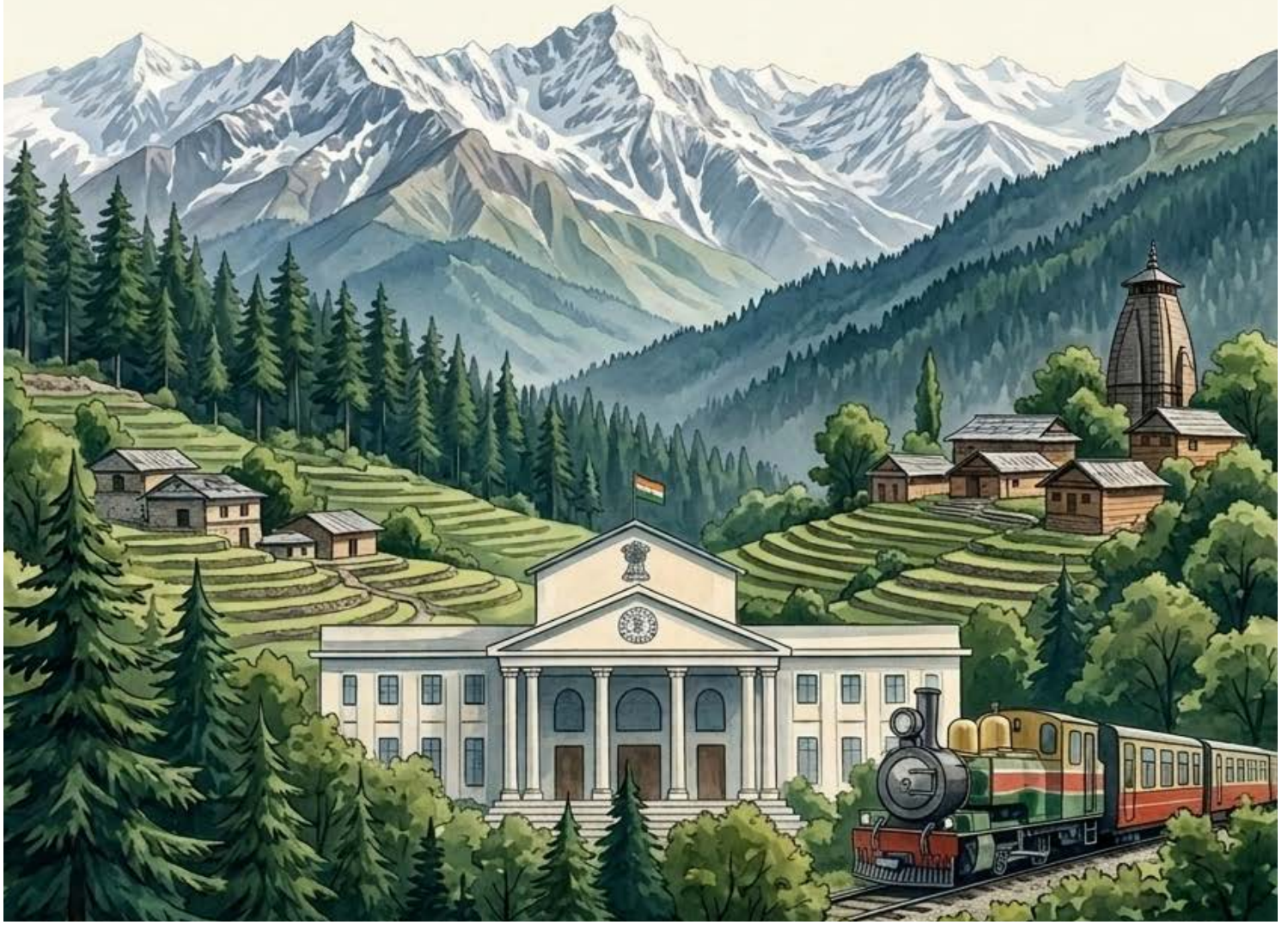
Sleepy Classes IAS
Awakening Toppers

HPPSC HPAS Prelims 2026

Quick Revision Notes For General Studies



Preface

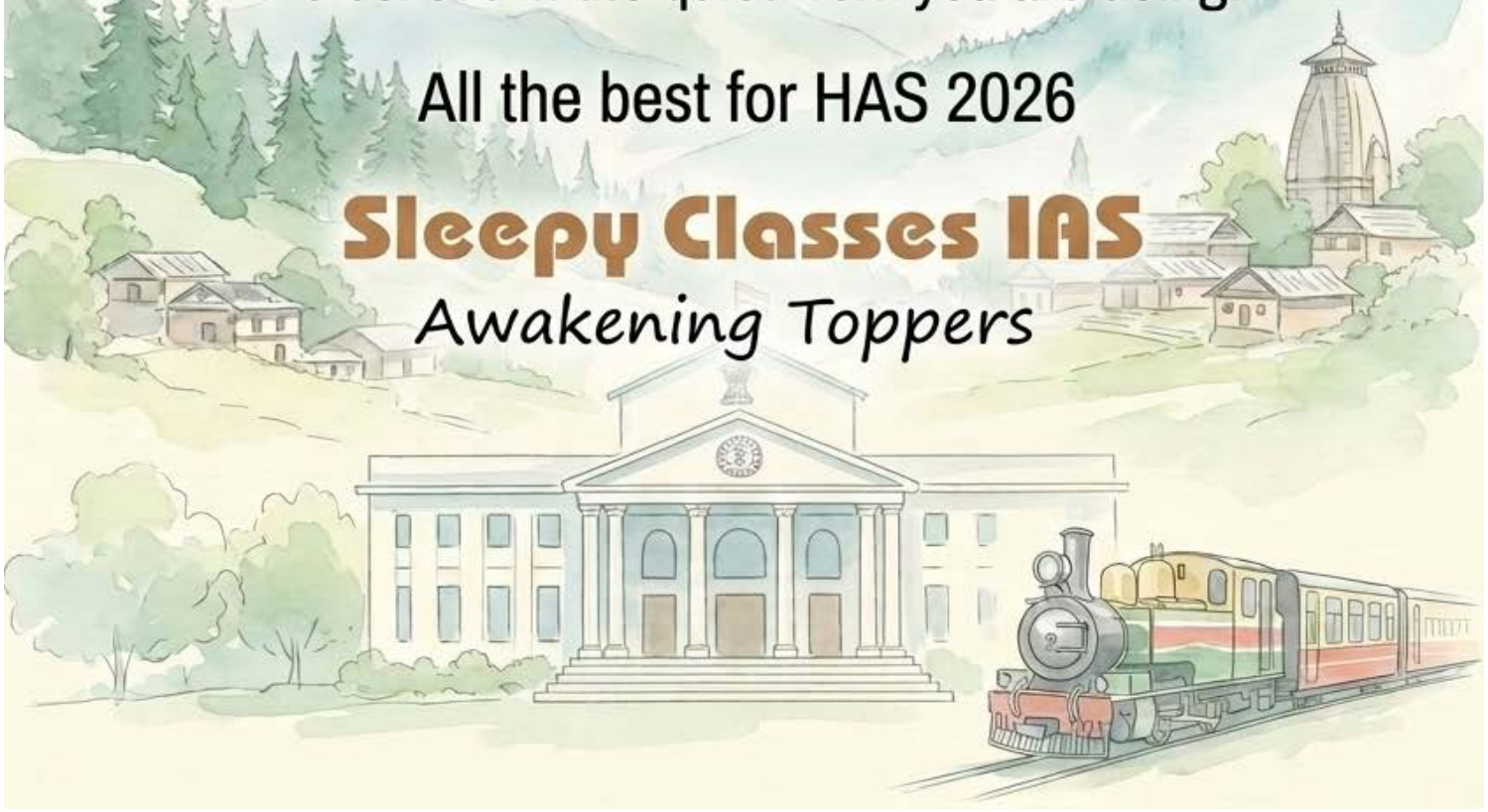
Dear Aspirant,

This book is a companion for the long stretch before the exam — for the evenings when dates slip, and for the mornings when one more chapter still feels possible. Himachal is held here with care: its hills and histories, its districts and documents, its people and their struggles. Read it slowly. You do not have to finish everything in one sitting. You only have to keep faith with the next page. Some days you will remember a lot. Some days you will remember very little. Both days belong to your preparation. We believe in the quiet work you are doing.

