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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Monopoly Trade in Cigarettes, A.D. 1947 ...	1
2. Revenue Collection in Saptari, A.D. 1848 ...	2
3. Emoluments of Revenue Functionaries in Udayapur ...	3
4. Management of Temples in Khotang ...	4
5. The Dalan Kachahari ...	5
6. Revenue Collection in Morang, A.D. 1813 ...	6
7. Revenue Collection in Thak ...	10
8. The Political History of Dolakha ...	12

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sale, distribution, and display).

Monopoly Trade in Cigarettes, A.D. 1947

Some information regarding the monopoly trade in cigarettes during A.D. 1903-4 had been given in the Regmi Research Series, Year 12, No. 11, November 1, 1980, pp. 162-163.

The following information about the monopoly during A.D. 1947 has been summarized from a public notification issued on Chaitra 25, 2003 (approx. April 10, 1947) under the seals of Prime Minister Padma Shumshere and Commander-in-Chief Mohan Shumshere. An original copy of the notification, printed on hand-made Nepali paper, forms part of the Regmi Research Collection.

The preamble to the notification reads as follows:-

"With the objective of discouraging the consumption of cigarettes, the monopoly trade in this commodity had been abolished, and the amanat system introduced subject to the collection of customs duty at prescribed rates.

"This step, however, further encouraged the consumption of cigarettes, rather than discouraging it. Moreover, the hardships of the subjects increased because prices of cigarettes were arbitrarily increased.

"In order, therefore, to ensure the convenience of the people, a monopoly has been granted to Subba Hitaman Sherchan for the entire Kingdom for the period ending Chaitra 30, 2006 (April 12, 1950), on condition that the current prices of cigarettes are not increased. Other conditions are as follows:-

1. During the month of Chaitra 2003 (ended April 12, 1947), the total quantity of cigarette imports shall not exceed the quantity imported during Chaitra 2002 (ended April 12, 1946). All existing stocks, and the quantity imported in Chaitra 2003, must be sold out by the end of that month (April 12, 1947). In case any quantity is left unsold on that date, it must be sold within seven days (i.e. by April 19, 1947) to the monopolist, Subba Hitaman Sherchan, at cost price. No private trade in such cigarettes shall be allowed.
2. From Baisakh 1, 2004 (April 13, 1947), only cigarettes imported by His Majesty, the Prime Minister, and the Commander-in-Chief shall be exempt from the monopoly arrangements. Employees of the Gurkha Brigade of the British Army may each bring in 50 cigarettes for personal consumption without paying any penalty.
3. Other persons, irrespective of their status and occupation, may procure cigarettes only with the consent of the monopolist. In case any person procures cigarettes, cigars, bidis, etc. for personal consumption or trade, or manufactures them locally, without the consent of the monopolist, the commodity, or its sale proceeds, shall be confiscated. In addition, a fine equal to the value of such confiscated

goods or money shall be imposed if such value exceeds Rs 100. In case it is less than Rs 100, the fine shall amount to Rs 100. For the second offense, the fine shall be equal to the value of the confiscated goods or money if it exceeds Rs 300, or to Rs 300 if the value is less than this figure. For the third and each subsequent offense, the guilty person shall be placed in detention, the matter shall be represented to the government, and action shall be taken as ordered.

4. 25 percent of the value of the goods or money confiscated according to Section 3 shall be given as a reward to the informant. The balance, as well as the fines, shall accrue to the Monopolist.

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Revenue Collection in Saptari, A.D. 1848

Order to the Chaudharis, Kanugoyes, mahaldars and thekdars of Saptari district: Subba Shivanidhi Jaisi has reported to us that revenue is not being collected properly in the districts, and that accounts are not being cleared off in time. It appears that you have not submitted accounts, and obtained clearance, for the Vikrama year 1904. The new year has commenced; hence it will not be proper to make any further delay in submitting accounts. Immediately on receiving this order, submit accounts of Panchashala payments due for each monja, and execute bounds for arrears, if any, so as to clear off the accounts. In case you make any delay in transmitting payments due to His Majesty's Government, the person who is responsible for the obstruction shall be held liable."

Jestha Sudi 2, 1905  
(May 1848)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 33, p. 70.

