



KNOW YOUR
STATE

Himachal Pradesh

*Highly Useful for Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC)
and Other State Level Exams*

(with 1300+ Multiple Choice Questions)





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Compiled By
Dinesh Thakur
Reena Kar



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ABOUT THE BOOK

General Knowledge of Himachal Pradesh is essential for the competitive examinations of the State. For the same purpose this book (Know Your State Himachal Pradesh) is designed to serve as a reference book for the students who appear in Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC) and other state level competitive examinations.

The book provides comprehensive information about Himachal Pradesh to familiarize the readers about the state. This book provides detailed study of History, Geography, Polity, Art and Culture and State Government Welfare Schemes and Current Affairs of Himachal Pradesh.

A systematic chapter by chapter study will result in marked improvement in the performance of the students. Box, Tables, Map, Figures are also used to make the presentation more clear.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) at the end of each chapter are given to test the candidates understanding of the subject from the examination point of view. The book provides the most relevant, authentic and up to date information on various aspects of Himachal Pradesh.

We invite and welcome any feedback or suggestion for the further improvement of this book in subsequent editions.

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Reena Kar



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Himachal Pradesh

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information

Date of Establishment	25th January, 1971
Capital	Shimla
Geographical Area	55673 sq km
Latitude	30° 22'40" N to 33° 12'40"N
Longitude	75° 45'55"E to 79° 04'20"E
Neighbouring States	Jammu and Kashmir on North, Punjab on West and South-West, Haryana on South and Uttarakhand on South-East
Neighbouring Country	China on the East
High Court	Himachal Pradesh High Court
State Day	15th May (Day of accession to India)
Language Spoken	Hindi (Official language), other languages namely Punjabi, Lahauli, Kinnauri, Sirmauri, Gojri, Bilaspuri, Pahari, Dogri and Kangri

Administrative Structure

Districts	12
High Court	Himachal Pradesh High Court in Shimla (established in 1971)
Lok Sabha Seats	4
Rajya Sabha Seats	3
Assembly Seats	68

Demography (Census 2011)

Population	68,64,602
• Male	34,81,873
• Female	33,82,729
Rural Population	61,76,050
Urban Population	6,88,552
Sex Ratio	972
Child Sex Ratio	909
Decadal Growth Rate	12.94%
Density	123 sq km
Child Population (0-6 age)	7,77,898
• Male	4,07,459
• Female	3,70,439

Literacy Rate (2011 Census)	82.80%
• Male	89.53%
• Female	75.93%
Birth Rate (2011)	16
Death Rate (2011)	6.7
Scheduled Caste population (2011 Census)	17,29,252
Scheduled Tribe Population (2011 Census)	3,92,126

● Famous Universities in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh University (1970)	Shimla
CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (1978)	Palampur
Dr Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (1985)	Solan
Central University of Himachal Pradesh (2009)	Kangra
Himachal Pradesh Technical University (2010)	Hamirpur
Himachal Pradesh National Law University (2016)	Shimla

● First in Himachal Pradesh

First Chief Commissioner	Shri NC Mehta
First Deputy Chief Commissioner	Shri EP Moon
First Lt Governor	Major General Himmat Singh
First Governor	Shri S Chakravarti
First Woman Governor	Smt Sheila Kaul
First Chief Minister	Dr YS Parmar
First Chief Justice	Mr Justice Mirza Hameedullah Beg
First Woman Chief Justice	Mrs Leela Seth
First Speaker of Vidhan Sabha	Pandit Jaiwant Ram
First Woman Speaker of Vidhan Sabha	Smt Vidya Stokes
First Deputy Speaker of Vidhan Sabha	Shri Krishna Chander
First Chief Secretary	KL Mehta
First Lokayukta	Justice TVR Tatachari
First Woman Minister in the Union Cabinet	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Health Minister)
First Member of the Rajya Sabha	Shri Chiranjilal Verma
First Winner of Param Vir Chakra	Major Somnath Sharma
First Winner of Mahavir Chakra	Lt Col Kaman Singh
First Winner of Vir Chakra	Havildar Topge
First IT Park in Himachal Pradesh	Mauja Majhol (Wakhanaghat)
First person from Himachal Pradesh to become Chief Justice of India (CJI)	Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan
First Chairman of Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission	Lt General KS Katoh

Himachal Pradesh

State Symbols

State Animal : Snow Leopard

Snow leopard is the state animal of Himachal Pradesh. The snow leopard (*panthera uncia*) is a large cat native to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia.

It is listed as endangered on the International Union Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Snow leopards have long, thick fur, and their base colour varies from smoky grey to yellowish tan, with whitish underparts.



State Bird : Jujurana

Jujurana (Western Tragopan) is the state bird of Himachal Pradesh. Western Tragopan was chosen keeping in view its beauty and decreasing number in Himachal Pradesh. Western Tragopan is popularly known as the 'King of the Birds'. It was accorded the status of state bird of Himachal Pradesh in 2007.



State Tree : Deodar

Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*) is the state tree of Himachal Pradesh. The specific epithet 'Deodara' is derived from Sanskrit 'Devadaru', refers to 'Tree of the Gods' or 'timber of the gods', another opinion suggests that the word 'Deodar' is derived from a historical Indian State. It is the strongest Indian coniferous wood owing to its anti-fungal, insect-repellent and anti-bacterial properties. It uses as valuable construction material.



State Flower : Pink Rhododendron

Pink rhododendron is the state flower of Himachal Pradesh. It is a very beautiful flower with pink coloured petals. Its botanical name is rhododendron campanulatum. According to the reports of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), pink rhododendron comes under the endangered species of flower.



CHAPTER 1

ANCIENT HISTORY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Himachal Pradesh has a rich history that makes the foundation of the present state. Its history dates back to the era of the earliest human settlement in India. The earliest inhabitants of the state were the Kolarian people who moved to the hills when the people of Indus Valley Civilisation began their settlements in the plain areas.

The name Himachal comes from Himalayan mountains that are believed to have risen from Tethys sea, about 50 million years ago. Ancient vedic literature described Himalayas as Himachal (Land of Snow), **Himgiri** and **Himavan**. The great poet Kalidasa called it Devantatma or mountains that stand like **measuring rod of the Earth**. Kalidasa described the immense beauty of hills, valleys and mountains of Himalayas. The region came to be known as Himachal as it is situated entirely in these mountains.

Sources of History of Himachal Pradesh

The sources of history of Himachal Pradesh are divided into two categories i.e. Archaeological Resources and Literary Resources. There are two main sources of history of Himachal Pradesh. *These are discussed below:*

- i. Archaeological Sources
- ii. Literary Sources

i. Archaeological Sources

Archaeological remains provide the most reliable evidence for knowing the history and the level of cultural and economic attainment of people of a region.

Archaeological discoveries, inscriptions, temples and coins are some archaeological resources which provide information about the history of Himachal Pradesh.

These sources are as follows:

Archaeological Discoveries

About 2 million years ago, existence of human life has been proved in the Himachal foothills of Nalagarh, Suketi and Kalpa area. This is evident from the tools found from these areas during archaeological surveys which are estimated to be 40000 years old. These evidences are also found in Guler, Dehra, Dhaliyera at Kangra in Banganga Beas valley, Sirsa-Sutlej valley of Nalagarh, Bilaspur and a valley of Sirmaur.

Inscriptions

A large number of inscriptions like **copper plates** and **stone inscriptions** have been found in Himachal Pradesh that dates back to the rule of Asoka. Some evidences of **late Palaolithic period** are founded by GE Lewis, Prof Lal and Joshi and Mr Sen. Pots, pans and stone tools like axes, chisels, picks, axe-hammers and ring stones which dates back to 1.8 million years ago are found in Ror (near Kangra). The **copper plates** of 7th century AD issued by Maharaja Samurdrasena found in **Nirmand** village in Kullu tells about that era.

Many inscriptions of Asoka are found from Pathiyar and Khaniyara in Kangra, Doonpur hillock cave inscription in Hatkoti (Shimla) and Salanu near Manglor in Mandi. Stone inscriptions found at Sarahan are mainly written in 'Sharda' and 'Tankri' script. Moreover, inscriptions are also found in Kharosthi, Brahmi, Bhotian, Naga, etc languages.

Antiques or Temples

A group of fifteen rock cut temples at Masrur was discovered by HL Shuttleworth and believed to be of 8th century AD. A wooden temple at Makraha in Kullu is believed to be of 2nd century BC. **Icon of Lord Vishnu** found at Fatehpur (Kangra) was of 5th-6th century AD and inscriptions of 5th and 6th centuries have been found at stone temples near Chari at Kangra.

