

Revisiting to Gorkha Invasion In Uttarakhand: Causes and Consequences (1790 A.D.–1816 A.D.)

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Abstract:

Bharat – Nepal immemorial and dateless association nurtures in the lap of antique culture, tradition and religion cultivating a past of ancient treasures. It was the age of 18th century which witnessed the anarchical regime of the Gorkha rule on the soil of Uttarakhand. The paradise of Central Himalayas bellowed in the tyranny of the Gorkha dynasty which was put to an end by the historical Treaty of Sigauli in 1816 A.D. The present age of the 21st history reflects the significant diplomatic relation between Bharat and Nepal based on the engine of trade and commerce running on the wheels of shared culture and tradition forming a portion of history for the future readers.

Keywords: Gorkha, invasion, culture, economy and shared history.

Objectives: The objectives to be achieved by the means of this research paper is wrapped in two folds :

1. To uncover the anarchical age of the Gorkha age in the history of Uttarakhand and how it wounded every aspect of our motherland.
2. To bring into daylight how the British regime drove the Gorkha out of the Central Himalayas and acted as a modernizer in Uttarakhand.



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In the land of Himalayas lies the sanctity of the cosmos with the snow capped mountains embellished with the trail of gleaming peaks. The summit witnessing and the pleasant breeze elucidating the path to encounter the sanctitude held in the land of Uttarakhand which the world has placed on the pedestal as DEVBHOOMI. The valley is the center stage of Gods and Goddesses which are not just worshipped in the shrines of the Himalayas but are also preserved in the traditions as well as culture of the God – fearing inhabitants of Uttarakhand.

The realm is the mother of the Vedic rivers such as the Ganges and the Yamuna owing their genesis to glaciers such as Gangotri and Yamnotri respectively. Traditions and Culture are embodied in every constitute of Devbhoomi and idolized in the form of the prominent *CHAR DHAAM YATRA* worshipping Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Holy river Ganga and Yamuna in the treasures of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamnotri collectively. The valley worships the sacredness of the Ganges water in the form of the Kumbh Mela acting as a *GATEWAY TO GOD* for millions of pilgrims in the vicinity of Haridwar.

Uttara denoting north and *Khand* signifying land when come together forms Uttarakhand which means *Northern land*. Although, the chronicles of the past dictates the existence of the state dated back to the ages of the Skanda Puarana. The ancient age illustrates the region as Kedarkhand for Garhwal and Manaskhand for Kumaun in the physiography of the Bharat. Later in the age of the 20th Century the region was officially designated as Uttaranchal which was finally renamed as Uttarakhand in 2006 by the Union Cabinet of India and signed into law by then President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam with effect from January 1, 2007.

On 9th November, 2000 Uttarakhand was carved out from Uttar Pradesh owing to its natural environment as the 27th state of the Republic of India with two divisions, Garhwal and Kumaun encompassing the 13 districts namely Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Udham Singh Nagar in the Kumaun Division and Dehradun, Haridwar, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Pauri Garhwal, Rudraprayag in the Garhwal Division. The state is bordered with Tibet in the north, Sundarpaschim Pradesh of Nepal in the east, Uttar Pradesh in its south, Himanchal Pradesh in west and north-west and Haryana in its south – west

The annals of the past believed that Nepal in ancient age was a lake with no outlet. In Tretayuga Manjushree visited Nepal from China on a pilgrimage to seek blessings of Swayambhu. On this pilgrimage he cut the rock in such manner that the lake in which Nepal was immersed came into existence by the creation of an outlet. Later in the age Gunakama Deva founded the city of Kathmandu in 723 A.D. Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the 93rd largest country of the world lying between the latitudes 26°N and 31°N and longitudes 80° E and 89 °E is bordered by Tibet (China) in the North and India in the South, East and West with Kathmandu as its capital. In the annals of world diplomacy Nepal was the only Hindu nation on the globe which on 28th May, 2008 became secular state.

Nepal which is a landlocked nation located in the paradise of the Himalayas occupies a trapezoidal area of 147,181sq km being 800 kilometers in length and 200 kilometers in breadth. The land holds its sanctity in Lumbini which is the birth place of Lord Buddha and divinity by the breath holding

landscape from the Sagarmatha or Mt. Everest which is the highest mountain in the Himalayan range with an elevation of 8848.89 meters above the sea level. It lies in the intermediate of the Eurasian and the Indian plate with its southern portion in the Indo – Gangetic basin and areas of the North-Western region bordering the Tibetan plateau.