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Emoluments of Revenue Functionaries in Udayapur

Gurudayal, Chaudhari of Talahatte Parganna in Udayapur district, submitted the following petition to the Bandobasta Kachahari:

- (1) In the Vikrama year 1915, the gola of Chaudandi in Udayapur was placed under the jurisdiction of Captain Raghbir Thapa on amanat basis. I was appointed as Chaudhari for the collection of revenue on amanat basis in nine mcujas comprising the Parganna of Talahatte in Chaudandi.
- (2) When Captain Chandrabir Bista Chhetri was appointed to that post in the Vikrama year 1919, he refused to sanction the emoluments of the Chaudhari and the mokaddam on the ground that no such provision existed in the regulations. When I represented the matter to Chief Colonel Dilli Singh Basnyat Chhetri and Dittha Vishnu Datta Padhya, who were responsible for Tarai affairs, they directed that emoluments be paid as follows from the proceeds of revenue collection:

Chaudhari	...	5 percent
Mokaddam	...	3 percent
Total		8 percent.

These payments were made until the Vikrama year 1922.

- (3) In the Vikrama year 1923, Captain Shumshere Jung Thapa Chhetri was appointed to that post. He refused to make these payments on the ground that no such provision existed in the regulations.
- (4) I have signed a bond stipulating liability for the payment of taxes due from depopulated holdings. In other districts, the Chaudhari is paid emoluments at the rate of 3 percent of the actual collection, while the jimidar is paid 5 percent. It is not proper that a different system should be applied to the Parganna of Talahatte alone.

On Aswin Sudi 13, 1923, the petition was referred to the Kaushal office by Dittha Buddhi Sagar Upadhyaya.

The Kaushal Office recommended action as follows: "In the seven districts of the eastern Tarai (Morang, Saptari, Mahottari, Sallahi, Bara, Parsa and Rautahat), jimidars are paid emoluments at the rate of Rs 5 on each Rs 105 of revenue actually collected, while Chaudharis are paid Rs 3 on each Rs 103. The Parganna of Talahatte is under the jurisdiction of the gola, but it will not be appropriate to make any discrimination in emoluments paid to Chaudharis and jimidars in Mal areas and elsewhere, for the revenue functions of Chaudharis, and jimidars in both areas are identical."

An order was then issued in the name of Prime Minister Jung Bahadur to the authorities of the Chauriya Khās Goswara Gola directing that emoluments be paid in Talahatte Parganna at the rate of Rs 5 to the jimidars on each Rs 105 of revenue actually collected, and of Rs 3 on each Rs 103 to the Chaudharis, on the conditions that these functionaries had undertaken liability for the payment of taxes on depopulated holdings and that such payments had been made on a customary basis:

Marga Sudi 9, 1923

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 63, pp. 427-34.

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#### Management of Temples in Khotang

Royal order to Devadetta Upadhyaya on Shrawan 4, 1883 (July 1826): "Previously also you had been priest of the Kalika and two other temples at Khotang in Majhkirat. Later, Srikanta Bhattarai obtained a royal order appointing him as priest of those temples. We now withdraw that order and reinstate you. We restore to you the houses and lands occupied by the priest, as well as rice-lands and homestead, according to the Guthi grant. With full assurance, perform the regular and ceremonial religious functions at those temples according to the prescribed rites, construct a temple and a road-side shelter there with tile roofs, operate the Guthi and appropriate the surplus income, and bless us."

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 29, p. 29.

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The Dalan-Kachahari

From Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief General  
Jung Bahadur Kunwar Rana:

"The Dalan Kachahari at our Thapathali Palace shall  
dispose of the following disputes:

- (a) Disputes on Khangi lands assigned to us in the  
capacity of Minister,
- (b) Disputes on Khangi lands of our four sons, and
- (c) Such other cases as we may refer to the Kachahari  
for hearing and disposal,

"The Kachahari shall have the following officials and  
employees<sup>u</sup> with emoluments as follows:-

1 Bichari	...	Rs 125 a year
1 Bahidar and		
1 tahabildar	...	Rs 180 a year
Total		Rs 305.

"Ten percent of the fees and penalties collected in the  
course of the disposal of disputes (Dandakunda, baksauni,  
bisaund, dasaund) shall be apportioned among them as follows:-

One-half to the Bichari.

One-fourth each to the Bahidar and the Tahabildar.

"Settle disputes according to the law. You will be held  
guilty, and dismissed from service, if you take bribes,  
commit injustice, or show undue favor to any litigant.