Coins

Coins are very useful in knowing about the past. Kangra, Kullu, Chamba and Mandi state, each had its own coinage in former times. The **earliest copper coins** are found in **Trigarta Kingdom**. It also included the coins of Menandar, Antimachus, Antialcidas, Philoxenus and Lysias along with some worn silver punch marked coins which were found in Kangra and Arki in Solan district.

A large number of silver Indo-Greek coins (1-2 BC), kept in a pot was found in 1970 near the village 'Lachori' in Chamba district. From Jwalamukhi in Kangra, **silver coins of Kunindas** and **Audumbaras** were found. In 1892 at Tappa Mewa in Hamirpur district, coins of Audumbaras were found.

Silver and **copper coins** have been found in the region of Kangra valley which were related to the old Hindu Katoch Shahi rulers of Kangra. The coins bearing the names of later Kangra rulers were discovered in 1892 at Patasalian in Tehsil Palampur in Kangra district. Coins of the Ghazanavi Shiab-ud-Daula Haudad (1041-1050 AD) were also found from the Kangra valley.

ii. Literary Sources

Persian sources, religious sources, travelogues and genealogies are some literary resources which provide information about the history of Himachal Pradesh.

These sources are as follows:

Religious Sources

The Hindu religious literature mostly provides information on the history of ancient Kangra. The religious literature consisting of the four Vedas, along with Aitareya Brahmana, Taittiriya Samhita throw some light on the various tribes which settled along the Himalayan foothills about 2000 BC. The **Puranas**, **Kalhana's Rajatarangini** and **Vishnu Purana** contain information about the old tribes of Kangra and Katoch rulers of Trigarta. According to **Skand Purana**, there are five natural division of Himalayas i.e. Kashmir, Jalandhar, Kedar, Koormanchal and Nepal. The Jalandhar division (belongs to Himachal Pradesh) is further divided into five divisions i.e. Jalandhar, Champak (Chamba), Kuluta (Kullu), Lahaul and Satadru.

The Vishnu Purana mentions the people of Kulu as Kuluta which once formed a part of the Jalandhar. The **Mahabharata** also mention several religions and people of Kangra state. The **Ramayana** and the **Brihat Samhita** mention the Kuluta, Trigarta, Kangra and Jalandhara, which were once a part of the Trigarta kingdom of Susarma Chandra, the traditional founder of the Kangra.

The Puranas also describes **Jwalamukhi temple** in Kangra valley. The Mahabharata and the Brihat Samhita describe an ancient tribe that inhabited Kangra, Nurpur, Pathankot and Chamba hills.

The **Rajtarangini** (history of Kashmir) written by Kalhana informs us about the nature and influence of Lalitaditya (724 AD 760 AD) over the Kangra valley and Western hills. In this way these are the relevant sources of the Kangra valley and its ancient history.

Travelogues

The earliest and the authentic historical account of the Himalayan Hill States is found in the travelogue written by **Hiuen Tsang**, the Chinese traveller, who visited India during the period of Harsha in 630 AD and made important observations about the Jalandhara, Kuluta and Srughna in his book **Si-Yu-Ki**.

A number of European travellers have left very important account of their tours which they made through different areas of Himachal Pradesh. Among them the most important are JB Eraser, Froster, Vigne, Harcourt and Cunningham.

Persian Sources

There are several Persian sources which describe about the Muslim Sultans and their different expeditions over Kangra fort. A large number of **Persian chronicles** refer to Sultan Mahamud's invasion of Nagarkot or Bhimnagar or modern Kangra. Some Persian source include the account of wealth in temples of Kangra ex-Tarikh-i-Yamini or Kitabul-i-Yamini (1024 AD) and Khawand Mir's Habib-us-Siyar and Farishta's Tarikh-i-Ferishta.

In the 13th century AD, a number of Persian Chronicles refer to the entry of turkish into the Shivalik hills. Many rebel nobels and chiefs took refuge in the Himalayan foothills which was mentioned in the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri of Minhajudding Siraj and Tarikh-i-Ferozshahi of Ziauddin Barani.

Vamshavalis (Genealogies)

Normally, Rajgurus wrote Vamshavalis. Many genealogies of the Royal family of Kangra, Chamba, Mandi, Kullu, Nurpur are found here. Vamshavali of the Rajas of Kullu was edited by captain Harcourt and prepared by **Hirananda Sastri**. Alexander Cunningham published genealogies of Kangra, Nurpur, Mandi, Suket, Chamba and Rajauri (Jammu and Kashmir). The archaeological and litrary sources provide information on the history of Himachal Pradesh.

Pre-historical Period

The pre-history of Himachal Pradesh is the history of migration of people from the Central Asia and the Indian plains. The **Indus Valley Civilisation** is generally believed to have flourished between 3000 and 1750 BC. This civilisation covered an enormous area, from the Arabian sea to the Gangetic valley in the East, in the North and West, it spread to the whole of Punjab in the South, it covered Rajasthan and Gujarat. Outside the Indus valley, the Shiwalik hills, foothills of the Himalayas was inhabited by Munda-speaking **Kolarian people**.

The **Kols**, also known as **Mundas** were perhaps the earliest and original migrants to the Himachal hills. The Kolis, Hali, Dums, Chanals of the Western Himalayas and Chamangs and Damags of Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti were the ancient races of Himachal Pradesh. According to Rig Veda, Shambara was a powerful king of the hills, who had 99 strong forts in the areas between Beas and Yamuna rivers.

Advent of Aryans

It is believed that the Aryans left their Central Asian home in search of new land and pastures for their animals. One branch of the Aryans entered Kashmir and moved forward slowly into the middle belt of the Himalayas. They conquered the native people and established colonies in the hills and valleys of Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Garhwal, Kumaon and Nepal. This branch of Aryans were known as **Khashas** who were Kshatriyas. They turned the Kolarian land into **Khasha land**.

They used a language which was very similar to Sanskrit. When they settled permanently, they organised themselves into families and villages. Each unit elected an individual who was called **Mavi** or **Mavana** (strong man). With the passage of time, these Mavanas developed into tribal republics.

Vedic Aryans

When the people of the Indus valley spread through the Gangetic plains they pushed forward Kolarian people. These people fled Northward to the Himachal valley. In the Vedas, they were regarded as **Dasas**, **Dasyus**, **Nishadas**, etc. In the post-vedic literature, they were mentioned as **Kinnaras**, **Nagas** and **Yakshas**.

In the later age, some vedic saints settled in different areas of Himachal valleys *viz.*, Rishi Jamdagni near Renuka lake in Sirmaur district, Rishi Vashishtha near the Vashishtha Kund in Manikaran of the Kullu valley, Nirmand near Parshuram, the Vyasa near Beas cave in Bilaspur.

Early History

According to **Mahabharata** (1000 BC), the Himalayan region that is now Himachal Pradesh was divided into a number of **small tribal republics**. Katyayana mentioned two types of Janapadas i.e. Monarchical and Republican or Sangh. The tribal republics were called the **Sangh Janapadas**. These Sanghs were known as **Ayudhyajini Sangh** according to Panini or **Sastro-Pajini** according to Kautilya. These were both a state and cultural unit.

Sangh Janapadas of Himachal

Some of the major Sanghs were as follows:

The Audumbaras

According to Mahabharata, the name Audumbar is the name of the descendant of sage Vishvamitra, who is the founder of gotra 'Kaushika'. The Audumbaras was also known as **Udumbaras** or **Odumbaras**, the most prominent tribal community of Himachal Pradesh. They were advantageously settled in the route of Taxila to the Gangetic valley and Magadha to Kashmir. These areas were Western part of Kangra to Hoshiarpur districts (valley of Beas, or perhaps the wider region between the Sutlej and the Ravi). **Panini's** reference of this tribe proves their existence in the 5th century BC.

Buddhist scholar Chandragomin referred them as a section of the Shalvas. The Audumbaras were also mentioned in Satapatha Brahmana. They used copper and silver coins. The coins bear the name and figures clearly shows the Shaiva affiliation of the Audumbaras. They are believed to be of **Indo-Greek origin** and were converted to Hinduism in 1st century BC. **Ketumbra** was famous embroidered clothes of Audumbaras. They were known for trade of cotton, wool and Udumbar (a type of figure) tree medicines.