Nepal is a striking combination when its physiography is brought under the lens of observation. Interestingly, the physiography of Nepal is labeled as HIMAL – PAHAD – TERA I of South Asia. The Himal is crowned with world’s largest mountains peaks beyond Sagarmatha such as Lhtose, Makalu, Cho Oyu, Dhualagiri, Annapurna etc occupying a total area of 15% of Nepal. Then arises the Mahabharta Range of Nepal called as the Pahad occupying a total area of 68% being a home to tribes such as Newar, Magar, Kham Magar, Gurung, Limbu, Rai. The valleys of Kathmandu and Pokhra lie in the region of Nepal. The Terai which borders with India is formed by the basin of Kosi, Narayani and Karnali with outer Terai called as Bhabar and inner Terai as Bhitri Tarai Upatyaka holding 17% of Nepal.

Nepal is cherished by the presence of rivers such as Kosi, Gandaki / Narayani, Karnali / Ghagra and Sharda / Mahakali from east to west being the crux of the country. The Kosi along with its tributaries such as Indrawati, Sun Koshi, Dudh Kosi, Liku , Arun Kosi and Tamor has its basin in the eastern region of Nepal. The Gandaki drains the center of the country and Karnali in the West. The Mahakali running through the borders of India and Nepal joins Karnali in India and is then called as Ghaghar.

Nepal experience seasons of summer, winter, autumn, monsoon and spring having an annual rainfall of 250cm in eastern Nepal and 100cm in Western Nepal. The Terai experiences temperature of 44° C in summer and 5 °C in winters while the hilly region experiences 41° C – 30° C in summers and 0 C and below in winters. Nepal is home to world’s 2% of flower species, 8.9% of bird species and 4% of mammals along with 500 species of butterflies and 600 indigenous plant species. Nepal is celebrated by its ethnic diversity with more than 130 ethnic groups such as Chhetri, Bahun, Magar, Tharu, Newar , Muslims , Yadavs with Chetri being the highest holding 16.6 % of the total ethnic groups. Moreover, it is the hub of dialects having 123 different languages with Nepali being its official language.

THE TYRANNY OF THE GORKHA REGIME RISE OF GORKHAS IN NEPAL

The annals of the 18th century are a testimony of an age referred to as the reign of terror in the Central Himalayas. The Gorkha of Nepal which was once a small principality among the 24 principalities termed as “CHAOBISIS” similar to Baonigarh of Garhwal. The Gurkha soon challenged and squashed its contemporaries and became the master of most of the territories of the Nepal region.

Narbhupal Shah and Prithvi Narayan envisioned the supreme regime that Gorkha enjoyed later in the history. The era of 1743 A.D. – 1775 AD witnessed the subjection of the contemporary principalities in Nepal. Later, Simha Pratap Shah who died early in 1778 AD led the control. His son Rann Bahadur Shah was a minor due to which his mother Rani Rajendra Lakshmi acted as the regent to the empire. Later, after her death his uncle Bahadur Shah, brother of Simha Pratap Shah led the empire as his representative to the throne. His regime took the Gorkha empire to its zenith and conquered the areas of

Kashka, Parbat, Prisingh, Satun, Isniya, Maskot, Darkot, Urga, Gutima, Jumla, Raghan, Darma, Juhar, Pyuthana, Dhani, Jaserkot, Chili, Golam, Acham, Dhulek, Dulu and Doti.

GORKHAS IN UTTARAKHAND BATTLE AGAINST CHAND

In 1790 AD Rann Bahadur Shah became the king and strengthened the army marking Uttarakhand as their next territory. **Bahadur Shah, Jagjeet Pande, Amar Singh and Surveer Thapa** all collectively raided into the territories of the Chanda ruler by a strategy devised at Doti. **Chanda Raja Mahendra Singh** along with his army faced the alliance led by Amar Singh Thapa at Gangoli. Although, he was defeated by Amar Singh Thapa at Gatera situated near Katolgarh. On the other hand, Lal Singh fled to Rudrapur to save his life. Both Raja Mahendra Chanda and his father Lal Singh failed to offer any resistance. This gave them an open access to the region of Almora with Harsh Dev Joshi acting their host receiving them with open arms.

BATTLE AGAINST PAWAR

In 1791 AD the Gorkha after defeating the Chanda planned the same strategy against the **Pawar dynasty** with Kotdwara as the gateway to this raid. Langurgarh which is situated in the Salan pargana and north of chandi became the location of the battle ground. The Pawar were initially successful in not letting the Gorkha raid further into the territory. However, when China attacked Nepal the Gorkha made furious attacks on the opponent and made them sign a treaty as a peace pact.

The Pawar ruler Pradyuman Shah entered into the treaty in 1792 AD and accepted the following conditions :

- Accept the supremacy of the Gorkha.
- To ensure that all the conditions stated are followed a Gorkha officer would be appointed in the Pawar administration at their expense only. This was similar to the subsidiary alliance of the British rule.
- An annual tribute of Rs. 3000 which was later raised to Rs. 9000 was to be paid as an annual tribute to the Gorkha.

