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HIMACHAL PRADESH

Ancient & Medieval History

A Complete, Exam-Oriented Study Compendium

Sources & Numismatics

Janapadas

Mauryas · Guptas · Hunas

Rajput Hill States

Mughals & Sur

Sikh Gurus

Gorkha Invasion

Sanad Rule

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PART ONE

Ancient History of Himachal Pradesh

- **Ch 1.** Sources — Coins, Inscriptions, Literature, Travelogues
- **Ch 2.** Pre-History — Stone Tools & the Earliest Races
- **Ch 3.** Janapadas — Audumbara, Trigarta, Kuluta, Kuninda
- **Ch 4.** Invasion by Alexander
- **Ch 5.** Himalayan Tribes & Central Powers (Maurya → Gupta)
- **Ch 6.** Hiuen-Tsang's Visit to Himachal

CHAPTER 1 · Sources of History

*The early history of Himachal Pradesh, like much of India, remains hazy because reliable records were lost. Historians reconstruct it from two broad streams of evidence — **archaeological** and **literary** sources.*

Two Categories of Source Material

Archaeological Sources	Literary Sources
Coins (Numismatics)	Persian literature
Inscriptions — stone & copper-plate	Sanskrit literature
Stone tools	Khalsa (Sikh) literature
Monuments	Travelogues (Greek & Chinese travellers)
Sculptures	Vamshavalis (genealogical rolls)

1.1 Coins (Numismatics)

Numismatics — the systematic study of coins — is among the most reliable windows into a pre-literate or sparsely-documented past. Coins reveal the **political reach** of a dynasty (where its money circulated), its **economic health** (metal content, volume of issue), its **religion** (deities and symbols struck on them), and even the **scripts and languages** in use. In Himachal the record **begins with punch-marked coins from Arki and Kangra**, current in the imperial Maurya age, proving that the hill tracts were already economically tied to the plains. **Indo-Greek coins** — issued by Bactrian Greek kings such as Menander, Antimachus, Antialkidas, Philoxenus and Lysias — have surfaced in Kangra, Chamba, Hamirpur, Una and Mandi, marking deep **Greco-Bactrian influence**. Though the **Sahis of Ohind (Hindu Shahis)** ruled Kangra only briefly, their coinage circulated in such quantity that local mints kept imitating their designs (with variations) long after their rule ended — a classic case of a coin-type outliving its issuing dynasty.

KNOW THE TERMS

Punch-marked coins — India's earliest coins (silver/copper) bearing punched symbols, not a ruler's portrait; associated with the Mauryan economy. | **Indo-Greek coins** — bilingual (Greek + Kharoshthi) coins of the Bactrian Greek kings, often beautifully portrait-struck.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

The **State Museum, Shimla** and the **Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba** hold rich collections from the tribal kingdoms of **Trigarta, Kuluta, Adumbara and Kuninda** — including punch-marked and Indo-Greek coins.

Distribution of Coin Types across Find-Spots

Coin Type	Kangra	Sarol (Chamba)	Lachori (Chamba)	Jwalamukhi	Mewa Tappa (Hamirpur)
Punch-marked (worn)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Menander	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Antimachus II	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Antialkidas	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Philoxenus	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Lysias	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Apollodotus	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Kunindas	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Audumbaras	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗

Key Coin Discoveries

Find	Details
Punch-marked coins	87 coins; 25 preserved in Bhuri Singh Museum
Coins from Arki	12 coins; kept in HP State Museum, Shimla
Apollodotus coins, Tappa Mewa (Hamirpur)	21 coins found
Coins from Jwalamukhi, Kangra	31 coins discovered
Kalka–Kasauli Road	382 copper coins of Vima Kadphises + 40 of Kanishka
Kanihara, Kangra	2 of Vima Kadphises, 1 Kanishka, 1 Vasudeva
Lachori & Sarol, Chamba	Indo-Greek coins → Greco-Bactrian influence
Virayash King coins, Kullu	Earliest coins, 1st century A.D.
Eulogies, Kangra district	Mention chief Lakshmana Chandra of Kirgrama & King Jayachandra of Trigarta

1.2 Inscriptions

Location	Details	Script	Era
Pathyar & Kanihara (Kangra)	23 symbols still undeciphered	Brahmi, Kharosthi	Maurya era
Soopur (Hatkoti, Shimla)	Hillock cave inscription	—	—
Salanu (Mandi)	Salipuri / Salri Rock Inscription	Brahmi	—
Nirmand Copper Plate	Issued by Mahasamanta Maharaja Samudrasena	—	7th cent. A.D.

QUICK MEMORY HOOKS

- **Chamba** has the highest number of inscriptions — **36**, written in **Sharda & Tankri**.
- **Brahmi** is written **left** → **right** (like Devnagari/English).
- **Kharoshthi** is written **right** → **left** (like Urdu).

1.3 Literary Sources

Persian Literature

Book	Author	About
Tarikh-i-Firozshahi	Ziauddin Barani (14th c.)	Nagarkot's invasion by Muhammad bin & Firoz Shah Tughlaq
Qasaid-i-Badar-i-Chach	Badr Chach	Invasion of Kangra by Turkish forces
Tarikh-i-Farishta / Gulshan-i-Ibrahim	Farishta (1560–1620)	Account of Muslim invasions of India
Akbarnama & Ain-i-Akbari	Abul Fazl	Mughal history; Akbar's hill expeditions
Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri	Jahangir	His autobiography
Muntakhab-ul-Tawarikh	Badauni	Akbar's expeditions
Waqiat-i-Mushtaqi	Rizqullah Mushtaqi	History of Afghan rule in India
Tuzuk-i-Timuri	Biography of Amir Timur (1369–1414)	Mentions Raja Ratan Sen of Shivalik hills who opposed Timur

Sanskrit Sources

Source	Details
Vedas	Rigveda mentions Himalayan-foothill tribes
Puranas / Epics	Ramayana & Mahabharata references
Panini	<i>Ashtadhyayi</i>
Kalidasa	<i>Raghuvansham</i>
Kalhana	<i>Rajatarangini</i>
Vishakhadatta	<i>Mudrarakshasa, Devichandraguptam</i>

Khalsa (Sikh) Literature

Source	Author / Period
Guru Granth Sahib (Adi Granth)	Guru Arjan Dev (1604)
Bachitra Natak	Guru Gobind Singh (17th c.)
Janam Sakhis	Various authors
Guru Shobha	Chandra Sain Senapati
Gur Bilas Patshahi	Sukha Singh
Dabistan-i-Mazahib	Mohsin Fani (17th c.)

1.4 Travelogues & Vamshavalis

HIUEN TSANG (IN INDIA 630–648 A.D.)

A Chinese pilgrim who came during **Harshavardhana's** reign (7th c.). He mentions **Kullu, Jalandhara and Shrughna**. In **635 A.D.** he stayed 4 months at Jalandhar as guest of **Raja Utitas** (identified with Adima of the Vamshavali); later he stayed at **Srughna (Sirmaur)** with the monk Jaya-Guptam.

European travellers (in order): William Finch & Thomas Coryate (Aurangzeb's time), Foster (1783), J.B. Fraser (1815), Alexander Gerard (1817–18), William Moorcroft (1820–22), Captain Monday (1829), Major Archer (1829), Baron Charles Hügel (1835–39), G.T. Vigne, J.C. Davidson and Captain A.P.F. Harcourt.

Vamshavalis (genealogical rolls) prepared by Rajgurus/Kulpurohits list rulers and tenures. Himachal's history is divided into the

Jalandhara Circle

Shimla Hill States

 . In 2011 a **600-year-old Ayurvedic manuscript in Bhoti** was found in Spiti; another in golden words at Thalog, Lahaul.

1.5 Himachal's Heritage Vaults

Museum	Key Facts
State Museum, Shimla	Established 1973–74 ; curator V.C. Ohri ; on Inveram Hill (one of Shimla's 7 hills); once residence of Lord William Beresford (Military Secretary to Lord William Bentinck)
Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba	Inaugurated 14 Sept 1908 under Raja Bhuri Singh; near Chaugan; inscriptions collected by Indologist J. Ph. Vogel (ASI). Prasastis of Sarahan, Devi-ri-Kothi, Mul Kihar in Sarda script

7 Hills of Shimla:

Jakhu

Bantony

Inveram

Observatory

Prospect

Summer

Elysium

Mnemonic — 7 Hills: "Jakhu Bantony Inveram Observes Prospect's Summer Elysium" → **J-B-I-O-P-S-E**.