The Trigarta

The first historical mention of Trigarta is found in the writings of Panini. It is also mentioned in the Mahabharata, Brihat Samhita and the Puranas. 'Trigarta' corresponds to the modern Kangra, the land drained by the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers. It is believed that Trigarta was the alliance of six states, *viz.*

Kaundopuaratha, Dandaki, Kraushtaki, Jalamani, Brahmagupta and Janaki.

The square shaped coins found here denotes the existence of an independent republic in the 2nd century BC.

According to the Mahabharata, **Susharman Chand** of Katoch dynasty was the founder of Trigarta in 1400 BC. This king sided with Kauravas in the battle of Mahabharata. They settled in Jalandhara region and built the fort of Nagarkot which was also known as 'Bhimkot' or '**Kangra Fort**'. This region holds a prominent place in the history of Himachal.

The Kuluta

The Kuluta is mentioned in the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhramपुरan, the Markandeya Purana and the Brihat Samhita. Bhramपुरan has a chapter on Kullu as **Kulutapitha Mahatmya**. The territory of the Kulutas was located in the upper Beas valley, now known as the Kullu valley. The Kulutas were close to the Audambaras. Kautilya called Kuluta **Rajsubdin Sangh**. Megasthenes also mentioned people named **Colubae** who were Kulutas. Unique copper coin of the Kulutas bears the name of 'Virayasasya Rajna Kulutasya' (the Kuluta king Virayasa). The state capital was Naggar on the Beas.

The Kulindas

The Kulindas (or Kunindas) was referred in the Mahabharata (Arjuna conquered Kulindas), Vishnu Purana, Vayu Purana and Markandeya Purana. The Kulindas lived between the Beas, Sutlej, Ganga and Yamuna rivers, between the plains of Ambala and Saharanpur and from Kangra to Kumaon. The Kulindas was also mentioned by Ptolemy (c 140 AD) in his book 'Geographika'.

The Kulindas were independent and issued copper and silver coins. The coins furnished one name, i.e. **King Amoghabhuti** written in Brahmi and Kharosthi script. He ruled most probably during the later half of the 1st century BC. When the Sakas invaded Punjab, the Kulindas were defeated and lost their independence. The Kulindas had a republican form of administration. All the members of the tribal assembly were called 'Rajas' and the President of the Chief of the house was called 'Maharaja'.

The copper coinage was used for local circulation and had Brahmi script. The silver coins which were likely to travel beyond the home territories, had Kharosthi script on them. From the silver coinage, we can infer that they were fairly prosperous.

Empires and Dynasties After Sangh Janapadas

After Sangha Janapadas, different empires and dynasties came up in Himachal Pradesh. Mauryan Empire, Shung Dynasty, Kushanas, Gupta Dynasty and Thakurs and Ranas were major of these empires and dynasties. *Their description is as follows:*

Mauryan Empire

Before 500 BC, the Persians, the Greeks, the Scythians (Sakas) and the nomadic Kushanas from Central Asia invaded Northern India. In 327 BC Alexander, the king of Macedonia crossed Afghanistan and advanced as far as Beas river.

According to the Sanskrit and Jaina text, 'Mudrarakshasa' and 'Parishishtaparvan', we know that Chandragupta made an alliance with the Trigarta Chief **Parvatak**. The major portion of his dominion was spread into the hills and his capital was Jalandhara. Parvatak was killed by Chanakya, who did not want division of Magadh Empire and Parvatak's kingdom was taken over by Chandragupta. Later Parvatak's son **Malayaketu** restored the kingdom. Chandragupta's march towards Beas valley was stopped by king Chitravarma of Kullu. Asoka, the grandson of Chandragupta introduced Buddhism in Himachal Pradesh and erected many stupas there.

One of these stupas existed in the Kullu valley, which is mentioned by Chinese traveller 'Hiuen-Tsang'. According to Hiuen Tsang, there were 20 *Aramas* (Buddha Shrines) and *Viharas* at Kangra, where he stayed in 635 AD. The Buddhist text Mahavansha mentions that Asoka's daughter Majjhima along with other four monks preached Buddhism in five states of Himalayas.

Shung Dynasty

After the fall of the Mauryas, the Shunga came to power. They could not control the tribal republics for their own weakness. The tribal republics became free and issued their own coins from the 2nd century BC. Taking advantage of the political conditions at that time, Greeks, Sakas and Parthians invaded and occupied Himalayan states. Numismatic evidence suggests the existence of the Indo-Greeks in the Chamba, Kangra and Hamirpur region.

Kushanas Empire

The Kushanas (The-Chitribe) established an extensive empire extending from Central Asia to Mathura and Benares in the East. Their famous ruler was **Kanishka**. The tribal republics of the Audumbares, Trigarta, Kuluta and Kulindas remained in submission to the Kushanas. Kanishka and Huviska were powerful kings of this dynasty. The decline of Kushan power in the beginning of the 3rd century AD, tribal republics grew powerful for some time. Kushanas were ultimately defeated by a confederation formed by the Yaudheyas and the Arjunayanas (of Punjab). They succeeded in defeating the Kushanas. With the decline of Kushan power in the beginning of 3rd century AD, tribal republics grew powerful.

The Gupta Dynasty

During the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, the Audumbaras and the Kulindas totally disappeared. The Trigarta confederation also ceased to function. At this time, new dynasties in Kullu, Chamba, Bashahr and Sirmaur regions came into existence. In the middle of the 4th century, the Guptas rose to power. Chandragupta's son **Samudragupta** in 4th century AD controlled all the Janpadas of Himachal Pradesh.

During **Skandagupta's** reign a tribe from Central Asia called the **Huns** started attacking this region. By 5th century AD they started settling here. Their chief was **Toramana** who was succeeded by his son Mihiragula. During his 20 years reign in Kashmir, Mihirgula invaded some parts of Himachal Pradesh as this region was important for the trade routes which connected Central Asia, Tibet, Ladakh and Kashmir.

Thakurs and Ranas

After the collapse of Gupta Empire a group of petty chiefs known as Thakurs and Ranas emerged as the rulers of Himachal Pradesh. They were independent yet small groups. They claimed themselves to be Kshatriyas. The Ranas are identical with old Rajanakas, the court-aristocracy of the pre-Rajput times.

The name of Thakur means 'lord' and may be applied to any petty chieftain. The period during which they ruled is called as the Apthakuri or Apthakurai. The territory of Rana was known as '**Rahun**' and of a **Thakur** was **Thakuri** or **Thakurai**. With the exception of Kangra and Kullu, the whole region of Himachal Pradesh was divided into several Rahuns and Thakurais.

Harshvardhan

In between the period of Ranas and Thakurs, there emerged a strong king named Harshvardhan who succeeded in establishing a unified empire from 606-647 AD. Kuluta (Kullu) became one of the main administrative unit of his kingdom.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1 Which among the following is not a place of archaeological discoveries in Himachal Pradesh?
(a) Nalagarh (b) Dharampur
(c) Suketi (d) Kalpa
- 2 Nirmand copper plates found in Himachal Pradesh belonged to
(a) 7th century AD
(b) 10th century AD
(c) 12th century AD
(d) 15th century AD
- 3 What is the script of the earliest epigraphically rock inscriptions at Pathiar and Kanhiyara in Kangra? [HAS Pre 2015]
(a) Brahmi (b) Kharosthi
(c) Prakrit (d) Both (a) and (b)
- 4 Stone inscriptions found in Himachal Pradesh used
(a) Sharda and Tankri Script
(b) Kharoshti Script
(c) Brahmi Script
(d) All of the above
- 5 In Himachal Pradesh coins have been found in
(a) Tappa Mewa (b) Jwalamukhi
(c) Lachori (d) All of these
- 6 Which district in Himachal Pradesh has its mention in Mahabharata too?
(a) Sirmaur (b) Kinnaur
(c) Kangra (d) Shimla
- 7 Which region of ancient Himachal Pradesh was visited by Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang?
(a) Hamirpur (b) Nahan
(c) Nagarkot (d) Kuluta
- 8 Many Persian chronicles describes Sultan Mahamud's invasion of which place?
(a) Kinnaur (b) Garhwal
(c) Kangra (d) Lahaul
- 9 Hirananda Sastri wrote Vamshavali (Genealogies) of the royal family of which place?
(a) Mandi (b) Kullu
(c) Kangra (d) Chamba
- 10 The original inhabitants of Himachal Pradesh belonged to which group of people?
(a) Kolarian people
(b) People of Indus Valley Civilisation
(c) Khashas people or Kshatriyas
(d) Mavanas
- 11 The branch of Aryans that conquered the Hill valleys of mid-Himalayas were called
(a) Kolo (b) Munda
(c) Khashas (d) Katoch
- 12 Name the Vedic saint associated with the Renuka lake in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh.
(a) Rishi Jamdagni
(b) Rishi Vashishtha
(c) Parshuram
(d) None of them
- 13 The Audumbara is the name of the descendant of sage
(a) Vishvamitra (b) Vashishtha
(c) Gantama (d) Patanjali
- 14 Which Sangh Janapada flourished in the regions of Taxila, Western Kangra upto Hoshiarpur?
(a) Trigarta (b) Audumbaras
(c) Kuluta (d) Kulinda
- 15 The first mention of 'Trigarta' is found in
(a) Rig Veda
(b) Mahabharata
(c) Writings of Panini
(d) Purana
- 16 What was the confederacy of six republics mentioned in the Mahabharata and other books, known as? [HPFS 2007]
(a) Kuluta (b) Trigarta
(c) Audumbaras (d) Kulindas
- 17 According to Mahabharata, who founded Katoch Monarchy during 1400 BC? [HAS Pre 2012]
(a) Shambar
(b) Susharman Chand
(c) Divo Das
(d) Bhim