Apart from the treaty the oppression of the Gorkha rule saw its peak with open trade of locals ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs.150 near Har ki Pauri each. As soon as the struggle with China ended the Gorkha raided back into the territories of the Pawar dynasty without considering the treaty signed in the past. In 1803 the Pawar dynasty under Pradyuman Shah was no longer in a state to offer resistance to the Gorkha army.

In 1803 A.D. the Pawar dynasty had to face a massive attack from the Gorkha regime led by Amar Singh Thapa, Hastidal Chauntariya, Bam Sah Chauntariya with a force of 8,000 to 10,000 soldiers with Lobha set in Chamoli district as the starting point. Pradyuman Shah at this point along with his family fled to Dehradun in order to save his life. Later, Dehradun also came under the control of the Gorkha in October, 1803 A.D. With no option left with Pradyuman Shah he requested the Gujjar ruler of Landhaura (Saharanpur) to offer him an army of 12,000 in exchange of cash and jewels worth Rs. 1,50,000 and plate of Badrinath equivalent to Rs. 50,000.

In January 1804 A.D. Pradyuman Shah with his army entered the region of Dehradun and faced the enemy in Khurbura. He could have changed the fate of Devbhoomi with his attack but destiny had other plans when he got shot by a musket fire and died immediately.

The Battle of Khurbura on 14th May, 1804 AD was the point in the history when the Gorkha army became successful in defeating the Pawar dynasty by crushing them completely. Later, his son Sudarshan Shah who was minor lived in Jwalapur under the British protection and was later crowned as the ruler of Tehri state.

Two poles of the ruling regime in Uttarakhand that was the Chanda and the Pawar both were demolished by the despotic Gorkha army. This added a chapter of a dynasty which was characterized as autocratic and despotic in actions for the next 25 years in the history of Uttarakhand.

WHY KUMAON ?

First and foremost it gave an access to Tibet and Western China which was well suited for trade and communication. Also, its strategic location gave easy access to the Ganga Plain

Uttarakhand lies in tough topography and physiography yet two reigning powers of the past led battles for our land. In history often conquering a territory involved monetary monopoly of the conqueror among its contenders wrapped in the envelope of gains embellished in the form of riches in the form of trade. Hence, a similar fate was inscribed in the mighty Himalayas of our motherland. The pathway of a surplus trade with Tibet primarily with Gartok which is its commercial capital during the period between May and October went via Uttarakhand and its passes hence, annexing the territory by the Gurkhas clearly highlight the prime reason for unfurling their flags on our land.

GORKHA REGIME IN KUMAUN AND GARHWAL

Jog Malla was appointed as the officer – in – charge after the inception of the Gorkha rule in Kumaun. He was the first to synthesis the land settlement mechanism in the Kumaun based on aggressive extraction of revenue from the inhabitants. **For instance, a charge of Re. 1 for every bisi on the cultivable category of land.** Later, the epitome of tyranny was experienced in the age of Kazi Nar Shahi and his infamous Mangal ki rat or Nar Sahi ka pala episode in the annals of Gorkha regime. His suspicion on the soldiers serving in the Gorkha army and settled in the regions of Pali, Sor and Barahmandal led to tragic killings on mere suspicion of sedition.

Eventually on the Tuesday night his orders led to the cold blooded killings of the all soldiers he considered disloyal to the empire. Later, he was called back by the empire seated in Nepal and deputed Ajab Singh Khwas Thapa as the officer – in – charge of Kumaun and later in the hands of Ritudhwaja Thapa. **Finally, Bam Shah or Bhim Shah was appointed as the governor of Kumaun till 1816 A.D. and was the last governor of Kumaun.** The civil administration of the Garhwal was in the hands of Amar Singh Thapa. Later, in the hands of Ranjor Singh Thapa and finally it was Hastidal Shah Chauntariya who took the command.

AFTERMATH OF THE GURKHA REGIME IN DUN BELT

The peasants left their respective land holdings in the area of Dun because of two factors. Firstly, the oppressive Gurkha regime & secondly, the plundering activities conducted by the inhabitants of Punjab

and Sahranpur. In the time of need Mahant Har Sevak of Guru Ram Rai Durbar initiated the rescue and rehabilitation mission of the peasants who desereted their lands. His power was appreciated by the British regime and also continued the same patronage as the mahant was offered by Fateh Shah and Pradeep Shah. Though all the efforts of the mahant in settling the peasants back to their lands and resume agriculture showed little success.