EXAM CAPSULE — SOURCES

- Two source streams: **Archaeological** (coins, inscriptions, stone tools, monuments, sculptures) & **Literary** (Persian, Sanskrit, Khalsa, travelogues, vamshavalis).
- Earliest coins of HP = **punch-marked, from Arki & Kangra** (Maurya age).
- Kalka–Kasauli road yielded **382 Vima Kadphises + 40 Kanishka** coins (Kushana).
- Highest number of inscriptions = **Chamba (36)**, in **Sharda & Tankri**.
- **Nirmand Copper Plate** = 7th-c. A.D., issued by Maharaja Samudrasena.
- **Hiuen-Tsang** = Chinese pilgrim, Harsha's reign, in India 630–648 A.D.
- HP State Museum, Shimla — est. **1973–74**, curator **V.C. Ohri**; Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba — **1908**, inscriptions by **J.Ph. Vogel**.

CHAPTER 2 · Pre-History

The **Indus Valley Civilization** flourished c. **3000–1750 B.C.**, stretching from the Arabian Sea in the west to the Gangetic valley in the east. The Indo-Gangetic plains were then home to **Proto-Australoid / Munda-speaking Kolarian people** (the Kol or Munda tribe), India's aboriginal stock. As the more advanced Indus people expanded eastward across the Gangetic plains, they **displaced the Kolarians northward into the Himachal valleys** — and this push is exactly why the hills' earliest layer of population is Kolarian. Understanding this sequence is the key to the **three-wave migration model** of Himachal's peopling that follows.

PREHISTORIC EVIDENCE

Stone implements — pebbles, choppers, hand-axes, flakes — were found embedded in Shivalik fan-gravels. Major valleys: **Banganga-Beas (Kangra)**, **Sirsa-Sutlej (Nalagarh–Bilaspur)**, **Markanda (Sirmaur)**. Sites: Guler, Dehra, Dhaliara (Beas); Bilaspur, Nalagarh (Sirsa-Sutlej); **Suketi (Sirmaur)**; **Rahaur village, Kangra** (pots & pans). By peninsular typology the tools are at least **40,000 years old**.

2.1 Earliest Inhabitants — Three Racial Waves

1 · The Kols (Mundas) — first & original migrants

Mentioned in Vedic texts as *Dasas, Dasyus, Nishadas, Pishach, Asuras, Arjeek, Gandharv, Gadhar*; in post-Vedic texts as *Kinnaras, Nagas, Yakshas*. Their leader **King Shambra** ruled from **99 forts** between the Yamuna and Beas. Concentrated in **Kinnaur & Lahaul**, they are ancestors of the **Kolis, Halis, Dums, Chanal** (W. Himalayas) and **Chamangs, Damangs** (Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti).

2 · The Mongoloids — second wave

Called **Bhotas and Kirtas** in Indian literature; arrived c. **3rd millennium B.C.**

3 · The Aryans (Khasas) — third wave

Semi-nomadic pastoralists from the **Caspian Sea region** of Central Asia who migrated in three branches:

Branch	Route & Outcome
Western	To Western Europe, as far as Spain
South-Eastern (Khasas / Kshatriyas)	Crossed the Pamir , entered Kashmir, reached Himachal — converted Kolarian land into Khasa land
Southern (Indo-Aryans)	To Iran, across the Hindukush , into the Indus Valley (Sapta-Sindhu), then Punjab & Himachal foothills

The Khasas settled mid-mountain belts from Kashmir to Nepal. Their tongue (related to Sanskrit) evolved into **Pahari**. Elected leaders called **Mavi** / **Ma-vana (strongman)** governed tribal republics — **Janapadas**.

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE DASYUS

The Aryans clashed with the Dasyus under their dark-skinned king **Shambhara**. A **40-year war** ended when **King Divodas**, aided by **Rishi Bhardwaj**, defeated Shambhara. After Divodas died at Udbraj, his son **Sudas**, guided by **Rishi Vashishtha**, won the famous **Dasrajana War** (Battle of Ten Kings — 5 Aryan + 5 non-Aryan). These episodes, preserved in the Rigveda, are the earliest "historical" memories attached to the Himalayan foothills.

The Three Racial Waves at a Glance

Wave	People	Other Names	Date / Origin	Modern Descendants
1st	Kols / Mundas	Dasas, Dasyus, Nishadas, Kinnaras, Nagas, Yakshas	Aboriginal (pre-IVC)	Kolis, Halis, Dums, Chanal, Chamangs, Damangs
2nd	Mongoloids	Bhotas, Kirtas	3rd millennium B.C.	Trans-Himalayan / Bhotia stock
3rd	Aryans / Khasas	Kshatriyas	Caspian Sea, Central Asia	Pahari-speaking population

Order of waves: "Kol → Mongoloid → Aryan" — KMA (oldest to newest).

EXAM CAPSULE — PRE-HISTORY

- Stone tools (**≥40,000 yrs**) found in **3 valleys**: Banganga-Beas (Kangra), Sirsa-Sutlej (Nalagarh-Bilaspur), Markanda (Sirmaur).
- Tool types: **pebbles, choppers, hand-axes, flakes**; **Suketi (Sirmaur)** & **Rahaur (Kangra)** are key sites.
- Kol leader **King Shambra** ruled **99 forts** between Yamuna & Beas.
- Aryan leaders = **Mavi** / **Ma-vana**; their republics = **Janapadas**; their tongue → **Pahari**.
- Dasrajana War** won by **Sudas** (guided by Rishi Vashishtha) against 10 kings.

2.2 Saints & Sages Associated with Himachal

In the post-Vedic period the **five Pandavas** spent 12 exile-years in the Mahasu area (e.g. Hatkoti, Jubbal). **Goddess Hidimba** of Kullu is linked to them; **Arjuna Gufa** near Prini (Manali) is where Arjuna sought the *Pashupati Astra*.

Place	Saint / Rishi
Renuka, Sirmaur	Rishi Jamdagni
Nirmand, Kullu	Rishi Parashuram
Vashishta Kund, Manali (Kullu)	Rishi Vashishtha
Vyas Cave, Bilaspur	Rishi Vyas
Markanday, Bilaspur	Rishi Markandya

CHAPTER 3 · Janapadas in Himachal

The Mahabharata and Panini record that ancient Himachal was split into small tribal republics — **Janapadas**. Four are prominent:

Audumbaras

Trigartas

Kulutas

Kulindas / Kunindas

TWO TYPES OF JANAPADAS

Ekraja — Monarchical system | **Sangha** — Republican system

The Audumbaras

- Mahabharata: descendants of sage **Vishwamitra** (Kaushik gotra).
- Associated with Jalandhara in Panini's **Ganapatha**.
- Buddhist scholar **Chandragomin** (5th c.) calls them a section of the **Shalvas** in his *Vritti*.
- **J. Przyluski**: they bore the brunt of Aryan invasions.
- Sat on the trade route from **Takshila** → **Gangetic valley**; **Pathankot** the junction.

Coins: found mostly in Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Jawalamukhi; copper & silver of **1st century B.C.** in Brahmi & Kharoshthi; carry the word "**Mahadevsa**" (Lord Shiva) with a **trident**. **Religion**: Shaivite (trident & bull). **Kings**: Sivadassa, Rudradasa. They were first republican, later monarchical; economy = sheep-rearing & wool.

Trigarta

The land drained by three rivers — **Beas, Satluj, Ravi**. Mentioned by **Panini** (5th c.) and the Mahabharata (two Trigartas). It is the **oldest princely state of Himachal**, founded c. 8th–9th century by **Susharma Chandra**, who aided the Kauravas by attacking Matsya king Virata and **built the Nagarkot/Kangra fort**. Original seat: **Multan**

(Mulasthan). People were **Ayudhjivis** (those who live by arms). Square coins in Brahmi & Kharoshthi. A confederation of six states — "**Trigarta Shashthas**."

Kuluta (Kullu)

- **Founder: Bihangmani Pal**, arrived from Prayag.
- **Early capital:** Nast (Jagat Sukh); **later:** Naggar.
- Named in Ramayana, Mahabharata, Vishnu Purana, Brihatsamhita, Markandeya Purana; Vishakhadatta's *Mudrarakshasa*.
- A **copper coin (100 A.D.)** found in Kullu reads "**Virayasasyarajna Kulutasya**" — Sanskrit obverse, Prakrit & Kharoshthi reverse.

Kunindas / Kulindas

Name from the river **Kalindi (Yamuna)**. Referenced in Mahabharata, Vishnu/Vayu/Markandeya Puranas; conquered by **Arjuna**. Territory: between Beas, Yamuna & Satluj (Shimla, Sirmaur, Ambala–Saharanpur plains). Identified today with the **Kanets**. **Silver coins** under the title **Amoghabhuti** ("unfailing prosperity") — Prakrit + Kharoshthi; **copper coins** in Brahmi for local use. Shaivite (Shiva with trident). Lost independence to the **Sakas**, regained it as the Kushanas declined.