- 18** Which region of Himachal Pradesh was known as Trigarta in ancient times?
[HPFS 2011]
(a) Bushahr (b) Kangra
(c) Lahaul and Spiti (d) Sirmaur
- 19** Kangra Fort was built by the Rajput rulers of
(a) Sunga dynasty
(b) Maurya dynasty
(c) Katoch dynasty
(d) None of the above
- 20** King Susharman who sides with Kauravas in the battle of Mahabharata is considered the founder of the important ruling dynasty of Himachal Pradesh?
[HP Naib Tehsilar 2011]
(a) Guler (b) Kuluta
(c) Suket (d) Katoch
- 21** Which Katoch ruler built the Kangra Fort?
[HPFS 2011]
(a) Sansar Chand
(b) Amar Singh
(c) Shri Chand
(d) Susharman Chand
- 22** Bhimkot was the other name of
[HP Tehsil Welfare Officer 2007]
(a) Bushahr (b) Kangra
(c) Sirmaur (d) Guler
- 23** Which among the following was the capital of Kuluta, the ancient Janapada?
[HP Clerk 2015]
(a) Kullu (b) Naggar
(c) Sirmur (d) Jubbal
- 24** The Mahabharata mentioned that 'Kulinda' people were conquered by
(a) Arjuna (b) Smudragupta
(c) Asoka (d) None of them
- 25** The Kulindas Janapada is mentioned in which among the following Puranas?
(a) Vishnu Purana
(b) Vayu Purana
(c) Markandeya Purana
(d) All of the above
- 26** The silver coins of Kulindas furnished the name
(a) Sumudragupta
(b) Amoghabhuti
(c) Chandragupta I
(d) None of them
- 27** The copper and silver coins of Kulindas had
(a) Brahmi and Kharosthi script
(b) Brahmi and Sanskrit Script
(c) Brahmi and Bhotian script
(d) None of the above
- 28** For which text we know about the alliance between Chandragupta and Parvatak?
(a) Mudarakshasa
(b) Parishishtaparvan
(c) Both (a) and (b)
(d) Ashtadhyoi
- 29** Which among the following Himalayan king, allied with Chanakya to ascend the throne of Magadha?
(a) Sudas (b) Divodas
(c) Parvatak (d) Shambara
- 30** The capital of Parvatak was in
(a) Ambala (b) Jalandhara
(c) Kangra (d) Multan
- 31** Pravatak, the Himalayan Chief was treacherously killed by
(a) Chandragupta (b) Samudragupta
(c) Chanakya (d) Alexander
- 32** One of the Stupas, built by Ashoka is located in which among the following place in Himachal Pradesh?
(a) Lahaul and Spiti (b) Kullu valley
(c) Kufri (d) Both (a) and (b)
- 33** Which among the following had credit to spread or preach Buddhism in Himalayan states?
(a) Majjhima (b) Ashoka
(c) Bindusar (d) Bimbisara
- 34** Which dynasty came to power in Himalayan region after the fall of the Mauryan?
(a) Kushana (b) Shung
(c) Gupta (d) Saka
- 35** The powerful king(s) of the Kushanas is/are
(a) Kanishka (b) Huviska
(c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of them
- 36** Who among the following annexed all the Janapadas of Himachal Pradesh?
(a) Chandragupta Maurya
(b) Samudragupta
(c) Asoka
(d) Chandragupta-II

37 During the rule of which dynasty, Huns invaded Himachal?

- (a) Mauryas (b) Guptas
(c) Kushanas (d) Rajputs

38 Huns attacked in Hill regions during which among the following ruler?

- (a) Samudragupta
(b) Chandragupta-II
(c) Ramgupta
(d) Skandagupta

39 Toramana was the chief of

- (a) Saka tribes
(b) Huns tribes
(c) Naga tribes
(d) Munda Tribes

40 Name the most successful ruler of Huns tribes.

- (a) Toramana
(b) Mihirgula
(c) Kadphis
(d) None of them

41 The territory of Rana was known as and of Thakur was

- (a) Rahun, Thakurai
(b) Rajanakas, Apthakurai
(c) Runn, Thankurdalan
(d) None of the above

42 Consider the following Statements

- I. The name Himachal comes from Himalyan mountains.
- II. The great poet Kalidasa called Himachal Devantatma.
- III. Copper plates and stone inscriptions have been found in Himachal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only I
(b) Only II
(c) II and III
(d) All of the above

43 Consider the following statements

- I. Rajtarangini and Vishnu Purana contain information about the old tribe of Kangra and Katoch rulers of Trigarta.
- II. Rajtarangini contain the information about Lalitaditya influence on Kangra Valley.
- III. Persian Sources contain the information about Sultan Mahamud's invasion of Nagarkot of Modern Kangra.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only II (b) II and III
(c) I and II (d) All of these

44 Consider the following statements

- I. As per the Mudrarakshasa Chandragupta Maurya made treaty with Trigarta Chief Parvatak.
- II. Asoka introduced Buddhism in Himachal Pradesh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only I (b) Only II
(c) Both I and II (d) All of these

45 Match the following

List I (Sources)	List II (Places)
A. Copper Plates issued by Maharaja Samudrasena	1. Nirmand, Kullu
B. Icon of Lord Vishnu	2. Fatehpur, Kangra
C. Silver Coins of Kunindas	3. Jwalamukhi, Kangra
D. Asoka Inscription	4. Khaniyara, Kangra

Codes

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| A B C D | A B C D |
| (a) 3 2 1 4 | (b) 4 3 2 1 |
| (c) 2 3 1 4 | (d) 1 2 3 4 |

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (d) 5. (d) 6. (c) 7. (d) 8. (c) 9. (b) 10. (a)
11. (c) 12. (a) 13. (a) 14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (b) 17. (b) 18. (b) 19. (c) 20. (d)
21. (d) 22. (b) 23. (b) 24. (a) 25. (d) 26. (b) 27. (a) 28. (c) 29. (c) 30. (b)
31. (c) 32. (b) 33. (a) 34. (b) 35. (c) 36. (b) 37. (b) 38. (d) 39. (b) 40. (b)
41. (a) 42. (d) 43. (d) 44. (c) 45. (d)

CHAPTER 2

MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The end of ancient period of Himachal Pradesh was marked by the division of the region into several Rahuns and Thakurais. The period between 7th to 18th century is considered the medieval period of Himachal Pradesh. This period was hit by Muslim invasions from Central Asia and West Asia.

The early period was a period of chaos that led to the rise of small Rajput states. The medieval history of Himachal is divided into two parts Early Medieval period and Medieval period.

Early Medieval Period

After the death of **Harshavardhan** (647 AD), the Indian history faced a situation of disorder. All those rulers who submitted themselves to **Harshavardhan** were once again freed. The then Ranas and Thakurs got back their **Rahuns** and **Thakurais**, respectively.