All the best for HAS 2026

Sleepy Classes IAS

Awakening Toppers



Contents

1. Sources of Himachal History 6
Names and Setting 6
1.1 Archaeological Discoveries 6
1.2 Antiques, Temples and Paintings 6
1.3 Documents and Inscriptions 6
1.4 Genealogies (Vanshavalis) 7
1.5 Travellers' Accounts 7
1.6 Numismatics 7

2. Early Migrations into the Hills 8
Kols — further detail 8
Bhot / Kirat — further detail 8
Khas Aryans — further detail 9

3. The Janapadas (Tribal Republics) 9
3.1 Trigarta (Kangra) — the oldest 9
3.2 Kuluta (Kullu) 9
3.3 Kunindas 10
3.4 Audumbaras 10
3.5 Yaudheyas / Yugandhar 10
3.6 Kir Tribe 10
3.7 Gabdika (Gaddis) 10

4. Ancient Empires and the Decline of the Republics 11
4.1 Alexander and the Mauryas 11
4.2 Sungas, Kushanas, Guptas 11
4.3 What replaced the republics 12
4.4 Hunas, Ranas and Thakurs 12
4.5 Hiuen-Tsang in the Hills 12

5. Turkish and Sultanate Invasions 12
5.1 Mahmud Ghaznavi 13
5.2 Ghori and the Early Sultanate 13
5.3 The Tughlaqs and Kangra 13
5.4 Timur 13
5.5 The Lodhis 13

6. The Mughals and the Hill States 13
6.1 From Babur to Akbar 13
6.2 Jahangir and the Fall of Kangra Fort 14
6.3 Shah Jahan and Raja Jagat Singh of Nurpur 14
6.4 Mughals and Chamba 14
6.5 Mughals and Sirmaur 15
6.6 The Close of the Mughal Period 15

7. The Sikhs and the Hill States 15
7.1 The Gurus in the Hills 15
7.2 Battle of Bhangani (c. 1686) 15
7.3 Battle of Nadaun and the Khalsa 16
7.4 The Guru Leaves Anandpur 16
7.5 Banda Bahadur and the Hill States 16
7.6 The Misls 16
7.7 Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the Hill States 16

8. The Gorkhas and the Anglo-Gorkha War 17
8.1 Gorkha Expansion 17
8.2 Causes of the Anglo-Gorkha War (1814–16) 18
8.3 Events of the War 18

Sleepy Classes IAS
Awakening Toppers

8.4 Treaty of Sagauli 19
8.5 Consequences 19

9. The British and the Hill States 19
9.1 Restoration and the Grant of Sanads 19
9.2 British Territorial Aggression 20
9.3 The Sikh Wars and the Punjab Hill States 20
9.4 Phases of British Policy 21
9.5 British Intervention in Individual States 21
9.6 British Cantonments 22

10. Society and Economy under Colonial Rule 23
10.1 Social Structure 23
10.2 Begar 23
10.3 Beth 25
10.4 Reet 25
10.5 Bardafaroshi 26
10.6 Impact of British Rule 26

11. Himachal and the Revolt of 1857 26
11.1 Causes 26
11.2 Events in Himachal 27
11.3 Administrative Impact 28

12. The National Movement in Himachal (1885–1947) 29
12.1 Founding of the Congress 29
12.2 The Ghadar Movement 29
12.3 Rowlatt Act and Jallianwala Bagh 29
12.4 Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22) 30
12.5 Tal Conference and the Simon Commission 30
12.6 Civil Disobedience and After 30
12.7 World War II to Independence 31

