh.(2018, 8 marks)
6. Throw light on the evolution and different aspects of the "Basholi style" of painting.(2021, 8 marks)

**QUESTION BANK**

1. Akbar tried his best to conquer Kangra Fort, but failed discuss.
2. Which ancient literary sources find references of Chamba state of himachal Pradesh?
3. What do you know about Nicholas Roerich and his association with Himachal Pradesh?
4. Briefly discuss the Suket Satyagraha in the history of Himachal Pradesh.
5. Explain the relations of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh with the hill states in 19th century.
6. Discuss in brief about the cultural heritage in Himachal Pradesh.
7. Give a brief account of economic condition of hill states during colonial period.
8. Throw light on the political development took place in Himachal Pradesh in colonial period and how it helped to bring political awareness among people of Himachal Pradesh?
9. What do you know about Kath- Kuni in temple architecture in Himachal Pradesh?
10. Discuss priority areas and visions of 1st and 2nd five years plans in Himachal Pradesh?
11. What political development took place during the reign of raja Sri Singh of Chamba ?
12. Define Sanad and discuss its features.
13. What was Beth system in Himachal Pradesh history? Discuss its economic implications.
14. Discuss the consequences of Gurkhas invasion on Himachal Pradesh?
15. Praja Mandal Movement was the result of hill states people's resentment against authority on social, political and economic issues. Discuss.
16. Discuss the origin and development of Pahari School of Paintings along with characteristics of prominent pahari school of Paintings in Himachal Pradesh.
17. Briefly discuss the association of Akbar with hill states.
18. Give a brief history of Naggar and Sultanpur of Kullu.
19. Do you think that Britisher had shown territorial aggression against hill states ?
20. Discuss about the dominant themes of Kangra School of Painting?
21. Briefly discuss the development of history took place during the reign of Raja Jagat Singh of Kullu?
22. What were the differences between Beth and Begar system?
23. Discuss the various development programmes initiated under five years or annual plan in the direction of social development infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh.
24. Which ancient literary sources find reference to Trigarta state of Himachal Pradesh?
25. Identify any four conditions on which Britisher decided to establish cantonment in Himachal Pradesh.
26. Enumerate any four historical events take place during Raja Ghamand Chand in Kangra state.
27. Give a brief account of Guru Govind Singh relation with hill states of Himachal Pradesh.
28. What are the features of Pahari School of paintings?
29. What were the social and economic impacts of Begar System in Himachal Pradesh?
30. Give a brief account of temple architecture in Kullu and Shimla region.
31. Explain major political and administrative development took place during colonial period in Himachal Pradesh.
32. Briefly describe Beth system.
33. Briefly discuss about battle of Dhalog in History of Himachal Pradesh.
34. What were the main features of Sanad in Himachal Pradesh?
35. Write a note on Pajotha movement in Himachal Pradesh.
36. Throw a light on Temple Architecture in Himachal Pradesh.
37. Explain Praja Mandal movement and describe the objectives of Praja Mandal in Himachal Pradesh.
38. Identify any three considerations on which the British policy towards the Shimla Hill States was based.
39. How did the invitation to the Gurkhas by Raja Mahan Chand of Kehlur changed the whole course of history of Shimla and Punjab Hill States?
40. What are the factors which were responsible for the advent of Gorkha in Himachal Pradesh?

41. Mention the various features of the “Kangra School of Painting”?
42. Throw light on salient feature of Buddhist architecture in Himachal Pradesh and Discuss socio- economic importance of monasteries for State.
43. Discuss about the Anglo-Sikh wars. What are the factors responsible for the wars? What were the implications of wars on Hill states?
44. What was the Beth system? What was the socio-economic implication of the Beth system?
45. Write a note about the “Kath Kuni System of Architecture” of Himachal Pradesh.
46. What factors prompted the British to create cantonments in Himachal Pradesh?
47. Write a brief note on the Reet system.
48. Write a note about Ajanta and Elora of Himachal Pradesh.
49. Discuss about the various govt schemes to promote the MSME sector in Himachal Pradesh.

**Que. Throw light on the emergence and growth of the early medieval state of 'Kangra'.**

**Answer: Susharama Chandra** is identified as the founder of Trigate, in Mahabharata, he sided with Kaurvas. Katoch is a Rajput clan of the Chandravanshi lineage. Their traditional area of residence was in the Trigarta Kingdom, based at Jalandhar and at Kangra Fort.

In the medieval period, Kangra went through all ups and downs as far as state development is concerned, which could be seen during the rule of a number of rajas:

1. **Hieun Tsang** visited Jalandhara in 635 AD and stayed in Kangra Valley as a guest of Raja Utitas for four months and again stopped at Jalandhara on his return journey in 643 AD
2. In **1001 A.D Mahmud of Gazni** invaded India. In his fourth expedition in 1009, after defeating Anand Pal on the bank of the river Indus, advanced to Punjab and seized Nagarkot. During Mahmud's attack, Raja of Kangra was **Jagdish Chand**.
3. Nagarkot Fort remained under the control of Mahmud's Garrison control till 1043 AD. In this year
4. **Tomar king of Delhi librated Nagarkot** fort by defeating Modud, grandson of Mahmud.
5. **Prithvi Chand(1330AD):** During his reign, Kangra fort is said to have been captured by Mohammed Tuglaq in 1337 AD.
6. **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. This expedition was not acceptable to **Feroz Shah Tuglaq** who marched with his army from Delhi toward Nagarkot.

#### **Kangra and Mughals**

1. **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's minor son Bidhi Chand assumed his father was dead and came into power and revolted against the Mughals in 1572.
2. **Bidhi Chand(1588):** He formed a secret confederation with the states between Jammu and Kangra to revolt against the Mughals, but they were suppressed by Zain Khan Koka and Bidhi Chand had to leave his son Trilok Chand as a hostage at the Mughal court.
3. **Hari Chand-II:** during the reign of Hari Sing Kangra Fort was conquered by Jahangir in 1620 Nawab Ali Khan was appointed first kiladar of fort which remained under Mughals control till 1873.

#### **Re-emergence and development after the Mughal acquisition of Kangra Fort**

1. **Chander Bhan Singh(1627):** After Hari Chand's death Chander Bhan continued to prosecute Guerrilla warfare against Mughals. The Jagir of "Rajgir" is situated on the right bank of Beas. He built a fort near Nirwanah east of Dharamshala.
2. **Vijai Chand (1660AD):** He founded the town Bijapur which remained the residence of the Raja till the reign of Raja Ghamand Chand.
3. **Alam Chand (1697):** He founded "Alampur" near Sujanpur.
4. **Hamir Chand (1700AD):** He reigned for forty- seven years. He built the fort at place now called Hamirpur from which it got its name as a Tehsil and now district.
5. **Abhaya Chand (1747):** He built "Thakurdwara in Alampur and a fort called Abhayamanpur or Tira on the hill above Sujanpur.
6. **Strong position of Kangra again during the reign of Ghamand Chand and Sansar Chand Ghamand Chand (1751AD):** During his time Mughals were facing a struggle against **Ahmad Shah Durrani** from the northern side and the Marathas from the southern side. Taking advantage of this disorder Ghamand Chand recovered all the lost territory of his ancestors except Kangra fort. Ahamed Shah Durrani appointed him **governor of** the Jalandhar Doab in 1759. He founded **Sujanpur and the dual name Tira-Sujanpur** started from his reign.
7. **Sansar Chand:** Sansar Chand requested Jai Singh Kanheya in 1781-82 to help him in order to capture Nagarkot fort from Mughal which was then under the Garrison of Saif Ali Khan. In 1787, Jai Singh handed over the fort to Sansar Chand, in exchange for the territory of the plains.

So, we can say that during the foreign invasions, the Kangra state was subdued or under their control, but during the reign of Sansar Chand Kangra emerged as a powerful state.

**Que. Which ancient literary sources find reference to the Trigarta state of Himachal Pradesh?**

**Answer :**

1. **Panini:** Has talked about the confederation of Trigarta constituted by six states, in his book Ashtadhyayi; has called Trigarta as Ayudhajivi Sangha, where people earn their living through wars.
2. Mahabharata
3. **Hieun Tsang** visited Jalandhara in 635 AD stayed in Kangra Valley as the guest of Raja Uditas for a month and again stopped at Jalandhara on his return journey in 643 AD.
4. **Thomas Coryat and William Finch** came during the time of **Jahangir, Francois Bernier** during the time of **Aurangzeb, Forster in 1783 Moorcraft 1820-22, and Vigne 1833-1839**. Buildings and Forts, Vanshawali, and Foreign visitors are also sources of history
5. **Rock Inscription:** Two rock inscriptions of Khaniyara and Pathihar which were discovered by Vogel.
6. **Utbi** refers in his famous **Tarikh-i-Yamini** to Bhimnagar while Farishta in **Tarikh-i-Farishta** mentions Nagarkot as a Bhimkot. These two wrote during the attack of Muhammad Gazni at Nagarkot fort in 1009 AD.
7. **Dharam Chand Natak** written by **Manik Chand** in about 1562- He gives accounts of the conquest of Kangra by Firozshah in 1365.

**Que. Enumerate any four historical events that took place during Raja Ghamand Chand in Kangra state.**

**Answer:-**

1. Ghamand Chand became Raja in 1751.
2. He took advantage of **Ahmad Shah Durrani's** attack and recovered all lost territory.
3. He was appointed Governor of **Jalandhara Doab by Durrani**.
4. He captured "Chauki" the northern half of Kuthli state and seized the taluka of Palam from Chamba.
5. He founded **Sujanpur** and the use of the double name **Tira Sujanpur** dates from the reign of Raja Ghamand Chand.
6. Although he succeeded in regaining his ancestor's territory but couldn't recover Nagarkot fort, which was done later by his grandson Sansar Chand.
7. Ghamand Chand defeated Jassa Singh Ramgharia and later he had to bear another attack of Jassa Singh Ramgharia in collaboration with Jai Singh Kanheya in which Ghamand Chand was defeated.

**Que. How far you do feel justified in styling Sansar Chand's reign as the golden period in Kangra History?**

**Answer:** Sansar Chand's rule was a period of golden era for Kangra's history in every field. He was kind and generous to his subjects. It was during his time that many fascinating paintings and other artistic activities flourished in Kangra, Lambagraon, Guler, Nadaun, and other places.

Sansar Chand was a great builder and many places in the state were beautified during his time. Golden Era:

1. **Temple Construction:** He renovated Baijnath temple in 1786 A.D. He also constructed a temple within the fort of Tira Sujanpur which contains the largest Ashtha Dhatu idols (Shiv, Parvati, Nandi) in India. The temple dedicated to Gauri Shankar was built during the time of Raja Sansar Chand in 1793 AD.
2. **Buildings:** He built Zanana Mahal in the gardens of Alampur. He built the fortified town of Nadaun (Chaumukhi fort) with great palaces and other official buildings. He also built Darbar hall in Tira Sujanpur which had 22 gates representing every ruler subdued by him.
3. **Hatim and Rustom:** He was called as 'Hatim' for helping rewarding artists and 'Rustom' for his generosity. In Nadaun, he settled Brahmins, astrologers, physicians, sculptors, and painters and gave them cash allowances and

jagirs.

4. **Paintings:** Maharaja Sansar Chand established the system of "Chhatis Kaarkhanas" which produces various handcrafts. The most famous of these crafts was the Kangra school of Miniature paintings and under the patronage of Maharaj Sansar Chand, almost 40,000 paintings were produced that depicted various Hindu epics and the court life of Sansar Chand.
5. **Territory under Sansar Chand:** He conquered the king doms of Chamba, Mandi, Suket, Nahan, and Bilaspur (present-day regions in Himachal Pradesh) all the way up to the border of Jammu. By the 1800s, Sansar Chand was among the most powerful rulers in the region, with a kingdom spreading across 27,000 square miles and encompassing most of present-day Himachal Pradesh.

**Que. What were the different stages of political development in Kullu state during the Medieval Period?**

Different stages of development of the Kullu state during the Medieval Period:

1. **Consolidation of state:** When Vihangamani Pal arrived in Kullu Valley from Haridwar, the territory was under Thakurs/chiefs. He overthrew the Thakurs and established the first ruling dynasty of Kullu. His next in succession, Pachh Pal continued to contest with local Ranas and Thakurs and ultimately forced them to become his tributary.
2. **Acquisition of Kothi Barsai:** Rajender Pal attacked Kothi Barsai but lost his 11 sons in the fight with Rup Sundari of Gajan. Later Rup Sundari got married to Raja of Kullu. The Kothi suffixed with Barsai, as it took one year (baras) to annex the Kothi.
3. **Making Naggar as Capital:** Visuddh Pal had enlarged the boundaries by subduing Naggar and making it his capital from Jagatsukh (Residence only).
4. **Chamba Vs Kullu War:** During the 7th Century AD, Meru Varman invaded the Kullu state at that time Dateshwar Pal (31st King of Kullu) he defeated and killed by Meru Varman and Kullu came under the control of Chamba.
5. In the 8th Century AD, Jareshwar Pal (34th King) liberated Kullu from Chamba with the help of Bushehr. This event took place around 780-800 AD when Chamba was invaded by Kiras, and Lakshmi Verman of Chamba was killed.
6. **Narad Pal (40th King of Kullu)** was involved in a war with Chamba for 12 years. After 12 years of war, peace was concluded and a social gathering was arranged to which Chamba people were invited, but a great part of Chamba army was deceitfully drowned in the river Beas.
7. **Baltistan and Tibet:** Sikandar Pal (50th) took the help of the 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.
8. **Territorial expansion under Singh Dynasty:** Sidh Singh (1500-1532 AD) was the 1st amongst the kings with the Surname as 'Singh'. Raja Sidh Singh was 74th from Vihangamani Pal. Legend says that he was blessed with Kingdom by Devi Hidimba.
9. **Acquisition of Waziri Rupi and Seraj:** Sidh Singh was succeeded by his son **Bahadur Singh**. Bahadur Singh is said to have decimated several petty Thakurs of Waziri Rupi and parts of Seraj were captured. He also gave protection to Ranas of Rupi who were humiliated by the King of Suket, Arjun Sen. He built the Hidimba temple (1553 AD) to commemorate the victory over Ranas & Thakurs.
10. **Matrimonial alliance with Chamba:**
11. **Jagat Singh annexed the Lag area** which was under the control of two Brothers **Jai Chand and Sultan Chand** from whom he captured **Sultanpur** and shifted his capital from **Naggar to Sultanpur in 1660**. He captured the **outer Saraj** area also.
12. **Bidhi Singh:** Boundary was set in Lahaul at Linghti area between Chamba and Kullu.
13. **Man Singh (1688-1719 AD):** Under him, Kullu reached its climax in terms of area under control. Raja Man Singh of Kullu **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 Bara & Chotta Bharghal in 1719 AD, when Sidh Sen of Mandi murdered Prithvi Pal.

**Que. Briefly discuss the development of history that took place during the reign of Raja Jagat Singh of Kullu.**

**Raja Jagat Singh** played an important role in the consolidation and expansion of Kullu state

1. He annexed **Lag** area which was under the control of two Brothers **Jai Chand** and **Sultan Chand** from whom he captured **Sultanpur** and shifted his capital from **Naggar to Sultanpur in 1660**. He captured the outer **Saraj** area also.
2. **Aurangzeb**, the Mughal emperor was the only one to **recognize Jagat Singh** as the Raja of Kullu.
3. **Installation of the idol of Raghunath Ji:** A Brahmin residing at **Tippari** was said to have about three pounds of pearls. When Raja demanded these pearls forcefully, being angry, the Brahmin set fire to his house and perished with all his family. Brahmin from **Suket** told the Raja that the sin of Brahmin's suicide could be expiated only by bringing the image of "**Raghunath Ji**" from **Ayodhya**
4. This idol was brought by a Brahmin "**Damodar Das**" from **Ayodhya** in 1653 A.D on the order of Raja Jagat Singh of Kullu. So that he may be relieved of the curse which had fallen upon him.
5. **Kullu Dahshera** was started
6. Raja placed it on "**Gaddi**" after that Kullu Raja considered themselves **subordinate of Raghunath Ji**.