Thakurais

The tract between Sutlej in the North-West and Yamuna in the South-East had various small kingdoms which were divided into Thakurais. These were further divided into twelve and eighteen Thakurais. *These are as follows:*

Twelve Thakurais

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Keonthal | 2. Kunihar | 3. Mehlog |
| 4. Beja | 5. Baghat | 6. Bhajj |
| 7. Koti | 8. Bharoli | 9. Kuthar |
| 10. Dharni | 11. Mangal | 12. Baghal |

Eighteen Thakurais

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. Jubbal | 2. Sari | 3. Rawingarh |
| 4. Balsan | 5. Kumarsen | 6. Khaneti |
| 7. Delath | 8. Karangal | 9. Kotkhai-Kotgarh |
| 10. Ratesh | 11. Ghund | 12. Madhan |
| 13. Theog | 14. Darkoti | 15. Tharoch |
| 16. Dadi | 17. Sangri | 18. Dodra-Kwar |

Gurjara Pratiharas

As Harsha had made Kannauj a powerful and imperial city, it became a centre of power in Northern India. Thus, a struggle among Rashtrakutas, Palas and Pratiharas occurred to become the supreme ruler of the Western Himalayan hill states. In this struggle, Kannauj became the seat of **Gurjara Pratiharas**. Their rule extended North upto Kuluta (Kullu) but not Western Himalayas.

Rajatarangini provide information that there was a war between ruler of Kashmir, Lalitaditya (AD 724-760) and Yashovarman (AD 700-740). In this war Yashovarman was defeated. After this war Trigarta, Brahmapura and other Western hills came under his influence.

The other ruler of Kashmir, Shankaravarman (AD 883-903), when led an expedition for the conquest of Gujara (Gujarat), he faced an opposition by the Prithvi Chandra of Trigarta, who was the companion of Gujara. When the Kashmir Army approach there, Prithvi Chandra was defeated by Shankaravarman and **Trigarta became a part of Kashmir**.

Rise of the Rajput States

In the latter half of the 10th century when the Pratihara empire declined, their landlords tried to establish independent states. This period marked the rise of the Rajput states in Rajasthan and in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab region and these small fragmented states struggled with their neighbours for supremacy.

The period between **8th to 12th** century marked the foundation of numerous states by Rajput migrants in the outer ranges of the Himalayas lying between the Ravi and the Yamuna rivers. For example, **Chamba, Nurpur, Kullu, Suket, Mandi, Bilaspur, Rampur, Jubbal, Keonthal, Sirmaur**, etc but some of these Rajput states were founded later in the 15th or 16th century.

Medieval Period

In the medieval period, Himachal hills were invaded by many Muslim invaders due to which the history and culture of Himachal get affected.

Major Muslim rulers during medieval period were as follows:

Mahmud Ghaznavi

The period of 1000 AD records many great events. For example, on one side the **Rajputs** gained strength by founding states in the Western and Central Himalayas. On the other hand, India faced its first Muslim invasion by Turkish ruler Mahmud Ghaznavi. In 1009 AD Ghaznavi also siezed the control of treasury of **Nagarkot** and destroyed the city of **Kangra**. He carried with himself a vast treasury and left behind his forces to control the Nagarkot. Nagarkot fort remained under his control till 1043 AD. In 1051-52 AD, a son of Mahmud Ghaznavi, Abdul Rashid, captured the fort of Kangra but it was regained by the **Katoch** rulers around 1060 AD.

Mohammad Ghori

In the last stage of 12th century, the period from 1175 AD to 1192 AD marked many invasions by Mohammad Ghori in India. When Muslim invaders captured Delhi and moved towards Eastern and Southern parts of Indo-Gangtic plains, it affected the history and culture of Himachal hills. The population of Brahmins and Rajputs consequently the **Chauhans, Chandels, Tomars, Panwars** and **Sens**, etc went to the Himachal hills and founded many small principalities there.

During this period, the Western Himalayas proved to be an important shelter not only for the Hindus but also for the Muslim rebel elements of **Slave** (1206-1290 AD) and **Khilji** (1290-1320 AD) dynasties of **Delhi Sultanate**.

Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq

The Sultans of Tughlaq dynasty (1320-1414 AD) were more ambitious than other rulers. Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq sent an expedition against Raja Prithvi Chand (1330-1345 AD) of Nagarkot of Kangra, he personally led this expedition and captured the **Nagarkot Fort** of **Kangra** in 1337AD.

The Sultan displayed great religious tolerance on this expedition and spared the temple of **Jwalamukhi**. When **Raja Rup Chand** succeeded to the throne of Kangra, in 1360 AD, he siezed the plains upto Delhi in order to remove the Muslim rulers from his region.

Firoz Shah Tughlaq

After continuous invasion by Raja Rup Chand, Firoz Shah Tughlaq was provoked and led an army in 1361 AD to capture Nagarkot. He moved to Jwalamukhi temple in **Nagarkot** and destroyed the temple.

After 6 months of siege on the fort of Nagarkot, **Raja Rup Chand** surrendered to Firoz Shah Tughlaq and accepted his supremacy. Firoz Shah brought many religious books from Jwalamukhi temple and translated them into Persian language and named it 'Dalail-i-Firozshahi'.

Invasion of Mongols

In 1398 AD, the Mongol raids took place under the leadership of **Timur-i-lang**. He invaded Delhi, Meerut and Haridwar and from there, he entered into Shivalik hills and invaded **Kiarda Dun valley of Sirmaur state**. On his return journey along the foothills of Sirmaur (Westward), he reached the frontier of Hindur. At that time, Alam Chand (1356-1406 AD) was the chief of Hindus (Nalagarh).

Timur wanted to capture **Nagarkot (Kangra)**, so he attacked there in 1398 AD, but could not succeed to do so. He was strongly resisted by the ruler of Kangra Megh Chand (1390-1405 AD). He invaded and took eight forts of the hill state including **Pathankot** and **Nurpur** (earlier known as **Dhameri**).

Sher Shah Suri

According to historians, Sher Shah Suri captured the Kangra fort in 1540 AD by his commander, Khan Jahan. In 1556 AD, his army again, under the leadership of Khawas Khan and Sikander Shah Suri, invaded the Himachal hills.

Mughal Dynasty

After the invasion of Mongols and Sher Shah Suri, in 16th century, the hills were invaded by Mughal Dynasty. *Major rulers of Mughal Dynasty were as follows:*

Akbar

In 1562 AD, in an alliance between **Akbar** and **Raja Dharam Chandra**, Akbar granted the title of Maharaja to Dharam Chand. Then, after 10 years, the alliance was called off. In 1573 AD, Akbar appointed his Finance Minister Raja Todar Mal to acquire the Kangra fort. 66 villages of Kangra, Rihlu, Cheri, Gharoh and Pathyar from Chamba and other territories of hill states were annexed by Akbar.

Kangra ruler, Jai Chand was imprisoned by Mughal rulers. However, **Akbarnama** describes Akbar's visit to Jwalamukhi temple and presenting a gold roof to the temple.

Jahangir

After ascending the throne in 1605 AD, Jahangir planned to capture the **Nagarkot** fort (Kangra) first. To achieve this plan, he appointed Murtaza Khan, Governor of Punjab, and **Suraj Mal**, son of Raja Basu of Dhameri-Nurpur in March, 1615 to conquer Kangra. This was not accepted by Suraj Mal and he revolted against Jahangir. To suppress this revolt and capture the Kangra fort, the emperor sent Raja Bikramajit and Abdul Aziz.

The revolts continued for 1 year after which Suraj Mal fled to Chamba where he died. After his death, all his property was captured by Mughals. Suraj Mal's loyalty towards Katoch is found in the folklores of Kangra. Jahangir acquired the possession of Nagarkot fort (Kangra) in 1620 AD. The fort for the first time passed from the Katoch to the Mughals and remained with them for the next 163 years. Jahangir built a mosque in Nagarkot fort in 1621 AD.

Shah Jahan

After ascending the throne in 1627 AD, Shah Jahan continued to rule over Kangra. The Katoch royal family was given a minor jagir of **Rajgiri**. They were dissatisfied and continued their struggle to win back Kangra fort. **Raja Hari Chand** carried guerrilla warfare. He was captured and flayed alive in the walls of the fort in 1627 AD by Mughal forces.

Aurangzeb

Aurangzeb became Mughal ruler in 1658 AD. After 20 years of ascending the throne in 1678 AD, Aurangzeb issued an ordinance to demolish the temples of **Chamba**. But **Raja Chatar Singh** strongly refused to obey this order and directed to cover the top of all the temples with gold as a mark of opposition to the Mughal authority. **Raja Chander Bhan** built a fort near Dharamshala in **Nirwanah** and continued his struggles to end Mughal rule from Kangra. Aurangzeb appointed Mughal Nawabs of Kangra fort.