It was the stringent warning followed by actions of the Hastidal who were clear that if any further plundering activity was conducted by the plunderers of Punjab and Sahranpur their respective village would not be spared. As they said they followed. The villages of the plunderers were set on fire. No man, women and children were offered mercy. **Only beauty of charming women was spared and taken as slave.**

FALL OF THE TYRANNY : GORKHA V/S BRITISH PHASE I

GURKHA EMPIRE : In 1814 A.D. to 1815 A.D. the Gurkha empire accounted control over the entire Himalayan region and Terai area sandwiched between Darjeeling and Shimla.

BRITISH REGIME : Till 23rd April 1774 the foothills of Kumaon Himalyas were under the contril of Hafiz Rahmat Khan forming a part of Rohilkhand. It was by the vicious strategy of Warren Hasting who transferred this area to Shuja – ud – Duala, Ruler of Oudh via Treaty of Benaras. Later, all the paraganas of Terai and Kashipur region became a part of Braeilly and later Moradabad district as it was transferred from Oudh to East India Company in 1801 A.D.

Meanwhile, the Gurkha had renounced their claim of control on the Terai region in 1795 A.D. in the favour of Nawab of Oudh on the condition of acceptance of Gurkha sovereignty over the Kumaon. When the transfer was made between the Nawab of Oudh and East India Company in 1801 A.D. the British nevere paid heed to their activities on any serious level.

PHASE II

The Butwal pargana of Gorakhpur district became the origin of contention between the Gurkha and the British in 1804 A.D. when the Gurkha occupied it. After diplomatic talks which did not turn fruitful the British occupied the region by force in April 1804 A.D. and lost it gain to the Gurkha in May, 1804 A.D. Hence, this act became the point challenging the authority of the Britihs regime whose reputation was on stake in the land of Himalayas.

PHASE III : 24th October, 1814 A.D.

Major General Ochterlony with a force of 6000 attacked the region between the Jmauna and Sutlej. **Major General Gillespie** with 3513 soldiers attacked Dehradun. **Major General J.S. Wood** attacked the Gorakhpur fort with a force 4000. **Major General Marley** invaded Kathmandu, the Nepali capital with a force of 8000. In total a force of 20,000 was ordered to attack the Gurkha from all the four fronts of the Gurkha empire. Without a doubt the British outnumbered the Gurkha forces but their valor was undefeatable.

S.NO	DESIGNATED OFFICER	ATTACKED AREA
1.	Major General Ochterlony	Area between Jamuna and

		Sutlej
2.	Major General Gillespie	Dehradun
3.	General J.S. Wood	Gorakhpur fort
4.	Major General Marley	Kathmandu,

NOTE : The rise of the Gurkha Rifles was on the ashes of the survivors of the Gurkha troops when the Malaun fort was captured by Major General Ochterlony. The first Gurkha Btallion of the British Regime and still popularly lauded as the Malaun Rifles. The guns used by them namely Malaun guns are installed in the Military Training Centre at Sabathu (Shimla Hills) on 30th August, 1996.

In the battleground set in Dehradun the Colonial powers choked water supply for the Gurkha leading to deaths of women, children and men dying. On 19th October, 1814 A.D. Major General Gillespie led an army of 3513 men alongwith **Lieutenant Colonel Mawby and Colonel Carpenter** in two different factions and both met on 24th October, 1814 A.D. in Dehradun following two different routes. On one hand, the Colonial power was all set with two twelve pounder , eight six – pounder guns and four howitzers along with regular armours while the Gurkha adorned the do or die slogan in their spirits along with stones, arrows, swords, gun and a few jenjagels.

The Gurkha set their military camp in the jungles of Sal near Nalapani where they fortifications were improved called as KHALANGA , hence this war was also called as Operation Kalanaga. The Gurkha had a force of 600 which included men, women and children and belonged to the Purana Gurkh regiment of the Maagar community. The command of the Gurkha power here was under Balbadhra Singh Thapa ,nephew of Amar Singh Thapa.

On 31st October 1814 A.D. Major General Gillespie attacked the fort Kalanga. As per his plan four assaults were to be executed simultaneously. However, it failed miserably and later died in the battlefield of Kalanga. The third attack on the Kalanga was executed on 27th November 1814 A.D. under Major W. Ingleby and lost the battle again to the Gurkha.

Battles were not favoring the British and hence they had no other option but to show the world the heights to what ones moral compass can fall. They choked the water supply for the Gurkha. They survived for three days and on 30th November 1814 A.D. Balbadhra Singh Thapa along with 75 men to escape to Jauntgarh and later joined the Gurkha army at Jaitak / Jamata which is located in the north of Nahan town. After the defeat at Jaitak fort he joined the army of Ranjeet Singh and died in the battleground against the Afghans. Finally the Dun was occupied by the British and to commemorate the was two statues namely of Balbadhra Singh Thapa and Major General Gillespie were erected. Later, Major General J.S. Wood occupied Gorakhpur which was under the Gurkha control since 1804 A.D.