**Que. Which ancient literary sources find references to the Chamba state of Himachal Pradesh?**

**Answer:**

1. **Rajtarangiri** - Written by **Kalhan** on the history of Kashmir which mentions neighboring states like **Chama** and **Kangra**.
2. **Persian literature, Sanskrit literature, and accounts written by European travelers.** The gazetteer of the Chamba state.
3. **Old temples, buildings, and architecture like Shakti Devi temple at Chhatrari (Bharmaur) Lakshmi Narayan Temple, Churasi temple, etc** put a light on the historical and political arena of state
4. In some cases, in Chamba at **Mulkihar** and **Devi Kothi** the ruins of **Kothi** and **Tappas** are still visible giving information about the history of the state.
5. **Coins-** The only museum that existed during this period in this region **Bhuri Singh Museum** began acquiring coins from the region. These coins contain information about ancient tribal kingdoms, **Thakuras** and **Rana**.
6. **Inscription-** A large number of **copper plates** and other relevant material is preserved in the **Bhuri Singh Museum Chamba**. These inscriptions throw light on the early socio- economic and political history of Chamba state. The highest number of inscriptions numbering 36 has been found in the Chamba regions. They are donatives in character and have been found mostly written in **Sharda and Tankri scripts**.
7. **Vanshavalis-** It is the genealogical record of the Raja, which in addition to a list of names, contains much historical material of great interest.

**Que. Write a note on Chamba under Meru Varman.**

**Answer:** Raja Meru Varman ruled Chamba from 680-700 A.D.

1. He extended his ruling line of demarcation down to the **Ravi Valley** up to the present Chamba town.
2. Chamba has seen prosperity and wealth under Meru Varman. He was famously known as 'Shahjahan of Chamba' and was also titled 'Maharajadhiraja'.
3. He was a great patron of temple arts. The temple of 'Mani-Mahesha' **Lakshana Devi, Ganesha, Shakti Devi, and Narsimha** were built by him. The **Suraj Mukha Shrine** at **Bharmour** was also built by him.
4. He utilized the services of master metal smith **Gugga (Pir)** for crafting the brass idols of the deities present in many temples.
5. In a war with Kullu Raja, **Sri Dadeshwar Pal**, he emerged victorious and killed the king of Kullu.

**Que. Enumerate any four welfare schemes executed by Raja Bhuri Singh of Chamba princely State.**

**Answer:** Raja Bhuri Singh installed as a Raja in 1904 had wide administrative experience and an intimate knowledge of the state and its needs. Following are the four welfare schemes executed by him in Chamba.

1. **Roads and buildings:** Roads in the vicinity of Chamba were widened and main lines of communication in other parts of the State were improved. In 1906 a new **Dak Bungalow** was built in the town. Guest house in Chamba as well as in the suburb of Darogh was built under the rule of **Raja Bhuri Singh**.
2. **Education and administration:** The middle school of Chamba was upgraded to a **High School in 1905**. Moreover, a Public library and reading room was also opened. The various departments of the administration were organised to serve the people e.g. **management of forests was put under the state's jurisdiction**.
3. **Bhuri Singh Power Project:** The Bhuri Singh power project is considered one of India's oldest power stations in India set up in 1908. **The 450 kw (half MW) power house on the Sal River** is a unique gift to the people of Chamba by Raja Bhuri Singh.
4. **Water supply:** Chamba town has the distinction of having the earliest water supply which was completed in 1910 at the cost of Rs 2,47,000.

**Que. What were the causes and circumstances that favored the rise of Trigarta (Kangra) as a State and its subsequent decline?**

The Trigarta comprised of all the regions between the Satluj and the Ravi in the outer hills and the Jalandhara Doab on the plains, as well as a tract to the east of the Satluj, probably it was Sirhind. Jalandhara state with its capital at Kangra was then called Nagarkot or Bhimkot. Causes and Circumstances that favored the rise of Trigarta:

1. **Fertile areas:** This state was drained by three rivers i.e., the Satluj, the Beas and the Ravi which made this region economically prosperous.
2. **Powerful Kings:** Susharma Chand, Ghammand Chand, and Sansar Chand II helped in the formation and consolidation of the Trigarta state.
3. **Impregnable forts:** It was exceedingly difficult to attack and take control over the forts of Trigarta, especially Nagarkot Fort. It was one of the oldest and strongest forts of Himachal Pradesh.
4. **Geographical area:** Kangra is crisscrossed by mountain ranges and valleys. The terrain varies from the "Dhauladhar" range to the plain and fertile plains of the Jalandhar Doab regions. Decline of Trigarta:

**Challenges to state**

1. **Muslim invasion:** It was invaded by Mahmud of Ghaznavi, Akbar and Jahangir. These multiple invasions led to the deterioration of the Trigarta empire in the 11th -16th century A.D. It was during the attack of Mahmud of Ghaznavi that native rulers lost their control over Nagarkot.
2. **Gurkha invasion:** After the revival of the Trigarta state by Ghammand Chand and Sansar Chand, the Gurkhas attack further weakened the Trigarta rulers.
3. **Policies of Sansar Chand II:** His attacks on neighboring states made them enemies of Kangra state which further facilitated the invasion of Gurkhas in Kangra's hilly areas.
4. **Sikh attacks:** After the arrival of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the fort was handed over to the Sikhs.
5. **British Consolidation:** The Kangra Fort was finally taken by the British after the Sikh War of 1846. A British garrison occupied the fort until it was heavily damaged in an earthquake on the 4th of April, 1905.

**Que. Discuss critically the relation of Mughals with Kangra Hill State (1556-1707AD).**

**Answer**

**Mughal Dynasty** was started by Babur in 1526 AD. The first ruler Babur and Humayun perhaps due to political turmoil did not have any historical record of a relationship with Kangra hill state. Akbar succeeded to the throne in **1556 AD**.

**First phase:-Akbar and kangra hill state(1556 to 1605 )**

1. When in **1570 A.D.** **Jai Chand** came to the throne of **Kangra**, for an unknown reason, incurred Akbar's suspicion. An order for his arrest was issued which was affected by **Ram Chand of Guler**. Jai Chand was put in confinement in Delhi. His son **Bidhi Chand** although a minor, conceiving his father as dead, took over the rule of the state and **revolted against the Mughals**.
2. **Akbar sent an army** under Khan Jahan **Hussain Quli Khan** to **suppress the revolt** and the acquired area was bestowed by the emperor as a Jagir upon **Birbal**.
3. Now Mughal army was ordered to move toward Nagarkot Fort. Army snatched **Kotla Fort** from the **Kangra** and handed over it to Raja **Ram Chand of Guler**.
4. Bakht Mal was Raja of Nurpur who had helped **Sikandar Shah (Akbar's enemy)** and gave him asylum at Maukot fort in 1556. Akbar sent an army against Sikandar Shah, which caused animosity from the Mughals against Bakht Mal. **Raja of Nurpur** was captured and later executed at Lahore by Bairam Khan.
5. Now **Mughal army** was in a position to seize Kangra Fort but it was reported that a relative of Akbar named Ibrahim **Hussain Mirza** and Musud Mirza **invaded in Punjab**. So, in this attempt, the Akbar army **failed** to acquire Nagarkot fort.
6. Akbar deputed his finance minister **Todar Mal**, he succeeded in acquiring **sixty-six** villages in the valley but couldn't succeed in acquiring Kangra Fort.
7. **Bidhi Chand** again revolted in **1588-89** after the death of Jai Chand. To **suppress** this revolt Akbar sent his foster brother **Zain Khan Koka** whom the mall surrender.
8. After the surrender, Bidhi Chand had to leave his son **Trilok Chand** as a hostage at the **Mughal court** in order to stop him from initiating any revolt in the future

**Second phase:- Jahangir and Kangra hill states (1605 – 1627)**

1. Jahangir succeeded to the throne in **1605** and in the same year **Trilok Chand** also became Raja of Kangra after the death of Bidhi Chand. Trilok Chand and Jahangir spent their childhood years together in Delhi as Trilok Chand was there as a hostage.
2. It is said that when Trilok Chand was in the Mughal court he had a parrot which Prince Salim (Jahangir) wished to have but the Rajput prince refused to give him the parrot. On this account, **Jahangir** cherished to attack **Trilok Chand** on becoming emperor. Trilok Chand was either killed or died about **1612 A.D**
3. Jahangir made three attempts for the acquisition of Kangra fort
4. **Firstly**, Jahangir sent **Sheikh Farid (Murtaza Khan)** and **Suraj Mal** son of Nurpur Raja Basu. The first attempt of Jahangir to **capture Kangra fort** fails because of a **quarrel** between Khan and Suraj Mal.
5. In the second attempt of Jahangir **Raja Maan**, a Rajput chief was sent to seize Kangra fort. **Sangram**, one of the Zamindar of hill country of Punjab, killed Man Singh.
6. **In the third attempt of Jahangir**, **Raja Suraj Mal** and "**Shah Quli Khan Mohammed Taqi**" were sent to complete the undone task. Suraj Mal began to **quarrel** with Mohammed Taqi and revolted against the Mughals.
7. Now "**Sundar Das Rai Raiyan**" and **Jagat Singh** successfully suppress the revolt.
8. In **November 1620 Kangra Fort** was subdued by Mughal forces and "**Nawab Ali Khan**" was appointed the first Kiladar or governor of Kangra Fort.
9. In **1622 A.D.** after the annexation of Kangra Fort Jahangir visited Kangra in person.

**Third phase (1627-1707) Shahjahan and Aurangzeb**

1. Mughals were successful in acquiring Nagarkot fort during the reign of **Raja Hari Chand-II**. After **Hari Chand-II's** death, **Chander Bhan Chand** continued to prosecute **guerilla warfare** against the Mughals. Royal family was left with **only Jagir** of Rajgir situated on the bank of the Beas.
2. During **Shahjahan** reign **Abdulla khan** and **Koch kullikhan** became the kangra fort governor
3. **Hassan Abdulla** and **Sayed Khalidulla** were the governors of Kangra Fort during the reign of Aurangzeb
4. In **1700 AD** **Hamir Chand** became Raja and **built a fort** near the place now called, "**Hamirpur**". Here he reigned for **forty-seven years**, he lived long enough to see the appointment of **Nawab Saif Ali Khan (about 1740 A.D)** who was the **last Mughal governor** of Kangra.

Hence, **Kangra fort** played a crucial role in history and in the relationship between Kangra hill rulers and Mughals for a long time.

**Que. Examine critically the Mughals and Hill state relations between the period 1605 A.D. to 1658 A.D.**

**Ans.** After the first battle of Panipat, the Mughals established their rule in India. The first rulers i.e. Babur and Humayun weren't concerned about the hill states and during the reign of Akbar, the relationship between the Mughals and the Hill States started to evolve. After the death of Akbar in 1605, Jahangir took over the throne, and during his reign relationship between Mughals and Hill States took various turns.

1. **Relation with Kangra** – Trilok Chand became king of Kangra at the same time as Jahangir. After initial setbacks, finally, in 1620, the Mughals captured the Kangra fort and appointed Nawan Ali Khan as its governor (Kiledaar). Raja Hari Chand was a minor at that time.
2. **Relation with Nurpur (Dhameri)** – Relations remained volatile between the two. Raja Suraj Mal of Nurpur was sent by Jahangir to capture Kangra twice, but due to his revolt, he failed to capture the fort.
3. Later, after the death of Suraj Mal, his brother Jagat Singh helped Jahangir to capture Kangra Fort in 1620.
4. Jahangir also helped Raja Jagat Singh in the "Battle of Dhalog" (1623) against Raja of Chamba.
5. Jahangir visited Dhameri in 1622 and renamed it Nurpur.
6. **Relation with Chamba** – Mughals sided with Raja Jagat Singh of Nurpur in the Battle of Dhalog in which Raja of Chamba, Janardhan, was killed with treachery by Jahangir and Jagat Singh.
7. Raja Prithvi Singh had good relations with the Mughals during his reign and he introduced the Mughals style of court life in Chamba.
8. **Relation with Sirmour** – Mughal governor Nizabat Khan captured Sirmour in 1634. Raja Mandhata Parkash was the ruler of Sirmour at that time.
9. Hence the relations between the Mughals and the Hill state from 1605 A.D. to 1658 A.D. saw many ups and downs. During this period a large part of Hill states came under the control of the Mughal empire.

**Que. Akbar tried his best to conquer Kangra Fort but failed discuss.**

**Answer:** Akbar succeeded his father Humayun at the very young age of 13, after winning the second battle of Panipat in 1556 he wanted to strengthen his position in Punjab and Punjab hill states, for that purpose, he attacked Sikander Shah governor of Punjab nephew of Shersha Suri, Jai Chand of Kangra and Raja of Dhameri and finally he aspired to conquer Kangra Fort that was strategically important for Mughals.

1. **Bidhi Chand of Kangra** declared the first revolt against Mughal in **1572**, Akbar sent an army under **Khan Jahan Hussain Qali Khan**, (Viceroy of Punjab) to suppress the revolt and acquire Kangra Fort.
2. When the Mughal army was in a position to seize Kangra Fort, it was reported that relatives of Akbar named **Ibrahim Hussain Mira and Musud Mirza** invaded Punjab, so the Mughal army had to depart from Nagarkot to Punjab in order to suppress the revolt of Mirza brother.
3. The Akbar army succeeded in suppressing the revolt of Phari Raja but failed to acquire the Nagarkot fort.
4. In second time Akbar deputed his **finance minister Todar Mal**, he succeeded in acquiring sixty-six villages in the valley and the whole of **Rihalu** area from Chamba, but couldn't succeed in acquiring Kangra fort.
5. During the reign of Akbar hill state Rajas and Punjab was in a position to resist Mughal's move towards Kangra Fort, so he couldn't manage to conquer the fort, later Jahangir succeeded in winning the fort in 1620.

**Que. Explain the relation of Sikhs with hill states in the 19th century.**

**Answer:** Sikhs from the time of Guru Nanak Dev traveled across the length and breadth of the state. Except for some scuffles during the period of **Guru Govind Singh**, the relations largely remain peaceful. In the **19th century**, the relations largely remained imperialistic as **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** and **Hill chiefs** were looking to expand their

territories.

#### **Sikhs and Kangra:**

1. In **1803-04**, **Raja Sansar Chand** twice invaded the plains in the direction of **Hoshiarpur and Bajwarah** but was repulsed by **Ranjit Singh**.
2. In **1809**, **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** helped **Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra** in regaining territories lost to the Gurkhas. In return for this help **Kangra Fort and 66 villages** in the **Kangra valley** were gifted to **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**. **Desa Singh Majithia** was appointed as the **Governor** of the fort.
3. In **1824**, after the death of **Sansar Chand**, his son **Anirudh Singh** was installed as Raja by paying one lakh of nazrana to **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**. **Prince Kharak Singh** (Son of Ranjit Singh) exchanged turbans, as a token of brotherhood.
4. In **1827** Prime minister of **Jammu**, **Raja Dhian Singh** asked for the marriage of his son **Hira Singh** with the sister of **Anirudh Singh**. **Raja Anirudh Singh** considered it as a result and sent his family across the Sutlej and fled to the British territory.
5. In **1846**, by the **treaty of Lahore**, **Kangra** directly came under the control of **Britishers** and it ended the conflict with **Sikhs**.

#### **Sikhs and Kullu:**

1. In **1816-1817** when **Shah Shuja**, the ex **Amir of Kabul** escaped to the British territory through **Kullu**, **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** imposed a fine of **Rupees 80000** on **Kullu**. The fine was paid with huge difficulties.
2. In **1839**, a portion of the Sikh army under '**Sindhanwala Sardars**' was dispatched for the **Kullu** invasion. **Raja Ajit Singh** was made prisoner and the state was surrendered to the Sikhs. In return journey **Sikh force** was ambushed by the **Sarajis** and approximately **1000 men** of the **Sikh force** were massacred.
3. In **1841** to avenge the cruelties committed by the **Sarajis**, a Sikh force was sent and it burnt a number of villages and plundered the area. After that, it was handed over to **Raja of Mandi for Rupees 32000**.
4. By the treaty of **9th March 1846** **Kullu** became the part of **British Empire**.

#### **Sikhs of Mandi:**

1. In **1810**, after the retreat of **Gurkhas** and occupation of **Kangra fort** by **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**, **Sardar Dessa Singh Majithia** was appointed governor of all hill states including **Mandi**.
2. **Raja Ishwari Sen** was forced to part a **najrana** of **rupees 30000** annually which was further increased to **1 lakh rupees**.
3. In **1840**, a large army under **General Vantura** was sent to **Mandi** by **Nao Nihal Singh**. **Raja Balbir Sen** was forced to pay money demanded by the Sikh force. After paying the tribute he was imprisoned by the Sikh force and taken to **Amritsar**, **Mandi** was thus under the possession of **Sikhs**.
4. In **1841** **Balbir Sen** was released on orders of **Sher Singh** and was directed to pay revenue of **four lakh rupees**, which he could never pay. He sent his confident **Sibu Pandit** to **Mr Eriksne** who was **Superintendent of Hill States**.
5. By the treaty of **1846** **Mandi** became the part of **British Empire**.