Magh Badi 10, 1910  
(January 1854)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 33, pp. 175-76.

Revenue Collection in Morang, A.D. 1813

The Panchashala-theke system, under which land and other taxes were collected on a contractual basis through the Chaudhari of each Parganna, was introduced in the districts of the eastern Tarai region in 1828. (Mahesh C. Regmi, A Study in Nepali Economic History, 1768-1846, New Delhi: Manjusri Publishing House, 1971, pp. 174-75).

There is evidence that the system had been introduced on an experimental basis in the following Pargannas of Morang as early as A.D. 1813 : Harichand-Gadhi, Athmouja, Katahari, Bariyadi, Fatteharipur, Gograha, Mangadh, and Nonigadhpahar.

The following royal orders were issued in the names of the Chaudharis, mokaddams, gachhdars, jethraiyats, and other functionaries of these Pargannas on Chaitra Sudi 2, 1869 (March 1813):-

- (1) "We have introduced the Panchashala systems in these Pargannas from the Vikrama year 1870 (A.D. 1813)". All those ryots who have left our Kingdom for the Moglan (i.e. India) may come back and reoccupy their lands with full assurance. Represent your grievances, if any, through Subba Anupa Simha Adhikari and Subba Dhokal Khawas whom we have deputed there for this purpose. State your case in their kachahari; they will grant you justice."
- (2) "You have stipulated payment of revenue on a contractual basis under the Panchashala system from the Vikram year 1870 (A.D. 1813). We hereby sanction this measure. With full assurance, promote cultivation and settlement. Do not have doubts on any matter. Transmit revenue payments from that year through Subba Anupa Simha Adhikari and Subba Dhokal Khawas."

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 39, pp. 561-62.

Previously, revenue had been collected in Morang district by Harikrishna Das, an employee (gumasta) of Dwarika Das, a merchant of Benares who had supplied loans to ex-King Rana Bahadur Shah during his exile in that Indian city. On Chaitra Sudi 3, 1869 (March 1813), Anup Simha Adhikari and Dhokal Khawas were appointed as Subbas on a joint basis to discharge that function on amanat basis through Chaudharis under the Panchashala system.

The total revenue stipulated for the five-year period from 1870 to 1874 under the Panchashala system in Morang was as follows:-

Previous figure	...	Rs 115,001
Increment	...	Rs 12,000
Total		Rs 127,001.

Payment due for the entire period: Rs 635,005.

Chaitra Sudi 3, 1869

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 39, pp. 562-63.

Subba Anup Simha Adhikari seems to have been a resident of Kathmandu. On Chaitra Sudi 12, 1869 (April 1813) he received a grant of 12 ropanis of lands in Gokarna under Chhap tenure. (Regmi Research Collection, vol. 39, p. 580). No information is available about his colleague, Subba Dhokal Khawas.

The following royal order was issued in the names of Subba Anup Simha Adhikari and Subba Dhokal Khawas on Chaitra Sudi 12, 1869 (April 1813): "Ryots cultivating taxable (mal) lands in Morang have gone over to jagir, birta, bekh-bunyad, manachamal, and other (non-taxable) lands. Persuade all such ryots to come back and reoccupy their mal holdings. In case they refuse to do so, recover from them the amount they used to pay as tax on the area of land actually cultivated by them previously. In the future, do not allow ryots cultivating mal lands to go elsewhere. If even then they go over to birta, jagir, and other (non-taxable) lands, recover from them an amount double the tax they used to pay."

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 39, p. 574.

One unit (patti) each of the Devidal Company and the Barahadal Company, which had been stationed in Vijayapur, Morang district, was placed under the command of Subba Anup Simha Adhikari and Subba Dhokal Khawas to help them in the task of revenue collection, according to a royal order issued to the Subedars and Jamadars of those companies on Chaitra Sudi 12, 1869 (April 1813) (Regmi Research Collection, vol. 39, pp. 573-74).