Comparative Snapshot of the Four Janapadas

Category	Audumbaras	Trigarta	Kuluta	Kunindas
Territory	Around Pathankot (trade junction)	Beas-Satluj-Ravi (Kangra)	Upper Beas (Kullu)	Beas-Yamuna-Satluj (Shimla, Sirmaur)
Capital	Not clearly defined	Nagarkot/Kangra	Nast → Naggar	Not specified
Coins	"Mahadevasa" + trident, Brahmi/Kharoshthi	Square, Brahmi/Kharoshthi	Copper 100 A.D., Sanskrit/Prakrit	Silver "Amoghabhuti"; copper Brahmi
Religion	Shaivite	Warrior (Ayudhjivi)	Not explicit	Shaivite
Polity	Republic → Monarchy	Six-state confederation	Pal-dynasty kingdom	Independent → Saka → free post-Kushana
Economy	Sheep & wool	Warfare	—	Cattle grazing (like Gaddis)

GUPTA-PERIOD AFTERMATH

During the Gupta age (4th–6th c.) old republics faded: **Trigarta encroached on Audumbara**; the **Kulindas split** into Govisana (Kashipur) & Kartipur (Kumaun — in Samudragupta's Allahabad pillar); the **Kulutas expanded** over upper Beas & Sutlej. New powers rose — **Bushahar, Singpur (Sirmaur, linked to the 6th-c. Lakhamandal Temple)**, and Chamba under **Maru**.

4 Janapadas: "Audumbara Trigarta Kuluta Kuninda" — **A-T-K-K**. Two systems: **Ekraja** (monarchy) vs **Sangha** (republic).

EXAM CAPSULE — JANAPADAS

- **Audumbaras:** descendants of **Vishwamitra**; coins read "**Mahadevsa**" + trident (Shaivite); trade junction = **Pathankot**.
- **Trigarta:** oldest princely state of HP; founded by **Susharma Chandra** (built Nagarkot/Kangra fort); people = **Ayudhjivis**; confederation of **6 states (Trigarta Shashthas)**; original seat = **Multan (Mulasthan)**.
- **Kuluta (Kullu):** founder **Bihangmani Pal** from Prayag; capital Nast → Naggar; coin "**Virayasasyarajna Kulutasya**" (100 A.D.).
- **Kuninda:** name from river **Kalindi (Yamuna)**; silver coins under **Amoghabhuti**; identified today with the **Kanets**; conquered by **Arjuna**.

CHAPTER 4 · Invasion by Alexander

Alexander was born in **356 B.C.** in Macedonia and took the throne at 20, conquering Egypt, Syria, Asia and Persia. Facing fierce Indian resistance and his soldiers' refusal to advance, he turned back, left India in **324 B.C.**, and died of malaria at Babylon.

- **327 B.C.** — Crossed the **Khyber Pass** and advanced toward the **Beas**, the farthest point of his Indian campaign. Resisted by the **Ayudhajivi Sangha & Trigarta** people near the modern Himachal border.
- **Beas Stupas** — He reputedly raised **twelve stupas** on the Beas, each to an Olympian god (now destroyed).
- **Malana legend** — The people of **Malana (Kullu)** are believed by some to descend from his soldiers, given their distinct customs and language.
- **Local myth** — Per historian **Ferishta**, Alexander married Porus's daughter; the idol at **Nagarkot (Jwalamukhi)** is said to be "**Nowshaba**."

EXAM CAPSULE — ALEXANDER

- Born **356 B.C.**, Macedonia; entered region **327 B.C.** via Khyber; reached the **Beas** (farthest point).
- Resisted by the **Ayudhajivi Sangha & Trigarta** people.
- Built **12 stupas** on the Beas (to Olympian gods); left India **324 B.C.**; died at Babylon.
- Legends: **Malana people** = his soldiers' descendants; **Nowshaba** idol at Jwalamukhi.

The Mauryan Empire

Chandragupta Maurya, aided by **Chanakya (Kautilya / Vishnu Gupta)**, exploited regional instability to overthrow the Nandas. Crucially, the sources (*Mudrarakshasa* and *Parishishtaparvan*) record that his rise leaned on **alliances with Himalayan tribes** — the hill peoples were not bystanders but active king-makers in the founding of India's first great empire.

His most notable hill ally was the king **Parvataka**, identified as ruler of **Trigarta (Kangra)** with capital at **Jalandhara**, alongside the **Mlechcha highlanders**. The coalition army was strikingly multi-ethnic, including

Yavanas (Greeks) Kiratas Sakas Kambojas Vahlikas Paraskas .

- By **324 B.C.** Chandragupta overthrew the Nandas, seized Magadha, then turned on the Greeks in Punjab.
- His push into the inner hills was opposed by a **coalition of five kings**, including **Chitravarma of Kuluta (Kullu)**.
- He later turned on his own tribal allies — a policy of **destruction & assimilation**.

Ashoka in the Himalayas

After the **Third Buddhist Council (c. 242 BCE)** Ashoka sent missionaries far and wide:

Destination	Missionary
Kashmir & Gandhara	Majjhantika & son Kunal
Nepal	Ashoka with daughter Charumati
Ceylon (Sri Lanka)	Son Mahendra & daughter Sanghamitra
Himalayan region	Majjhima + 4 monks: Kasapgotta, Dhundibhissara, Sahadeva, Mulakdeva

HIMVANT PRADESH (PER MAHAVAMSA)

The five Himalayan "countries" evangelised: **Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Garhwal, Kumaon, Nepal**.

- **Stupas**: Kelat (Kullu); Chetru (Dharamshala, Kangra) — the **Bhim ka Tilla** mound.
- **Rock edict** at **Kalsi** in the Jaunsar region of Uttarakhand (formerly Sirmaur), at the Tons–Yamuna confluence.

Hill Republics & the Sungas

After the Mauryas fell, the hill republics asserted autonomy. Around **187 BCE** the **Sungas** rose in Magadha but could not control them. These republics issued **their own coins from the 2nd c. BCE to 2nd c. CE** — a clear mark of independence.

Hill States & the Kushanas

The **Kushanas (AD 20–225)** stretched from Central Asia to Mathura & Banaras. **Kanishka**, the greatest, was a strong patron of Buddhism. The republics of **Audumbara, Trigarta, Kuluta, Kulinda** were likely overlordship-bound but kept issuing coins (peaceful coexistence). By the late 2nd c. CE the **Yaudheyas, Arjunayas & Kulindas** pushed the Kushanas beyond the Satluj.

FOURTH BUDDHIST COUNCIL

Held under **Kanishka**; location disputed — **Kundalavana Vihara (Kashmir)** vs **Kuvana Monastery, Jalandhar (Trigarta)**.

Ashoka's 5 Himalayan monks: Majjhima + **Kasapgotta, Dhundibhissara, Sahadeva, Mulakdeva. Himvant Pradesh = 5 lands:** Kashmir, Himachal, Garhwal, Kumaon, Nepal.

EXAM CAPSULE — CENTRAL POWERS (MAURYA → KUSHANA)

- Chandragupta opposed in the hills by a coalition of **5 kings**, incl. **Chitravarma of Kuluta**.
- Ashokan stupas: **Kelat (Kullu) & Chetru / Bhim ka Tilla (Dharamshala, Kangra)**; rock edict at **Kalsi** (Tons–Yamuna confluence, ex-Sirmaur).
- **Sungas** (from 187 BCE) couldn't hold the hill republics → they issued coins **2nd c. BCE – 2nd c. CE**.
- **Kushanas (AD 20–225)**; greatest = **Kanishka** (held 4th Buddhist Council); declined as **Yaudheyas, Arjunayas, Kulindas** pushed them past the Satluj.

Huna Invasion

- **Mid-5th c. A.D.** — The **Hunas** entered Punjab with the Gujjars, advanced into the Yamuna valley, overpowering the Gupta king.
- **Toramana → Mihiragula** — Mihiragula (notorious for cruelty) succeeded his father Toramana.
- **520 A.D.** — Mihiragula defeated at **Kahrur (near Multan)** by **Baladitya of Magadha & Yashodharman of Malwa**; retired to Kashmir, died **540 A.D.**
- **Legacy** — Modern **Gujjars & Gaddis** are believed to descend from settled Huna tribesmen.