13. Agitations against the Hill Rajas 31
13.1 Pajhota Movement, 1942 34

14. The Prajamandal Movements 34
14.1 Aims 34
14.2 Dhami Goli Kand, 1939 35
14.3 Suket Satyagraha, 1948 36

15. The Birth of Modern Himachal, 1948–71 36
15.1 Formation 36
15.2 Bilaspur 37
15.3 From Part 'C' State to Union Territory 37
15.4 Territorial Council to Statehood 38
15.5 Institutions 38

16. Master Timeline 39

1. Location and Extent 41
Area 41

2. Boundaries 41
Inter-District Boundaries 42

3. Physiographic Divisions 42
3.1 Shivalik Hills 42
3.2 Dun Valleys of the Shivalik 43
3.4 Great Himalayan Range (Himadri) 44
3.5 Zanskar Range (Trans-Himalaya) 44

4. Agro-Climatic Zones 44

Awakening Toppers

5. Climate and Rainfall 45

Bilaspur 45
Location and Extent 45
Hill Ranges — the Seven Dhars 46
Valleys, Rivers and Water Bodies 46
Language 46
History — Kehlur State 46
Economy 47
Culture and Places 48

Chamba 48
Location and Mountain System 48
Rivers and Lakes 48
History 48
Economy 51
Culture 51
Temples 52
Famous Places 53

Hamirpur 53
Profile 53
Physiography and Drainage 53
History 54
Economy 54
Places and Culture 54

Kinnaur 55
Location 55
Ranges, Peaks and Glaciers 55
Rivers and Minerals 55
History and Identity 55
Language 55
Crops, Food and Dress 56
Religion 56
Marriage and Divorce 56
Fairs and Dances 56
Famous Places 57

Kullu 57
Location 57
Drainage 57
History 57
Malana 57
Language and Dress 60
Economy 60
Temples 61
Famous Places 61
Fairs and Dances 62

Lahaul and Spiti 62
Location 62
Passes and Valleys 62
Spiti 62
People and Language 63
History 63
Religion 64
Economy 64
Marriage and Divorce 65
Monasteries and Temples 65

SleepyClasses IAS
Awakening Toppers

Famous Places ... 66
Fairs and Dances ... 66

Mandi ... 67
Location ... 67
Hill Ranges ... 67
Rivers and Lakes ... 67
History — Suket State ... 68
History — Mandi State ... 69
Economy ... 71
Culture and Places ... 71
Fairs ... 71
Temples ... 72

Shimla ... 72
Geography ... 72
Rivers ... 72
Geology and Minerals ... 73
The Shimla Hill States ... 73
The Princely States ... 73
Shimla Town ... 77
Historic Buildings ... 79
Famous Places ... 80
Temples ... 81
Fairs and Dances ... 81

Sirmaur ... 82
Location and Regions ... 82
Rivers and Lake ... 82
History ... 83
Economy ... 85
Contribution and Culture ... 85
Places and Temples ... 86

Solan ... 87
Location and Physiography ... 87
Rivers ... 87
Headquarters ... 87
History ... 87
Economy ... 89
Places ... 89
Fairs ... 89

Una ... 90
Profile ... 90
Geography ... 90
Temples and Shrines ... 90
Fairs ... 91
Economy ... 91

Part A · Art and Culture — the Pahari Schools ... 91
Kangra School ... 91
The Other Schools ... 92
Painters of Eminence ... 92
Chamba Rumal ... 92
Features of the Chamba School ... 92

Part B · Environment, Disasters and Climate ... 93
Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Profile ... 93
Biodiversity ... 94
Climate Change ... 95