The following regulations were promulgated in the names of Subba Anup Simha Adhikari and Subba Dhokal Khawas for Morang district on Chaitra Sudi 3, 1869:-

1. In case enemies encroach upon our boundaries from any quarter, and there is no time to seek sanction from the center, and in case the two companies placed under your charge are unable to resist the invasion you may report the matter to us, recruit salaried troops, repulse the enemy, and defend our territories. After repulsing the enemy, disband such troops, and submit particulars of salaries due to them and make disbursements as sanctioned. Remissions shall be allowed (in the amount of revenue stipulated by you) against receipts of such payments.
2. Collect land and other taxes in the region situated east of the Kosi river and west of the Trisota river according to the rates prescribed in the Vikrama year 1850 (A.D. 1793) and transmit the proceeds to the central treasury (Tosakhana). Submit accounts at the end of the year and obtain clearance.
3. Prepare tax assessment records (Jammabandi) exclusive of the emoluments (khangl) of Chaudharis Kanugoyes and mokaddams, and the homesteads (dokatthi) of ryots. Do not oppress the ryots. Any Subba, munsiff, jimidar or ijaradar who may do so shall be severely punished.



4. While issuing ijaras for each mouja, issue the following instructions: "The munsiff shall grant deductions for the dokatthi allotments of mokaddams as well as grama kharcha expenses while compiling the tax assessment register (iamabandi). He shall grant allotment-certificates (patta) for three years or five years to responsible persons (bhala manis). The ijaradar shall not collect any amount in excess of the rates (raibandi) prescribed through royal orders. Any person who makes collections in excess of the prescribed rates shall be severely punished.
5. Collect fines and penalties (danda gunahagari) at the rates (raibandi) prescribed in the Vikrama year 1850 (A.D. 1793). Do not collect anything in excess of those rates. Allotments of virgin forest lands (kalabanjar) made by you according to the conditions prescribed in that year will be approved.
6. All birta, jagir, and other land grants made in that district from the Vikrama year 1870 (A.D. 1813) shall be channelled through you. Allot lands other than those on which taxes are payable (mal) to the government, or those which have been assigned to Chaudharis and Kanugoyes, or those kalabanjar lands in regard to which the term of pattas has not yet expired. Demarcate the boundaries of the birta, jagir and other lands elsewhere after appropriate inquiries. Remissions shall be granted to you on an annual basis for lands granted according to these rules under the counter-signature of the Chaudhari, the Kanugoye and the Jaibar.
7. Supply bhota and tagavi credit for land reclamation and settlement. Realize such credit along with an increment of two annas on each rupee, i.e. 18 annas for each rupee of credit supplied; and transmit the proceeds to the government. If any one submits a complaint against you from the district, we shall summon both sides and give a hearing to both, and inflict punishment according to the nature of the offense on the person who confesses his guilt.
8. In case any person commits murder, burglary, cow-slaughter, or rebellion, hear the case in a kachahari comprising local respectable (bhala manis) people, and punish the guilty person. If he must be punished with degradation to a lower caste, death or exile according to the nature of his crime, refer the case to us and take action as ordered.
9. In matters relating to Chandrayana (i.e. purification from ritual pollution) in the district, arrange for expiation according to the dharmashastras through local pundits.

Search for ivory, baby rhinoceros, rhinoceros horn, bison horn, and Vamshalochana (found in the hollow of bamboos) and send all available supplies to us. Any person who kills elephants for their tusks shall be arrested and put in fetters. His case shall be referred to us and action shall be taken as ordered.

10. Provide hospitality to any Nawab, Raja, British, Kaji, Wakils from Dharma (i.e. Bhutan) or other respectable person who may visit the district on our business and transmit to the palace any gifts and presents they may bring. Remissions shall be granted for reasonable farewell gifts to them.
11. While compiling tax assessment records, do not reduce the amount due according to the Patta. Arrange for the full collection of the assessed amount. In the event of any shortfall or arrears, you shall be held personally liable.
12. Obtain confessions from persons who cross the frontier and commit dacoity, burglary, assault and other crimes there and punish them. Tell them that they will be liable to physical punishment if they commit such crimes again.
13. Use compulsory labor on an unpaid basis (begar) for our requirements from the inhabitants of birta and bekh-bunyad areas. Do not exact such labor from the inhabitants of taxable (mal) lands. Do not provide begar labor to private individuals.
14. In case a judicial decree obtained by any ryot or revenue-collection functionary (mandar, mahaldar) in the district has not been enforced, summon both parties, dispose of the case so as to ensure justice, and punish the offender. Extra amounts collected from the ryots, if any, shall be refunded. Refund similar payments, if any, that ijaradars may have collected as pasturage tax (kascharai) from the ryots.
15. Allow Harikrishna Das to collect outstanding amounts of revenue due for the Vikrama year 1869.
16. Scrutinize accounts of lands and other tax collections made by Subba Chandrabir Thapa in the Vikrama year 1868 and submit the accounts and records to us.
17. Remissions in the total amount of revenue assessed in the district shall be granted as follows:<sup>u</sup>