Rise of Local Chiefs after the Guptas — Ranas & Thakurs

Gupta power fell after **Skandagupta (455–467 A.D.)**; **Vishnugupta (540–550)** was the last king. In the cis-Himalayan belt (Ravi to Yamuna) emerged **Ranas** (from "Rajanaka") and **Thakurs** (warrior-Rajput title). The **Apthakurai period** = the age of these chiefs; "**Rahun**" = Rana-ruled tracts (common in Chamba), "**Thakurai**" =

Thakur-ruled. Kullu's Ranas survived until **Raja Bahadur Singh (1559)**; Chamba absorbed 100+ petty chiefs by the 10th–11th c.; **Lahaul** passed from Tibet/Ladakh to Chamba.

THE LAND BETWEEN SUTLEJ & YAMUNA

Two big states — **Bushahr & Sirmaur** — dominated; the rest were the **Barah Thakurais (12 lordships)** & **Athara Thakurais (18 lordships)**.

12 Thakurais

State	Founder
Keonthal	Giri Sen
Kunihar	Abhoj Dev
Kuthar	Surat Chand
Koti	Thakur Chand Pal
Baghal	Ajay Dev Panwar
Baghat	Basant Pal
Bhajji	Udaipal
Dhami	Govind Pal
Beja	Dhol Chand
Mangal	Attri Rajput
Mehlog	Hari Chand
Bharoli	—

18 Thakurais

State	Founder
Jubbal	Karam Chand
Sari	Mool Chand
Rawingarh	Duni Chand
Balsan	Alak Singh
Ratesh	Rai Singh
Ghund	Janjian Singh
Madhan	Bhup Singh
Theog	Jais Chand
Kumharsain	Kirat Chand
Tharoch	Kisan Singh
Darkoti	Durga Singh
Dhadi	Sisodia Rajput
Kotkhai	Ahimal Singh
Karangla	Sansar Chand
Delath	Prithvi Chand
Khaneti	Sabirr Chand
Sangari / Dodra-Kawar	—

Harsha & After (606–903 A.D.)

606–647 — **Harsha** unified N. India; power shifted Patliputra → Thaneswar → **Kanauj**. Patron of Buddhism & Brahminism; **Vajrayana Buddhism** emerged. His death (647) left a vacuum.

700–740 — **Yashovarman** extended influence over Trigarta, Brahmapura (Chamba), etc.

- **724–760** — Defeated by **Lalitaditya of Kashmir**; Trigarta-to-Satluj fell under Kashmir.
- **883–903** — **Shankaravarman of Kashmir** marched on Gujarat; faced **Prithvi Chandra of Trigarta**, who fled.
- **10th–11th c.** — **Rajput migration** into Himalayan valleys; new princely states between Ravi & Yamuna, amid rising Muslim invasions.

CHAPTER 6 · Hiuen-Tsang's Visit to Himachal

Hiuen-Tsang visited Himachal when it was ruled by Ranas in small principalities — **Jalandhara, Kuluta (Kullu), Srughna (Sirmaur) and Spiti**.

6.1 Jalandhar (Trigarta)

First visit A.D. 635 (4 months, guest of Raja Utitas); **second A.D. 643** (returning from Kannauj). Extent: E–W **1000 Li (267 km)**, N–S **800 Li (213 km)**; capital ~3 km round. People brave & rustic; warm-moist climate; rice & pulses. **500 heretics of the Pasupata sect; 50 convents, 2,000 priests** teaching both vehicles. Cunningham held Jalandhar may have included Chamba (N), Mandi & Suket (E), Satadru (SE). No Chamba dynasty yet — later founded by **Maru Varman at Bharmaur**.

6.2 Kuluta (Kullu)

Ringed by mountains, ~**3000 Li** round; chief town ~3.5 km. **20 Sangharamas, 1,000 priests** (great vehicle); **15 Deva temples**; stone caves for Arhats & Rishis; an **Ashokan stupa** marking Buddha's visit. Rich in minerals, flora & medicinal herbs exported as far as Rome. The **Avalokiteshwara image at Kapila Muni Temple (Kelat, near Sultanpur)** is still worshipped.

6.3 & 6.4 Lahaul, Spiti & Srughna (Sirmaur)

From Kullu he went to **Lo-u-Lo (Lahaul)** and **Mo-lo-so (Spiti / San-po-ho)**. At **Srughna (Sirmaur)** he stayed with the monk **Jaya-Guptam**; recorded no rulers — likely a feudatory of Harsha, ~67 km from Thaneswar.

EXAM CAPSULE — HIUEN-TSANG

- Visited 4 areas: **Jalandhara (Trigarta), Kuluta (Kullu), Lahaul-Spiti, Srughna (Sirmaur)**.
- Jalandhar: guest of **Raja Utitas** (635 A.D.); 500 Pasupata heretics; 50 convents, 2,000 priests.
- Kullu: **20 Sangharamas**, Ashokan stupa, exports reaching **Roman territories**; Avalokiteshwara image at **Kapila Muni Temple, Kelat**.
- **Cunningham** reckoned Jalandhar may have spanned Chamba (N), Mandi-Suket (E), Satadru (SE).
- No Chamba dynasty yet — later founded by **Maru Varman at Bharmaur**.

❖ End of Part One ❖

PART TWO

Medieval History of Himachal Pradesh

- **Ch 1.** Tripartite Struggle & the Turkish Invasions of Kangra
- **Ch 2.** Hill States vs Mughals & the Sur Empire
- **Ch 3.** Sikh Rule of Himachal — the Gurus & the Khalsa
- **Ch 4.** Gorkha Invasion & the Anglo-Gorkha War
- **Ch 5.** Sanad Rule & the Anglo-Sikh Wars

CHAPTER 1 · Tripartite Struggle & Its Impact on the Hills

Kannauj became the imperial prize of northern India during Harsha's reign (606–647 A.D.). After his death the city — and the dominance it symbolised — was contested for nearly two centuries by three great powers. This is the **Tripartite Struggle**, and its real significance for Himachal is **indirect but decisive**: by exhausting the plains-powers, it created the political vacuum that pushed defeated Rajput clans up into the hills, where they founded the princely states that defined Himachal's medieval map.

The three contenders for Kannauj were:

Power	Region	Leader
Gurjara-Pratiharas	West	Nagabhata I (later Mihir Bhoja)
Palas	East	Dharmapala
Rashtrakutas	South	Dantidurga

This long **triangular conflict** weakened all three, fragmenting them and leaving them open to **Muslim conquests** from the north-west. Leaders unable to hold the plains shifted to the **central & western Himalayan valleys**, spawning powerful hill principalities. Between the **8th–12th centuries**, Rajput migrants founded many states between the Ravi & Yamuna.

States Founded by Rajput Migrants

State	Founder	Origin
Suket	Bir Sen	Bengal
Mandi	Ban Sen	Descendant of Bir Sen
Kutlehar	Jaspal	Not mentioned
Kahlur	Bir Chand	Chanderi, Bundelkhand
Dhami	Govind Pal	Descendant of Prithviraj Chauhan
Mahlog	Hari Chand	Pilgrim from Ayodhya
Kuthar	Surat Chand	Kishtwar, Kashmir
Kunihar	Abhoj Deo	Akhnoor, Jammu
Manghal	Attri Rajput	Marwar
Beja	Fugitive princess	Plains (unknown)

1.1 Mahmud of Ghazni & the Turkish Invasion of Kangra

Mahmud succeeded his father in **997 A.D.**, invaded India from **1001**, and launched **17 raids** — the most famous being the **Somnath plunder (1025)**.

- 1001–02** — **First Battle of Waihind**: defeated **Jaipal** (Hindu Shahi).
- 1008–09** — **Second Battle of Waihind**: defeated **Anandpal**, Jaipal's son.
- 1009** — **Fourth expedition** reached **Nagarkot (Kangra)**; he besieged and plundered the temple's immense wealth.
- 1043** — After Mahmud's death (1030), the **Katoch rulers**, helped by the Tomar Raja of Delhi & Parmar Bhoja, recovered Nagarkot.
- 1051–52** — Mahmud's son **Abdul Rashid** failed to retake it; by **1060** Katoch control was secure for ~300 years.

1.2 The Delhi Sultanate & the Tughlaqs

Delhi Sultanate Dynasties

Dynasty	Years (A.D.)
Slave	1206–1290
Khalji	1290–1320
Tughlaq	1320–1413
Sayyid	1414–1450
Lodhi	1451–1526

WHY RAJPUTS FLED TO THE HILLS

The 2nd Battle of Tarain opened India to Muslim rule. The Slave & Khalji houses ignored the Punjab hills, but Turkish attacks on the plains pushed **Chauhans, Chandels, Tomars, Sens, Panwars** into Himachal in the early 12th c., where they founded new Rajput states.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq ("the wisest fool")

Led a personal campaign to **Nagarkot in 1337** (ruler: **Prithvi Chand**). Major historians (Farishta, Barani) omit it; **Badauni** records the 1337 siege. It was a brief incursion into the outer Himalayas.

Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351–1388)

- 1360** — **Rup Chand** succeeded Prithvi Chand at Nagarkot; hill chiefs waged guerrilla war (per Tarikh-i-Farishta).
- 1365** — Firoz Shah besieged Nagarkot fort for **6 months**; a compromise followed — Rup Chand was honoured with an umbrella, dress & horses.
- After** — Firoz visited the **Jawalamukhi Temple**; renamed Nagarkot **Muhammadabad** (per Ferishta).

JAWALAMUKHI LIBRARY & "DALAI-I-FIROZ SAHAHI"

The temple held **1,300 Sanskrit volumes**. Firoz had them translated into Persian by **Izzuddin Khalid Khani** as "**Dalai-i-Firoz Sahahi**" (philosophy, astrology, divination). Locals claimed the temple idol was **Nowshaba, wife of Alexander**.

Nasiruddin Tughlaq (1388–1390)

After Firoz's death, a cousin's conspiracy forced him to flee — first to **Sirmaur**, then to **Nagarkot** (1389), sheltered by **Sangara Chand (Sagar Chand)**. In **August 1390** he returned to Delhi as Muhammad Tughlaq.

1.3 Timur's Invasion (1398)

Timur-i-Lang sacked Delhi in **1398** (last Tughlaq, Nasiruddin, 1395–1413), moved via Meerut & Haridwar into the Shivaliks, reaching the **Kiar-da-Dun valley of Sirmaur**.

Ruler	Role during Timur's invasion
Ratan Singh of Sirmaur	Ruled Shivalik–Kangra–Hoshiarpur belt; actively opposed Timur
Raja Alam Chand (Hindoor / Nalagarh)	Used diplomacy , supplied Timur's army, saving Hindoor
Megh Chand (Nagarkot)	Nagarkot spared (deep in hills); Timur took forts near Pathankot & Dhameri (Nurpur)

KEY FACT

The **Nagarkot Fort** stayed with its ancestral **Katoch chiefs** from **1043** until **Jahangir's capture in 1620 A.D.**

EXAM CAPSULE — TURKISH & MONGOL INVASIONS OF KANGRA

- **Mahmud of Ghazni**: 17 raids; plundered **Nagarkot (1009, 4th expedition)** & Somnath (1025).
- Katoch recovered Nagarkot in **1043** (with Tomar raja + Parmar Bhoja); held ~300 yrs.
- **Muhammad bin Tughlaq**: Nagarkot campaign **1337** (ruler Prithvi Chand); recorded by **Badauni**.
- **Firoz Shah Tughlaq**: 6-month siege **1365**; spared Rup Chand; renamed Nagarkot **Muhammadabad**; translated Jwalamukhi's 1,300 Sanskrit texts as "**Dalai-i-Firoz Sahahi**".
- **Timur (1398)**: reached **Kiar-da-Dun (Sirmaur)**; opposed by **Ratan Singh**; **Alam Chand (Hindoor)** used diplomacy; **Megh Chand's** Nagarkot spared.

CHAPTER 2 · Hill States vs Mughals & the Sur Empire

The **First Battle of Panipat (1526)** founded Mughal rule under **Babur**. Babur & Humayun had little contact with the hills. **Humayun** was beaten by **Sher Shah Suri** at **Chausa (1539)** and **Kannauj/Bilgram (1540)**, spending 15 years in exile.

2.1 The Sur Empire (1540–1555)

Sher Shah Suri (Farid Khan) sent **Khawas Khan** to subdue the Kangra hills (later managed by Hamid Khan Kakar) — but the **Kangra Fort stayed unconquered till 1620**. Sher Shah died 1545; the empire fragmented among Islam Shah, Muhammad Adil Shah, Sikandar Shah & Ibrahim Shah.

FALL OF THE SUR EMPIRE (SUR VS MUGHALS)

1555 — Battle of Sirhind: Humayun defeated **Sikandar Shah Sur**, who fled to **Maukot Fortress** (between Pathankot & Nurpur). His ally **Raja Bakht Mal of Nurpur** was executed by Akbar's general **Bairam Khan**.

2.2 Akbar & the Hill States (1556–1605)

Akbar was the first Mughal to seriously attempt the Kangra Fort & hill authority. Four major revolts:

Akbar's Major Kangra Expeditions

Revolt	Year	Cause	Outcome
I	1572	Bidhi Chand's revolt during father's imprisonment	Khan Jahan Hussain Quli Khan besieged Kangra; lifted after 3 months due to Punjab revolts
II	1588–89	Bidhi Chand & hill chiefs resist suzerainty	Suppressed by Zain Khan Koka ; chiefs submitted, left hostages (e.g., Trilok Chand)
III	1594–95	Larger revolt led by Rai Bahadur Buzura of Jasrota	Crushed by Mirza Rustam Qandhari, Sheikh Farid & Jagat Singh of Amber; Farid titled Murtaza Khan
IV	1602–04	Revolt by Raja Basu of Nurpur	Madhu Singh Kushwaha sent; no decisive action — Basu kept favour

THE "MIANS" & THE PARROT ANECDOTE

Akbar held hostage princes to ensure loyalty — by Jahangir's reign **22 hill princes** were at court; their families became the **Mians**. **Trilok Chand** grew up with Prince Salim (Jahangir); a quarrel over a **pet parrot** soured ties — Trilok Chand died mysteriously in **1612**.

REVOLT I (1572) — THE FULLER STORY

While Raja **Jai Chand of Kangra** was imprisoned in Delhi, his minor son **Bidhi Chand** assumed his father dead and declared himself ruler — sparking the revolt. Akbar (who had granted Kangra as a jagir to **Raja Birbal**) sent **Khan Jahan Hussain Quli Khan**, who took the **Kotla Fort** near Nurpur and gave it to the Mughal ally **Raja Ram Chand of Guler**. The 3-month siege of Nagarkot was abandoned when Akbar's own relatives **Ibrahim Hussain Mirza & Masood Mirza** revolted in Punjab; Khan Jahan took **five man of gold** as a truce. Jai Chand was later released and reinstated.

Other contemporaries: Chamba — **Raja Pratap Singh Varman** (loyal; Todar Mal annexed Rihlu); Kehloor/Bilaspur — **Raja Gyan Chand** → **Ayam Chand** (embraced Islam); Sirmaur — **Raja Dharam Prakash** (loyal). Akbar's **permanent settlement under Todar Mal (1573)** annexed **66 Kangra villages** (Rihlu, Chari, Ghaoh).

2.3 Jahangir & the Hill States

The **Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri** is the prime source. Jahangir's grudge over the boyhood parrot drove his zeal against Kangra. Four expeditions to capture the fort:

Jahangir's Kangra Expeditions

#	Year	Leaders	Result
1st	Mar 1615	Sheikh Farid (Murtaza Khan) & Suraj Mal (Nurpur)	Failed — Farid fell ill & died at Pathankot; Suraj Mal sent to Deccan
2nd	1616	Raja Man (Jaipur)	Failed — killed by zamindar Sangram in the Punjab hills
3rd	Sep 1617	Suraj Mal & Shah Quli Khan Muhammad Taqi	Failed — Suraj Mal quarrelled, revolted, fled; died 1619 at Taragarh
4th	1619–20	Jagat Singh (Nurpur) & Rai Raiyan Sunder Das (Bikram Jit)	Success — 14-month siege; fort fell 16 Nov 1620 ; ruler Hari Chand II

LANDMARK

After 1620 the Kangra Fort stayed under the **Mughals for 163 years (until 1783)**. The Guleria chief **Rup Chand** aided the final siege.

Jahangir's Visit to Nagarkot (1622)

He travelled via **Sibba & Guler**; returned via Nurpur & Pathankot. Met **Raja Janardhan of Chamba** (praised as "intelligent and urbane"). **Namaz was offered and a cow sacrificed** — asserting Mughal supremacy. Captivated by Kangra, he began a palace at **Mouza Gargari** (abandoned for Kashmir); a fort gate was named "**Jahangiri Darwaza**."

At **Dhameri (renamed Nurpur after Nur Jahan)**, Nur Jahan wished to build a palace, but **Raja Jagat Singh** cleverly dissuaded her by employing goitre-afflicted workers and blaming the climate.

TREACHERY IN JAHANGIR'S COURT

Battle of Dhalog (1623) near Dalhousie: Jagat Singh of Nurpur attacked Chamba; Janardhan's brother **Bishambar** was killed (no decisive result). Later, Jagat Singh lured **Raja Janardhan** to court and **stabbed him in the back**, killing him on the spot.