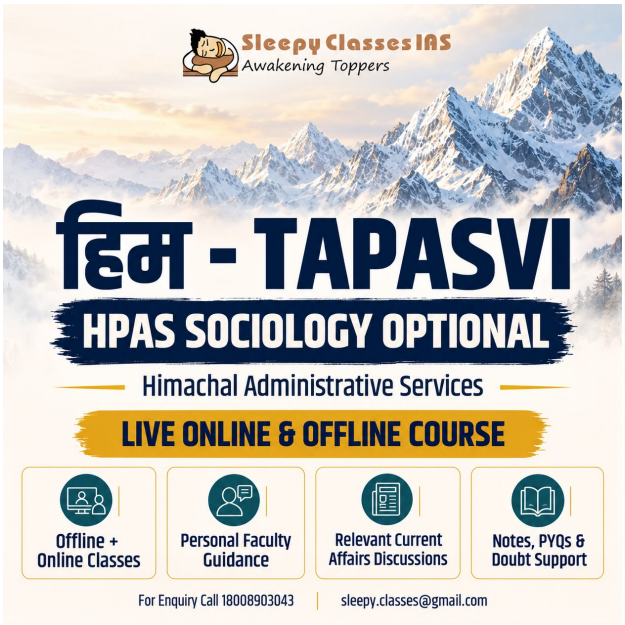
SleepyClasses IAS
Awakening Toppers

Part C · Economy and Infrastructure 95
Land Reform Legislation 95
Agriculture 96
Horticulture 97
Forests 98
Irrigation 98
Fisheries 99
Sericulture 99
Animal Husbandry 99
Transport 99

Part D · Polity and Governance 100
Regionalism and Sub-Regionalism 100
The Party System 101
Caste and Political Power 102
Pressure Groups 102
Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011 103
Administrative Reforms 103
Local Governance 103
Cybercrime 105
The Drug Menace 105
Tribal Development 106
Single Line Administration 107

Part E · Technology, Tourism and State Finances 107
Hydropower 107
Special Category Status and State Finances 108
Emerging Technologies 108
Biotechnology 109
IT, ITeS and ESDM Policy, 2019 110
Tourism 110
Geographical Indications 112

Part F · Famous Personalities 113
Freedom Fighters and Pre-Independence Figures 113
Builders of Modern Himachal 114
Writers, Artists and Social Reformers 115
Soldiers, Sportspeople and Present-Day Figures 117





1. Sources of Himachal History

Names and Setting

- Himalayas in Sanskrit literature: **Himavat, Himavan, Himagiri, Parvat Raja, Hima Koot**.
- Himalayas mentioned in the **Rigveda, Atharvaveda, Aitareya Brahmana, Taittiriya Samhita, Vajasaneyi Samhita**.
- Puranas call Himachal the **Jalandhara Khand** of the Himalayas.
- **Kalidasa** — "Measuring Rod of the Earth". **Rabindranath Tagore** — "Bridge between Divinity and Mankind".
- **Skanda Purana** (largest Mahapurana) divides the Himalaya into **five natural divisions**: Kashmir, Jalandhar (HP), Kedar, Koormanchal (Almora), Nepal.
- Jalandhar Khand had 5 divisions: **Jalandhar (Trigarta), Champak (Chamba), Kuluta (Kullu), Lahaul, Satadru (Satluj area)**.
- Cunningham's classification: **Kashmir** (Indus–Jhelum), **Durgar/Dogra** (Jhelum–Ravi), **Trigarta** (Ravi–Satluj). He omitted the Shimla Hills (Satluj–Yamuna).
- Greek river names: Indus = Indos, Jhelum = Hydaspes, Ravi = Hydroatis, Satluj = Hyphasis, Chenab = Akesines, Beas = Hesidros.

Eight sources are recognised: archaeology; antiques, temples and paintings; documents and inscriptions; British and Mughal records; rulers' genealogies (Vanshavalis); religious literature; travellers' accounts; numismatics.