Bangnam	...	Rs 800
Chatra Asthan	...	Rs 1,000
Pindeshwar	...	Rs 300
Confiscated (lands?)	...	Rs 500
Barahadal and Devidatta companies	...	Rs 1,400
Nonigadhpahar (?)	...	Rs 679-12 $\frac{1}{4}$
Vijayapur Gola	...	Rs 1,727-9 $\frac{1}{4}$

Birta lands of Jagat Pande	...	Rs 145-3½
Transportation charges	...	Rs 1,938-12
Bahubadh Mauja	...	Rs 1,867-11½
Kathmahal and Bhusahat	...	Rs 26,450
Total		Rs 36,809.

The balance shall be transmitted in full to the palace. Do not seek remissions for such expenses as those incurred during the dashain and fagu festivals, the perquisites of Chaudharis and Kamugoyes, and the emoluments of the Subba and other revenue-collection officials (amala)᳚. Appropriate whatever is offered by the ryots, as well as your own emoluments and perquisites. You need not submit accounts for any amount collected in excess of the figure mentioned in the patta.

Chaitra Sudi 3, 1869  
(March 1813)

Regmi Research Collection, vol᳚ 39, pp. 564-68.

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### Revenue Collection in Thak

On Falgun Sudi 6, 1867 (February 1811), Muktirama Newar was granted authority to collect revenue in the Thak region. The appointment was effective Baisakh 1, 1868. He replaced Mahabir Karki. The same day, the following regulations were promulgated in the name of Muktirama Newar:-

(Abstract translation)᳚

1. Collect revenue from the budhas of Thak according to the amount and in the installments stipulated by them in their pattas and transmit the proceeds to the central treasury (Tosakhana)᳚
2. Impose fines on moneylenders who charge interest at more than 10 percent as well as those persons who indulge in gambling. Transmit the proceeds of such fines exclusive of the amount of revenue stipulated by you.

3. While administering justice, transmit to the central treasury income from fines and penalties exceeding Rs 100 in one case exclusive of the amount of revenue stipulated by you. Impose fines on any budha who suppresses information about such cases and transmit the proceeds similarly to the central treasury.
4. Impose fines, if the nature of the offense so warrants, on any person who is guilty of cow slaughter, burglary or rebellion, in the presence of local respectable persons (bhalas manis) and transmit the proceeds to central treasury exclusive of the amount of revenue stipulated by you. In case it is held that the guilty person must suffer punishment on his person or family, arrest him and put him in fetters. Refer the case to us and take action as ordered.
5. Dispose of complaints against local ryots and budhas. Fines collected from any ryot who confesses his guilt may be included in the amount of revenue stipulated by you. The proceeds of fees and fines collected from budhas who confess their guilt shall be transmitted to the central treasury exclusive of such amount.
6. In case you receive information about buried property, punish the person who has suppressed information relating to such property. Include a sum of Rs 100 in the amount of revenue stipulated by you, and transmit such property, and the balance of the fine, if any, to the central treasury exclusive of such amount.
7. Report to us if any budha causes any difficulty or obstruction in the collection of revenue according to these thekbandi arrangements. We shall issue a royal order for his dismissal.
8. Do not allow any Thakse to leave the kot and reside at Tukuche or Lete. If he refuses to do so, collect taxes due from him at both places and include the proceeds in the amount of revenue stipulated by you.
9. Dispose of disputes between moneylenders and debtors in an equitable manner and transmit to the palace a fee amounting to 10 percent of the amount under dispute exclusive of the amount of revenue stipulated by you.
10. Pay salaries to the following staff at the following rates from the revenue collected by you:-
 

Tahasildar Mukti Ram	...	Rs 400
Eight Peons	...	Rs 240
One Bahidar	...	Rs 60
11. Arrange for the transmission of the amount of revenue stipulated for Thini and Panchgaun in Laskari rupees in one installment in the month of Marga (November 16-December 14).

Falgun Sudi 6, 1867  
(February 1811)

The Political History of Dolakha

Dhanavajra Vajracharya and Tek Bahadur Shrestha, Dolakhako Aitihasika Ruparekha (Historical outline of Dolakha), Kirtipur: Institute of Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University, 2031 (1974) Chapter II: "Rajana Itihasako Ruparekha" (Outline of political history) pp. 14-50.