Thus the relations between Sikhs and hill states largely remained turbulent during the reign of **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** and some sort of normalcy only prevailed after **British paramountcy** was established in **1846**.

**Que. Discuss critically Sikhs and Hill states relations during the later 18<sup>th</sup> century and the first phase of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.**

**Ans.** Relations between Sikhs and Hill states varied according to circumstances which were prevailing between the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The events that molded the relationships between the hill states and Sikhs are as follows:

1. **Jassa Singh Ramgarhiya** was the first Sikh who attacked the hilly areas in the 1770s. He took tribute from rulers of **Kangra, Nurpur, and Chamba**.

2. With the help of Jai Singh Kanhaiya, Raja Sansar Chand took back **Kangra fort** from the Mughals.
3. After a defeat by Gurkhas in the “battle of Mahal Morian” in May 1806, Raja Sansar Singh signed the “treaty of Jawalamukhi” (1809) with Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Under this treaty, Maharaja Ranjit Singh provided help to Raja Sansar Chand and expelled Gurkha from Kangra.
4. After that Maharaja Ranjit Singh took control of the Kangra fort and appointed Desa Singh Majitha as Qileदार of the fort.
5. By the end of 1816, Ranjit Singh was the master of Hill States viz. Chamaba, Nurpur, Kotla, Shahpur, Guler, Kehlur etc.
6. After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839, his empire became weak and the Britishers took advantage of the situation & their greed led to the first **Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46)**.
7. Hill states took the side of the Britishers who were expecting their states to be returned to them after the war.
8. But under the “treaty of Amritsar”, Hill states were handed over to Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu.
9. Within three years after the first Anglo-Sikh war, 2<sup>nd</sup> war started between the two.
10. This time hill states supported the Sikhs due to the non-return of their territories to them after the first battle.
11. Unfortunately, Sikhs again lost the war and all areas north of Sutlej fell under the British empire.

Hence, the relationship between Hill states and Sikhs remained volatile and evolved according to the situations and needs of the time. The Sikh rule in Hill states influenced not only the political or economic system but also influenced art, architecture, and cultural sphere of the state.

**Que. Give a brief account of Guru Govind Singh's relation with the hill states of Himachal Pradesh.**

**Answer:-** Guru Govind Singh resided at Anandpur, which was located in the territory of Raja Bhim Chand of Kehlur (Bilaspur).

1. **Battle of Bhangani:** Ratan Rai, the son of Raja Ram Rai of Assam visited Anandpur and gifted Guru petty white elephant (Known as Prasadi elephant). Bhim Chand demanded the elephant for himself and that was refused by Guru. This refusal caused an atmosphere of confrontation between the two on such a small issue.
2. In April 1685, Guru Govind Singh **shifted his residence to Paonta** (now Paonta Sahib) in Sirmaur, at an invitation of Raja Medni Prakash.
3. **Battle of Nadaun:** According to Bichitra Natak (a book about Guru Govind Singh) sometime after returned to Anandpur, peace was established between Raja Bhim Chand and Guru Govind Singh. Guru Govind Singh helped Bhim Chand in a battle of Nadaun against the Mughals.
4. There were fierce battles between the Guru and the Mughal. Kullu Raja refused to help whereas Sidh Sen raja of Mandi offered help to Guru Govind.
5. In Kehlur Guru Govind Singh created **Khalsa on the Baishakhi day, 13 April 1699 A.D.** at Anandpur Sahib in order to build up Military order.

**Que. Explain the relations of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh with the hill states in 19<sup>th</sup> century**

**Answer:** Maharaja Ranjeet Singh succeeded to unite all **Punjab misls** under a single power, and to secure his position from Britisher he signed a friendship treaty with them in 1809. He got an opportunity to become Paramount power of hill states as well.

**Relation with Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra:**

1. In 1806 Kangra forces were defeated at Mahal Morian (a place in district Hamirpur new) by Gurkhas.
2. After the struggle had continued for four years, as a last resort Sansar Chand in 1809 AD appealed to Maharaja Ranjeet Singh for help.
3. This was accepted after a month-long negotiation between the Raja and Maharaja in Jawalamukhi temple. Treaty was signed on 20th July 1809.
4. Then Sikh army advanced toward Kangra and defeated Gurkhas.

### **Ranjeet Singh acquired Kangra Fort:**

1. Maharaja Sansar Chand helped Sansar Chand to liberate his state from Gurkhas, but Katoch Raja had to lose Kangra Fort to Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
2. Acquisition of Kangra Fort strengthened the Maharaja's position in hill states, then hill states were forced to accept

### **Raja Anirudh Chand of Kangra and Maharaja Ranjeet Singh**

1. When Maharaja made an unacceptable proposal, asked one of Anirudh's two sisters to marry Hira Singh's son Raja Dhian Singh of Jammu who was prime minister of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
2. Anirudh delayed marriage intentionally when one year had passed Maharaja proceeded toward Nadaun to speed up marriage, necessary by force. On hearing this Raja Anirudh fled into British territory across Satluj with his family.
3. When Ranjit came to Nadaun Fateh Chand the younger brother of Sansar Chand offered his own granddaughter in marriage to Hira Singh.

### **Kullu Raja Ajit Singh and Ranjeet Singh**

1. When Raja Ranjit Singh sent a force to arrest Shah Shuja (fugitive Amir of Afghanistan) from Kullu, Raja Ajit Singh allowed him to escape for which Ranjit Singh imposed a fine of Rs 80,000 on Raja Ajit Singh.

### **Other hill states and Raja Ranjeet Singh**

1. After the acquisition of Nagarkot fort in 1809, the Maharaja summoned all hill forces, personnel, and tributaries to assemble and Sialkot but the Raja of Jaswan and Nurpur failed to obey the summons, for which they were fined beyond their capacity.
2. In 1818 after the death of Raja of Datarpur state was annexed by Ranjit Singh, and Raja Jagat Chand gained Jagir of Rs 4600 per annum.
3. **Sibba-** In 1809 Sibba state came under the control of Raja Ranjit Singh. Later the state was divided between Raja Gobind Singh and Mian Devi Singh (Nephew of Gobind Singh) and the fort remained with Ranjeet Singh.

So, after gaining control over Kangra Fort he reduced the power of Sansar Chand, and Gurkhas were pushed toward Shimla hill states, and directly or indirectly other Punjab Hill states came under the paramountcy of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh.

**Que. How did the invitation to the Gurkhas by Raja Mahan Chand of Kehlur change the whole course of the history of Shimla and Punjab Hill States?**

**Answer:** Raja Sansar Chand's annexation of Kahlur in 1794 aroused bitter resentment among other hill States. They sent a united invitation to the Gurkha commander Amar Singh Thapa which was accepted and this invitation changed the course of the History of Shimla and Punjab Hill States in the following way.

1. **Battle of Mahal Morian (1805-06):** In this battle, Gurkhas were assisted by Chamba and Raja Sansar Chand was defeated. He lost his territories of Chamba, Bilaspur, and Mandi which he had won earlier, and took refuge in the Kangra fort. The Gurkha plundered the State of Kangra but were unable to capture the fort.
2. **Raja Sansar Chand's invitation to Maharaja Ranjit Singh:** Raja Sansar Chand applied to Maharaja Ranjit Singh for help in return for Kangra Fort as the price for his help. After a month-long negotiations at Jwalamukhi, Maharaja Ranjeet Singh agreed and attacked Gurkha's in 1809 AD. Gurkhas were defeated and were pushed to the east of Satluj. Then try of Sikhs into the Kangra Hills was the end of Raja Sansar Chand's dream of establishing a strong and stable Hindu Kingdom.
3. **Gurkhas in the Shimla Hills:** After the loss in 1809, Amar Singh Thapa, turned his attention to the Shimla Hills thereby setting up his capital at Arki by driving out Jagat Singh, the ruler of Arki. Gurkhas further captured Sirmaur, Subathu, Hindur, Jubbal, Balsan, Kotgarh and Rampur. This started Gurkha rule in Shimla Hills with entire territory lying between the Yamuna and Satluj had come under Gurkhas control.

#### 4. Establishment of British Rule in Shimla Hills:

- a) **Conflict** between **Gurkha** and the **British** was just a matter of time as both were looking for expansion of their territories. **The first conflict** started when **Gurkha** announced their willingness to occupy certain villages in the plains of **Sirhind**. The British objected to it.
  - b) The second conflict started in the middle of **1813** when Gurkha men seized **six villages** of which two were of **David Ochterlony's Sikh proteges**. Moreover, the **Gurkha** expansion in the westward direction brought all passes and trade routes under their control. This led to the final declaration of war against **Gurkha** by the British on **1 November 1814**.
  - c) The war ended with the defeat of **Gurkha** and the signing of the **Treaty of Sagauli** on **4th March 1816** in which Gurkha abdicated all territories of **Shimla** hill states in favour of the **Britishers**.
  - d) The **princely states** were now under the **sovereignty** of the **British government**. The chiefs of **big States and Thakurais** like **Kotkhai, Bhagal, Bushahar, Balson, Tharoch**, etc were granted **independent Sanads** whereas the **Sanads of Small Thakurais** were conferred upon large States eg **Sanads of Khaneti and Delath** were conferred upon **Bushahr** and those of **Koti, Ghund, Theog, Madhan and Ratesh** upon **Keonthal State**.
5. **British paramountcy in Punjab Hills:** After the defeat of **Sikhs** in the **Battle of Sabaraon** and the signing of the **Treaty of Lahore on 9th March 1846** the Hill states of **Kullu, Mandi, Nurpur, Suket** etc came under the direct control of British. Thus, the misadventure of **Raja Sansar Chand** against **Kahlur** led to the series of events and in the end it led to the British paramountcy in Shimla and Punjab Hill States.

#### Que. What were the major causes of Anglo- Gurkha war

In 1814 Sir General David Ochterlony was one of the four commanders who led the British army to the hills. In 1814 the British army moved up. Before that, Sikhs already had defeated Gurkhas and expelled them from the hills near Kangra

#### Causes of War:

1. Rivalry between Gurkhas and Britishers **before the conflict in Himachal:** Gurkhas had attacked Kathmandu valley (at the time Gurkha and Kathmandu were to different regions today's Nepal) and then Tibet, both had requested Britishers to help them against Gurkhas. Britishers and Gurkhas had conflicting interests in Sikkim.
2. Gurkhas had entered Garhwal, Sirmaur, and Kangra regions which caused fresh **challenges** to East India Company.
3. **Trade Route of East India Company:** The British had made constant efforts to persuade the Nepalese government to allow them their trade to Tibet through Nepal but Nepali authority refused.
4. **Political Safety for Britishers:** While trade was indeed a major objective of the company, out of it grew a concept of "political safety" which essentially means to strengthen the position of East India Company strategically. Britishers were afraid that there could be the possibility of **Hindu unity among Marathas, Sikhs, and Gurkhas** that may cause challenges for East India Company. Britishers had not accepted another foreign power with them in the Himalayan state.
5. **Border dispute** between East India Company and Gurkhas in Gorakhpur region of Awadh, in Tarai, Sikkim region.
6. **Humanitarian Ground:** Gurkhas kept looting and plundering in upper Shimla states on humanitarian grounds and requests from states like Jubbal compelled them to take action against Gurkhas.
7. **The Behaviour of Gurkhas:** The cruelty of Gurkhas has been described in such a way that it sounds like they were a major problem in the area.
8. **Immediate cause:** In the middle of 1813 AD, the Gurkha expansion brought all the Himalayan **passes** under their control including many trade routes between Tibet and the plains. The mercantile interests of the British made them frame the British Himalayan policy. When the British found that Gurkhas were not cooperating and finally on November 1, 1814 declared war against the Gurkhas.

#### Que. What were the Factors responsible for the Nepalese defeat in the Anglo-Nepal (Gorkha) War?

1. Nepal **lacked sufficient soldiers, equipment**, and provisions; Soldiers were bare foot/Chappals.
2. **Poor communication system** and lack of planning.

3. **Nepal received no foreign assistance:** Bhimsen Thapa had appealed to China and many Indian states of Punjab, Gwalior, and Awadh for help, but could not gather any.
4. **Weak financial position of Gorkhas,** after long battle at Kangra.
5. The British had planned extensively to defeat Gorkhas.

**Que. Discuss the Consequences of Nepalese defeat in the Anglo-Nepal (Gorkha) War.**

1. **Treaty of Sangauli:** The treaty of Sangauli was signed on 2nd December 1815 and ratified by 4th March 1816 between East India Company and the king of Nepal following the Anglo- Nepalese war in the years 1814-15. The signatory for Nepal was **Raj Guru Gajraj Mishra** and Signatory for the company was **Lt. Col. Paris Bradshaw**. After this treaty, Britain would recruit Gurkhas for military service.
2. **Hill State came Under Colonial Power after the war:** hill states can be divided into **two groups first is Shimla hill states and other is Punjab at hill states.**
  - a) **Punjab Hill States:** These states came under the direct control of British India after Anglo Sikh War of 1845-46. Kangra, Kullu and Lahaul Spiti became part of British India.
  - b) **Shimla Hill States:** indirectly came under British control after the Anglo-Gurkha war through Sanad. These states and Thakurais were in the upper Shimla area, Sirmaur and Bilaspur, etc. These states were provided with Sanad by Britishers. (i.e. Conditional independence)
3. Under **Sanad** Hill Chiefs were put under certain obligations in return for their protection. They were to allow free passage to the British merchants and their goods. They had to furnish a certain number of Begar laborers to British authority.
4. **Territorial Aggression by British Government:** Territorial aggression means when Britishers did not keep the promise that was made in Sanad, as it was assured that the British government would not accrete their territory directly.
5. **Political and administrative impacts:** Many rulers of hill states recruited British administrators in order to bring reforms in administration, introduce of modern revenue system, and reform in judiciary and police system
6. **Establishment of cantonment in Himachal Pradesh:** The Gurkha regiment became the permanent armed force of British India and even of free India
7. After the Anglo-Gurkha war **Sikhs and Britishers emerged as two major powers** in Himachal Pradesh and later their rivalry ended in two Anglo-Sikh wars.
8. **The End of Gorkha Rule in the Hills:** The British had to lift arms against them because they had begun to create trouble on the British boundaries. After the Gurkhas suffered defeat by the British at various places, the final battle was fought in the foothills of Shimla at a place called Mallon.

That was the end of Gurkha rule in the hills of the Indian Western Himalayas. General Ochterlony was impressed with the mountain ability of Gurkhas, their fighting skill and courage. He discussed his idea with his counterpart in Dehradun, General Fraser. **Both of them agreed to work out a separate regiment (Nasir regiment headquarters at Subathu) in East India Company and employ Gurkhas.**

**Que. What were the terms of the Treaty of Sugauli?**

**Answer:**

After the Anglo-Nepal War, a treaty of peace and friendship was signed between the government of Nepal and the East India Company. It is popularly known as "The Treaty of Sugauli, 1815". It was agreed upon on 2nd December 1815 by Gajraj Misra and Chandra Sekhar Upadhyay, on behalf of the government of Nepal, and Lt. Col P. Bradshaw, on behalf of the East India Company. The signed copies of the treaty were exchanged on 4th March 1816 at Makawanpur by Chandra Sekhar Upadhyay and General Ochterlony.

