



## Chapter 8

### Manipur and the British

#### **NOTES:**

##### **Contact between Manipur and the British**

- An Anglo-Manipuri Treaty was signed on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1762 between Haridas Gosain, on behalf of Baghyachandra, the king of Manipur and Henry Verelst on behalf of the East India Company.

##### **An Anglo-Manipuri Treaty, 1762**

- **Two provisions of the Anglo-Manipuri Treaty are**
- Jai Singh shall be assisted with such of the English troops as from time to time can be spared for the recovery of lands and effects from Myanmarese.
- For this assistance, Jai Singh is willing and ready to pay, at immediate end of every month, all the troops in his service so long as they remain in his service.

##### **The Seven Year's Devastation, 1819-1826**

- Labanyachandra became the king of Manipur in 1799 after the death of his father Baghyachandra.
- In 1800, Madhuchandra became the king of Manipur and appointed his younger brother Chourajit as the Yuvraj and Marjit as the Senapati.
- Chourajit revolted against his brother in 1803 but it failed and he went to Cachar.
- In 1804, Chourajit again invaded Manipur with a strong force from Cachar and became the king of Manipur.
- In 1806, Marjit unsuccessfully revolted against Chourajit and fled towards Myanmar and encamped at Tamu.
- After unsuccessful revolts in 1806 and 1807, Marjit defeated Chourajit with the help of strong forces from Burma at Kakching Panjao in 1814 and became the king of Manipur.

- In 1819, Burma overran the Manipur valley after Marjit did not go to Burma to pay homage to the new king. This ordeal is known as the Seven Year's Devastation of Manipur.
- Herachandra and Yumjaotaba adopted guerrilla warfare against the Burmese.

### **Why Herachandra adopted guerilla warfare?**

- The population of Manipur was small in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, so it was impossible to face the Burmese in open field.

### **Liberation of Manipur**

- Battle of Tilain fought between the British and the Burmese brought recognition to Gambhir Singh by the British.
- Gambhir Singh liberated Manipur from the rule of Myanmar in 1826 with his Manipur Levy of 500 soldiers.

### **Era of reconstruction**

- **Treaty of Yandaboo**  
Treaty of Yandaboo ended the 1<sup>st</sup> Anglo-Burmese War. According to Article 2 of the treaty, the king of Burma agreed to recognise Gambhir Singh as the king of Manipur.
- The immediate task of Gambhir Singh after his ascendancy was the reconstruction of Manipur.
- Gambhir Singh was helped by Nara Singh in the reconstruction work.
- Gambhir Singh shifted his capital and the headquarters of his Manipur Levy to Langthabal, situated about 8km from Imphal.

### **Langthabal Palace**

- The Langthabal Palace was established by Maharaja Gambhir Singh in 1827(October) just after the liberation of Manipur from Burmese.