Fall of Mughals and Rebellion of Kings

The downfall of Mughal Empire started with the death of Mughal ruler Aurangzeb in 1707 AD, which affected Himachal Pradesh. Taking advantage of the disorder spreading in the country, Nadir Shah, the ruler of Persia invaded India and captured the Delhi and Punjab regions in 1738-1739 AD. From 1747 AD, Ahmad Shah Abdali and his successors began their invasion in India. This event further weakened the power of Mughal rulers.

In 1758-59 AD, Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durani) appointed **Raja Ghumand Chand** (1751-74) as Governor of Jalandhar and hills between the Sutlej and the Ravi rivers. The Mughal power still existed in Himachal as Kangra fort was still under the territory of the last of the Mughal officers named **Saif Ali Khan**.

When **Sansar Chand**, grandson of Raja Ghumand Chand, ascended the throne of Kangra in 1775 AD, he wanted to capture Kangra fort. To achieve this aim, Sansar Chand sought the help of **Jai Singh Kanheya**, the **Sikh Chieftain**, and the combined forces attacked over the Kangra fort in 1781-82 AD. In 1783 AD, the fort fell into the hands of the Sikhs. This event ended the Muslim rule in the hill states.

Medieval Principalities in Himachal

Medieval period of Himachal Pradesh remained an important period for various principalities (state ruled by princes) of that time. Many independent principalities tried to establish their influence on the other hill states. *Some of these are discussed below:*

Bilaspur (Kahlur)

This state was founded by **Bir Chand** (in 617 AD), the elder son of Harihar Chand who came from Chanderi in Bundelkhand. It was located in the lower Sutlej valley. Before Bir Chand, this region was under the rule of local Chiefs called Ranas and Thakurs. In the plains, he found a town called Naina Devi and declared it as his capital. In this town, he built a temple of Naina Devi. At one end of the hill, he also built a fort called **Kot Kahlur**.

Kangra

This state was established in the ancient period by **Katoch Kshatriya Rajputs** of Chandervanshi lineage. It was the capital of **Trigarta** and known as **Nagarkot**. Later it was known as Kangra principality/state. Kangra was a very important region in the Western Himalayas. Its name was changed many times—**Bhimkot**, **Susharmapura**, **Katoch** and **Nagarkot**. It was also known as **Trigarta** and **Jalandharyan**. There is mention of this place in Rajatarangini, Padam Puran, Hiuen Tsang's travelogue, Ptolemy's references and Alexander Cunningham's 'Ancient Geography of India'.

After the Muslim invasions in the territory of Kangra, several small states became independent, e.g. **Jaswan**, **Guler**, **Siba** and **Datarpur**.

- The state of Jaswan was founded by **Raja Purab Chand**, in 1170 AD as an independent state.
- Guler state was founded by **Hari Chand** in 1405 AD. He built a town and fort of Haripur in Guler and founded Guler state.
- Siba state was founded by **Sibran Chand**, a younger brother of Guler Chief, Hari Chand, in the middle of the 15th century.
- Datarpur state was founded by **Datar Chand** in 1550 AD. He was a descendent of Siba family.

Kutlehr

Raja Jaspal establish Kutlehr state on the border of Kangra and Hoshiarpur in the 10th or 11th century. He set his capital at **Kot Kutlehr**. He was a Brahmin but after gaining power he came to be recognised as Rajput. It is believed that he came from Sambhal, near Moradabad, but his family records reveals that he was a descendant of a Raja of Poona. **Bhajji** and **Koti**, two small states in the Shimla hills were founded by his descendents.

Nurpur

The state of Nurpur was founded by **Tomar Rajput, Jhetpal** of Delhi, who settled in Pathankot in 1095 AD. Therefore, the Chiefs of Nurpur are known as Pathania clan. Nurpur included present tehsil of Kangra along with area of **Shahpur** and **Kandi**. Its capital was **Pathankot (Pratishthana)**. The state was conquered by Sikhs in 1809 and became a part of Lahore kingdom.

Nalagarh (Hindur)

The king of Bilaspur, Kahn Chand's son Ajai Chand invaded the Handu territory, (the Brahmin Thakur of Hindur) and established the Nalagarh state after defeating Handu in about 1100 AD.

Sirmaur

There is not reliable information about the history of Sirmaur. It is believed that the rulers of this state belonged to **Rathore** clan and their capital was **Sirmaur** or Sirmauri Tal. But it is now a district surrounded by extensive ruins in the Kiarda Dun.

During 12th century, a heavy flood occurred in Giri river which destroyed the capital of the ruler of that time, Raja Ugra Chand and his principal officers. Thus, the throne remained vacant. Salvahan-II, who belonged to Jaisalmer clan invited by Sirmaur's Minister Hoshang Rai to succeed the throne. Salvahan-II sent his son Sobha to Sirmaur to occupy the vacant throne. Thus, in 1195 AD Sobha, by holding a title of Shubhansh Prakash became the ruler of Sirmaur state.

Baghal/Bhanghal

This state was founded by a Brahmin around 1200 AD, who after gaining power came to be known as Rajput. His descendants rule the state for twenty generations. After murder of Prithvi Pal, the power of this state declined. Its capital was at **Bir** in Bir Bangahal. Raja Rajendra Pal was the last ruler of Bhanghal.

Suket

The state of Suket was founded by **Bir Sen**, grandson of Bengal ruler, Lakshman Sen. When Bakhtiyar Khilji attacked on Bengal in 1198-99 AD, Lakshman Sen escaped from his capital **Nadia**. At last, he was killed in 1210 AD.

Bir Sen on his expedition, first crossed the Sutlej river and came to Jiuri, then he conquered the neighbour small principalities and founded the state of Suket with his capital at **Pangna** in 1241 AD.

Mandi

It is located on the banks of **Beas river** and was considered a big market place. During 1330 AD, when Sahu Sen was the ruler of Suket, his younger brother, Bahu Sen quarreled with the ruler and went to Manglore in Kullu. His eleven generation lived there until Karan Chand Sen, the then head of the family, was killed during a war with a Kullu raja.

His queen was the daughter of Rana, the Chief of Seokot in Mandi. As Rana had no male heir, he declared his daughter's son, Ban Sen, the Chief of Seokot. Ban Sen built a new residence for himself at **Bhinuli** in **Mandi**. Thus Mandi became an off-shoot of Suket and it formed into a separate state. The 19th descendent of Bahu Sen, namely Ajbar Sen, built a town of Mandi in 1527 AD.

Kullu

The mention of Kullu (Kuluta) is there in ancient historical records. **Vihangmani Pal** founded Pal dynasty in Kullu in 2nd century AD which continued till 1450 AD. After this it was taken over by Ranas and Thakurs the **Singh dynasty** was established in Kullu around 1510 AD by **Sidh Singh** which continued till the Anglo-Sikh War in 18th century. Lahaul and Spiti valleys were also a part of Kullu.

Chamba

Ancient Sangha Kols and Audambars inhabited the Chamba region in 2nd century BC. A prince from Kannauj **Maru** is believed to establish Chamba with its capital at **Brahmapura** in 550 AD. Descendent of Maru, **Aditya Varman** founded **Varman** dynasty in Chamba in 620 AD. From 1641 with **Prithvi Singh** the title of Varman was dropped and its rulers had to accept Mughal rule and paid tributes to them. In 1770 AD, Chamba came under the Sikhs.