(Continued from the December 1980 issue).

After Pratapa Malla, Kantipur was ruled by Nripendra Malla, Parthvendra Malla, and Bhupalendra Malla, in that order. Documents relating to land transactions, executed by Nripendra Malla and others, have been discovered in Dolakha, but they do not shed much light on this situation prevailing at the time.

Bhupalendra Malla died while he was on a pilgrimage to India. He was succeeded by Bhaskara Malla. When Bhaskara Malla attained majority, he became notorious for his whimsical temperament. He was very fond of pet birds and animals. After capturing a number of elephants in the Tarai, he changed his name to Mahindra Simha Deva. He also procured hawks from Dolakha. (Aitihasika Samagri, No. 14). At that time, a hawk cost Rs 600, which may be worth Rs 100,000 at the prices prevailing today. However, Mahindra Simha paid for the hawks not in money, but in land. There are many documents to show that he sold lands to local bhardars and other persons because he needed money. (Ibid No. 13). A copper-plate inscription found at the temple of Bhimeshwara in Dolakha shows that some bhardars during the reign of Mahindra Simha jointly changed the spire of that temple. (Ibid, No. 53). Some bhardars of Dolakha had gained positions in the royal court of Kantipur during this period.

Mahindra Simha Deva was succeeded by Jagajjaya Malla in the throne of Kantipur. He was a more capable ruler. Soon after he became King, there were signs that changes in the medieval political system of Nepal were imminent. Gorkha had already started trying to advance toward the east and rivalry was intensifying among the three Malla Kings. Consequently, Jagajjaya Malla sought to ensure the security of his territories. He made notable arrangements for this purpose in the Dolakha region as well. He took immediate step to suppress bhotes in the northern areas of Dolakha who constructed forts, slaughtered cows and tried to rebel. (Ibid, No. 18).

King Jagajjaya Malla introduced some administrative reforms also. He deputed officials known as Chharidar to tour different areas and check whether the local administration was functioning properly. (Ibid, Nos. 18 and 19). Many persons belonging to the Khas and Magar communities used to be appointed in administrative posts in the Malla Kingdoms. Indeed, most of the umraos of thums belonged to these communities. Umraos were responsible for the collection of taxes in the areas under their jurisdiction. Complaints were submitted to the royal palace that the Khas and Magar officials had harassed the people while collecting

taxes in some villages of Dolakha. King Jagajjaya Malla issued orders to the effect that Khas and Magar officials should no longer be deputed to collect taxes, and that the function should be discharged by one of the Pramanas of Dolakha. (Ibid, No. 55). He also promulgated regulations forbidding the punishment of any person who had not committed any crime.

In addition, King Jagajjaya Malla made efforts to increase the revenue. He had lands in Dolakha and other parts of his Kingdom measured in the presence of Deswaras, Pramanas, and Panchas. Arrangements were made for demarcating areas under the jurisdictions of government officers and birtaowners. (Ibid, No. 20). King Jagajjaya Malla encouraged animal husbandry and granted lands for use as pastures. He also tried to increase revenue from horse breeding. (Ibid, p. 17).

Throughout the reign of King Jagajjaya Malla, relations between the central rulers (at Kantipur) and the local administrators of Dolakha remained cordial. A representative of Dolakha was stationed at the royal court of Kantipur to maintain liaison. Original copies of many letters sent by him to his family in Dolakha have been discovered. These letters shed much light on the conditions prevailing at that time.

#### Bhaktapur Occupies Dolakha

Jagajjaya Malla was succeeded by Jaya Prakasha Malla as King of Kantipur. He was involved in internal and external conflicts from the very beginning. Consequently, he was unable to pay due attention to the security of Dolakha. Prithvi Narayan Shah succeeded in occupying Nuwakot in the Vikrama year 1801. Jaya Prakash Malla was unable to liberate Nuwakot from Gorkhali occupation. Prithvi Narayan Shah had made all necessary arrangements in advance in this regard. He had allured his ritual father, King Ranajit Malla of Bhaktapur, with the promise of territories in Sankhu, Changu, Naldum, Mahadev-Pokhari, Dolakha and elsewhere. Prithvi Narayan Shah accordingly occupied Naldum, Mahadev-Pokhari, Dolakha and other areas in the east and handed them over to Ranajit Malla. Dolakha thus remained under the control of Ranajit Malla for some time. He appointed his illegitimate son, Ajit Simha, as administrator of Dolakha and included that territory in his jagir. On the occasion of the Vijaya Dashami festival in the Vikrama year 1808, Ranajit Malla offered a bell to the temple of Bhimeshwara at Dolakha. There is evidence that he personally visited Dolakha for that purpose. (Ibid, No. 57).