PHASE IV :

The invasion of Kathmandu was executed under **Major General Marley** with a force of 8000 but lost the battle against the Gurkha even after being greater in strength. Unlike this time the General showed his back and executed an act of cowardice as the left the battleground on 10th February 1815 A.D.

Gurkha proved to be the master of the battle each time even after being less in strength as well as resources. Hence, Uttaranchal was out of sight at this point for the British. **Therefore, to re-strategize the defeat Warren Hastings came in the picture.**

E. Gardener, a civilian officer was deployed to find means to have communications with Bam Shah Chauntariya, Gurkha Governor of Kumaon, and Hastidal to occupy Kumaon off the battlefield. Harsh Dev Joshi acted their means of access to occupation of Kumaon when he had a meeting with E. Gardener at Kashipur.

PHASE V :

On 11th February 1815 A.D. the Kumaon region was attacked by **Lieutenant Colonel William Linnaeus Gardener** along with E. Gardener which proved to be an easy access as all the Gurkha troops were focused on the western front. As the Gurkha was made aware of the attack defences were advanced at Asmot, Dhikuli, Kotah Garhi and Tanguraghat. Although, failed to offer resistance and every post was acquired by the British. **Not to forget, the credit of this success can be lauded partly to Harsh Dev Joshi, the TRAITOR.** He used the locals as spy against the Gurkha and kept the British well informed about their each strategic move. It was the act of Harsh Dev Joshi who created a feeling of hatred against the Gurkha and goodwill of the British. In this whole period the Mahara community were on Harsh Dev Joshi's side while the Phartiyal opposed him.

ON THE PATHWAY TO OCCUPY KUMAON

The temple of Katarmal became the testimony of the final blows to the war waged between Gurkha and Colonial regime. The Ruhela troops under W.L. Gardner attacked the Gurkha post at Katarmal on 27th March 1815 A.D. with indiscriminate shellings which the walls of the temple in the Bara Aditya complex were the living examples. Meanwhile Captain Hearsay with 1500 men was on the route suggested by the traitor Harsh Dev Joshi.

The Phartiyals who were in opposition to Harsh Dev Joshi helped Hastidal in securing Kumaon from Doti and Acham. He very strategically changed his course which confused Hearsay and when they finally faced each other at Khilapati (north – east of Champawat) on 31st March 1815 A.D. latter was less in number as he had no option but to divide his 1500 men in different units in different positions.

Khilapati proved a defeat for Hearsay and was taken as a prisoner of war. Although, Bam Sah ensured that he was treated with respect, dignity and safety while being in custody. Meanwhile the post at Katarmal was secured by the British on 8th April 1815 A.D. with the support of further 2025 soldiers under Colonel Nicholas.

Bam Sah wanted the negotiations on the table while the British were adamant on a military attack. He had no other option but to keep the only passage secure that was norther passage connecting Nepal and Almora after the fall of Almora. The Gananath range , the last hope for the Gurkha was also lost when Hatidal was shot on 23rd April 1815 A.D. and finally on 25th April 1815 A.D. all the defenses of Gurkha was crushed completely by Nicholas. Bam Sah wanted peace and surrendered Kumaon to British on the condition of safety passage.

TREATY OF SIGAULI

Bam Sah, Chamu Bhandari and Jasmadan Thapa on one side and E. Gardener on the other met at Almora on 27th April 1815 A.D. set up convention named as ROLL BLACK plan which provided release of Hearsay. On 15th April 1815 A.D. Amar Singh Thapa surrendered the region between Satluj and Jamuna to General Ochterlony on 15th April 1815 A.D.

The British wanted to eliminate the Thapa influence therefore resorted to their old technique of divide and rule. They chose Bam Sah as their puppet and were ready to accept his position even if he claim any territory. This was done to create a rift between the Gurkha regime. This was done so that their access to Tibet and Central Asia remains uninterrupted from any Nepal government.

Later, TERAI became the area of conflict as this area was economically viable. British wanted this area in order to make the Nepal government dependent on the British. Chauntariya and Thapa both came together as they both wanted hold on the region of TERAI. Hence, this led to take some time off. Bam Sah was replaced by GURU GAJRAJ MISR by the Nepal Government.]

On 2nd December 1815 A.D. peace treaty of Sigauli was signed between Lieutenant Colonel Paris Bradshaw representing the interests of East India Company and Guru Gajraj Misr on the behalf of Jodh Vikram Shah Bahadur Shamsheer Jung of Nepal kingdom. This treaty was to be ratified within 15 days and Terai came under the control of British and a small area lying with the Nepal kingdom. The claim on Terai led armies face each other once again and treaty was left ungratified. Finally, Major General Ochterlony led into 32 kilometers of the Nepal Government on 28th February 1816 A.D.

