

**A photo-compiled Report on  
Cultural Heritages of Nepal  
(Before and after the major earthquake in 2015)**

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*This is an in-depth report about the cultural heritages of Nepal. The cultural heritages of Nepal are ancient and unique which has shaped the Nepal's identity among the globe. Many of these cultural heritages have been damaged by the recent devastating earthquake of 7.8 magnitudes on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015. This report provides the details of these heritages: before and after earthquake.*

*This report shall focus on providing the in-depth information about the heritages by highlighting their past formation, the true meaning and value behind their existence and condition after they were hit by the massive earthquake.*

## **Acknowledgement**

Nepal faced a huge destruction of its national property: cultural heritages including several calamities in the massive earthquake. These cultural heritages which are the ancient existence have undergone various reformations and will surely be somewhat different after getting renovated even this time. Thus, it is important to preserve its identity in current time for the next generation for whom this would be a history.

This Photo-compiled report is the collective outcome of various resources through different internet sites and resources. The information about all the heritages and its history was gathered from Wikipedia pages and other related websites.

Mainly the photographs before the 1934 earthquake have been gathered from website named [www.xxnepali.net](http://www.xxnepali.net) and facebook pages. The photographs after earthquake were mostly taken by our volunteer photographer Sandesh Ravikumar who was from India and stayed for 15 days post-earthquake. He also volunteered in building Earth-bag house in Changunarayan which was the initiation of volunteers of ICA Nepal.

Many other photographs are from various social networking sites as well.

Therefore, ICA Nepal would like to acknowledge each and every single resources and person behind the completion of this report with heartfelt gratitude. We hope this report would meet its true objectives and be helpful for its readers.

**ICA Nepal**

## ABOUT NEPAL

Nepal officially the **Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal**, is a landlocked country located in South Asia. With an area of 147,181 square kilometers (56,827 sq. mi) and a population of approximately 27 million, Nepal is the world's 93rd largest country by land mass. It is located in the Himalayas and bordered to the north by China and to the south, east, and west by India.

The mountainous north of Nepal has eight of the world's ten tallest mountains, including the highest point on Earth, Mount Everest. More than 240 peaks over 20,000 ft. (6,096 m) above sea level are located in Nepal. The three geographical regions: Himalayan, hilly and terai their own climatic conditions and geographical differences making Nepal a country of diversified vegetations. These ecological belts run east-west and are bisected by Nepal's major river systems. Nepal is divided into 14 zones and 75 districts, grouped into 5 development regions.

The 14 zones are: Bagmati, Bheri, Dhawalagiri, Gandaki, Janakpur, Karnali, Koshi, Lumbini, Mahakali, Mechi, Narayani, Rapti, Sagarmatha, and Seti.

Nepal is a developing country with a low income economy, ranking 145th of 187 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2014. It continues to struggle with high

levels of hunger and poverty. Despite these challenges, the country has been making steady progress, with the government making a commitment to graduate the nation from least developed country status by 2022.

Nepal is immensely rich in its diverse and unique culture. The cultural heritage of Nepal has evolved over the centuries. The temples, monasteries and heritages have been in existence since 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> centuries. The cultural beauty manifests in music, dance, festivals and costumes of people. Nepalese people are divided in 4 castes and 36 sub caste, everyone having their own set of norms and culture.

These cultural and natural factors are the major attractions of Nepal for the tourists. People all around the globe visit Nepal to enjoy the Himalayan beauty and observe its welcoming cultural practices.