1.1 Archaeological Discoveries

- **March 2018** — Anthropological Survey of India found **Hulian and Sohanian artefacts** (1,500,000–150,000 years old) at **Ghumarwin, Bilaspur**.
- Nearby 19th-century find: fossil of **Shivapithecus** and of orangutan.
- ASI dug **Dattanagar** in 1992–93.
- Human life traced at **Nalagarh–Suketi and Kalpa (Kinnaur)** — estimated 2 million years old.
- 40,000-year-old tools: Guler, Dehra, Dhaliyara (Banganga–Beas valley); Sirsa–Satluj valley of Nalagarh; Markanda valley of Sirmaur.
- **G.E. Lewis** (Yale) found the **upper jaw of a hominid** in the Shivalik Hills in **1930**.
- **Prof. Lal and Joshi** placed human life in Himachal in the **late Palaeolithic**. **Mr. Sen** (Calcutta University) traced Palaeolithic man at Nalagarh in **1955**.
- Settled life: pots and pans at **Ror, near Kangra**; stone axes, chisels, picks, axe-hammers, ring stones of the post-Pleistocene epoch.

1.2 Antiques, Temples and Paintings

- **H.L. Shuttleworth** discovered **15 rock-cut temples at Masrur** — called the **Pyramids / Ellora of Himachal**; **Hargreaves** dated them to the 8th century AD.
- Wooden temple at **Makraha (Makarsa), Kullu** — 2nd century BC.
- Vishnu icon at **Fatehpur (Kangra)** — 5th–6th century AD.
- Ruins of a large stupa at **Chentru (Kangra)** — 800 feet long.

1.3 Documents and Inscriptions

- Inscribed on stone, brass, copper, silver, wood and gold.
- Scripts found in HP: **Kharoshthi, Brahmi, Sharda, Tankari, Nagari, Kutila, Sankha, Bhotian/Tibetan, Sidhamatrika**.
- Earliest inscriptions date to **Ashoka** — e.g. in the **Tons valley**.

Sleepy Classes IAS
Awakening Toppers

Inscription	Details
Pathiyar (Vayula temple) & Khaniyara, Kangra	Earliest rock inscriptions. Brahmi and Kharoshthi. Pathiyar = Mauryan; Khaniyara = Kushan. Vogel dates Khaniyara to 2nd century BC; mentions an Arama (Buddhist monastery) founded by Krishnayasas.
Nirmand copper plate	Issued by Maharaja Samudra Sen; mentions Harshavardhana's influence; believed gifted by the Sen rulers of Spiti. 7th century AD; names Mahasamanta Maharaja Verma Sen.
Sairi rock inscription, Kullu	5th century AD.
Baijnath — two Sharda Prashastis (1204 AD)	Confirm that Kirgram (Kangra proper) belonged to the kingdom of Jalandhar.
Chamba copper plates	130 copper-plate inscriptions up to the 16th century, mainly land grants; system began around the 10th century AD.
Earliest Jain inscription (854 AD)	Records the genealogy of Digambaras at Kangra.
Second Jain inscription (1296 or 1240 AD)	At Baijnath temple; refers to Shvetambara teachings in Kangra.
Sarahan (opposite Saho)	Stone slab in Sharda script.

1.4 Genealogies (Vanshavalis)

- Normally written by **Rajgurus**.
- **William Moorcroft** (1820) recorded that Maharaja **Sansar Chand** claimed descent from Mahadev.
- **Captain Harcourt** (Assistant Commissioner of Kullu, 1869–71) edited the Vanshavali of the Rajas of Kullu in **"Kooloo, Lahoul and Spiti" (1871)**.
- **Dr. Hirananda Shastri** prepared Kullu's historical documents in the 1930s.
- **Alexander Cunningham** published genealogies of Kangra, Nurpur, Mandi, Suket, Chamba and Rajauri.