**The terms of the treaty were as follows:-**

1. There shall be **perpetual peace and friendship** between the East India Company and the king of Nepal.
2. The king of Nepal will **renounce all claim to the lands** which were the subject of discussion between the two

- States before the war; and will acknowledge the right of the company to the sovereignty of those lands.
3. The king of Nepal will cede to the East India Company in perpetuity all the under-mentioned territories:
    - i) The whole of low lands between the rivers Kali and Rapti.
    - ii) The whole of low lands between Rapti and Gandaki, except Butwal.
    - iii) The whole of low lands between Gandaki and Koshi in which the authority of the East India Company has been established.
    - iv) The whole of low lands between the rivers Mechi and Teesta. v) The whole of territories within the hills eastward of the Mechi River. The aforesaid territory shall be evacuated by the Gorkha troops within forty days from this date.
  4. With a view to indemnify the chiefs and Bhardars of Nepal, whose interest will suffer by the alienation of the lands ceded by the foregoing Article (No. 3 above), the East India Company agrees to **settle pensions to the aggregate amount of two lakhs** of rupees per annum on such chiefs as may be decided by the king of Nepal.
  5. The king of Nepal engages **never to molest or disturb the king of Sikkim** in the possession of his territories. If any difference shall arise between Nepal and Sikkim, it shall be referred to the arbitration of the East India Company.
  6. The king of Nepal hereby engages never to take or retain in his service any British subject, nor the subject of any **European or American State**, without the consent of the British Government.

In fact, this treaty of Sugauli was in favour of the East India Company and Nepal had to suffer a heavy loss of her territory. So, a subsequent agreement was made in December 1816 according to which Nepal got all the low lands (Terai) from Mechi, in the east, to Mahakali, in the west. Therefore, the indemnity of two lakhs of rupees ceased to continue. A land survey was also proposed to fix the boundary between the two States.

**Ques Identify any four conditions on which Britishers decided to establish cantonment in Himachal Pradesh.**

**Answer:**

Britishers found Himachal suitable for the establishment of a cantonment because of the following region:

1. **Health Consideration:** Health was an important factor that influenced the setting up of the cantonment in the hilly region of the present Himachal.
  - ❖ The hostile Indian climate, dust, and heat were a major impediment for the British troops to keep good health as they came from Europe which had a much cooler climate.
  - ❖ The place Calcutta reeks of Malaria, Hamilton says that in one year, out of 12000 English in Calcutta around 400 died within six months.
  - ❖ Thus, cantonments like Kasauli, Dalhousie, Dagshai, etc were free from tormented heat, and mosquitoes and kept them away from ill health.
2. **North India remained the major ground for revolt, war, and political movements against the Britishers:**
  - ❖ In 1814-15 Britishers had to face the challenges of Gurkhas, who had already established their post in stations like Subathu, Kasauli, Malaon and Shimla etc. Later Britishers also established their cantonments in these stations only.
  - ❖ In 1845-46 and again in 1848-49 Britishers had war with Sikhs which also forced Britishers to keep their army permanently in the hill region.
  - ❖ After the Sepoy mutiny of 1857, large military establishments were created with regional headquarters in the urban center and with smaller compounds in the outlying towns.
  - ❖ Cantonments like Dalhousie, Baklaoh, and Yol are the consequences of the Sepoy mutiny of 1857.
3. **Shimla became the summer capital of the Governor-General/Viceroy:**
  - ❖ The seat of government and other offices had shifted from Calcutta to Shimla and the headquarters of the military was one of the most important.

#### 4. Suitable climate of hill regions

- ❖ British colonial power ruled over their colonies with the help of statesman cum general. They prefer to live in an area that could provide them temperate climate of their motherland. This fact justified the need for quartering military officials and troops in a planned manner in hill region.

#### 5. Gurkha battalion in the British army: After the Sangauli treaty Britishers decided to recruit Gurkhas as a part of the British force, because, the Britishers had seen their skills of fighting during the Anglo-Gurkha war.

- ❖ Gurkhas are mountainous people of Nepal; they prefer to live in hilly areas and they are trained with tactics to be effective warriors of hilly regions. Thus, Britishers preferred to establish cantonments in hill regions like Sabathu, and Kasauli for a regiment of British force.

#### 6. Statically important locations: After the Gurkhas-Anglo war Britishers had liberated territories of Shimla hill states from Gurkhas and in the form of Sanad these territories were restored to local chiefs, but some are of strategic location like Kothkhai, Kasauli, Subhathu and Dagshai were kept with them. These were the small armed force town developed by Britishers and later were developed by Britishers as cantonment.

**Que. Write a Brief note on Dagshai Cantonment. Dagshai cantonment is one of the oldest in the Solan district of the State of Himachal Pradesh.**

1. It was founded in 1847 by the East India Company by securing five villages (Dabbi, Bhaghtiala, Dagshai, Chunawayand Jawug) at no cost from Maharaja of Patiala (Bhupinder Singh).
2. The new cantonment was named after Dagshai village, as it was the largest and most strategically located.
3. The name Dagshai is derived from the Urdu word 'Daag-e-shai'. During the Mughal regime, a royal mark was put on the forehead of the criminals and they packed to the then Dagshai village.
4. In Dagshai, a jail was constructed in 1849 known as Central Jail. This jail came into lime light when a number of Irish freedom fighters were executed there, prompting Mahatma Gandhi to rush to assess the situation.
5. Four revolutionaries of Kamagata Maru were also executed at Dagshai. The Dagshai Central Jail is now being converted into a museum. Cantonment Board, Dagshai is a statutory body constituted under the Cantonments Act, 2006.

**Que. Explain the major political and administrative development that took place during the colonial period in Himachal Pradesh.**

**Answer:** The British rule and political development with administrative development in the British period started after the Anglo-Gurkha War. The Gurkhas out powered the British and they established their supremacy in the state.

**Political and development during the colonial period could be seen in the following developments and events:**

1. **Treaty of Sangauli:** The treaty of Sangauli was signed on 2nd December 1815 and ratified by 4th March 1816 between East India Company and the king of Nepal following the Anglo-Nepalese war in the years 1814-15. The signatory for Nepal was Raj Guru Gajraj Mishra and Signatory for the company was Lt. Col. Paris Bradshaw. The treaty called for territorial concessions in which part of Nepal would be given to British India. After this treaty Britain would recruit Gurkhas for military service.
2. **Establishment of British cantonment and Gurkha regiment**
3. **Sanad:** Sanad was not completely independent of hill chiefs. Hill Chiefs were put under certain obligations in return for their protection. They were to allow free passage to the British merchants and their goods. They had to furnish a certain number of Beggar laborers to British authority.

The bigger states were bound to join the British army with their arms retainers hill-porters when called upon to do so at the time of war.

Some rulers were asked to the possessions of the others Bushehr was the only state from which was exacted a tribute of Rs. 15000 annually by the British government after the restoration of the states to their respective chiefs.

4. **Reorganisation of Shimla hill states:** Maximum states and Thakurias were guaranteed with Sanad, while some Thakurais were merged with Bushahr and Keonthal.
5. **Territorial Aggression by British Government:** Territorial aggression means when Britishers did not keep the

promise that was made in Sanad, as it was assured that the British government would not accrete their territory directly. However the British retained possession of some of the important portions of hill states under the pretext of guaranteeing protection to the hill chiefs not only against the foreign enemy but also to help them in retaining their ancient principalities.

British government modified its original policy so as to retain all the favorable military positions to whosoever belonged. It was declared that all the hands belonging to those ruling families which had become extinct or the right to possession of which was disputed among different parties would cede to

British authority. Many of the hill chiefs were asked to pay huge sums in the form of gold and coins to meet the expenses of the war.

6. **Two Anglo-Sikh War and Panjab hill states:** These states came under direct control of British India after the Anglo-Sikh War of 1845-46. Kangra, Kullu, and Lahaul Spiti became part of British India. After the Anglo-Sikh war Mandi, Suket, and Chamba were also guaranteed with Sanad. So, after the second Anglo Sikh War whole Himachal (Shimla Hill states through Sanad etc. Direct control of Britishers and Punjab hill states under the direct control of British India) came under the colonial power.
7. **Treaty of Amritsar:** The treaty of Amritsar, executed by the East India Company and Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu after the first Anglo-Sikh war. The treaty was executed on 16 March 1846. Britishers kept the area with themselves of their interest and the rest was sold to Gulab Singh, by signing this treaty with Jammu.

Under Article 1 of the treaty, Gulab Singh acquired "all the hilly or mountainous country with its dependencies situated to the eastwards of river Ravi including Chamba. But later on, Chamba was excluded from the terms of the treaty. It was only due to the patriotic zeal of Bhaga who immediately rushed to Lahore to restore the status of Chamba state with the sympathy of Sir Henry Lawrence.

A Sanad dated 6th April 1848 was granted to Sri Singh conferring the territory of Chamba upon him.

8. **Praja Mandal movements in Himachal Pradesh:** The Praja Mandal movements in the Princely states represented the anti-feudal and anti-imperialist political consciousness of the majority of people living in the states. In 1939 a session of the all India state peoples conference was held at Ludhiana in which it was decided to form Praja Mandalas in the hill states and to devote special attention to these areas. As a result of these steps, a general awakening grew among the hill people.

Praja Mandalas were organized in Chamba, Mandi, Bilaspur, Jubbals, Bushahr, Sirmaur, and other small hill states.

9. **Confrontation and movements by Praja Mandal Dhami Goli Kand:** On 13 July 1939 at Shimla under the chairmanship of Bhagmal Sautha. **Bhai Do Na Pai movement:** Through this movement of Praja Mandal, people were asked neither to give recruits from the British army nor money towards the war funds, as the Second World War was started in 1939.
10. **Himalayan Prant Provisional Government (HPPG) or Suket Satyagraha:** This section of Praja Mandal led by Pandit Padam Dev and Dr. Y.S Parmar decided to force the issue to ensure the hill states merge with the rest of the country. HPPG was established, headed by Shiva and Ramaul, was established with headquarters at Shimla. On 16th February 1948, the rulers of Suket were given a 48-hour ultimatum to merge his state with the Indian union, failing which a Satyagraha would be launched to achieve this end.
11. **1857 Mutiny and Himachal:** Lord William Hay reported that the hill chiefs showed a good spirit throughout and the main problem was the growing resentment among the common people. It was also pointed out that except Rampur-Bushahr all princely states co-operated with the government to suppress the revolt.
12. **Other movements in Himachal Pradesh:** Gadhar movement, Bushahr Dum, Pajhotha Movement in Sirmaur, and many other agrarian movements took place in Himachal Pradesh during colonial period.
13. **Chamber of Princes:** In order to develop and identify of interests between the ruling chiefs and the British authority, the British government gave up the policy of isolating the states.
1. The British government permitted them **mutual consultation** and tried to give a new importance to the princess in the existing set-up of administration.
  2. Consequently, a permanent consultative body of princes also known as **Narender Mandal**, came into existence in 1921.

3. It enabled the Princes to assemble together and to discuss matters of common interests covering their relations with the Paramount power or British India.
4. Raja Bhagat Chand of Jubbal was elected a representative member of the Shimla hill states in the chamber of Prince in 1921 and again in 1933.

### **Administrative Developments during the Colonial Period**

1. **Administration under Sanad:** After Sanad although hill chiefs were independent at the same time they had to follow the instructions of British authority with respect to the administration of these states. In order to run a smooth administration in the state of Sanad deputy commissioner used to sit in Shimla. He has to take care of the following in order to maintain control over hill chiefs while performing administrative functions. They were to allow free passage to the British merchants and their goods.
  1. Hill states had to construct twelve feet wide roads in their territories.
  2. The hill chief swore and agreed to promote the welfare of their people.
  3. The chiefs exercised full ruling powers in their respective territories but the capital punishment passed by chiefs required to be confirmed by the "Superintendent Shimla Hill States" before it was carried out.
  4. The practice of slave dealing, Sati, female infanticide, and burning or drawing of lappers were stopped.
2. **Administration of Punjab hill states:** After the Anglo Sikh war Punjab came under direct control of British India. Punjab hill states constituted by Kangra, Kullu, and Lahaul Spiti became a district of Punjab and remained part of Punjab till 1966. Here some democratic rights like the right to vote, form political parties or organizations, and some fundamental rights were granted by the British India government.
3. **Interference in the administration affairs of hill states by Britishers:** In 1832 Rana abdicated in favour of the British government who **appointed a tehsildar** to administer the state. The state continued to be administered by the British till 1854.

In Bilaspur, there was an open civil war between Raja and his opponent Mian Jangi. Seeing this William Murry political agent, with three companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nassiri Battalion visited Bilaspur in 1827. He retained Mian Miri and Sansaru in authority and Raja was restored as he promised to improve his behaviour.

**Sirmaur:** Fateh Chand was installed in 1815 on the Gaddi. He was six years old at that time. During his minority, the administration was carried out by his mother Guleri Rani under the supervision of Captain G. Birch, assistant to the agent to the Governor General at Nahan. Due to some reasons, **Captain Birch** was forced to interfere actively in the internal administration of the state.

**Bushehr:** The rule of Raja Shamsher Singh was not satisfactory in any respect and in 1886 his son Tikka Raghunath Singh was given the charge of administration. But **Raghunath Singh** died in 1896, after his death the Raja attempted to resume his powers but the British government interfered, and **Rai Sahib Mangat Ram**, a state official, was appointed as the manager of the state.

**Keonthal:** during the reign of Raja Balbir Sen, there were internal disorders and therefore, in 1899 it became necessary for the government to appoint a manager to carry out regular settlement.

4. **Administrative Development with Respect to Agriculture and Economic Structure of Hill States during the Colonial Period**

**Market:** The primary concern was to create a market for the British goods which could take place by breaking the self-sufficient basis of the existing village communities on the one hand and by inducing the cultivators to increase agricultural production to be able to become buyers of British goods.

**Structural change to run smooth administrative functions:** From administration point of view in Shimla hills, Shimla district was constituted in 1859 out of three separate localities, and district was divided into sub-Tehsils each tehsil under Naib Tehsildar.

**Naib Tehsildar** worked under the Deputy Commissioner's place at Shimla. He was also designated as the superintendent of Shimla Hill states.

In 1859, Shimla and the surrounding hill states also formed an executive division of the **Public Work Department (PWD)** and Forest Division.

The office of the **Deputy Commissioner** later became an important office in the hill states. It appointed Wazir and managers in the hill states to carry out land settlement and administration on the British line.

The increasing importance of Shimla town as headquarters of the commander-in-chief and later, in 1864 the **summer capital** of the Governor General.

Dagshai, Sabathu, Kasauli, and Jutogh became prominent cantonment towns. Surrounding states of these cantonments in the lower Shivalik range such as Beja, Kunihar, Kuthar Mahlog, Baghat, and Banghal started growing crops that they could sell in these neighboring towns.

A special **forest division** was created in 1859 for the protection and conservation of forest wealth in Shimla and the surrounding hill states under an assistant commissioner.

#### 5. British government helped some hill states in administration:

**Chamba:** Sri Singh of Chamba, when he came of age and took the reins of government in his hands found that administration had become much disorganized during his minority rule and it would not be possible for him alone to restore order.

Therefore, in 1862 he asked the British government for the services of a British officer. Major Blair Reid was appointed superintendent.

**Mandi:** Bijai Sen of Mandi, under the supervision of E.W Purkis, an engineer, constructed a new road from Mandi to Kullu by Dulchi Pass with a suspension bridge over the Uhl River, a tributary of Beas. The Civil and Criminal suits were defined and classified. The rule for the hearing of appeal and revisions were modified.

**Sirmaur:** Sirmaur state made commendable progress. Raja Shamsher Prakash established regular Police, Judicial, and revenue courts. Raja Shamsher Prakash organized state forces. He appointed Mr. Watt to train and drill them properly.

**Land Settlement:** The striking feature of this period was the introduction of land settlement in the hill states. These settlements were made entirely on the British Indian model.

**Forest Settlement:** It was done and working plans were prepared for the protection and extraction of the forest wealth. For this Raja Bushehr leased his forest to the British government for a period of fifty years. In 1864 the **Raja of Chamba** had also leased all his forests to the government. In 1885 the **Raja of Mandi** leased to the British government, the right to collect, drift and waif timber in the river Beas within the Mandi territory for a period of five years on a payment of Rs 500 year.

#### 6. Legislation and Reforms

Laws were passed during the colonial period to demolish Beggar and Reet which were seen as prominent developments in passing laws and framing new policies as far as social reforms administration is concerned.

So, we can say that Himachal Pradesh had seen a number of political and administrative developments during the colonial period, the treaty of Sangauli which shaped India's relation with Nepal, the role of Praja Mandal to starting many social political, and agrarian movements and fought for democratization, abolition of rajas rule and ultimately lead Himachal Pradesh towards a formation of a state of free India.

During the British period, administrative posts like deputy commissioner, tehsildar, forest division, initiation of public works department, police, and revenue reforms gave new direction to administration in Himachal Pradesh.