Other relations: Guler — **Raja Rup Chand** (given title "Bahadur"); Sirmaur — **Budh Prakash & Karam Prakash** (Karam Prakash founded **Nahan in 1621**).

2.4 Shah Jahan & the Revolt of Jagat Singh

Shah Jahan rose in **1627**. In **1634** he made **Jagat Singh of Nurpur** faujdar of **Bangash (Kurram & Kohat)**. Jagat Singh & son **Rajrup Singh** later revolted; **Prince Murad Baksh** suppressed it (forts at Maukot, Nurpur, Taragarh). Jagat Singh surrendered, was pardoned, and in **1645** honoured with a **khilat, gold-enamelled sword and horse**.

2.5 Aurangzeb & the Hills

Preoccupied with the Deccan, Aurangzeb pressed the hill states only on **tribute**. The Governor of Punjab **Azim Khan**, via **Alif Khan**, sought arrears (3 years' default). Advised by **Kirpal Chand** that **Bhim Chand of Bilaspur (Kahlur)** was the key power, Alif Khan moved to Bilaspur — Bhim Chand refused to pay.

Battle of Nadaun (1691)

Aspect	Detail
Reason	Bhim Chand of Bilaspur refused Mughal tribute
Sides	Bhim Chand + Guru Gobind Singh vs Alif Khan (with Kirpal Chand of Kangra & Raja Dayal of Bijarwal)
Outcome	Bhim Chand's forces defeated the Mughals
Significance	Guru Gobind Singh's role; Gurudwara Nadaun Sahib / Dasvin Patshahi built later by Maharaja Ranjit Singh
Sources	<i>Bachitra Natak</i> & local accounts

AURANGZEB & CHAMBA — RAJA CHATTAR SINGH

He defied temple-destruction orders. Aurangzeb sent **Mirza Reza Beg**, but Chhattar Singh allied with Guler, Basholi & Jammu and defeated him. In **1678** he defiantly added **gold-plated pinnacles** to the Lakshmi Narayan temple.

Killedars (Governors) of Kangra Fort

- First Quiladar: **Nawab Ali Khan** → succeeded by son Humrat Khan.
- Under Shah Jahan: Nawab Asalullah Khan & **Koch Quli Khan** (served 17 years).
- Under Aurangzeb: Sayyid Hussain Khan, Hasan Abdulla Khan Pathan, Nawab Sayyid Khalil Ullah Khan.
- Last Quiladar: **Nawab Saif Ali Khan (1740–1783)**.

2.6 The Later Mughals & Foreign Invaders

- **1738–39** — **Nadir Shah** (Persia) devastated Punjab & Delhi.
- **1748–58** — **Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durrani)** invaded repeatedly; **Ghamand Chand of Kangra** recovered lost lands (but not Nagarkot fort).
- **1745** — **Adina Beg**, viceroy of Punjab, curbed rebellious hill chiefs.

- **1759** — Abdali made **Ghamand Chand Nazim-Subedar of Jalandhar Doab**; he raised 4,000 men but failed to take Kangra fort.
- **1775** — **Sansar Chand** (Ghamand Chand's grandson) ascended Kangra; aimed at the fort but failed.
- **1781–83** — With **Jai Singh Kanhaiya** he besieged Kangra; on **Saif Ali Khan's death (1783)** the fort surrendered — but Jai Singh, by bribing **Jivan Khan**, took it himself.
- **1787** — **Sansar Chand** regained the fort with help of **Jassa Singh Ramgarhia**.

EXAM CAPSULE — MUGHALS, SUR & THE HILLS

- **Sher Shah Suri** sent **Khawas Khan** to Kangra; fort stayed unconquered till 1620.
- **1555 Battle of Sirhind**: Humayun beat Sikandar Shah Sur (sheltered at Maukot; ally Bakht Mal of Nurpur executed by Bairam Khan).
- **Akbar**: 4 Kangra revolts (1572, 1588-89, 1594-95, 1602-04); hostage princes → **Mians**.
- **Jahangir**: Kangra Fort fell on his **4th expedition, 16 Nov 1620** (ruler Hari Chand II); under Mughals 163 yrs.
- **Aurangzeb: Battle of Nadaun (1691)** — Bhim Chand + Guru Gobind Singh beat Alif Khan; Chamba's **Chattar Singh** defied temple-destruction orders.
- Last Kangra Quiladar = **Saif Ali Khan (1740–1783)**.

CHAPTER 3 · Sikh Rule of Himachal

The Sikhs gained strong footholds in **Kangra, Chamba & Bilaspur**, seizing the Kangra fort in **1783**. Alliances and conflicts with hill rulers shaped the region.

The Sikh Gurus & the Himachal Hills

Guru	Connection with the Hills
Guru Nanak Dev	Visited Ladakh, Kangra, Jwalamukhi, Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti, Tibet, Sirmaur, Garhwal; came in 1514 (3rd Udasi) crossing the Dulchi Pass
Guru Arjan Dev (1563–1606)	Sent Bhai Kaliana to Mandi for funds for Harmandir Sahib; Rajas of Mandi, Kullu, Suket, Chamba, Haripur became followers
Guru Hargobind (1595–1645)	Built Kiratpur (~1634) on land gifted by Raja Tara Chand of Kahlur ; 1642 defeated Nawab of Ropar; aided Dharam Chand of Hindur (1618)
Guru Har Rai (1645–1661)	Vacated Kiratpur, stayed 13 years in Karam Prakash's Sirmaur
Guru Tegh Bahadur (1664–1675)	Visited Kahlur; bought land & founded Makhowal → later Anandpur Sahib

3.6 Guru Gobind Singh (10th Guru, from 1675)

He built a large army at Anandpur. **Two major early battles: Bhangani (1686) & Nadaun (1690/91).**

Battle of Bhangani (18 Sept 1686)

Aspect	Detail
Location	Bhangani (between Yamuna & Giri rivers)
Parties	Guru Gobind Singh vs Raja Bhim Chand (with Fateh Shah of Garhwal, Hari Chand of Hindur)
Triggers	1) Refusal to lend the white elephant Prasadi ; 2) Plunder by Pathan deserters
Outcome	Guru's victory ; Raja Hari Chand of Hindur killed

THE PRASADI ELEPHANT & PAONTA SAHIB

Gifted by **Raja Rattan Rai of Assam**, the white elephant Prasadi was refused to Bhim Chand for his son's wedding — souring relations. The Guru moved to **Nahan** at **Raja Medini Prakash's** invitation and built the fort of **Paonta Sahib** on the Yamuna's right bank, befriending **Fateh Shah of Garhwal**.

Battle of Nadaun (1691)

Aspect	Detail
Allied Side	Bhim Chand + Guru Gobind Singh (Akal Sena)
Opposing	Wazir Khan, Alif Khan, Mian Khan, Kirpal Chand, Raja Dayal of Bijarwal, Hussain Khan
Outcome	Bhim Chand's forces defeated the Mughals

Mughal Expeditions against the Guru

- **First:** Lahore subedar **Dilawar Khan** sent son **Rustam Khan** (1,000 men) — defeated.
- **Second:** **Ghulam Hussain Khan** sent; negotiations via **Raja Gopal Singh of Guler** failed — Gopal Singh fought hard and won.

INSTITUTION OF THE KHALSA — BAISAKHI, 13 APRIL 1699

At **Anandpur (Makhowal)**, **Kahlur**, Guru Gobind Singh founded the **Khalsa**; **~88,000** joined within a short time, transforming a peace-loving community into a disciplined **military order**. For the hill Rajas this was an existential alarm — a large armed force had risen on the soil of **Kahlur**, whose chief's sovereignty was most directly at stake. Their hostility to the Khalsa is the thread linking all the Anandpur-era battles that follow.

Guru Gobind Singh's 4 key battles: Bhangani (1686) → Nadaun (1691) → Anandpur (1700) → Nirmohgarh (1702) → Anandpur II & Chamkaur (1704).

Conflict with Kahlur & the Anandpur Battles

Limited territory and forced provisioning strained ties; the Guru moved to **Nirmoh** but plunder continued. Kahlur sought Mughal help.

- **1700** — **Battle of Anandpur Sahib**: Guru defeated Mughals & hill chiefs; Mughal general **Painda Khan** killed.
- **1702** — **Battle of Nirmohgarh** vs Wazir Khan & hill rajas — Guru victorious.
- **1704** — **Second Battle of Anandpur**: Wazir Khan & many hill chiefs (Kahlur's **Ajmer Chand**, Kangra, Kullu, Kionthal, Mandi, Jammu, Nurpur, Chamba, Guler, Garhwal, etc.) besieged Anandpur. Promised safe passage, the Guru was attacked at the **Sirsa river**; family separated, manuscripts lost.
- **1704** — **Battle of Chamkaur**: 40 Sikhs & the Guru's two elder sons martyred. **Zafarnama** (victory letter to Aurangzeb) sent in 1705.
- **Muktsar** — 40 deserters (the **bedava**), rallied by **Mai Bhago**, returned and were blessed as the **Muktas**.