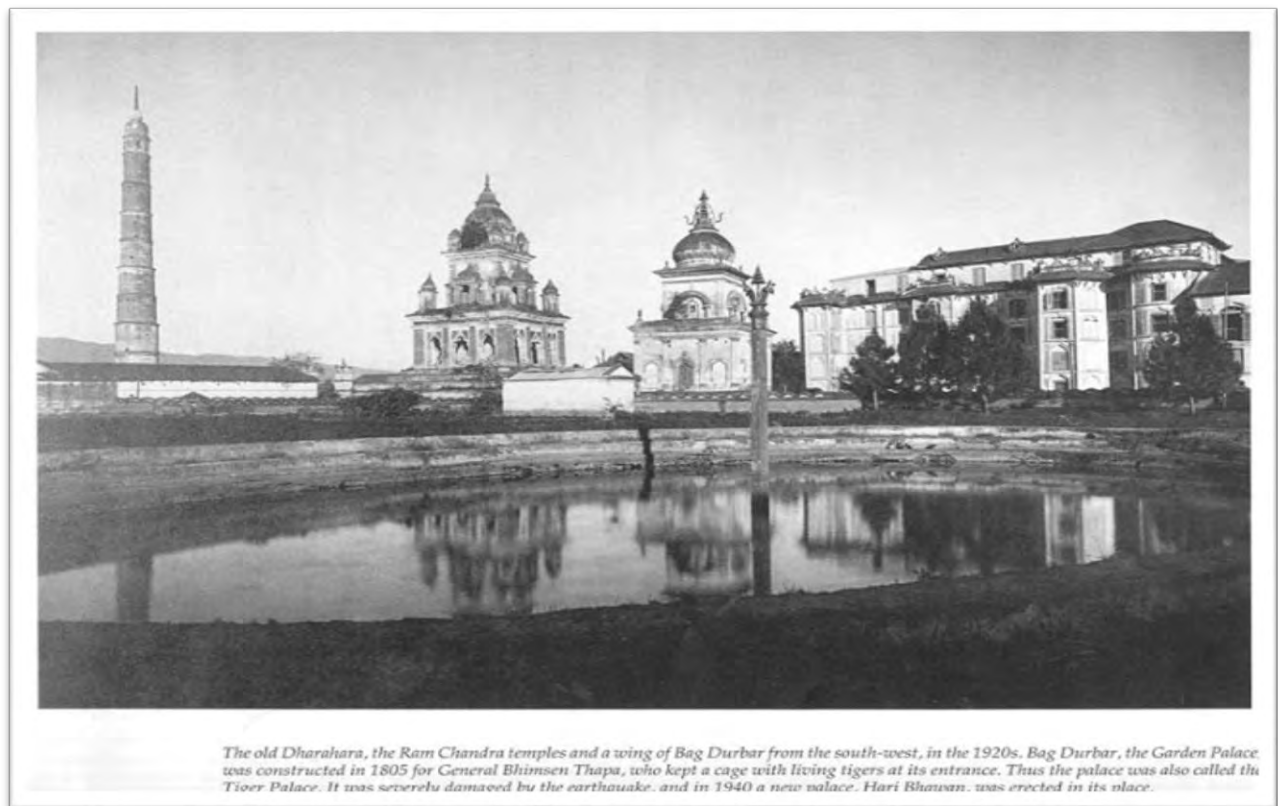


## KATHMANDU VALLEY

According to Swayambhu Puran, the Kathmandu Valley was once a lake. The hill where the Swayambu Stupa rests had lotus plants with beautiful lotus flowers abloom. One story says that the god Manjusri cut a gorge at a place called Kashapaal (later called Chobhar) with a sword called Chandhrasha and drained away the waters in order to establish a habitable land.

According to Gopal Banshawali, Krishna cut the gorge with his Sudarshana Chakra to let the water out. He then handed the drained valley to the Gopal Vansi people, who were nomadic cow herders.

This is how Kathmandu, the present capital city of Nepal came into existence. The Kathmandu Valley may have been inhabited as early as 300 BCE, since the oldest known objects in the valley date to a few hundred years BCE. The earliest known inscription is dated 185 CE. The oldest firmly dated building in the earthquake-prone valley is almost 1,992 years old.



The Kirats are the first documented rulers of the Kathmandu Valley; the remains of their palace are said to be in Patan near Hiranyavarna Mahavihara (called “Patukodon”). The Licchavi Dynasty whose earliest inscriptions date back to 464 CE, were the next rulers of the valley and

had close ties with the Gupta Dynasty of India. The Malla Dynasty ruled Kathmandu Valley and the surrounding area from the 12th until the 18th century CE, when the Shah Dynasty under



*A western view of Kathmandu from atop the Dhurandhar before 1934. Swayambunath is in the background. The buildings of Basantapur Durbar and the Taleju temple, to the right, towered over all the other structures in town.*

Prithvi Narayan Shah conquered the valley as he created present-day Nepal. Most of ancient Nepali architecture present in Nepal today is from the Malla era.

Kathmandu had undergone lot of changes and unplanned urbanization in the recent decades



*The Tundikhel has been increasingly encroached upon by new constructions around and in it. It is not only the expansion of the town which defines the change, but als*

which has made this city over populated and over polluted. Since, Kathmandu is one central city of all the opportunities, people from every part of the country come here to build their future.