#### Prithvi Narayan Shah's Conquest of Dolakha

Ranajit Malla's control of Dolakha did not last long. Kantipur was soon able to regain Naldum and Mahadev-Pokhari. Dolakha too then became free from Ranajit Malla's control. But soon thereafter, in the Vikrama year 1811, Prithvi Narayan Shah again conquered Naldum and Mahadev-Pokhari. He called on the administrator, deswara and pramanas of Dolakha to come over to his side, promising them protection if they did so and threatening to use force if they did not. He deputed

Kaji Tularama Pande to hold negotiations with the Pradhans of Dolakha. A treaty was signed at Dolalghat, and Prithvi Narayan Shah was able to occupy Dolakha without any fighting. (Yogi Naraharinath, Itihasa-Prakasha, vol. 1, p. 91; Aitihāsika-Samagri, No. 64).

The conquest of Dolakha helped Prithvi Narayan Shah to some extent in implementing his economic programs. He wanted to mint pure silver coins for circulation in Tibet, and to import silver from the plains and gold from Tibet. A letter sent by Prithvi Narayan Shah to Harideva Pandit<sup>u</sup> shows that he had received much assistance from the Upreti Brahmins of Dolakha in this plan. However, relations with Tibet could not be established in the manner desired by Prithvi Narayan Shah. Consequently, the Bhotes of the Bigu area of Dolakha created disturbances from time to time and thus harassed Prithvi Narayan Shah. However, Prithvi Narayan Shah succeeded in suppressing them. (Ram Tiwari et. al., Aitihāsika Patra-Sangraha, pt. 2, pp<sup>u</sup> 78-86)<sup>u</sup>

The condition of Dolakha did not change much after it was occupied by Prithvi Narayan Shah. Cultural, religious and economic activities continued as before. However, some changes were made in the administrative system. The Gorkhalis used to appoint an Amalidar in each important area, and such an official was appointed in Dolakha also, albeit in a somewhat different manner. Prithvi Narayan Shah placed<sup>u</sup> Dolakha first under Pratapa Simha Shah and then under his brother, Dalajit Shah. (Aitihāsika Samagri<sup>u</sup>, Nos. 50, 58 and 59). According to this precedent, Dolakha was under the jurisdiction of a Chautariya for long. (Ibid, Nos. 54, 56, 59, 70 and 80)<sup>u</sup> The position of the local deswaras, pradhans<sup>u</sup> and Panchas remained the same as before, while dwares were granted more authority.

Once they accepted Prithvi Narayan Shah's<sup>u</sup> control, the inhabitants of Dolakha<sup>u</sup> remained loyal to him. When Prithvi Narayan<sup>u</sup> Shah attacked Makwanpur in the Vikrama year 1819, the Chautariya (Prime Minister) and other persons of that principality fled to Dolakha. However, the people of Dolakha refused them asylum. Some of the refugees were driven out, while others were killed or imprisoned. The Chautaras, Sardars and other leading refugees were arrested and handed over to Prithvi Narayan Shah. (Ibid, No. 64)<sup>u</sup> This made him pleased with the people of Dolakha.

After Prithvi Narayan Shah, Pratapa Simha Shah made necessary administrative arrangements for Dolakha. In a letter to one of his bhardars, he expressed a desire to do so and instructed that the people of Dolakha be kept satisfied and the territory made populous. (Ibid, No. 53). At that time, Dolakha was under the jurisdiction of Bahadur Shah. Some letters written by Bahadur Shah regarding the administration of Dolakha have been discovered. (Ibid, Nos. 54, 56 and 59).