#### 12. Identify any three considerations on which the British policy towards the Shimla Hill States was based.

**Answer:** The British policy came into contact with Shimla hill States after the Gurkha-British war in 1815 A.D. Following are the three considerations on which the British policy towards the Shimla Hill States was based. First phase

1. During the first phase (1815-1850), the British policy was guided more by **strategic concerns and trading concerns (trading route to Tibet)**. The territory was perhaps not considered valuable from the point of view of land revenue and the Britishers agreed to restore to the respective chiefs their territory after the expulsion of the Gurkha from the hills.
2. The Britishers after restoring all the territories to the respective chiefs only retained and **gar- risoned** the important forts of **Kotgarh, Subathu, and Rawingarh** to ensure protection against any possibility of the revival of the Gorkha rule.

3. Sanads were granted to the Princely states and in lieu of them the Princely states were made to pay Nazranaincash, construct roads in their respective territories to allow the passage of British goods etc

### Second Phase

1. After the Queen's proclamation of 1858, relations with Shimla hill States did not remain casual but a more serious policy was framed. Shimla was declared the Summer Capital of British India. in 1864.
2. The Britishers gave the Princely States independence in day-to-day affairs but a British agent was appointed in the States to keep an eye on the activities of the rulers. It was necessary to consult the British reagent before taking major policy decisions such as succession to the throne, land revenue rates, law and order etc.
3. The evil practices like Begar and Beth continued although with the constant efforts of the political leaders the practice of Reet was abolished in 1920s.
4. Thus, in the initial phase of the British empire the relation with the Shimla hill states was largely strategic and economic but after the revolt of 1857, the Britishers had political control over Shimla hill states.

**Que. Critically examine the impact of the 1857 mutiny in Himachal Pradesh.**

From the beginning of 1857, military unrest was clearly increasing in some areas of Himachal Pradesh. The first sign of revolt occurred in the Kasauli cantonment, which was the source of the British strength.

### Impact of the 1857 Mutiny in Himachal Pradesh:

1. **Defiance by Rulers:** Raja of Bushahr, Shamsheer Singh, stopped paying the annual nazrana of 15,000 rupees which the British had imposed on his state. Raja Pratap Chand refused to provide army help to the British. After this the British carried out some administrative changes to check and control the situation.
2. **Formation of secret organisation:** In Shimla Hills, a secret organization was formed by Ram Prasad Bairagi. The basic purpose of this organization was to carry out revolutionary and secret activities in such a way that the country could be liberated from the British. These revolutionary secret activities were soon detected and Bairagi was sent to Ambala jail where he was hanged.
3. **People's Revolt:** There was widespread discontentment among the people in the Nalagarh area. The British had kept their arms and ammunition in Malaun Fort (Nalagarh). On 16th May 1857, Captain D. Brigade deputed his assistant to bring some arms and ammunition from the Malaun Fort. When the soldiers carrying arms were leaving the fort, the extremists with the help of local zamindars attacked them. They snatched the ammunition, and arms and fled away.
4. **Soldier's smutiny:** The open disobedience of the orders of Commander-in-Chief, General George Anson by the Gurkha Army at Nahan too was a major cause of revolt on 11th May, 1857. The Gurkhas refused to march towards Ambala.

But with the passage of time, the revolutionary spirit started fading out in princely states. At least 50 patriots were hanged within a span of four months. Also, People of the hill states were not as politically alive as the people in other parts of the country. They remained more or less aloof and so did their rulers with the exception of Bushahr. Some of them even rendered help to the Britishers during the revolt. Among them were the rulers of Chamba, Bilaspur, Bhagal and Dhami.

**Que. Write a detailed note on the art and architecture in the 19th and 20th centuries with reference to colonial structure in Shimla.**

The colonial architecture of Shimla forms the major attraction for tourists. During British rule, Shimla used to be the summer capital of the Viceroy, where they, along with other administrative members used to spend summers in Shimla.

The architecture of Shimla is known as colonial architecture, where the families used to spend a lot of time in the hill station. The architecture of Shimla can be analyzed with the help of a few iconic structures of the town.

### Development of Art and Architecture in Shimla

1. **Shimla's railway station**, known as the Shimla Railway Station, is an iconic example of British colonial architecture. It was constructed during the British Raj and is famous for its distinctive **Victorian-style architecture**. This railway line, often referred to as the Kalka-Shimla Railway, is also a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** due

to its historical and architectural significance. It's a prime example of how the British left their mark on India's infrastructure during their rule.

2. **Christ church:** The ridge is mainly dominated by the Christ Church, a **Gothic structure** with stained and buttress windows. It is tall spires become visible over the skyline of the city.
3. **Municipal Library:** A colonial structure adjoining the church is the Municipal Library. This is a quaint structure with **timber framed (dhajji-wall) construction** with a pitched roof. The framing is well decorated which is reminiscent more of an English cottage, than of a public building which it actually is.
4. **Town Hall:** Another fantastic structure situated on the Mall is Town Hall, built in "**Barog Stone**". The roof of the structure is made of grey slates and the doors, windows, and cornices are aesthetically drawn.
5. **The Mall :** The Mall bears the symbol of the **quintessential spirit of the colonial city**. The heights of the shops along the mall are uniformly double-storey, with **gabled roofs in wooden frame** construction.
6. **Gorton Castle:** Gorton Castle was built in 1904 and was designed by Sir Winton Jacob who was considered as one of the best British architects during the time. Today, the castle is used as the office of the Accountant General of Himachal Pradesh. The monument is built according to the **Neo-Gothic type of architecture** and exudes the vibe of a fairy tale with its characteristic features.
7. **Ravenswood:** Ravenswood" has a **Tudor-style structure**, which once nestled amidst gigantic pines and lush willows. In 1971, Himachal Pradesh attained statehood and "Ravenswood" became the majestic **seat of the Himachal Pradesh high court**.
8. **The Viceregal Lodge, Shimla :** The Viceregal Lodge was the summer residence of the Indian Viceroy, the British Raj leader who governed the whole of the Indian subcontinent between 1888 until 1946. Within the Viceroy Lodge many significant decisions from this era about India were devised, discussed and agreed upon.

**Que. Describe the political, social, religious, and economic conditions of Himachal Pradesh during the early 19th century.**

**Answer:**

19th century facilitated the introduction of British hegemony in princely states of Himachal Pradesh with dominance of Sikhs and Gurkhas.

**Political Condition:**

1. **Gurkha Invasion:** An ambitious Gurkha chief with his army of 40,000 soldiers attacked Kangra in 1805. He defeated Sansar Chand in 1806 near Mahal Morian in a fierce battle and the Sansar Chand took shelter in the Kangra Fort.
2. **Arrival of Sikhs:** Maharaja Sansar Chand asked for help from Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1809. Sansar Chand succeeded in escaping from the fort in disguise and reached Sujampur-Tira. Maharaja Ranjit Singh defeated Gurkhas and forced them to sign a treaty in which they agreed to withdraw from Kangra areas and go to Arki.
3. **Continuance of Gurkhas Activities:** By 1810, the Gurkhas had conquered the states of Nalagarh, Jubbal, Punder, and Dhami. In 1811, Amar Singh Thapa, after defeating the army of the Bushahr chief, took over the control of the principality of Theog, Balson, Rampur, Kotgarh, and Jubbal.
4. **Anglo-Gurkhas War and Himachal Areas:** In November 1814, the British declared war against the Gurkhas. The rulers of Shimla hill states assured full support to the British. In return, the British assured them that their territory would be returned to them. **Treaty of Sangauli** was signed on 28th November, 1815 in between British and Gurkhas.
5. **Era of Consolidation and Supremacy of British:** In 1815, the British took control of Shimla hill states through Sanad.

**Administrative Changes effected by the British in Kangra and other hill areas of Himachal Pradesh in 1849-**

1. After suppressing the revolt in Kangra, the British merged the areas of Kangra, Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti and put the same under a single command of the Deputy Commissioner. For Mandi, Suket, Bilaspur and Chamba states the Superintendent of Sutlej states was appointed.

- The rest of the Shimla hill states were put under the charge of the Superintendent. It can be said that the whole of Himachal Pradesh came under the control of the East India Company in 1849.

### **Social and Religious:**

- Beliefs:** In the Shimla district, the people practiced Hinduism but were overwhelmed by superstitious beliefs in sacrifices, witches and sorcery, and adoration of deotas (gods) and devis (goddesses). Sacrifices were offered to the deities by the worshippers in order to fulfil their desires. British discourages social evils like Sati Pratha.
- Religion:** As per the foregoing observations, it is evident that two main religions namely **Hinduism and Buddhism** were prevalent in the Shimla district, erstwhile Shimla Hill States, the Kangra district and erstwhile Punjab Hill states of Himachal during the first half of nineteenth century. In upper Kinnaur, they practised **lama religion**. In 19th Century British introduced **Christianity** in hilly state.
- Begar:** The system of begar had been prevalent in erstwhile Shimla and Punjab Hill States of H.P. since time immemorial. begar means forced labour or employing anyone without remuneration
- Beth:** Beth was an obligation to render personal service in return for certain cultivating rights. In most states, certain lands were set aside for the exclusive benefit of the ruling family and jagirdars, and these lands were grouped into units called basa or sohal lands. These men held land and gave Beth service from generation to generation. Those who cultivated such lands were known as bethus.

### **Economy**

- Agriculture :-** It was by far the most important economic activity, a vast variety of crops and vegetables grown in the Hill States of Himachal Pradesh. The chief crops in the lower hills and valleys were rice and wheat. On higher hills wheat, maize and barley were predominant. Poppy was also extensively grown.
- Trade:** The people of Kinnaur and Lahaul took to **trading** more than any other people in the Pradesh. The main trade routes used by the Bushahr or Kinnauree traders followed the Sutlej and went over Shipki and Sirang passes.
- Tourism:** During the 19th century when the British rulers entered India, they considered this place as their summer capital, which is when, tourism actually started to flourish in the state.
- Introduction of Sanads:** Under 'Sanads', the chief tans of the Hill States were put under certain obligations towards the British Government. They were to allow free passage to the British merchants and their goods in their territories.
- Traditional Crafts:** Handicrafts, including weaving, pottery, and woodwork, were common economic activities in the region. These crafts were often passed down through generations.

In summary, during the early 19th century, Himachal Pradesh was a region characterized by a patchwork of princely states, a predominantly agrarian economy, a society influenced by the caste system, and a mix of Hindu and Buddhist religious traditions. The region's political landscape was shifting due to the influence of the Sikh Empire and the eventual expansion of British colonial rule in the years to come.

**Que. Give a brief account of the economic condition of hill states during the colonial period.**

**Answer:**

At the time of the colonial period upper strata of society Rajas, Brahmins and Rajput owned big proportion of land, and the lower strata of society owned small portion of land, and they had only option to work in the field of landholders for their livelihood. By making analysis of following point, we could understand the economic condition of that time.

- It were Brahmins who by no means restrict themselves from ploughing. They hold land, they lent money, engaged in services, discharge offices such as that of **Lambardar or Patwari**.
- This also applied to the Rajput, who did not want to pollute themselves by taking to direct cultivation.
- Among the Rajput this distinction was seen in the descendants from the royal clan who are known by the names of **Mians**.
- Other Rajputs were known as **Rathis, Thakura, and Halbah** Rajputs they had taken to cultivation.
- Due to Physiographic conditions the region had **limited land for cultivation**. The **agrarian economy** in large part of the state had, therefore, adjusted itself by taking to **husbandry and pastoralism** to a larger extent than the Plain areas.

6. **Begar, Beth, and Reet:** These were the major prevailing systems of socio-economic structure of the hill state.
7. **Beth and Begar** were important **sources of revenue in the form of free services** given to hill chiefs and Zamindar. Beth, Begar, and Reet were considered as social evil at that time, which attracted the attention of the reformist movement in Hill State.
8. At that time **cottage industries** and hand craft at the village level was prevalent. The artisans comprising the **goldsmiths, carpenters, blacksmiths stone cutters**, etc. fill the demand at the village level and at the same time generate employment at the local level itself.
9. **The Jajmani system or Yajman system** was an economic system most notably found in villages in which lower castes performed various functions for upper castes and received grain or other goods in return annually. It was an **occupational division of labour** involving a system of **role-relationships** that enabled villages to be mostly self-sufficient.
10. **Cash crops** were not that much prevalent and gradually during period **apple, tea, timber herbs** etc were promoted major cash crops. A special **forest division was created in 1859** for the protection and conservation of forest wealth in Shimla and the surrounding hill states under an assistant commissioner.

So, we can say that during colonial period society was divided on the basis have and have not, beth and beggar was there, transaction was mostly on barter system because of scarcity of cash. Britisher had tried their best to promote cash crops and laws were brought to abolish beth and beggar system which were exploitative in nature.

### **TERRITORIAL AGGRESSION BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT**

Territorial aggression means when Britishers did not keep the promises that were made in Sanad, as it was assured that the British government would not accrete their territory directly.

- The British held onto key areas within the hill states by claiming that they were offering protection to the hill chiefs, not just against external threats but also to support them in preserving their longstanding ruling positions.

#### **Nature of the British Aggression:**

- **Prioritizing Strategic Military Positions** - The British government modified its initial policy to secure all strategically advantageous military positions, regardless of ownership.
- **Annexation of Disputed Land** - It was announced that lands previously owned by ruling families that had either disappeared or were subject to disputes among various claimants would now come under British authority.
- **Demand for Tribute** - Several Hill Chiefs were required to contribute substantial amounts of gold and coins and supply manpower to cover the costs of the war.

#### **Britishers had shown territorial aggression against the following states/areas:**

- **Hindur** - At the time of confirming the ancestral possessions of the Raja Ram Saran Singh of Hindur, the British retained the **fort of Malaun** and the villages surrounding it for use as military posts.
- **Keonthal** - The British dismembered the territory of Keonthal after their conquest.
  - ❖ They sold a portion comprising nine Pargana, expected to yield revenue of Rs. 21,000, to the Raja of Patiala.
  - ❖ In return, the Keonthal state was excused from paying tribute
- **Jubbal** - Punar, a Pargana of Jubbal state was retained by the British and later on by a Sanad, was granted to Rana Sansar Sen of Keonthal.
- **Rawin** - In 1830, Rawin Pargana was granted to the Raja of Keonthal and in return British got twelve villages from Keonthal for creating the hill station Shimla.
- **Bharoli** - Bharoli, which included three Parganas - Subhathu, Siwan, and Bharoli - remained under British control due to the extinction of the original family that owned it.
  - ❖ These Parganas were strategically vital for ensuring secure control over the lower hills.
- **Kotguru (Kotgarh)** - Kotguru and Rawin on the left bank of the Pabar River were among the first of the British territorial acquisitions in the inner hills.

- **Baghat** – During the Nepalese war, Raja Mohinder Singh of Baghat was unfriendly in his attitude towards the British.
  - ❖ Consequently, at the conclusion of the war, five Parganas were taken from him and sold to the Raja of Patiala.
- **Sirmaur** – A tract of Sirmaur, on the mouth of River Giri, was made over to the Rana of Keonthal and his Pargana of Jaunsar and Bawar (now in Dehradun district) were annexed to the British domination.

The British government's territorial aggression in the hill states represented a departure from their initial promises of non-interference and had significant implications for the political and territorial landscape of the region during the colonial era.

## BETH SYSTEM

The Beth system was a distinctive land tenure arrangement commonly found in hilly areas.

- Under this system, people who didn't own land were given the authority to cultivate and use the ruler or landlord's land, in return for providing personal services to them.
- In the Beth system, landless lower-caste individuals paid rent through services called "Beth," which exempted their land from taxation.
- Those who performed these services were known as "Bethus."

### Types of Bethu:

- **Employed by State** - Bethu was employed by the state and Jagirdars.
- **Class II Bethu** - Bethu were employed by Zamindar who rendered similar services to Zamindar and were called Class-II Bethus.
- **Indebted Bethu** - They had taken loans on special occasions in their families in return for which they had agreed to work or supply goods instead of interest.

### Services Rendered Under the Beth System:

- **Cultivate the Land** – They cultivate the land of the ruler or Jagirdars;
- **Wood and Grass Collection** - They had to Collect and Carriage the wood and grass to the Darbar;
- **Maintenance of State Buildings** – They had to provide help in the maintenance work of the state buildings.
- **Palki Services** – Bethus were required to furnish services such as providing Palki and other amenities.