The annals of Central Himalayas hence witnessed the a new era of rule under the Colonial power marked with **the Treaty of Sigauli signed on 4th March 1816 A.D.** with conditions stated below :

1. The treaty began with a peace pact to be endorsed between the King of Nepal and the British power.
2. The Royal Court of Nepal to accept the sovereignty of the British regime.
3. Acceptance of all the terms signed on 2nd December, 1815 at Sigauli with Gajraj Mishra.
 - The hilly region beyond the river Kali and Terai region was to be transferred to the British administration
4. Transfer of Tinkar and Changru to Nepal.
5. The following tracts of land were to be transferred under the control of British rule :
 - Low lands between region of River Kali and Rapti.
 - Low land between the region of River Rapti and Gandak except the area of Butwal.
 - Area encompassing between river Mechi and Teesta river.
 - The hilly region lying to the east of Mechi river.
6. All the conditions stated in Point (3) were to be followed within 40 days from commencement of the treaty.
7. All the aggrieved parties from the Point (3) were favoured to pay an annual pension of Rs. 2 lakhs as per the list generated by the Royal court of Nepal.
8. The King of Nepal and all his future successors will refrain in any action or conspiracy to claim their control in the region lying west to the River Kali.
9. To ensure successful continuation of the treaty Ministers from both sides were to act as ambassador to the courts of the Nepal and British rule.
10. Acceptance of recruitment of Gorkhas in the British army.

Therefore, all the stated conditions of the Treaty of Sigauli were to be brought in power within 15 days and to be reported to Lt. Col. Bradshaw who will finally report all the details of transferring of power to Governor – General with 20 days or sooner. All these condition came into existence under the surveillance E. Gardener who was the Kumaon Commissioner and also the first British resident in the court of Nepal.

LIST OF THE LEADERS INVOLVED WHEN GURKHA RAIDED IN CENTRAL HIMALAYAS

CHANDA	PAWAR	GORKHA
Raja Mahendra Chanda	PRADYUMAN SAH	Bahadur Shah
Lal Singh		Jagjeet Pande Amar Singh
		Surveer Thapa
		Amar Singh
		Bam Shah

LIST OF BRITISH OFFICERS WHO RAIDED THE GURKHAS OUT OF THE CENTRAL HIMALAYAS

Major General Ochterlony
Major General Gillespie
Major General Marley
General J.S. Wood
Lieutenant Colonel Mawby
Colonel Carpenter
Major W. Ingleby
Lieutenant Colonel William Linnaeus Gardener
Captain Hearsay
E. Gardener
Warren Hastings
Lieutenant Colonel Paris Bradshaw

GORKHA IN THE PAST AND THEIR SOCIETY

According to the varna system they held the Kshatriya varna hailing from the region of Rajasthan. Hence, their ancestors were the part of the **Rajput community**. **During the 1303 A.D. invasion of Chittor by the mad king Ala-ud-din Khilji of the Delhi Sultanate they had to migrate to the region of Nepal**. Then under the title of Shah they continued their ruling regime in Nepal. Even though having their origin from Bharata they still made the inhabitants of the Kumaun feel inferior and hated them as well. The Brahamana who held a prestigious position in the society were considered as traitor in the rule book of the Gorkha land. All these contributed to migration of officers such as thokedar, pradhan along with the subjects to neighbouring regions. To ensure their authority the subjects were brutally treated as slaves and forced laborers burdened with heavy taxation system.

THE GORKHA AND ADMINISTRATION

Military influence dominated the administrative under the Gorkha administrative set – up. *The king also referred to as Adhipati resided in Nepal and his military commanders such as Suba and Naib Suba managed the administration in Central Himalayas under his banner.* All the officers were transferred on annual basis. The whole territory under the Gorkha was divided into Faujdar and Pargana. The administration was completely in the hands of the military officers vested with decision making powers on political, judicial and economic fronts. **Their whole administrative foundation was set up on their own convenience rather taking inspiration from the Chanda regime.** Nevertheless, the ruling era will always be recorded as a despotic age under the reign of the Gorkha tyranny.

THE GORKHA AND JUSTICE

As stated earlier, the military officers were vested with decision making powers on judicial level with the help of military commanders such as Suba and Naib Suba. Courts which were formed under the Gorkha were their own concept and not inspired from the preceding dynasty. They were headed by the officer called **VICHARI**. A fee was charged for every hearing. Both involved parties were present in the court room with other officers called as **SABHA**. **HARIVANSH** a part of epic Mahabharata was sworn on before giving a statement. Interestingly, when eye witness and evidence failed to support the case **DIVYA** which were different testing criteria were carried out such as :

GOLA DEEP : Hot iron rod was to be carried to a certain distance by the suspicious person.