At present, Kathmandu has been one of the fastest urbanizing cities in South Asia which has resulted extreme air pollution and unhealthy living environment.

### **Major Attractions of Kathmandu**

Kathmandu valley is one of the ancient and unique places which consist of three different districts: Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur. Kathmandu was known for the city of temples. It used to have a global identity of cultural richness and ancient civilization. According to UNESCO, Kathmandu has at least 130 monuments including several pilgrimage sites for Hindus and Buddhists.

According to UNESCO, there are seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites within this valley. Kathmandu has been popular with tourists for its unique architecture and rich culture. Nepal is blessed with rich art and crafts. Nepalese art is heavily inspired from Hinduism and Buddhism. Filled with ancient towns, every temple, monasteries, architect of Nepal holds symbolic meaning and history of Nepal's civilization.

**Some of the major attractions of Kathmandu are:**

- 1) Basantapur (Kathmandu Durbar Square)
- 2) Bhaktapur Durbar Square
- 3) Patan Durbar Square
- 4) Swoyambhunath
- 5) Boudhanath
- 6) Pashupatinath Temple
- 7) Budhanilkantha Temple
- 8) Changu Narayan Temple
- 9) Dharahara



*Bag Durbar as seen from atop the Dharahara in the 1920s. The complex to the south of the palace is the Central Prison. A sizeable portion of the Valley's food supplies was grown on the very fertile land along the Bagmati.*





*Temples of Nepal after earthquake in 1934 AD*

## **NEPAL: AN EARTHQUAKE PRONE COUNTRY**

### *BRIEF SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL EARTHQUAKES IN NEPAL*



*Photo courtesy: Sandesh Ravikumar*

*After earthquake 2015*

## HISTORICAL EARTHQUAKES IN NEPAL

The first ever recorded earthquake is the earthquake of June 7, **1255 AD** (1310 BS). During the earthquake nearly one third of the total population of Kathmandu were killed. Among the killed, were the King of Kathmandu valley Abahya Malla. The earthquake magnitude at that time is believed to be around 7.7 in Richter scale. Similarly, In August (or September) of **1408 AD** (1463BS), during the reign of king Shyam singh, a major earthquake destroyed the temple of Rato Matchendranath and many other buildings and temples.

Very little information is available about the earthquake that happened in December of **1681 AD** (or January of 1682) i.e. 1737BS. King Sri Niwas Malla ruled at the time. In the months of June and July of **1767 AD** an earthquake of significant intensity was felt in Nepal. Much information about the earthquake is not available. In the earthquake that happened in May/June of **1810 AD** (1866 BS) many buildings and temples were damaged. Loss of lives was limited to a few but it was told to comprise of twenty one shocks and aftershocks. The King Girban Yudha Bikram Shah was ruling Nepal at that time.

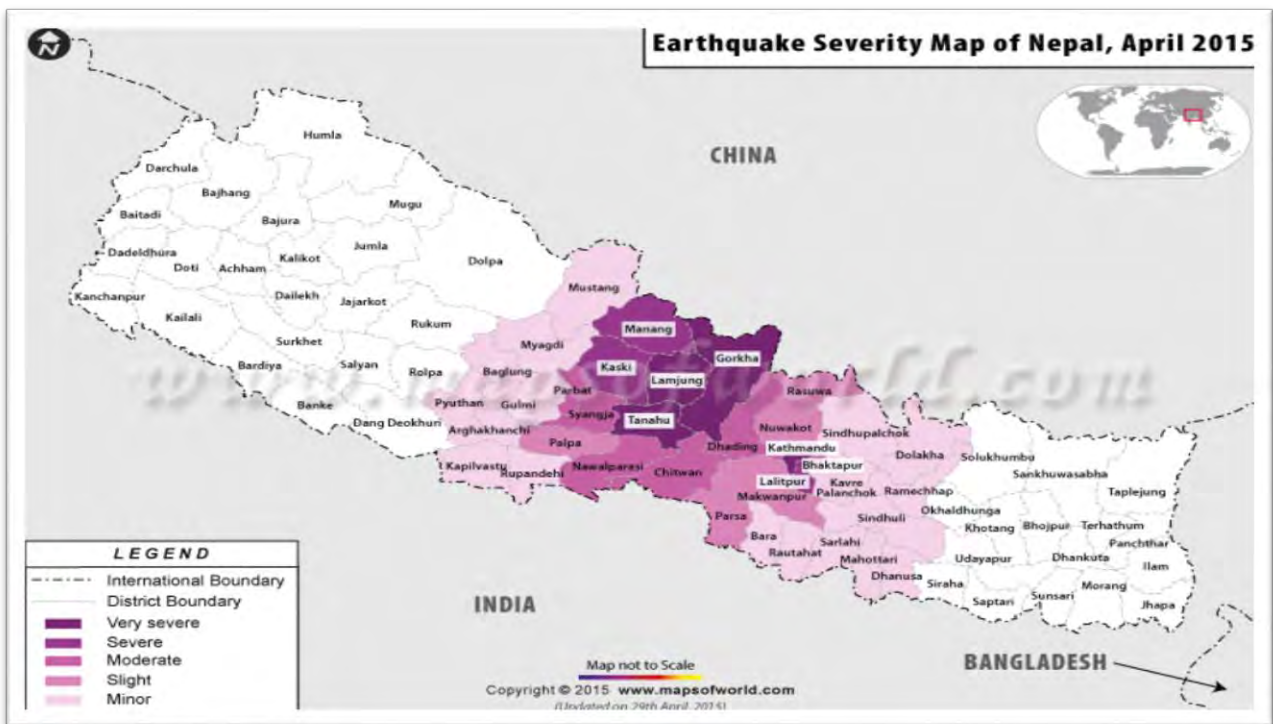
During June and July of **1834 AD** (1891 BS) four major earthquakes were reported. Although this earthquake was less severe when compared to the earlier year's earthquake, the rain during the earthquake caused flooding in Bagmati River – washing bridges and sweeping crops planted on the fields near the river banks.