In the Vikrama year 1850, Rana Bahadur Shah took over power from the hands of his uncle, Bahadur Shah, who had been functioning as Regent. Soon thereafter, Rana Bahadur Shah endowed guthi lands for the temple of Bhimeshwara. He also granted certain privileges to the inhabitants of those lands. (Ibid, No. 62)<sup>u</sup>



The condition of Dolakha changed to some extent under the administration of Bhimsen Thapa. During the Birta confiscation of the Vikrama year 1862, a total of 82 khets (i.e. 8,200 muris) of rice lands in Dolakha was assigned as jagir to the army. (Ibid, No. 88). Other things remained the same as before.

### Dolakha During the Rana Period

During the Rana period, Dolakha was placed under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General of the Eastern Zone, but no influential person was appointed as administrator. This marked the decline of Dolakha, particularly after the Kalimpong route (for trade with Tibet) was opened up.

### The Administrative System

Recurrent political changes had inevitably had an impact on the administrative system of Dolakha. Information about the history of Dolakha during the ancient period is not available. During the latter half of the Licchavi period, it is possible that a Vishavanati (Bada Hakim) had been appointed as the administrator of Dolakha. It is also possible that there were Vishayapatis at that time in Tistung and Bhatuwal on the route leading to India, as well as gulmas and Shulkashalas). During the early medieval period, Dolakha appears to have been administered by a Samanta. The Samanta enjoyed a considerable measure of local autonomy under the general control of the center. A tax known as Sriti or Sirto was collected from the people on behalf of the center. (Ibid, No. 55).

During the latter part of the medieval period, Dolakha became virtually an independent Kingdom. The bharos or bhardars belonging to the patra family began to style themselves Dolakhadhipati Maharajadhiraja Prabhu Thakura. A royal palace (rajula) was constructed and a royal throne was installed. The rajula became the center of the administration. It is possible that some administrative offices were established there. The bhardari system developed.

### Joint Rule

It is natural that during the medieval period the administrative system followed at the center should have had an impact on Dolakha. Accordingly, the system of joint rule was introduced in Dolakha also. In other words, the eldest son of the King, and his brothers, were proclaimed joint rulers. However, there was no precise allocation of administrative functions among the joint rulers. Rivalry for power among the brothers was the inevitable result. At times this rivalry erupted in the form of a civil war. Taking advantage of such internal conflict at the center, Dolakha attained the status of an independent Kingdom. Nevertheless, the rulers of Dolakha did not derive any lesson. They too opted for joint rule. During the time of Indra Simha Deva, five brothers were ruling Dolakha jointly. Indra Simha Deva was more influential in the beginning, but he was later supplanted in that position by Jaya Narayana Deva. The latter in his turn was eventually supplanted by

/a number of gulmas and shulkashalas. (This speculation is based on the fact that there were



Jitadeva. But during the time of Jitadeva his nephews (sons of his brothers and sisters) also became joint rulers. At one time, there were as many as seven joint rulers simultaneously. (Ibid, No. 19)s. Such a practice weakened the administration.

### Council of Ministers

The Malla Kings had a Council of Ministers (Mantri Parishad) with the Chautara (Chief Minister) and four ministers (Kaji)s. The independent rulers of Dolakha also appointed their own ministers. In an inscription installed during the time of Ujota Deva, for instance, Jiva Simha has described himself as his Pradhan or Chief Minister. No additional information about the Council of Ministers is available.

The inscriptions installed by the rulers of Dolakha concern religious affairs more than administrative affairs. As such, not much information is available about the administrative system followed in Dolakha during this period. However, a gold-plate inscription of Jitadeva, dated 688 Nepal Samvat (1624 (Vikrama)s, which is available at the temple of Bhimeshwara, refers to certain reforms. It grants certain exemptions to the people in taxes collected to finance royal tours outside the Kingdom. This shows that the rulers of Dolakha aimed at the welfare of their subjects. (Ibid, No. 27)s.

From ancient times, Panchas occupied an important place in the local administration of Nepal. They had mainly two functions: to settle local disputes and perform such public duties as construction of irrigation channels and cultural activities. (Dhanavajra Vajracharya, "Licchavi Kalama Chaleko Panchali (Panchayata) Shasana Paddhatiko Paricharya" (An introduction to the Panchayat administrative system prevalent during the Licchavi period), Purnima, No. 12, pp. 1-16)s. Jugudeva, a brother of Rupanarayana Deva, the well-known joint ruler of Dolakha, had made Panchas witness the subdivision of his property in the presence of the rulers. It is indeed significant that members of the royal family also assigned a role to Panchas in their family affairs.

(To be Continued).

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