3.7 Banda Bahadur

Originally the recluse **Madho Das**, inspired by Guru Gobind Singh and made leader in **1708**.

- **1710** — Besieged at **Lohgarh**, fled to **Nahan**; **Raja Bhup Prakash** refused to surrender him (and was imprisoned).
- **Kahlur attack** — **Raja Bhim Chand of Kahlur** was his first hill target; Bilaspur was plundered. **Raja Sidh Sen of Mandi & Uday Singh of Chamba** submitted.
- **1715–16** — Farrukhsiyar sent **Abdul Samad Khan**; after 8 months' resistance Banda was captured (1715) and executed (June 1716).

AFTER BANDA — THE 12 MISALS

The Sikhs organised into **12 Misals**. In **1752** the Mughal emperor ceded Punjab & the hill states to **Ahmad Shah Durrani**; amid the chaos **Ghamand Chand of Kangra** recovered ancestral territory. Lineage: Guru Gobind Singh → Banda Bahadur → 12 Misals → (**Jassa Singh Ramgarhia, Jai Singh Kanhaiya, Mahan Singh Sukerchakia**) → **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**.

Jassa Singh Ramgarhia made Kangra, Nurpur & Chamba tributaries by 1770 (defeated Ghamand Chand); in 1775 he was beaten by **Jai Singh Kanhaiya**, who took the Kangra group (Datarpur, Sibba, Guler). In 1783 the last Mughal governor Saif Ali Khan died; his son **Jeevan Khan** surrendered, but Jai Singh seized the fort by treachery, holding it 4 years.

3.8 Maharaja Ranjit Singh & the Hill States

The "**Lion of Punjab**" was crowned Maharaja on **13 April 1801** (Lahore his capital), modernised his army with European mercenaries, and took **Amritsar in 1802**.

- **1803 & 1804** — Repelled **Sansar Chand** at Jalandhar & Hoshiarpur using superior firearms.
- **1809** — After the Gorkha siege of Kangra (1806–09), Sansar Chand sought his aid. The **Treaty of Jwalamukhi (20 July 1809)** gave Ranjit Singh the **Kangra Fort**; **Desa Singh Majithia** made Qiladar & governor.
- **1816 → 1828** — Consolidated Chamba, Nurpur, Kotla, Jasrota, Guler, Kehlur, Mandi, Suket, Kullu; by 1828 master of the Ravi–Satluj region.

EXAM CAPSULE — SIKH RULE

- **Guru Nanak** in HP **1514** (3rd Udasi, Dulchi Pass); **Guru Hargobind** founded **Kiratpur** (Tara Chand of Kahlur's gift); **Guru Tegh Bahadur** founded **Makhowal** → **Anandpur**.
- **Khalsa** founded **13 April 1699** at Anandpur; ~88,000 joined.
- **Bhangani (1686)** trigger = **Prasadi white elephant** (gift of Rattan Rai of Assam); **Hari Chand of Hindur** killed.
- **Banda Bahadur** (ex-Madho Das): leader 1708; sheltered at Nahan by **Bhup Prakash**; captured 1715, executed 1716.
- After Banda → **12 Misals**; lineage ends at **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** (crowned **13 Apr 1801**).
- **Treaty of Jwalamukhi (20 July 1809)**: Kangra Fort to Ranjit Singh; **Desa Singh Majithia** made Qiladar.

CHAPTER 4 · Gorkha Invasion

By **1769**, **Prithvi Narayan Shah** laid the foundation of modern Nepal, envisaging a Himalayan kingdom up to Kashmir. The Gorkhas took eastern Nepal (1773), western Sikkim (1788), and submitted all rulers up to the **Kali river (1790)**. In **1796** the Chinese expelled them from Tibet. Under **Amar Singh Thapa** they acquired **Kumaun, Garhwal, Sirmaur** & the small Shimla hill states, defeating Garhwal in 1803–04.

4.1 Arrival in Sirmaur (1804)

The weak **Karam Prakash** faced a conspiracy by officials **Ajit Singh & Kishan Singh** with **Kanwar Rattan Singh**, instigated by the ambitious **Raja Ram Saran of Hindur (Nalagarh)**. After a look-alike (**Cholu Mian**) was killed, Karam Prakash fled to Kalsi while Rattan Singh took the throne.

- **May 1804** — Karam Prakash sought help from **Amar Singh Thapa**, who first sent 700 men under **Bhakti Thapa** — defeated at Jamata by Hindur.
- **Direct intervention** — Amar Singh Thapa led the campaign, expelled Rattan Singh, restored Karam Prakash as a Gorkha feudatory.

4.2 Maharaja Sansar Chand & the Golden Era of Kangra (1786–1805)

Allying with Sikh leaders, Sansar Chand regained Nagarkot (treaty with **Jai Singh Kanhaiya, 1786/87**). At his zenith he subdued **Guler, Siba, Jaswan, Datarpur, Kahlur (Bilaspur) & Mandi** — breeding a hill-chief

confederation against him.

Conquest	Detail
Chamba	Battle of Nerti (1786) near Shahpur (Rihlu dispute) — Raja Raj Singh killed , territory annexed
Mandi	Captured the 5-year-old Ishwari Sen ; imprisoned him at Nadaun for 12 years
Kullu / Lahaul / Spiti	Continued tributary arrangements
Kutlehar / Bilaspur	Kutlehar annexed; half of Bilaspur annexed; massive frontier fort built

4.3 Ram Saran vs Mahan Chand & the Gorkha Invitation

Ram Saran of Hindur allied with Sansar Chand against **Mahan Chand of Kahlur**, claiming the **taluka of Bati**, building **Chatipur Fort at Dhar Jhanjhar**, and sacking Bilaspur (seizing forests of Fatehpur, Bahadurpur, Rattanpur). Overwhelmed, **Mahan Chand invited Amar Singh Thapa**, who crossed the Satluj near Bilaspur with **40,000 men** (late 1805), joined by Kangra-group, Bilaspur & Basholi contingents at Jiuri.

4.4 Battle of Mahal Morian (1806) & the Siege of Kangra

- 1806 (1st)** — At **Mahal Morian (Hamirpur)** the Kangra forces were crushed; Sansar Chand retreated to Tira-Sujanpur, then the Kangra Fort.
- May 1806 (2nd)** — On general **Gulam Muhammad's** advice, Sansar Chand's untrained Rohillas were again beaten. The Gorkhas freed **Ishwari Sen of Mandi**.
- 1806–09** — Gorkhas besieged Kangra Fort but never took it; the garrison's 12-year stores were mismanaged; relatives deserted Sansar Chand. The countryside was ravaged.

4.5 Appeal to Ranjit Singh — Treaty of Jwalamukhi (1809)

Sansar Chand ceded the **Kangra Fort** to **Ranjit Singh** (treaty at Jwalamukhi, **20 July 1809**); son **Anirudh Chand** taken hostage. In **August 1809**, **Desa Singh Majithia** defeated the Gorkhas, forcing Amar Singh Thapa beyond the Satluj. Kangra & the Jalandhar-group states became Sikh tributaries — ending Sansar Chand's sovereignty.

4.6 Gorkha Expansion & Conflict with Bushahr

- Baghal (1809)**: Gorkhas based at **Arki Palace** (their HQ); Raja Jagat Singh exiled. By 1808 they held most forts between the Yamuna & Satluj.
- Bushahr**: Thakurs of Kotgarh, Balson, Theog sought **Raja Ugar Singh's** aid (10,000 men). After his death, the boy-king **Mohinder Singh** succeeded.
- 1811**: Gorkhas sacked **Rampur Bushahr**; royals fled to **Kamru (Kinnaur)**. Kinnauri guerrillas ambushed them at **Sholtu Bridge**.

4.7 The Anglo-Gorkha War (1814–1816)

Began **31 Oct 1814**; lasted ~1 year 8 months. Causes: **border disputes** (Ochterlony wanted the Gorkhas to vacate the plains & restore Dehradun/Kiar-da-Dun) and **British commercial interests** (Tibet's borax, musk, shawls, wool; control of Himalayan passes; Bushahr a key Ladakh-Tibet stage).

BRITISH COMMANDERS

Maj-Gen **Rollo Gillespie**, Maj-Gen **David Ochterlony**, Maj-Gen **Martindale**; political agent **William Fraser**. Four divisions operated across fronts.