Important Books that tell about the Medieval History of Himachal Pradesh

Travellers/Historians	Period	Work
Kalhana	1148-1150 AD	Rajatarangini
Al-Biruni (Abu Rihan)	1017-1030 AD	Taqiq-mal'l-Hind
Al Utbi	1009 AD	Tarikhi-i-Yamini
Ziauddin Barani	1285-1357 AD	Tarikh-i-Firozshahi and Tarikh-i-Firoz Farishta

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1 Which of the following kingdoms belonged to the thakurais?
(a) Keonthal (b) Jubbal
(c) Kunihar (d) All of these
- 2 Which of the following power succeeded in the struggle to acquire the powerful seat at Kannauj in the medieval period?
(a) Rashtrakulas
(b) Palas
(c) Gurjara Pratihara
(d) Cholas
- 3 Shankaravarman was the ruler of which hill state?
(a) Trigarta
(b) Gujara
(c) Kashmir
(d) None of the above
- 4 Which period saw the rise of independent Rajput states in Himachal Pradesh?
(a) Between 7th-10th century
(b) Between 8th-12th century
(c) Between 12th-15th century
(d) Between 15th-16th century
- 5 Who invaded Kangra (Nagarkot) in 1009 AD and plundered temples.
[HAS Pre 2010, 05]
(a) Mahmud Ghaznavi
(b) Mohammad Ghor
(c) Mohammad Alam
(d) Mahmud Begh
- 6 During the time of which Muslim invader, the population of Brahmins and Rajputs started settling in Western Himalayas?
(a) Mohammad Ghor
(b) Muhammad-Bin-Tughlaq
(c) Mahmud Ghaznavi
(d) Timur-i-lang
- 7 In which year the Nagarkot fort was captured by Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq?
(a) 1315 AD
(b) 1332 AD
(c) 1337 AD
(d) 1348 AD
- 8 Which Muslim Sultan displayed great religious tolerance on his expedition and spared the temple of Jawalamukhi from plunder?
(a) Mahmud Ghaznavi
(b) Mohammad Ghor
(c) Mohammad-Bin-Tughlaq
(d) Mohammad Begh
- 9 During the reign of Firoz Shah Tughlaq who was the ruler of Kangra?
(a) Rup Chand (b) Bhanu Chand
(c) Nihal Chand (d) Swarup Chand
- 10 Which Muslim ruler made a treaty with Raja Rup Chand in 1361 AD?
[HAS Pre 2008]
(a) Mahmud Ghaznavi
(b) Mohammad-Bin-Tughlaq
(c) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(d) Mohammad Begh
- 11 Hindu religious books brought from Jawalamukhi temple were translated from Sanskrit to which language?
(a) Arabic (b) Persian
(c) Urdu (d) None of these
- 12 The books which were brought from Jawalamukhi temple were translated in Persian language under the name of
(a) Dalail-i-Firozshahi
(b) Rihala
(c) Sirat-i-Firozshahi
(d) Khalid Firozshahi
- 13 When was Nagarkot (Kangra) attacked by Timur?
[HAS Pre 2009, 07]
(a) 1349 AD (b) 1236 AD
(c) 1398 AD (d) 1409 AD
- 14 In which year Sher Shah Suri captured the Kangra fort?
(a) 1520 AD (b) 1525 AD
(c) 1530 AD (d) 1540 AD
- 15 Whom did Akbar appoint to acquire the Kangra fort in 1573 AD?
(a) Jai Chand (b) Raja Man Singh
(c) Raja Todar Mal (d) Suraj Mal

- 16** Which Muslim ruler constructed a mosque inside the fort of Nagarkot? [HAS Pre 2005]
 (a) Akbar (b) Shah Jahan
 (c) Jahangir (d) Aurangzeb
- 17** In which town did Jahangir construct a mosque inside the fort? [HAS Pre 2007]
 (a) Nagarkot in 1621 AD
 (b) Nurpur in 1620 AD
 (c) Sirmaur in 1623 AD
 (d) Bushahr in 1621 AD
- 18** Which Raja disobeyed the order of Aurangzeb to demolish the temples of Chamba?
 (a) Chatar Singh
 (b) Sansar Chand
 (c) Ghumand Chand
 (d) Jaspal
- 19** Who was appointed as the Governor of Jalandhar by Ahmad Shah Abdali?
 (a) Sansar Chand
 (b) Ghumand Chand
 (c) Jaspal
 (d) Jagat Singh
- 20** Name the Sikh Chieftian who helped the Hindu rulers in winning back the Kangra fort from the Mughals?
 (a) Raja Bikramajit Singh
 (b) Jagat Singh
 (c) Jai Singh Kanheya
 (d) Purab Singh
- 21** Which Hindu king was able to capture back the Kangra fort from the Mughals in 1783 AD?
 (a) Raja Ghumand Chand
 (b) Raja Bir Chand
 (c) Raja Chatar Singh
 (d) Raja Sansar Chand
- 22** Who founded the Bilaspur state in Himachal Pradesh?
 (a) Bir Chand (b) Ajai Chand
 (c) Kahn Chand (d) Jaspal
- 23** The founder of which ancient princely state is basically Chandel Rajput of Bundelkhand? [HPSI 2015]
 (a) Kahlur (b) Kiras
 (c) Bushahr (d) Chamba
- 24** Which was the original capital of Bilaspur state? [HAS Pre 2007]
 (a) Jawalamukhi (b) Naina Devi
 (c) Bushahr (d) Naggar
- 25** Which state was called as Nagarkot in ancient period in Himachal Pradesh?
 (a) Chamba (b) Bilaspur
 (c) Kullu (d) Kangra
- 26** Which among the following is not one of the names of Kangra?
 (a) Bhimkot
 (b) Pathankot
 (c) Jalandharyan
 (d) Susharmapura
- 27** Who founded the state of Jaswan in 1170 AD?
 (a) Hari Chand
 (b) Purab Chand
 (c) Sibran Chand
 (d) Datar Chand
- 28** The founder of Guler state was [HAS Pre 2011]
 (a) Hari Chand (b) Purab Chand
 (c) Datar Chand (d) Sibran Chand
- 29** Datarpur was founded by Datar Chand in the year
 (a) 1307 AD (b) 1408 AD
 (c) 1530 AD (d) 1550 AD
- 30** Who among the following established Kutlehr state in Himachal Pradesh?
 (a) Kahn Chand (b) Jaipal Chand
 (c) Jaspal (d) Bir Chand
- 31** Kot Kutlehr was the capital city of
 (a) Jaipal Singh
 (b) Bir Chand
 (c) Jaspal
 (d) Sansar Chand
- 32** Who established the Nalagarh state in 1100 AD?
 (a) Ajai Chand (b) Jaspal
 (c) Kahn Chand (d) Sansar Chand
- 33** Nurpur state was founded by
 (a) Ajai Chand (b) Jhetpal
 (c) Kahn Chand (d) Jaspal
- 34** Who was the founder of Suket state?
 (a) Ajbar Sen (b) Lakshman Sen
 (c) Amar Sen (d) Bir Sen
- 35** Before Mandi became a separate state in 1527 AD, it was an off shoot of which state?
 (a) Suket (b) Chamba
 (c) Trigarta (d) Brahmapura

36 Consider the following statements

- I. Sirmaur state belonged to Rathore clan.
- II. In 1196 AD Sobha became the ruler of Sirmaur state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) None of the above

37 Consider the following statements

- I. Sangha Kols and Audambars inhabited the Chamba region in 2nd century BC.
- II. In 1770 AD, Chamba came under the Sikhs.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) None of these

38 Match the following

List I (State)	List II (Founder)
A. Bilaspur	1. Katoch Kshatriya Rajputs
B. Kangra	2. Raja Jaspal
C. Kulehr	3. Bir Chand
D. Nurpur	4. Jhetpal

Codes

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | A | B | C | D | | |
| (a) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | (b) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (c) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | (d) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (c) 8. (c) 9. (a) 10. (c)
11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (c) 14. (d) 15. (c) 16. (c) 17. (a) 18. (a) 19. (b) 20. (c)
21. (d) 22. (a) 23. (a) 24. (b) 25. (d) 26. (b) 27. (b) 28. (a) 29. (d) 30. (c)
31. (c) 32. (a) 33. (b) 34. (d) 35. (a) 36. (a) 37. (c) 38. (a)

CHAPTER 3

MODERN HISTORY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The 18th century marks the beginning of modern history of Himachal Pradesh, which was started after the decline of the Mughal Empire (1707). The important powers during this time were the Sikhs, the Gurkhas and the most important was the British power. Thus, this period witnessed several wars.

The weakening of the Mughal rule led to strengthening of the hindu rulers in hill states. Many hindu rulers were influenced by a new sect 'Sikh' that emerged in the Punjab plains. Soon the Sikhs became a powerful group that marked their presence in the hill states.

Sikhs in Hill States

Modern history of Himachal Pradesh shows the growing influence of Sikhs, a community that was founded by **Guru Nanak Dev ji**. The saint visited **Kangra**, **Jwalamukhi**, **Kullu**, **Sirmaur**, **Chamba** and **Lahaul** and **Spiti** around 1514 AD. From here the alliance between hill states and Sikh gurus was formed.

The alliance increased further when the fifth **Guru Arjan Dev** (1563-1595) wanted funds for the completion of Harmandir Sahib at Amritsar. Kings of hill states of Mandi, Kullu, Suket, Chamba and Haripur came forward to help him. **Guru Hargovind** (1595-1645), established the town of **Kiratpur** between the foothills of Himalayas and Sutlej. The land was gifted to him by Raja of Kahlur. In turn the guru helped **Raja Tara Chand** to defeat Nawab of Ropar in 1642.