### Socio-Economic Impacts of the Beth System:

- **Reinforced Social Hierarchies** - This system deepened societal divisions and solidified the caste system, pushing Bethus into a position akin to a slave.
- **Persistent Debt Burden** - Debt-bound Bethus toiled from one generation to the next, unable to break free from their financial obligations.
- **Marginalized Livelihoods** - Land allocated to Bethus typically yielded minimal agricultural output, forcing entire families to work for basic sustenance.
- **Uncertain Existence** - Beth could also be transferred from one honour to another or one land to another, thus there was less security of permanent settlement with the family.
- **Hampered Agricultural Production** – The Beth system not only harmed the lowest castes but also hindered agricultural progress, as Bethus couldn't invest in land to increase production.

## BEGAR SYSTEM

Begar is a practice where individuals are forced to perform labour unwillingly and without receiving any wages.

- Those engaged in agricultural activities were obligated to provide a share of their labour when the state or

government required it as a condition of land tenure.

- Gradually it became a social practice where people had to give Begar to Zamindars, and after Sanad hill chiefs had to arrange begar for Britishers too.
- With the advent of the British in the hill state the nature of the beggar changes over time.

### Types of the Begar:

The Begar services offered by subjects of a state were categorized based on various factors such as the purpose, recipients, and nature of the services provided:

- **Athwara Begar** - It represented an individual pleading to the monarch, where obligatory unpaid work could be extracted from anyone, serving any intention.
- It was demanded by the state and given without question by the people. It includes service given at the Darbar of the Chief by people of various areas of the state in rotation.
- Usually, it was used for supplying firewood to the Darbar Grasp for the cattle and horses and cultivation of the ruler's land called "Basa".
- Later after Sanat, the British Authority asked for begar arrangements through Hill Chiefs for the following purposes;
  - ❖ To carry British officers' luggage;
  - ❖ All the state on Hindustan-Tibet Road development;
  - ❖ For collection of grass and fuel at the capital;
  - ❖ For public work, etc.
- **Batrwal** (also known as "Hallah Ke Begar") - This system was employed for public works projects, including tasks like transporting stones and wood and constructing or repairing state buildings and bridges.
  - ❖ Under this system, each household was required to contribute one "begari" for public work projects.
- **Jaddi-Baddi Begar** - This type of Begar was relatively infrequent and was requested for specific purposes or events within the ruler's family, such as weddings, funerals, or the coronation of a new ruler.
- During significant events involving the royal family, it was customary for everyone to attend the court to provide services like gathering grass and engaging in various forms of labour.
- This served as a personal tribute to the ruler and demonstrated the people's respect for the governing authority.
- Such occasions were rare, and people did not object to providing this service.
- **Political and High Begar**: This form of Begar involved the transportation of goods and the arrangement of camp facilities for state officials while they were travelling within the state's borders.
  - ❖ Local residents were responsible for supplying milk and various edible items during the encampment, and they were expected to be present at the Dak Bungalow to serve the officials.
- **Shikar Begar** - Shikar Begar was provided to officials or friends of the ruler when they went hunting in the jungles.
  - ❖ However, this type of Begar was disapproved of by the settlement officer, and it was made mandatory for the individual benefiting from the Begar to pay for the services of the beaters.
- **Religious Begar**: This form of Begar involved the community's participation in activities related to the rituals and observance of local deities' festivals
  - ❖ Ritual ceremonies were integral to the people's religious practices, necessitating their active involvement and contribution to these events.

### Characteristics of Begar before British Rule:

- **Tied to Landownership** - Before British influence in the hill states, Begar was closely linked to land ownership, forming an integral part of the revenue system.

- **Revenue Alternative** - People who couldn't afford to pay taxes and various dues in cash often opted to settle their obligations through Begar.
- **Administrative Support** - Human labour stood as the sole option for upholding administrative tasks, thus gaining prominence.
  - ❖ Devoid of it, the state would find it impracticable to conduct essential ceremonies such as marriages and funerals.

#### **Begar under British Administration:**

- **Expanding Scope** - The Begar system extended beyond land revenue and encompassed other subjects of the state.
- **Inclusion of Landless Individuals** - Landless labourers, artisans, blacksmiths, and others were also compelled to provide Begar services to British government officials.
- **Separation from Revenue System** - The provision of Begar was no longer integrated into the state's revenue system.
- **Increased Prevalence** - During British colonial rule, the Begar system became more prominent, notably during projects like the construction of the Shimla-Tibet Road and the development of Shimla as a hill station and summer capital for the British government.
- **Evolving into a Transportation System** - As noted by E.S. Stokes, Begar transformed into a transportation system, used for transporting state materials and officials' luggage from one village to another until they reached their intended destination.

#### **Socio-Economic Implications of the Begar System:**

- **Social Impacts:**
  - ❖ **Hierarchy in social order** - Begar brought social stratification in which people other than rulers, landlords and officials were forced to perform Begar without wages.
  - ❖ **Artisans and other classes** - This practice had become so inveterate that even artisans and other classes, not connected with the soil, were obliged to devote a portion of their time to public service.
  - ❖ **Escape from Begar** - As time passed, the affluent and powerful managed to evade this obligation, while the less fortunate had to bear a double burden.

Brahmins, specific Rajput classes, state and village authorities, and influential individuals were exempted from Begar.

- **Exploitation of the Lower Strata** - Wealthy families managed to convert Begar into monetary payments, shifting the primary burden onto individuals from lower socioeconomic classes and castes, including Koli, Chamar, Rahr, Bahri, Lohar, and others.
- **Preference for Joint Family and Polyandry** - Brothers were compelled to reside together to reduce the number of individuals from a single household subjected to Begar.
  - ❖ This circumstance gave rise to a preference for polyandrous marriage arrangements.
- **Corruption in society** - The Begar system was also the cause of corruption such as bribes in society.
  - ❖ In families where there was only an adult male, if he did not want to render Begar on his turn, he could get an exemption by bribing Patwari or Lambardar.
- **Habit of idleness** - One impact of the Begar was that it fostered the habit of idleness.
  - ❖ The Begari was to do as little as possible because he had to receive nothing for the work and one could not blame him for his work.
- **Economic Impact:**
  - ❖ **Begar became part of the revenue system** - Begar was associated with the possession of land.
  - ❖ The obligation of Begar was part and parcel of the revenue system. It represented the ruler's claim to personal services.

- ❖ People were not capable of paying revenue and other miscellaneous dues in cash so they preferred to pay in the form of labour or Begar.
- **Human labour as the main engine of economic activities** - Human labour was the only alternative to carry on administration and therefore, became popular.
- **Impact on small businesses and small farmers** - It affected adversely the livelihood of the small peasants.
  - ❖ The Zamindars were not affected so adversely because they generally sent their Bethu and other substitutes instead.
- **Financial loss to families** - Initially viable for those with limited income sources, the Begar system became a financial burden as alternative employment opportunities emerged.
- **Impact on permanent employment** - It obstructed permanent employment, essentially trapping individuals in semi-permanent labour roles.
  - ❖ E.g., in a household, if one man went to work in a distant forest like Bushehr or Chamba, he had to return home when the second brother was required for his turn of Begar, making it difficult to continue a regular job.

### Abolition of Begar:

- **Pioneering the Fight against Begar** - Samuel Evan Stokes, an American missionary, arrived in the Shimla Hills in 1904.
  - ❖ He took the lead in initiating the agitation against the Begar system, starting from the Kotgarh area.
- **Formation of an Informal Vigilance Committee** - Samuel Evan Stokes encouraged educated individuals to come together and establish an informal vigilance committee.
- **Advocating for Improved Wages** - The vigilance committee sent a representation to A.C.E. Elliot, the Superintendent of Shimla Hill States, advocating for the doubling of wages for Begar coolies.
  - ❖ Thanks to their efforts, the wages for Begar coolies were doubled within a span of two years.
- **Abolition of Begar in Shimla** - With Stoke's efforts, Begar was abolished from Shimla in 1921.
- **Regional Movements Against Begar** - Various movements in different regions of the state, such as Dhum, Pajhota, and Dodra Kwar, emerged as direct challenges to the Begar system.

### Difference between Begar and Beth System:

| Aspect                        | Begar System  | Beth System   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Nature of Service             | Complete labour without wages.                                  | The land was granted in lieu of services.                     |
| Family Participation          | One family member called for service.                           | All family members had to work in the field of master.        |
| Prevalence Under British      | Obligatory for hill chiefs to arrange Begar for the Britishers. | Britishers were not concerned about the Beth system.          |
| Exploitation of Lower Classes | Almost equally falls on every caste of the state.               | Lower castes had to endure the burden of both Beth and Begar. |

Overall, the Begar system represents a dark chapter in India's history, characterized by exploitation and inequality. Its abolition marked a step toward a more equitable society, although many challenges remained on the path to achieving social and economic justice for all.

## REET SYSTEM

Reet is a custom that defines the diverse social practices concerning marriage, remarriage and divorce in colonial Himachal Pradesh in the early twentieth century.

- It is difficult to provide a simple definition of the system because to some it is a marriage system, for some it is a sum paid by the groom's family to the parents or guardian of the bride, called "Reet Money".
- Further, if a married woman wanted to leave her husband or remarry to another person, then the Reet money had to be paid to the husband of the woman by the to-be husband of that woman.
- This whole custom then came to be known as Reet System
- This type of marriage was performed without any ceremony or rituals.

Some of the hill state Ruler were in favour of Abolishing the Reet while some of the rulers resisted to abolish the Reet.

#### **Rulers in Favour of Abolishing Reet:**

- **Sirmaur State** - To Discourage Reet, Raja Shamsher Prakash imposed a 5% tax on Reet marriage in 1855.
- **Baghat State** - Dalip Singh, Rana of Baghat framed legislation against the Reet system in his state in 1917.
  - ❖ In the Hindu Conference, under Rana Durga Chand, the chief of Baghat State passed a resolution against Reet marriage in Shimla in 1924.
- **Bushahr State** - Raja Padam Singh of Bushahar, framed regulations for abolition of the Reet Custom in 1924.
- **Baghal State** - The state passed a resolution in 1924 in which to make compulsory verification and registration of marriages.

#### **Rulers who Resisted to Abolish the Reet:**

- **Koti State** - The chief of Koti State expressed that the time was not yet ripe to interfere in an old custom of the Land and its people.
- **Bhajji State** - Bhajji state, too, was not inclined to abolish the Custom of Reet as its subjects 'did not like the idea'.
- **Madhan State** - Similarly, Madhan State also expressed its difficulties in abolishing this custom.
- **Ratesh** - The Rana of Ratesh said that the People of the State wished to Continue with this custom.
- **Baghal** - Despite passing a resolution in 1924 to verify and register marriages, the state's leader believed that imposing the Shastric marriage principle on women and the Reet system would be unfair.

#### **The Attitude of the British Government toward the Reet System:**

- **Shashtric Marriage vs. Reet System** - The British government was also reluctant to push the matter because it was not convinced that marriage according to Brahmanical notions of Shashtra was in any way better than Reet.
- **Considered Reet an Internal Matter** - The British govt distanced itself from these reformist proposals for the hill states because it regarded the matter as purely internal and which had not led to any 'grave misrule and maladministration'.
- **Government's Caution Regarding Reet System Abolition** - Furthermore, the government considered it unwise to enact laws to abolish the Reet system, given its deep-rooted nature in the hill states, and opted against immediate action.

#### **Impacts of the Reet System:**

- **Positive Impact:**
  - ❖ **Acted as a Check on Infanticide** - In the Kangra region, it acted as a check on infanticide and led to girls being better cared for by their parents and restricted early child marriages.
  - ❖ **Economic Marriage Ceremonies** - It made the marriage ceremonies simple and usually informal.
  - ❖ **Promoted Widow Remarriage** - Under the Reet system, if the second-to-be-husband of the widow was from outside her family, he could marry the widow by paying a customary fee called "Makhtal".
  - ❖ **Prevented Over-Population and Sub-Division of Property** - In areas, where agricultural land was scarce, the Reet custom was defended that it prevented both over-population and sub-division of family property.
  - ❖ **Simplify the Divorce Practice** - Reet custom simplified the practice of divorce.

➤ **Negative Impacts:**

- ❖ **Weekend Marriage Bonds** - Domestic ties became loose and marriage came to have a very insignificant position in the stability of society.
- ❖ **Spreading of Diseases** - Indiscriminate relations of a woman with many men often resulted in her catching syphilis and in return, she transmitted the disease to many persons.
- ❖ **Erosion of Moral Boundaries** - Moreover, the practice of Reet also led to a decline in the importance of maintaining proper sexual boundaries and a complete disregard for the principles of sexual purity.
- ❖ **Women Trafficking** - The girls were often used for immoral purposes and this led to notorious traffic in them which finally swelled the rank of prostitutes.

The Reet system was a significant part of colonial Himachal Pradesh's social structure, shaping marriage customs and societal dynamics. Its effects, both beneficial and detrimental, reveal the complex interaction between traditions, social norms, and the perspectives of rulers and the British colonial administration.

**Establishment of British Cantonments**

A cantonment area is a delimited area, where the military forces and troops are permanently stationed. Britishers established many cantonments in Himachal Pradesh.

**The various reasons for establishing the cantonment areas in Himachal were:**

- **Health Consideration** – The scorching Indian climate, with its extreme dust and heat, proved daunting for British troops accustomed to Europe's milder weather.
  - ❖ Calcutta was a malaria hotspot, claiming around 400 lives out of 12,000 English residents in just six months.
  - ❖ Cantonment areas like Kasauli, Dalhousie, and Dagshai offered refuge from the stifling heat and mosquito-borne health risks, safeguarding the well-being of stationed troops.
- **Volatile state of North India** – Britishers had to face many challenges in North and North-Western India. Wars with Gurkhas and Sikhs and the revolt of 1857 forced Britishers to permanently station their troops in these areas.
  - ❖ Hence, to maintain the status quo and secure their territorial sovereignty, they established many cantonments in this region.
- **Shimla became the summer Capital** – Shimla became the summer capital of Governor General/Viceroy in 1864.
  - ❖ The seat of government and other offices had shifted from Kolkata to Shimla and the headquarters of the military was now the most important
- **Suitable Climate of hill regions** – British colonial authorities governed their colonies with the assistance of statesmen who also held military positions.
  - ❖ They favoured residing in regions that offered a temperate climate similar to their homeland.
  - ❖ This situation confirmed the importance of placing soldiers and troops strategically in mountainous regions.
- **Gurkha battalion in the British army** – After the Sangauli Treaty, Britishers decided to recruit Gurkhas as a part of British forces. Gurkhas are mountainous people of Nepal and they prefer to live in hilly areas.
  - ❖ Gurkhas received specialized training for hilly terrain warfare, leading the British to establish containment facilities in areas like Subathu and Kasauli for their regiment.
- **Strategically important location** – After winning the Gurkha-Anglo War, the British gave back most of the Shimla Hill states to local chiefs through Sanad.
  - ❖ However, they kept some important places like Kotkhai, Kasauli, Subathu, and Dagshai for themselves.
  - ❖ These areas were originally set up by the British as small military towns and were later developed as cantonments.

**Following are the Cantonment Established by Britishers in the Hill State of Himachal:****➤ Sabathu Cantonment**

- ❖ The station was original one of those retained by David Ochterlony on the termination of Gorkha.
- ❖ Amar Singh Thapa was defeated at Malaun Fort near Nalagarh, which led to the establishment of Subhathu cantonment.
- ❖ The first regiment to be stationed was the **Nasiri regiment**, comprising of the Nepalese Army.
- ❖ Later, Lt. Ross (1819-2) was placed in charge of headquarters at Subathu.

**➤ Kasauli Cantonment**

- ❖ Major General Gilbert, the G.O.C of Sirhind Division, moved to Kasauli and built "Gilbert House" for himself. He laid the foundation of Kasauli in 1842 and established of Sanawar School.
- ❖ This place was the residence of the station commander. The first battalion posted here during the year 1850, was the 13 Light Infantry Regiment.
- ❖ In 1847, a hill near Kasauli was transferred to the British for the purpose of creating a military station.

**➤ Dagshai Cantonment**

- ❖ There were five small villages named Dabbi, Bughtiala, Dagshai, Chunawag and Jawug. The place used to be called Dagshai after one of the villages.
- ❖ It was believed that the name came as the result of the original village being where prisoners were branded with hot irons and thus the phrase, Dagh-i-Shahi, or the mark of ruler.
- ❖ Some renovations were done to the cemetery in 1968 when the second Battalion of the Bihar Regiment was posted at Dagshai.