Key Fronts of the War

Front	Events
Dehradun	Gillespie marched from Saharanpur; Gorkha Bal Bhadra Thapa held Kalinga/Nalapani — eventually captured
Sirmaur	Martindale attacked Jaitak (defended by Ranjor Singh Thapa , Amar Singh's son), 19 Dec 1814 — heavy British losses
Ramgarh	Ochterlony took Nalagarh & Taragarh; Amar Singh moved Arki → Malaun ; Ram Saran of Hindur joined the British (16 Jan 1815)
Chaupal	James Baillie Fraser with ~500 Jubbal irregulars (Dangi Wazir & Primu) took the Chaupal fort (12 Mar 1815)
Rawingarh	Fraser advanced on Ransoor Thapa's fort; joined by Bushahr forces under Badri & Tikkam Das (17 Mar 1815)

BATTLE OF MALAUN (15 MAY 1815)

The brave **Bhakti Thapa** fell — a huge blow to Amar Singh Thapa. With superior British technology and Kumaun lost, **Amar Singh Thapa surrendered with honour on 28 November 1815** (also for his son Ranjor Singh at Jaitak).

4.8 Treaty of Sugauli (1815–16)

Detail	Particulars
Drafted / Signed / Ratified	28 Nov 1815 / 2 Dec 1815 / 4 March 1816
Signatories	Parish Bradshaw (EIC) & Raj Guru Gajaraj Mishra (Nepal)
Ratifier	Governor-General David Ochterlony
Territorial losses (Nepal)	Sikkim (incl. Darjeeling), Kumaon, Garhwal, Western Terai
New borders	Mechi River (east), Mahakali River (west)
Compensation	EIC paid Nepal 2,00,000 rupees annually (for Terai loss)

Superseded in **December 1923** by a Treaty of Perpetual Peace & Friendship; a new treaty followed in **1950**. Ochterlony's lasting legacy: founding the **Nasiri Regiment (April 1815, under Lt. Ross)** — the basis of the Gurkha regiments.

EXAM CAPSULE — GORKHA INVASION

- Founder of modern Nepal = **Prithvi Narayan Shah (1769)**; HP commander = **Amar Singh Thapa**.
- Entered **Sirmaur 1804** (restored Karam Prakash as feudatory); freed **Ishwari Sen of Mandi** after Mahal Morian.
- **Battle of Mahal Morian (1806)** = Hamirpur; defeated Sansar Chand twice.
- **Siege of Kangra 1806–09** — never captured the fort; ended by Ranjit Singh's **Treaty of Jwalamukhi (1809)**.
- **Anglo-Gorkha War**: started **31 Oct 1814**; **Battle of Malaun (15 May 1815)** — **Bhakti Thapa** fell; Amar Singh surrendered **28 Nov 1815**.
- **Treaty of Sugauli**: signed 2 Dec 1815, ratified **4 Mar 1816**; borders = **Mechi (E), Mahakali (W)**.

CHAPTER 5 · Sanad Rule

A **Sanad** is a certificate from a higher authority confirming a subordinate ruler's rights — a Mughal-era tradition adopted by the British after the Anglo-Gorkha War to regulate the hill chiefs.

RULES IMPOSED UNDER THE SANAD SYSTEM

- 1) British approval needed for any **new chief**;
- 2) **Free passage** for British merchants;
- 3) Supply of **begar** (forced labour);
- 4) Build **roads ≥ 12 ft wide**;
- 5) Pay **Nazarana** tribute;
- 6) British could **depose** defaulters.

5.1 Palasi Conference (1815)

Organised by **David Ochterlony** to fix pre-Gorkha boundaries and restore native rulers.

- **Restored states**: Sirmaur, Bilaspur, Hindoor, Jubbal, Baghat, Keonthal, Kotkhai, Bhaghal, Bushahr.
- **New states created**: Kumarsain, Balsan, Kuthar, Tharoch, Mangal, Dharni.
- **Annexations**: Khaneti & Delath → Bushahr; Koti, Madhan, Ghund, Theog, Ratesh → Keonthal.

Dates of Issue of Key State Sanads

State	Chief	Date
Bilaspur (Kahlur)	Raja Maha Chand	6 Mar 1815
Baghal	Raja Bhup Singh	3 Sept 1815
Kuthar	Raja Bhup Singh	3 Sept 1815
Baghat	Rana Mohinder Singh	4 Sept 1815
Dhami	Rana Goverdan Singh	4 Sept 1815
Mahlog	Thakur Sansar Chand	4 Sept 1815
Beja	Thakur Man Chand	4 Sept 1815
Keonthal	Rana Sansar Chand	6 Sept 1815
Balsan	Thakur Jog Raj	21 Sept 1815
Nalagarh	Raja Ram Saran	20 Oct 1815
Jubbal	Rana Puran Chand	18 Nov 1815
Sangri	Raja Bikramjit Singh	16 Dec 1815
Mangal	Rana Bahadur Singh	20 Dec 1815
Dar Koti / Kunihar	Rana Sutes Ram / Thakur Mangan Deo	1815
Kumharsain	Rana Kehar Singh	7 Feb 1816
Bushahr	Raja Mohinder Singh	8 Feb 1816
Tharoch	Thakur Jhoba	31 Jan 1819

5.2 The Anglo-Sikh Wars & the Hills

First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–46)

- 10 Feb 1846** — **Battle of Sobraon**: decisive Sikh defeat. Discontented hill chiefs sided with the British — **Shamsher Singh of Guler** (expelled Sikhs from Haripur), **Bir Singh of Nurpur** (besieged Nurpur), **Raja Narain Pal of Kutlehar**.
- 9 Mar 1846** — **Treaty of Lahore**: Sikhs ceded Beas–Indus hill districts (Kangra, Jaswan, Guler, Datarpur, Nurpur); war indemnity Rs 1.5 crore.
- 16 Mar 1846** — **Treaty of Amritsar**: British kept Sutlej–Ravi hill districts; Lahaul & Spiti sold to **Gulab Singh of Jammu**; Mandi & Suket chiefs got separate Sanads (24 Oct 1846).

Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848–49)

This war consolidated British control over Punjab and the adjoining hill regions, though the focus stayed on the Sikh territories.

EXAM CAPSULE — SANAD RULE

- **Sanad** = certificate confirming a chief's rights; Mughal origin, adopted by British post-1815.
- 6 rules: British approval of new chief, free passage, **begar**, roads ≥ 12 ft, **Nazarana**, right to depose.
- **Palasi Conference (1815)** by **Ochterlony** restored 9 states & created 6 new ones.
- Earliest Sanad = **Bilaspur/Kahlur, 6 Mar 1815** (Raja Maha Chand); latest = **Tharoch, 31 Jan 1819**.
- **Treaty of Lahore (1846)** ceded Beas-Indus hills; **Treaty of Amritsar (1846)** sold **Lahaul & Spiti** to **Gulab Singh**.

REVISION · Master Timeline of Key Dates

One-Glance Chronology (Ancient → Colonial)

Date	Event
3000–1750 B.C.	Indus Valley Civilization; Kolarians pushed into HP hills
3rd millennium B.C.	Mongoloid (Bhota/Kirta) migration
327 B.C.	Alexander reaches the Beas
c. 242 BCE	Third Buddhist Council → Ashoka's Himalayan missionaries
187 BCE	Sungas rise; hill republics issue own coins
AD 20–225	Kushana overlordship; Kanishka & the 4th Buddhist Council
520 A.D.	Mihiragula (Huna) defeated at Kahrur
606–647	Harsha's reign; Kannauj supreme
635 & 643	Hiuen-Tsang's two visits to Jalandhar
1009	Mahmud of Ghazni plunders Nagarkot
1043	Katoch recover Nagarkot (held ~300 yrs)
1337 / 1365	Muhammad bin / Firoz Shah Tughlaq attack Nagarkot
1398	Timur reaches Kiar-da-Dun (Sirmaur)
1572–1604	Akbar's four Kangra revolts
16 Nov 1620	Jahangir captures Kangra Fort (under Mughals 163 yrs)
1686 / 1691	Battles of Bhangani & Nadaun (Guru Gobind Singh)
13 Apr 1699	Khalsa founded at Anandpur
1715–16	Banda Bahadur captured & executed
1783	Kangra Fort surrendered; later held by Jai Singh Kanhaiya
20 Jul 1809	Treaty of Jwalamukhi — fort to Ranjit Singh
31 Oct 1814	Anglo-Gorkha War begins
4 Mar 1816	Treaty of Sugauli ratified
1846	Treaties of Lahore & Amritsar; hills to the British

❖ End of Part Two ❖



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Wishing you success in your HPAS / HAS & Allied Services journey. Revise the tables, fix the dates, and master the chronology — the hills have a long memory, and so should you.