Guru Teg Bahadur established the Sikh town of **Anandpur** from the region of Kahlur (present day Bilaspur). Tenth Guru, **Gobind Singh** (1666-1708) fought the **Battle of Bhangani** (1686 AD) and won against the combined forces of Raja Bhim Chand of Kehlur, Raja Harichand of Hindur (Nalagarh) and Fateshah of Gharwal. This led to a strong friendship between the Sikhs and the hill states of **Mandi** and **Kullu** which later fought with the Mughals unitedly.

Sikh Misls

Misls were small bands or groups of Sikhs who tried to capture the hill states. **Jassa Singh Ramgarhia** controlled the hill states of Kangra, Nurpur and Chamba. Jai Singh got hold of Kangra fort in 1783 however surrendered it to Maharaja Sansar Chand in 1786. **Amar Singh** controlled Haripur, Jaswan and part of Chamba. However **Ranjit Singh** dominated all the misls and established a strong Sikh empire from 1801-1832 AD in the hill states of Chamba, Nurpur, Kotla, Shahpur, Mankot, Jaswan, Guler, Kehlur, Mandi, Suket and Kullu. He signed a **Treaty of Jwalamukhi** in 1809 with Sansar Chand.

Gorkhas in Hill States

In between the empires of Sansar Chand (Kangra) and Ranjit Singh (Punjab plains), there emerged a strong **Gorkha state** in the **Central Himalayas of Nepal** and Kumaon, headed by **Prithvi Narayan Shah** (1769). Gorkhas conquered Eastern Himalayas upto Sikkim by 1788. Amar Singh Thapa conquered **Garhwal, Sirmour** and **Shimla** by 1804. He was invited by kings of Kehlur, Chamba and Mandi to annex the **Kangra Fort** from Sansar Chand.

But Maharaja Ranjit Singh's support to Sansar Chand forced Amar Singh Thapa to retreat to **Arki**. After retreating from Kangra in 1809, he then made **Arki** as his capital and conquered **Nalagarh** (1810), **Rampur** (1813) and the entire territory lying between Yamuna and Sutlej rivers. Gorkhas built a magnificent hill fort at **Subathu** (near Shimla).

Important Hill Chiefs

Some important rulers made a deep impact in modern history of Himachal Pradesh.

Ghumand Chand

He was the first who occupied his ancestral area of Kangra. In 1758-59 AD, Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durani) appointed Raja Ghumand Chand (1751-74) as Governor of **Jalandhar**. The hilly regions between the Sutlej and the Ravi rivers also came under his territory. Ghumand Chand expanded his territory throughout the hill states from **Chamba to Sirmour**. He founded the town of **Sujanpur**, which became the seat of Katoch power at the meeting point of Neugal and Beas river.

Sansar Chand

In 1774, the grandson of Raja Ghumand Chand, Sansar Chand ascended the throne of **Kangra**. The Katoch dynasty ruled Kangra but had to pay rich tributes to Mughals. Kangra fort also belonged to Mughals at that time. Raja Sansar Chand wanted to capture Nagarkot fort (Kangra fort) which was still under the patronage of Mughal under Nawab Saif Ali Khan.

Therefore he sought the help of **Jai Kanheya**, the Sikh chieftain. In 1781-82 AD the combined force attacked over the fort and captured it in **1783 AD**. This event ended the Muslim rule in the Kangra after 163 years. Raja Sansar Chand then expanded his territory. The states of **Chamba, Suket, Mandi, Bilaspur, Guler, Jaswan, Datarpur** came under his control. Sansar Chand was also a great art lover. Under his patronage, the famous School of **Kangra Miniature Paintings** flourished.

Till 1804 AD he acquired Kumaun, Garhwal, Sirmaur and the other small hill states which were known as **Shimla hills states** from Ganga to the Sutlej rivers. Raja Sansar Chand merged many small states into the Kangra state due to which the rulers of Kahlur, Mandi, Chamba invited Amar Singh Thapa (Gorkha Chief) to counter Raja Sansar Chand.

Amar Singh Thapa attacked Kangra in 1805 and defeated Sansar Chand at Mahal Morian, then at Nadaun and finally at Sujanpur-Tira in 1806. Consequently Sansar Chand made a **Treaty of Jwalamukhi in 1809** with the Lahore ruler, Raja Ranjit Singh to save his reign from the attack of Gorkhas. In August 1809, **Ranjit Singh's** army attacked the Gorkhas and defeated them. The Sikh ruler **Desa Singh Majithia** was appointed as Kiladar of the Kangra fort and the Governor of the hill states and treated Raja Sansar Chand with honour. After the death of Raja Sansar Chand in 1823 AD, his son Anirudh Chand succeeded his throne.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh

After the death of Maha Singh Sukerchakia (the chief of Sukerchakia Misl), Ranjit Singh became the chief of **Sukerchakia Misl** and got the reign of **Lahore in 1798**. Maharaja Ranjit Singh himself arrived at Batala and occupied **Nurpur** and **Naushera**. In 1811 AD, he acquired the **Kotla Fort**. Then he annexed the states of the Raja of Haripur (Guler) in 1813 AD. In 1818 AD, after the death of the ruler of Datarpur, his son was forced to surrender the state to Raja Ranjit Singh and accept a Jagir in Hoshiarpur. Kullu was the last among all Kangra states to lose its freedom to a Sikh ruler.

British Intervention in the Hill States

British intervention in the hill states started after 1813 AD, when Gorkhas were desirous to extend their territory by occupying certain villages in the plains of Sirhind. They gave the reason to do so that they belonged to Sirmaur and Hindur which were conquered by them. On this action of Gorkhas the British agent, **David Ochterlony** declared that all territories below the foot-hills, whether previously attached to the hills or not, were now under the rule of the **East India Company**.

Besides, the British agent urged to restore the Dehra and Kiarda Dun, lying in the first range of the foothills, to the Garhwal and Sirmaur royal families. Another frontier crisis happened between the British and the Gorkhas in the middle of 1813 AD in which the Gorkhas seized six villages.

Trading Interest of the British in Hill States

With the expansion of the Gorkhas to the West, all the passes in the Himalayas along with Tibet came under their direct control. The reason of interest of the British East India Company in the Himalayas trade was that the valley of river Sutlej in the Western Himalayas provided a broad natural Highway which directly linked the Punjab with the Plateau of Western Tibet.

Tibet was a rich source of borax and musk which was a potential source of trade. Thus, the British Himalayan policy of 1814 was formulated which was based on three types of needs. *These were:*

- i. For local border problems.
- ii. For basic economic and strategic issues.
- iii. Hill areas and fertile lands of Terai were ideal for recreation and cultivation.

British and Anglo-Gorkha War

Due to continuous raids and invasions in the British territories in the South, the British had been constantly professing against the Gorkhas. On **1st November, 1814**, this event resulted into the **Anglo-Gorkha War**. The hill chiefs encouraged to get rid of their oppressors i.e. the Gorkhas. They offered their help to the British against the Gorkhas, in lieu of guarantee of safety from the British and regaining their power in the hill states.

In the **Battle of Nalapani** (1814), British troops captured Dehradun, Kiarda dun, Kalanga fort, Ramgarh fort and Nalagarh. They controlled the hill states in the foothills of Himachal. British defeated Bal Bhadra Thapa and captured Kalanga fort (Nalapani).

In 1815, British troops under **James Baillie Fraser** marched towards Chopal, one of the centre of Jubbal and defeated the Gorkhas. Then the troops marched towards **Rawingarh** fort opposite to Hatkoti in Jubbal and captured it. From here, the two chiefmen of Jubbal, Dangi Wazir and Primoo joined the troops.

Treaty of Sugauli (1815 AD)

The Anglo-Gorkha War came to an end by the treaty of Sugauli. According to this treaty, the Gorkhas were allowed to return to Nepal by leaving all the captured hilly states from **Kali to Sutlej** in the hands of the British Government. In return, British assured them of reinstatement after war.

Later, hill chiefs were granted **20 sanads** (deed) and the area came under the British protection. Under sanads, the hill chiefs were put under certain obligations like to allow free passage to the British merchants, to furnish a certain number of begar (bonded labour) labourers and also had to construct twelve feet wide roads in their territories. Their territory was restricted from Satluj to Teesta river.