KADHAI DEEP : One hand was immersed into boiling oil to test the statement made by the individual.

TARAJU KA DEEP : in this the weight of the accused person was measured at dawn. The next morning the weight was rechecked. If the individual weighed more than the previous night he was considered guilty.

THE GORKHA JUDGEMENT

The Gorkha made stringent rules and if they were not followed deadly punishments were pronounced. Death penalty was issued for a traitor. The Gorkha did not consider caste as a ruling factor in deciding the punishment of an offender. For example, if a Brahmana commits a crime such as murder he was expelled out of the region. In other cases his land was confiscated along with a fine. In case of theft a brahmana was severely punished by removing his dvija (the sacred thread). Adultery was a serious offence. **An instance from past stated that once the Mahanta of Ram Rai Sahib Darbar ji was accused of murder. He was put under the KADHAI DEEP judgement test.** His hand got burnt hence was proved guilty. **Women were not allowed to be found in terraces. Tax was extracted if the rule was not followed.** Tax was extracted from the family members of an individual who committed suicide.

ARMY: THE GORKHA STRENGTH

Army was the most crucial aspect that decided the fate of the Gorkha regime. Past record of the British testified their swift movement and accurate target. World War I and World War II corroborated their act of bravery in the battleground. The expansion of the Gorkha regime from a mere village to a flourished empire holding Kumaun, Garhwal and Kangra valley was the prime example of it. Endeavours of

Narbhupal, Prithvi Narayan Pal and Rann Bahadur Sah made it possible for the Gorkha empire to reach its zenith.

Their sheer act of courage made them to be the rulers of land bordering Kali river in the West and Michi river in the East. **Chances of recruiting the locals of Kumauni and Garhwal appeared less.** They started their journey from a small Gorkha village which later got expanded and shared border with the empire of Raja Ranjit Singh. They even waged a war to gain control in Tibet and later made Sikkim to accept their sovereignty. Their intentions to be the ultimate ruler brought them into direct contact with the British regime for 200 villages acting as the bone of contention.

WARFARE SUPERMACY AND TACTICS OF GORKHA

KHUKRI was the weapon of the Gorkha community. **The NEWAR of Gari (Doti)** were the craftsmen who designed khukri. Bow , arrow , swords, shield, guns were also employed in the battleground. Gorkha regime designed their army somewhat seeking inspiration from the British. **Naming of officers like Colonel, Major, Captain along with uniforms are some examples.** JAGCHA or JAGARIYA were soldiers in service while DHAKRIYA were those who retired. A crucial factor deciding the strength of the army was that they recruited officers every year. This stimulated strength and kept a balance on fatigue of the soldiers.

A salary of Rs. 8 was paid in days of war and Rs. 6 in normal circumstances were paid to the soldiers.

SOURCES OF REVENUE

Gorkhas maintained a burdening taxation system where some were taken from the Chanda and some were invented for their convenience. Even Brahamans were not exempted from the taxation system.

Pungadi : this was land revenue accounting 1,50,000 rupees.
Salami : tax to be paid on gifts.
Teeka : tax to be paid while auspicious ceremony.
Manga : the youth paid this tax and was also extracted in times of distress.
Taan : it was extracted from bhotia craftsmen.
Mijhari : on skilled labour and brahamans who confiscated land.
Suvangi Dastur : it is a land tax extracted from 1 Bisi of land at the rate of Re.1.
Mezbaani Dastur : this was on the lines of the Chauth extracted by the Marathas. It was a protection tax at the rate of 2 1/2 annas.
Bahta : tax extracted on land kept off the official records.
Ghee Tax : this tax is named after the commodity GHEE which was extracted from shepherds.
Revenue was extracted by Kashtkars on contract basis. If taxes were not paid then offenders were sold in markets.

SOCIETY OF THE GORKHA

The society of the Gorkha was based on tribes rather on varna system. Their hierarchy in society differed from the rest dynasties ruled earlier. They worshipped Almighty, cow and Brahaman. Although, their attitude towards the Rajput and Brahaman varna outside Nepal was contradictory. They were disrespectful to them and forcefully employed them in labour. In certain scenarios it was observed that

they considered them as a mix of Brahman and Upadhaya yet they disrespected the Brahman of Kumaun and Grahwal. Rai, Magar, Garuna, Limbu, Sunvar, Puna, Sarki, Thapa formed the Gorkha society. They never associated with the society set by the prior dynasty. Short – heighted, round face, small eyes, flat forehead and mere facial growth defined the physical attributes of the Gorkha people. **Dusshera was their most important festival and worshipped Goddess Durga as the symbol of power.** Pork was considered as their most eatable food item. Weapons were also worshipped on this auspicious day. **Gorkhali was their official language which has its origin in the Sanskrit language.** **Records stated that often Newari was used in records. They were illiterate but possessed immense physical strength.**

CONCLUSION

According to Radhika Jha IAS (R.R. 2002), former District Magistrate of Royal District of Tehri (17.08.2010 to 23.8.2011) and present Secretary, Rural Development, Government of Uttarakhand who recently completed her foreign assignment from London School of Economics and Public Policy, United Kingdom under the most prestigious Commonwealth Fellowship (September 2022 to June 2023). She is divinely blessed with inherit regal and beautiful personality, a brilliant scholar gifted with outstanding public speaking skill and an exemplary civil servant of Uttarakhand cadre with a demonstrated history of exemplary working style.