1.5 Travellers' Accounts

Traveller	Note
Megasthenes	Greek; wrote Indica.
Strabo, Pliny the Elder	Greek/Roman accounts.
Ptolemy	Mentioned Jalandhar and Kulindrine.
Hiuen-Tsang	Chinese; 629–645 AD. Oldest and most authentic document on the hill states.
Hui-Ch'ao	Korean; 8th century AD.
Alberuni (1030)	Came with Mahmud Ghaznavi; described the region.
Thomas Coriat, William Finch	Visited during Jahangir's reign.
Foster (1783), Moorcroft (1820–22), Major Archer (1829)	Later travelogues.

1.6 Numismatics

- Coins found of the **Kunindas, Audumbaras, Kulutas, Trigartas, Yaudheyas and Hindu Shahis**.
- **Audumbaras** — copper and silver coins (1st century BC), issued in the name of both king and community; **bi-scriptural** (Brahmi and Kharoshthi).

- **Kunindas — copper for internal trade, silver for external**.
- Mauryan influence seen at **Arki (Solan, 1969)** and Una. **37 punch-marked coins** at Arki, **31** from Jawalaji, Kangra.
- **Indo-Greek (Indo-Bactrian)** coins at Sarol and Lachori in Chamba. **21 Apollodotus coins** (c. 160 BC) at Mewa, Hamirpur.
- Kushan: **382 copper coins of Wema Kadphises and 40 of Kanishka** on the Kalka–Kasauli road; coins of Wema, Kanishka and Vasudeva at Khaniyara.
- Kullu's oldest coin — reign of **Raja Virayash** (1st century AD).
- Chamba's copper coins called **Chakli**; promoted by **Sahil Varman (920–940 AD)** with an image of Yogi Charpatnath.

2. Early Migrations into the Hills

Four waves, in order: Kols → Indo-Mongols (Bhot/Kirat) → Khas Aryans → Indo-Aryans. The order of arrival is the standard question.

Race	Period	Origin / Character	Key points
1. Kol / Munda	3000–1500 BC	Proto-Australoid; from Africa via the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden; entered from Bihar/Jharkhand	Earliest inhabitants (Rigveda). Non-Aryan, short, dark. Pushed into the hills by Indus Valley people. Spoke Munda. Not republics — hereditary oligarchy. Concentrated in Kinnaur and Lahaul.
2. Indo-Mongol (Bhot / Kirat)	3000–2000 BC	Mongoloid; regular contact with natives only from the 7th century AD	Now in Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti. Tibeto-Burman language; Lamaistic Buddhism. Kalhana says they lived primitively in jungles; Mahabharata calls them Girigehvaranivasina.
3. Khas Aryans	c. 2000 BC	From near the Caspian Sea (Central Asia), through the north-west	Third race; came before the Rigvedic period. Occupied J&K to Nepal and the north-east. No caste distinction — degraded as 'Mlechha'. Manu recognised them as Kshatriyas.
4. Indo-Aryans / Vedic Aryans	c. 1500 BC	Crossed the Hindukush into the Indus valley — Sapta-Sindhu	Came a little after the Khas. Limited to the plains and Shivalik foothills; pushed the Kols into the higher hills.

Awakening Toppers

Kols — further detail

- In **Vedic literature** called **Das, Dasyu, Nishad**; in **post-Vedic literature** called **Kinnar, Nag, Yaksh**.
- Gave rise to the Das, Nishadh, Dasyus, Hali, Dum and Chanal of western Himachal; the Chamnag and Damang of Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti.
- **Shambhar**, son of Kulitara, was the powerful Das king before the Aryans — held **a hundred forts** between the Beas and the Yamuna (Shambhar = 100).
- He lost the **Dashrajnya war** to the Aryan chief **Divodas (Raja Inder)**; the war lasted **40 years**.

Bhot / Kirat — further detail

- Countered Arjuna, Bhima and Nakula in the Mahabharata. **Kiratarjuniya** of **Bharavi** is woven around the Kirata king's encounter with Arjuna.
- Later known as **Mauvaries** in Nepal and **Mavanas** between the Yamuna and Satluj.
- **Bhotias** — traders who settled in Pangi valley and Lahaul; followed Buddhism.
- **Swangla** — a recent tribe of Pattan valley (Chenab, Lahaul), with a distinctive agricultural system linked to Indian markets.
- **Khampas** — their traders, dealing from Tibet and Turkey down to the Indian plains.