**➤ Balun Cantonment**

- ❖ The area known as Baloon, sometimes spelt Balun, in Dalhousie, Chamba, served as a cantonment.
- ❖ In 1866, the British established a cantonment for their regiments on the Balun plateau and a sanatorium was founded in 1868 within this region.
- ❖ To safeguard their settlement, the British constructed a cantonment for the Gorkha soldiers who served under them in Bakloh.

**➤ Yol Cantonment**

- ❖ It is a cantonment town in the district Kangra.
- ❖ The Yol Cantonment was built in 1942 formerly it was known as "Majhaitha" village.
- ❖ The town gets its name from Yol (Young officers leave camp), a small town established by the British Indian Army around 1849.
- ❖ Yol was made headquarters of 9 corps of the Indian Army.
- ❖ It was the location of a prisoner-of-war camp that hosted German soldiers in the First World War and Italian soldiers in the Second World War.
- ❖ The centre has given permission to abolish the Yol Cantonment Board near Dharamshala to facilitate civilians.

In summary, the establishment of cantonments in Himachal Pradesh served both military and administrative purposes, ensuring the well-being of British troops, maintaining control in a volatile region, and facilitating the governance of the colonial administration.

**PRAJA MANDAL MOVEMENT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

The Praja Mandal movement came into prominence after the first meeting of the "All India's States People Conference" (AISPC) held in 1927, with an aim to promote necessary reforms in administration and demanding democratic rights for the people of princely states.

**Background of Formation of Praja Mandal in Himachal Pradesh:**

- **Ludhiana Meeting of AISPC** - In 1938, after an AISPC meeting in Ludhiana, a decision was taken to set up Praja Mandal in all princely states of Himachal.
- **Formation of Himalayan Riyasti Praja Mandal (HRPM)** - HRPM was constituted in December 1939 to direct all political and social activities in the various regions of Hill States.
- **Establishment of Himalayan Hill States Regional Council (HHSRC)** - It was founded in 1946 as a political wing of HRPM, to establish a separate Hill State on democratic grounds and challenge the authority of Rajas.

**Important Praja Mandal of the Hill States:**

- **Dhami Riyasat Praja Mandal** - It was established in 1939 in the Dhami state to work as a pressure group in the princely state.
  - ❖ It was led by Shri Sita Ram.
- **Bilaspur Praja Mandal** - It was established in 1945 by Daulat Ram Sankhya, Narotam Dutt Shashtri and others.
- **Kunihar Praja Mandal** - It was organised in 1939 under the leadership of Baba Kanshi Ram and Gauri Shankar.
- **Sirmaur Praja Mandal** - It was established in 1939 and Chaudhary Sherjang was the main leader of the Praja Mandal.
- **Bushahr Praja Mandal** - It was reactivated in 1945 after a long hibernation.
  - ❖ Pt. Padam Dev, Pt. Ghanshyam and Satya Dev Bushahri were the main leaders.

**Role Played by the Praja Mandal during the Freedom Struggle in H.P.:**

- **Agitated against atrocities** - Praja Mandal agitated against the atrocities of the rulers and presented them charter of demands.
  - ❖ E.g. Kunihar Praja Mandal and Dhami Prem Pracharni Sabha demanded rajas to reduce land revenue, extension of civil liberty, and ban on beggar system.
- **Passive resistance** - On various occasions, the people of the Praja Mandal agitated against the policy of the Britishers.
  - ❖ E.g. The Mandi conspiracy was carried out in 1914-15 under the influence of the Gadhr party due to corrupt practices of the Superintendent and wazir of the state.
  - ❖ Praja Mandal started a campaign against the forceful recruitment of young people into the army during World War 2. E.g. "Bai do Na Pai Do" movement by Bhagmal Sautha.
- **Helped in political awakening** - Members of the Praja Mandals helped to politically educate the people of hill states and introduced them to the notion of equality, liberty, and freedom.
- **Fought Against Social Evil** - Praja Mandal also agitated against social evils like Reet, Begar, Bethu system, untouchability, etc.
  - ❖ E.g., movement in Dodra Kwar, movement in Keonthal, etc.
- **Spread the national movements** - Praja Mandal extended the reach of national movements in the hill states. E.g. the "Pajhota Movement" which was started by Sirmaur Praja Mandal was the extension of the Quit India Movement.
- **Ensured separate identity along with Unity and Integrity of the nation** - Praja Mandal helped to integrate Hill states into Himachal and let its merger with the rest of India along with its own separate identity as a state.
  - ❖ E.g. Suket Satyagraha by Suketi Riyasat Praja Mandal.

**Important Movements led by Praja Mandal in Hill States:**

- **Movements for Reform in Governance:**

- ❖ **Bai Do Na Pai Do Movement** - The 'Bhai Do Na Pai' movement was initiated under the guidance of the Praja Mandal workers in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. It started in 1938 and Bhagmal Sautha was the famous leader of the movement.

As the name suggests "Bai" means brother and "Pai" means money.

Local rulers of hill states forcefully recruited young males in the British army and levied illegal taxes on people to fulfil their financial obligations demanded by the British govt.

- ❖ Under the movement, Bhagmal Sautha and other local leaders advocated discontinuing any seek of help for World War -2 and also requested people not to pay the land revenue anymore.
  - ❖ This slogan was given by him standing in the gang Bazar of the Simla, now called Shimla (Capital of Himachal Pradesh).
  - ❖ It was the extension of the Civil Disobedient Movement. Under the movement, British goods were boycotted by people and they didn't cooperate with Raja.
- **Dhami Revolt** - The Dhami Praja Mandal, in 1939, initiated this effort to introduce changes in the state's governance system.
- ❖ **Demands of Praja Mandal** - Dhami Praja Mandal led by Shri Sita Ram put forward three main demands before Rana Dalip Singh of Dhami, i.e.,

Abolition of Begar;

Reduction of Land Revenue;

Recognition of Dhami Praja Mandal;

Associate public men in administration.

- ❖ **Rejection of Demands** - Rana Dalip Singh rejected the demands made by the Dhami Praja Mandal, prompting further action.
  - ❖ **Delegation to Present Demands** - In response to the rejection of their demands, a seven-member delegation, led by Bhag Mal Sautha, embarked on a journey to present their demands to Rana Dalip Singh. Remarkably, approximately 1,500 people joined this group.
  - ❖ **Violent Police Response** - The police responded with violence, arresting Bhag Mal Sautha, using lathi-charges, and firing upon the gathering crowd, tragically resulting in the loss of two lives.
  - ❖ **National Significance and Inquiry** - The incident gained national importance and a committee was appointed to look into the tragic incident. The committee was presided over by Pt. Dhuni Chand.
- **Kunihar Movement** - Kunihar Praja Mandal organised the revolt in 1939 under the leadership of Baba Kanshi Ram and Gauri Shankar.
- ❖ Their main demands were:

Release of political workers;

25% reduction in the land revenue;

Lift ban imposed on Praja Mandal;

Setting up a reform committee.

- ❖ Rana accepted the demand and agreed to preside over a meeting of the Praja Mandal.
- **Bilaspur Revolt** - In 1933 Raja Anand Chand of Bilaspur vested with the ruling powers who did not allow the Praja Mandal to be formed in the state.
- ❖ Some people from Bilaspur working in Shimla formed the Bilaspur Praja Mandal in 1939.
  - ❖ In 1946 the Praja Mandalist submitted a memorandum requesting Raja to give up the policy of negation of civil liberty and repression.
  - ❖ The movement was crushed with the heavy hands by "**Kehlur Swadeen Dal**" which was a force formed by Raja to crush the revolt against the state.

➤ **Agrarian Movements by Praja Mandals:**

- ❖ **Pajhautha Movement** - The Pajhautha movement took place in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh in 1942.
- ❖ It was the extension of the Quit India movement.
- ❖ It was an agrarian armed rebellion organized by the Sirmaur Praja Mandal and Kisan Sabha.

**Causes of the revolt:**

- **High land revenue** – The government's decision to increase land revenue by 23% over the past decade has not been without consequences.

Many citizens have been struggling to pay their taxes, leading to widespread protests and calls for change.

- ❖ **Curbing forest rights** – The people were agitated for their forest rights after the govt had demarcated and reserved most of the state forests.

People were neither allowed to kill vermin animals, nor graze their cattle in demarcated lands.

- ❖ **Against the Begar system** – People were restful of the beggar system and opposed its forcible system.
- ❖ **Forcible recruitment in the army** – They also opposed the forceful recruitment of the young people of the state for World War 2, further frustrated the people of the state and they took the way of revolt.
- ❖ **Demand for responsible govt** – Praja Mandal leaders demand responsible government and protection of people's rights, refusing to back down until progress is made.

**Result of the movement:**

- Under pressure from the movement, the demand for the democratization of administration was accepted by the Raja. It was decided to elect a Rajya Parishad, consisting of a chief minister and not less than two ministers.
- Many Praja Mandals didn't take part in the elections due to their opposition to the restricted voting rights that were provided.
- They, therefore, continued their struggle for greater democratization.
- **Koti Movement** - The state Koti five miles east of Shimla also witnessed agrarian unrest in 1907 against the excessive revenue demand of the state.
  - ❖ In 1939 the Bethu in Koti stopped work on the Basa lands of the chief. They refused to give Beth-Begar and other Cesses to the Rana
- **Bilaspur Movement** - In Bilaspur, an agrarian upsurge developed at the time of the settlement of 1930 (Bhumi Bandobast Abhiyan).
  - ❖ The people apprehended an increase in the revenue demand as had happened during the settlement of 1905.
  - ❖ They refused to supply the firewood to the settlement staff in protest.
- **Praja Mandal Movement against Begar:**
  - ❖ **Kumarsain Movement** - In 1939 the Kolies of Kumarsain state made a representation through the Praja Mandal at the instance of Pandit Padam Dev.

They demanded the removal of the discrimination in the rates of compensation of Aathwara Begar.

Further, the Dhami Revolt and Pajhota movement also contained provisions to remove the Begar system.

- **Praja Mandal Movements to Merge Himachal with Indian Union:**
  - ❖ **Solan Assembly** – The assembly of the representatives of the rulers and the Praja Mandals met at Solan from 26 to 28 January 1948, under the chairmanship of Raja Durga Singh of Baghat.
  - ❖ **Formation of a Unified State** - A momentous decision was made to create a single state by amalgamating all the princely states in the region.

Satya Dev Bushahri made a significant proposal by suggesting the name “Himachal Pradesh” for the new state.

- ❖ **Opposition to Union Recognition** - A faction of the Praja Mandalists expressed their dissent, as they refused to acknowledge the Union of States until the transfer of power to the people was assured.
  - ❖ **Representation to Sardar Patel** - Dr. Y.S. Parmar and Pt. Padam Dev played a pivotal role by swiftly travelling to Delhi to brief Sardar Patel on the developments and concerns of the hill states.
  - ❖ **Conference with Rulers** - The Ministry of State (Union) extended an invitation to the rulers for a conference in Delhi on March 2, 1948, with the aim of persuading them to merge their states with the Indian Union.
  - ❖ **Historic Agreement for Merger** - Under the leadership of Raja Joginder Singh of Mandi, the rulers of the hill princely states signed an agreement to merge their territories with the rest of India, marking a historic moment in the integration of the region.
- **Suket Satyagraha** – One section of Praja Mandal led by Pandit Padam Dev and Dr Y.S Parmar decided to force the issue to ensure the hill states merge with the rest of the country.
  - **Establishment of Himalayan Prant Provisional Government (HPPG)** - To coordinate and oversee this significant effort, the Himalayan Prant Provisional Government (HPPG) was founded, with Shivanand Ramaul serving as its leader. The headquarters were set up in Shimla.
  - **Ultimatum to Suket Ruler** - On February 16, 1948, the ruler of Suket was presented with a critical ultimatum: either merge his state with the Indian Union or face the initiation of a Satyagraha campaign aimed at achieving this integration.
  - **Satyagrahis March into Suket Territory** - With no response from the Suket ruler, on February 18, 1948, a contingent of 1,000 Satyagrahis, under the guidance of Pandit Padam Dev, embarked on a march into Suket territory via Tatapani.
  - **Success and Government Takeover** - As the Satyagrahis advanced and garnered support from hundreds of people, the Suket ruler yielded to their demands. Consequently, the state’s administration was taken over by the government of India.

The Praja Mandal movement, through its various actions and campaigns, not only secured vital reforms for the people of Himachal Pradesh but also played a crucial role in shaping the historical and political landscape of the region during the freedom struggle.

## TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The abundance of temples in H.P. is truly remarkable. It has earned the moniker “Abode of the Gods” for good reason. There is seemingly a temple in every single hamlet.

### Features of Temple Architecture in H.P.:

- **Kath Kuni Architecture** - Kath-Kuni is a type of building that employs locally available wood and stone as prime materials for construction
  - ❖ A wooden roof frame tops off the structure and is covered with locally available slate tiles.
  - ❖ This allows the building to flex with the seismic waves and effectively dissipate the energy of earthquakes
- **Nagra Style of Temple** - Temples of Himachal are influenced by the Nagra style of architecture in some form or the other.
  - ❖ Features of Nagara architecture like Jagti (Platform), Garbhgriha (sanctum sanctorum), Shikhar (Tower), etc are key features of the temple architecture of the state.
- **Influence of Climatic Conditions** - In upper Himachal, pent-roofed temples were built under which **verandah or pradakshina** were fully covered to save from winter season.
  - ❖ Its **sloping roof** also protects the temple from rain and snow.
- **Stone and wood carving** - Temples carry a unique variety and a distinct style of stone carving that is displayed in the creations of colossal constructions and other items created out of stone and wood.

- **Outside influence on temple architecture** - Dome-shaped temple architecture is influenced by Mughal and Sikh architecture, pagoda architecture is influenced by Nepali temple architecture and flat-roofed is influenced by Tibetan architecture.

**The various temple architectures of Himachal Pradesh are:**

- **Shikhar Style** - Shikhara, a Sanskrit word translating literally to “mountain peak”, refers to the rising tower in the Hindu temple architecture of North India, and is also often used in Jain temples.
  - ❖ **Exquisite Stone Carvings** - The temple has a conical formation built of stone, with extensive carving on the outer wall of the temple.
  - ❖ **Key Temple Elements** - The fundamental components of a Shikhar-style temple include the Garbhagriha, which serves as the sanctum sanctorum for the deity, the Mandap (Porch) for congregational gatherings and rituals, and the Shikhar (tower) that dominates the temple’s skyline.
  - ❖ **The Amalaka Crown** - The top of the Shikhar has a circular disk, called “Amalaka”.
  - ❖ **Notable Examples** - Examples of temples are Lord Vaidhyanath Temple (Bajinath), Laxmi Narayan Temple (Chamba), Panchvaktar Temple (Mandi), etc.
- **Pagoda Style** - The pagoda-style roof, characterized by multiple layers of roofs that gradually decrease in size as they go upwards, is a prominent feature in many Himachali temples.
  - ❖ This style provides structural stability and protection against heavy snowfall in the region.
  - ❖ Examples are Hidimba Temple (Manali), Manu Temple (Manali), Chagoann Temple (Kinnaur), etc.
- **Pent-roof style** - The pent-roofed temples are indigenously styled circular or rectangular structures with slanting roofs made of rows and rows of slates.
  - ❖ The roof extends over the covered ‘veranda’ which serves the purpose of ‘Pradakshina’ around the shrine.
  - ❖ Designed in keeping with the climatic conditions of the region, to keep heavy rainfall and snowfall from covering these structures for more than short intervals.
  - ❖ An interesting feature very specific to these hill temples is the peculiar **arrangement of wood and stone** in building the walls.
  - ❖ Examples are – Bijli Mahadev (Kullu), Lakshna Devi (Chamba), etc.
- **Dome-style temple** - In these types of temples, a semi-circular dome is placed over the temple building.
  - ❖ Domes have a long architectural lineage that extends back into prehistory and they have been constructed from mud, stone, wood, brick, concrete, metal, glass, and plastic over the centuries.
  - ❖ This style is a direct outcome of Mughal and Sikh rule in the state.
  - ❖ Examples – Jawalamukhi Temple (Kangra), Naina Devi Temple (Bilaspur), Chintpurni Temple (Una), etc.
- **Satluj Valley Style** - this type of architecture is the fusion of pent-roof and pagoda-style temple architecture.
  - ❖ This mandap design showcases one or multiple pagoda roofs situated above the garbhagriha, in alignment with the Shikhar of a traditional temple. Usually situated at one end of the edifice, it can also be centrally located.
  - ❖ Examples are- Bahna Mahadev (Kangra), Bhimakali Temple (Shimla), etc.
- **Pyramidal Style** - They are constructed on square plinths and possess four equal-length eaves on the lower part of the roof, with the roof tapering towards the centre to create a pyramid-like shape.
  - ❖ Pyramidal roofs are found in Jubbal Valley.
  - ❖ Examples are – Shiva Temple (Jubbal), Hateshwari Devi Temple (Mahasu), etc.