She states, “ the setting up of the market centre in the Bhabar which in local language is called *Haat* in 1834 A.D. is the endeavour of G.W. Traill (the second Commissioner of the Kumaun Province) for the natives of hills to buy commodities during winter season. Later, this haat paved the pathway of the foundation of Haldwani which with passing time also became the winter headquarters of Kumaun division under the colonial regime.

In 1836 A.D. Colonel Gowan became the third Commissioner of the Kumaun Province and the authority till 1839 A.D. Meanwhile, G.W. Traill was transferred to Bareilly. The laudable act during the regime of Colonel Gowan was a complete ban on the slaughtering of cows in every possible manner but with only one exception that the right to slaughter of kine belonged to the cantonments.

Furthermore, G.T. Lushington succeeded Colonel Gowan and remained the Commissioner of the Kumaun Province till he breathed last in 1848 A.D. The event of archive happened during his regime was when Kumaun division was separated into two districts namely Kumaun & Garhwal in 1839 A.D. Each district had a regular staff appointed under the command of a senior assistant commissioner. Hence, in the light of the same Captain Corbett and Thomas were made the Senior Assistant Commissioner of Kumaun at Almora and Garhwal at Srinagar respectively. Both of them were delegated with the powers of Collector as well Commissioner. Besides, he is also accredited for discovering the town of Nainital where he also built a small hut as a remembrance.

Till date all the acts and working style was modeled on the module casted by G.W. Traill and no new innovations were designed by any preceding Commissioner. Although, the circa of 1848 A.D. saw the rise of J.H. Batten as the Commissioner of the Kumaun Province by the means of **rule of law**. He passed the orders of utilization of wasteland for the plantation of tea in 1852 – 1853 A.D. The credit for tea plantation and getting them into prominence in Kumaun goes to him.

The age of 1856 A.D. – 1884 A.D. could be labeled as the age of Sir Henry Ramsay, cousin of Lord Dalhousie and son – in – law of G.T. Lushington who took the charge of Commissioner of the Kumaun Province. His journey began as a soldier in the British army which leded upto high posts of Assistant Commissioner of Kumaun (1840 A.D - 1856 A.D.). Hence, he had an association of 47 years with Kumaun and residents of Kumaun. This can be verified by his friendly relations with every household where he conversed with them in their local dialects. Moreover, he enjoyed having food as well exercising with the natives of Kumaun on regular basis.

He got constructed a network of canals for higher productivity in agriculture, barrage across Gola river to provide water to Bhabar, development of Ramnagar as a trade center when Lord Mayo, Viceroy of India in 1869 A.D ordered the extension of railways from Ranikhet to Ramangar made him the Raja Ramsay of Kumaun.”

The Treaty of Sigauli marked the advent of the British regime from 1816 A.D. to 1947 A.D. in the Central Himalayas which proved to be a double edged sword for us. Indeed the land of Uttarakhand once again became of slave of another regime i.e. the British power after the anarchical regime of the Gorkha. However, with many disabilities equipped the British regime benefitted the age of Central Himalayas with modernity from every aspect of society which was once under the conservative and backward age of Gorkha.

First and foremost a special status was offered to Kumaun as it was labeled as a Non – Regulatory Province with Edward Gardener as its first Commissioner. Moreover, a scientific methodology of

measuring land was carried out at different time intervals. Social evils such as slavery, forced labour was eliminated from the society by the endeavours of British regime.

The foundation of Patwari system, demarcation of clear boundaries among the villages along with the integration of canal system was some modernizing interventions as well. Moreover, census formulation, appointment of Civil Surgeon in Almora are some feathers of achievement in their time period.

Setting up of educational institutions, establishment of Police system, respecting Hindu religion by constructing roads to Kedarnath & Badrinath also got constructed roads and bridges in this tough terrain are some worth praising achievements striked by them.

Therefore, without a doubt the vision of the paper to uncover the anarchical age of the Gorkha in the chronicles of the history of Uttarakhand and how the British regime drove the Gorkha out of the Central Himalayas is achieved by the means of this extensive and dedicated research work.