Khas Aryans — further detail

- **Pliny** (79 AD) placed the Khasas between the Indus and the Ganges.
- **Grierson** held that the earliest Indo-Aryan inhabitants of the Himalayan tract were the Khasas, speaking a tongue akin to the **Pishacha** language of the Hindukush.
- Organised into small units called **Khasas or Mavanas** (= strong men); each had an elected head called **Mavi or Mavana**.
- These Mavanas later developed into the tribal republics — the **Janapadas**.
- Fought as allies of the Pandavas (Satyaki) in the Mahabharata.
- The **Nag–Khas war** is still shown in Kullu's **Budhi Diwali** folk dances.

3. The Janapadas (Tribal Republics)

Period: 6th–8th century BC to the 2nd–4th century AD.

- **Katyayana** and **Panini** divide Janapadas into two: **Monarchical (Ekaraja)** and **Republican (Sangha)**.
- Himachal's republics were **Sangha Janapadas** — Trigarta, Audumbara, Kuluta, Kuninda, Yaudheya.
- **Panini** called them **Ayudha-jivi-sangha** (professional fighters); **Kautilya** called them **Sastropajivi**.
- Structure: **Executive Council** (from the Central Assembly, like the Lok Sabha) and a hereditary **Council of Elders** (like the Rajya Sabha). The king was **elected** and answerable to the Council of Elders.

How they disappeared

- Functioned smoothly until the **Mauryas**. A sense of 'common nation' emerged as Alexander became a threat.
- Conversion from republics to monarchies began in the **Mauryan age**; further weakened by Greek, Kushana and Saka invasions — invaders needed a single authority to deal with.
- The **Guptas imposed monarchy**; the Janapadas vanished between the **3rd and 4th centuries AD**.
- Republican Rajas became hereditary **Ranas**; after **Harshavardhana (606–647 AD)** the Ranas grew strong and assumed the title of **Raja**.

Awakening Toppers

3.1 Trigarta (Kangra) — the oldest

- Mentioned in the **Mahabharata, Puranas, Panini's Ashtadhyayi** and **Hemchandra's Abhidhan Chintamani**.
- Trigarta = the region drained by **three rivers: Beas, Satluj and Ravi**.
- **Panini** made the first historical mention in the **5th century BC**.
- **Kashika Vritti** called it **Trigarta Shashtha** — a union of **six Janapadas**: Kaundoparatha, Dandaki, Kaushtaki, Jalmani, Brahmagupta, Janaki/Jalaki.
- Ruling family of **Susharma Chandra** originally from **Multan**; shifted after defeat in the Mahabharata.
- Susharma Chandra sided with the **Kauravas**. Kangra was possibly named **Bhim Kot** after Bhima.
- After his death the capital shifted from **Jalandhar to Nagarkot (Kangra)**.

3.2 Kuluta (Kullu)

- Located in the **upper Beas valley**; founded by **Bihangmani Pal**, who came from **Prayag**.
- Mentioned in the **Ramayana, Mahabharata, Vishnu Purana, Brihat Samhita and Markandeya Purana**.
- A copper coin of **100 AD** bears **'Virayasasyarajna Kulutasya'** — Sanskrit legend with Prakrit and Kharoshthi on the reverse.

3.3 Kunindas

- Name derived from the river **Kalindi (Yamuna)**.
- Mentioned in the Mahabharata, Vishnu Purana, Vayu Purana and Markandeya Purana; **conquered by Arjuna**.
- Lived between the **Beas, Yamuna and Satluj** — Shimla and Sirmaur hills, and between Ambala and Saharanpur in the plains.
- Identified today with the **Kanets**.
- Silver coins bear **Amoghabhuti** — an **official title, not a name**.