**BUDDHIST MONASTERIES OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Himachal Pradesh is considered the abode of the 14th Dalai Lama and was acknowledged as the place where the Guru Padmasambhava, known by the name of “Guru Rinpoche” and the “Second Buddha”, preached Buddhism.

- The districts of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur exhibit a significant Buddhist influence, which is why many renowned Buddhist monasteries are located in these areas.

**The Famous Monasteries of the Himachal Pradesh are:**

- **Mrikula Devi**
  - ❖ **Location** - Approximately 54 kilometres from Keylong in Udaipur.
  - ❖ **Historical Significance** - The temple is steeped in history, with Udaipur's ancient name being 'Moorgul' or 'Mrikul.'
  - ❖ **Architectural Connection** - Believed to have been designed by the same architect responsible for the 'Hidimba Temple' in Manali, commissioned by Raja Bahadur Singh of Kullu.
  - ❖ **Construction Credit** - The construction credit for the temple goes to Raja Ajay Barman of Kashmir.
- **Trilokinath Temple**
  - ❖ **Location** - Located just five kilometres from Udaipur in the Lahaul-Spiti district, this temple showcases a remarkable architectural style associated with Raja Lalitaditya of Kashmir (725-756 A.D.).
  - ❖ **Theories of Transformation** - There are various theories about the temple's conversion into a Buddhist shrine, with estimates suggesting the current image of Avalokiteshwara-Trilokinath may not date earlier than the 12th century.
  - ❖ **Religious Significance** - This site holds religious significance for both Buddhists and Hindus.
  - ❖ **Stone Image** - The temple features a central stone image of Nandi.
  - ❖ **Installation of Silver Idol** - In 1569-70, a silver idol of Kali, in her Mahisasur Mardani form, was installed by 'Thakur Himpala.'
- **Guru Ghantal Gompa**
  - ❖ **Location** - Located 4 kilometres above the confluence of Chandra and Bhaga in the village of 'Tupchiling' in Lahaul, this temple holds a rich history dating back to the 8th century A.D.
  - ❖ **Origin of Name** - Named "Guru Ghantal" after the profound meditative practices conducted by one of the 84 siddhas of Buddhism at this very location.
  - ❖ **Temple Architecture** - This fully wooden temple stands as an outstanding example of Buddhist architecture.
  - ❖ **Consecration by Guru Padmasambhava** - The marble head sculpture of Avalokiteshwara in the temple was consecrated by Guru Padmasambhava.
  - ❖ **Ghantal Festival** - An annual fair called the "Ghantal Festival" is held at the temple every June, where Lamas and Thakurs come together to celebrate.
  - ❖ **Idol of Bajreshwari Devi** - The Gompa also houses an idol dedicated to Bajreshwari Devi.
- **Gemur Monastery**
  - ❖ **Location** - Situated in Lahaul, it overlooks the Bhaga Valley, located 18 kilometres from Keylong.
  - ❖ **Sculpture** - Houses an exquisite sculpture of 'Marichi Vajravarahi,' dating back to the 11th-12th centuries A.D.
  - ❖ **Artistic Style** - The goddess figure reflects the Kashmiri artistic style.
  - ❖ **Cultural Event** - In July, the Gompa hosts devil dance performances, making it a vibrant cultural event rephrase and keep the caption.
- **Kardang Gompa**
  - ❖ **Location** - Positioned in the village of Kardang, perched at an impressive altitude of 15,000 feet atop the 'Rangch Peak.'
  - ❖ **Historical Significance** - The Gompa has a rich historical legacy dating back to approximately A.D. 900.
  - ❖ **Restoration** - Recognized as the largest Gompa in the area, Kardang underwent restoration in 1912, under the leadership of 'Lama Norbu' from Khardang.

- ❖ **Artistic Highlights** - The Gompa boasts vibrant frescoes and murals, along with housing an immense prayer drum adorned with a million repetitions of the sacred mantra 'Om Mani Padme Hum' inscribed on paper strips.
- ❖ **Extensive Library** - Notably, the library contains the most extensive collection of 'Kangyur' and 'Tangyur' texts.
- ❖ **Gender Equality** - A distinctive aspect is the equal treatment of nuns and Lamas, allowing Lamas the option to marry and spend summers with their families, returning to the Gompa during the winter.
- ❖ **Silver Chityal Stupa** - The Gompa safeguards the silver Chityal stupa, which contains the mortal remains of its founder, Lama Norbu.

➤ **Tayul Gompa**

- ❖ **Construction** - Constructed in the 17th century by Lama Sarjan Rinchain, hailing from the 'Tibet Khan' area.
- ❖ **Location** - Majestically located above the village of 'Satingri.'
- ❖ **Statue of Padma Sambhava** - Features a towering 5-meter-tall statue of 'Padma Sambhava,' alongside his two manifestations as 'Singhmukha' and 'Vajravarashi.'
- ❖ **Library** - The Gompa's library houses 101 volumes of 'Kangyur' and 'Tankhas' illustrating the life of Lord Buddha.
- ❖ **Mani Wheel** - Houses a remarkable hundred million 'mani' wheel, which is said to turn by itself on auspicious occasions. According to Lamas, the wheel last turned spontaneously in 1986.
- ❖ **Renovation and Expansion** - Nearly a century after its construction, Ladakhi 'Tulku Tashi Tanphel' of Tagna Monastery undertook its renovation and expansion.
- ❖ **Artistic Enhancements** - The walls now feature murals, additional images, and the 'Narthang' edition of the 'Kangyur' from Tibet.

➤ **Dhankar Gompa**

- ❖ **Location:** Situated within the Lahaul and Spiti district of India, at an impressive altitude of 3,894 meters (12,774 feet) in the Spiti Valley.
- ❖ **Geographic Position:** Perched on a lofty spur, soaring 300 meters (1000 feet) above the juncture of the Spiti and Pin Rivers.
- ❖ **Meaning of Name:** "Dhang" or "dang" translates to cliff, while "kar" or "khar" signifies fort, aptly naming it "Dhangkar," which translates to "fort on a cliff."
- ❖ **Architectural Style:** Built in the Central Tibetan style.
- ❖ **Historical Occupancy:** In 1855, Dhankar was home to 90 monks.
- ❖ **New Monastery:** The nearby village of Shichilling houses the new Dhankar Monastery with about 150 Gelug school monks.
- ❖ **Artistic Features:** Dhankar Gompa features a unique Vairocana statue and various old thangkas.
- ❖ **Cultural Significance:** Recognized as culturally significant, the World Monuments Fund identified Dhankar Gompa as one of the world's 100 most endangered sites in 2006.
- ❖ **Preservation Efforts:** The non-profit organization known as the Dhangkar Initiative is diligently working towards its preservation.

➤ **Kye or Kee Gompa**

- ❖ **Sect Affiliation** - A prominent Tibetan Buddhist monastic institution aligned with the Gelugpa sect.
- ❖ **Location** - Positioned atop a hill at an elevation of 4,166 meters (13,668 feet) near the Spiti River in Himachal Pradesh, situated 12 kilometres north of Kaza.
- ❖ **Historical Origins** - Its historical roots can be traced back to the 11th century. Devoted to the revered figure Lochen Tulku.
- ❖ **Architectural Characteristics** - The monastery showcases ancient murals, a three-story structure, and a recently inaugurated Prayer Hall in the year 2000 by the Dalai Lama.
- ❖ **Heritage Preservation** - Despite facing challenges such as looting and damage caused by an earthquake in

1975, Kye Gompa has effectively safeguarded its rich cultural heritage.

- ❖ **Current Monastic Population** - Presently, Kye Gompa is home to nearly 250 monks, some of whom migrate to monasteries in South India during the winter months.

#### **Importance of the Temples and Buddhist Monasteries in Himachal Pradesh:**

- **Heritage Preservation** - These temples and monasteries protect valuable heritage, preserving ancient scriptures, religious artefacts, and intricate artwork that provide insights into the history and practices of Hinduism and Buddhism.
- **Spiritual Retreats** - Temples and Monasteries provide a serene environment for meditation and spiritual growth, attracting individuals seeking solace and a deeper spiritual connection.
- **Educational Institutions** - Many of these serve as centers for learning philosophy, traditional arts and ritualistic knowledge.
- **Tourist Attractions** - These temples and monasteries, set in the stunning Himalayan landscapes, are not only spiritually significant but also popular destinations for travellers seeking natural beauty and cultural experiences.
- **Cultural Hubs** - Beyond religion, these sites host cultural events and festivals, showcasing the region's diverse traditions, and allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the local culture.
- **Revenue Generation** - These sites support diverse economic activities and contribute to the revenue generated for the state government.
- **Livelihood Generation** - These temples and monasteries also provide additional income for local people through tourist activities.

In conclusion, the temples and Buddhist monasteries of Himachal Pradesh are not just architectural wonders but living centres of tradition, learning, and spiritual growth. They invite people from all backgrounds to connect with the profound history and spirituality of this remarkable state.

### **THE PAHADI SCHOOL OF PAINTING**

The Pahari School of painting, also known as the "Pahari miniature painting," is a style of Indian miniature painting that emerged in the hill states of North India, particularly in the region of the modern-day states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand.

- The Pahari School of painting flourished from the 17th to the 19th centuries, primarily in the courts of various Rajput rulers and later under the patronage of Sikh rulers in the Punjab region.
- The Pahari School of Painting is divided into several distinct sub-schools, each associated with a particular region or court.

#### **Characteristics of the Pahari School of Painting:**

- **Linear Beauty** - One of the main features of Pahari painting is the linear beauty.
  - ❖ Rhythm and smoothness have been added to the figures through fine lines.
- **Depiction of Nature:** Trees, clouds, water, jungles, etc. have been depicted with full of charm in Pahari School.
  - ❖ The depiction of the landscape consists of mountains, beautiful flowering trees, rivers and tanks with lotus flowers and aquatic birds.
  - ❖ In the sky, in the rainy season, clouds, lightning etc. have been nicely painted.
- **Female Figures** - The faces of women in the profile have the nose almost in line with the forehead, the eyes are long and narrow and the chin is sharp.
- **Romantic Scenes** - Lots of romantic scenes are found in Basohli painting and Kangra painting.
- **Garments** - Choli, Lehenga and transparent Chunnis were generally worn by the woman.
  - ❖ The male has been shown wearing Angrakha, Pajama and Turban. The Krishna has always been shown wearing Pitambar (yellow garments).

- **Perspective and colours** – Mostly red, blue and yellow colours are used in the paintings.
  - ❖ Some mixed colours like pink, green, and grey have also been beautifully used. The perspective has not been given much weightage.
- **Use of Golden and Silver colour** - The color scheme is brilliant and golden colour has been used lavishly.
  - ❖ The sky has been painted as a narrow band of blue and white at the top. The colours are strong and contrasting.
  - ❖ The use of gold and silver colour is in the design of garments and ornaments. The lighting is also beautifully shown through the silver colour.
- **Use of Borders** - In some Pahari paintings, we find ornamental borders of Mughal style. The red borders are worth noticing in these miniatures.

**Some of the notable sub-schools include:**

- **Basholi School of Paintings** - It is the oldest school of Pahadi painting originated in the Basholi area of Jammu and later spread to other hill areas.
  - ❖ It was under Sangram Pal (1635-1673) and later Kirpal Pal (1678-1693) that the Basholi painting flourished.
- **Features of the Painting are:**
  - ❖ **Synthesis of mythology and traditional folk art** - that gave unconventional appeal to Basholi paintings.
  - ❖ **Use bright and bold colours** like red, yellow, and blue on the borders.
  - ❖ **Distinguish facial features** – a prominent nose and lotus-shaped eyes.
  - ❖ **Female figures are categorized** into three types according to their attire.
  - ❖ **Influence of Mughal and Rajput art** - Dressing styles of both males and females resemble clothes worn in Mughal or Rajput courts.
- **Theme** – Inspiration from Vaishnavism, epics, the Puranas and the poetic themes of Ras-manjari and Geeta Govinda.
- **Prominent Painters** - The two most famous painters of the Basholi School were Devidasa and Manaku.
- **Guler School of Paintings** - The school of art started under the patronage of Raja Dalip Singh during his tenure from 1675-1743.
  - ❖ It was however, during the rule of Govardhan Chand, Guler flourished as a centre of art and thus became the birthplace of Kangra Paintings with the longest tradition in the art of painting.
- **Features of the school are:**
  - ❖ **Delicate and Spiritual Nature** - The miniature paintings of Guler were known for their delicate and spiritual nature, as well as their strong strokes and fine expressions.
  - ❖ **Graceful Feminine Figures with Delicate Features** - The female figures in these paintings were noted for their delicate features, including well-modelled faces, small upturned noses, and intricately styled hair.
  - ❖ **Themes** - The subjects depicted included Bhagavata, the Gita Govinda, the Bihari Satsai, the Baramasa, and the Ragamala.
- **Famous Painter** - The famous painter of the school was Pandit Seu.
- **Kangra School of Paintings** – After the decline of the Mughal empire, many artists trained in the Mughal style migrated to the Kangra region as they got patronage by Raja Govardhan Singh in 1774.
  - ❖ It first evolved in Guler and then came to Kangra.
  - ❖ It reached to its zenith during the reign of Raja Sansar Chand.
  - ❖ Features of the Kangra School of Painting are:

**Naturalistic** - Naturalistic paintings depict trees, plants, foliage, rivulets, etc.

**Feminine Charm** - Kangra paintings showcase **feminine beauty or Shringara Rasa** in an extremely graceful manner. Facial features, **bold eyes, body postures, and delicacy** are all soft and refined.

- ❖ **Use of Hues** - The Kangra artists were so good at using **shades and hues of colours**, providing brilliant depth and shadows in the artwork.

**Background** - Later Kangra paintings show backgrounds manifesting human figures and landscapes. They depict storms, thunderclouds and lightning.

- **Themes** - The theme of the paintings is the legends of God Krishna, Episodes from **Mahabharata and Ramayana, Shiva-Parvati, Vrindavan forest or river Yamuna, etc.**
- **Prominent Painters** - Famous painters of the school are Manaku and Nainsukh.
- **Chamba School of Paintings** – The earlier paintings of Chamba were influenced by the Basholi School but later influenced by Kangra Kalam.

- ❖ It got royal patronage under Raja Udai Singh.

- **Features of the Chamba School of Paintings:**

- ❖ The typical female figures in paintings of the Chamba School exude warm, sensual and charming beauty.
- ❖ Chamba Kalam is noted for its skilful handling and mixing of colours.
- ❖ The canvas space of Chamba paintings is dominated by red and blue colours.
- ❖ A sensitive treatment of landscape.
- ❖ Carefully brushed jewellery details.
- ❖ Displaying nature i.e., trees, leaves, flowers, shrubs, birds and hills.

- **Themes** – Themes of the kalam are Hindu myths like Yashoda Maiya, Lord Krishna, Gopis, Radha-Krishna, etc.
- **Famous Painters** - Famous painters of the Chamba Kalam are Miyan Dara Singh, Durga, Leheru, and Nikka.
- **Arki School of Paintings** – Arki School was influenced by the Basholi School of Painting, but later Kangra style was adopted.
- It was Basholi Kalam under the patronage of Raja Mehar Chand and Rana Bhup Chand.
- Later it was influenced by Kangra Kalam under the patronage of Raja Jagat Singh and Raja Saran Singh.
- Features of the Arki School of Paintings are:
  - ❖ The themes of the school are Shiva-Parvati, Nayak-Nayika, Rasakpriya, etc.
  - ❖ The elongated nose of men and women is the unique feature of the Arki Kalam.

This rich tradition of Pahari miniature painting beautifully captures the spirit, culture, and aesthetics of the North Indian hill states, providing a vivid and timeless glimpse into the artistic heritage of the region.