The deadliest earthquake on record – popularly known as "**90 Sal ko bhukampa**" had occurred during Magh of **1990 BS** (16 January, 1934 AD). The earthquake is also known as Great Nepal Bihar Earthquake, occurred at around 2pm. The 8.4 Richter Earthquake killed 8519 people, destroyed 80893 buildings and severely damaged 126355 more houses. At that time the government spent NRs 2,06,500 through the earthquake relief fund in Kathmandu valley alone. The earthquake relief fund established by the king offered loans to the earthquake effected people.

An earthquake in **1974** (2031 BS) wasn't that severe as only one building was reported to have destroyed in Nuwakot during the earthquake. Another earthquake of 6.5 Richter scale happened in 1980 (2037 BS) that affected the far western region of Nepal. The most affected districts included Baitadi, Bajhang, and Darchula. In the earthquake 125 people died, 248 were seriously injured, 11,604 buildings were destroyed, 13,414 buildings were damaged. A heavy loss of livestock was also reported. There were other small magnitude earthquakes in later years which were non-fatal and less destructive.

## Nepal Earthquake 2015

The major earthquake of 2015 (2072 BS) occurred almost after 80 years which is the recent one and which caused the massive destruction. On 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 Nepal was hit by 7.9 magnitude earthquake making Barpak of Gorkha as its epicenter devastating Kathmandu and its other peripheral districts (Lamjung, Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Nuwakot, Kavre, Lamjung and Sankhu). Devastation got more serious after the 6.7 magnitude aftershock in the next day of the major earthquake. The death tolls have raised upto 8,786 dead in **Nepal** (officially) and 8,947 in total 21,952 injured (officially) .Over 2 and half lakhs household was destroyed. Rescue and relief support were provided from all over the world including India, Russia, China, USA, Korea etc. Nepali youth mobilization during the emergency time was also quite appreciable and acknowledgeable.



Source: [www.xnepali.net](http://www.xnepali.net)

Above figure indicates the various areas or districts of Nepal that was affected due to earthquake. Such major earthquake occurred in Nepal after almost 82 years. After the major earthquake there are almost more than 30000 aftershocks, among which the aftershock of 2<sup>nd</sup> day of earthquake of 6.8 magnitude and aftershock of 18<sup>th</sup> day of 7.1 magnitude were more devastating. The quake of day occurred in 12<sup>th</sup> may, was hit at Dolakha as its epicenter which increased the casualties.

Earthquake has created a deep fear and trauma among the people. People were living in tarpaulin immediately after the earthquake and now slowly heading towards the building of temporary shelters. More than 5000 schools were damaged and students' education was severely affected during the earthquake days. The vulnerable groups of the society such as Women, children, differently abled people and so- called lower caste people are the ones who are badly affected and are in immediate support. Upcoming monsoon and threats of landslide have kept people in constant fear.

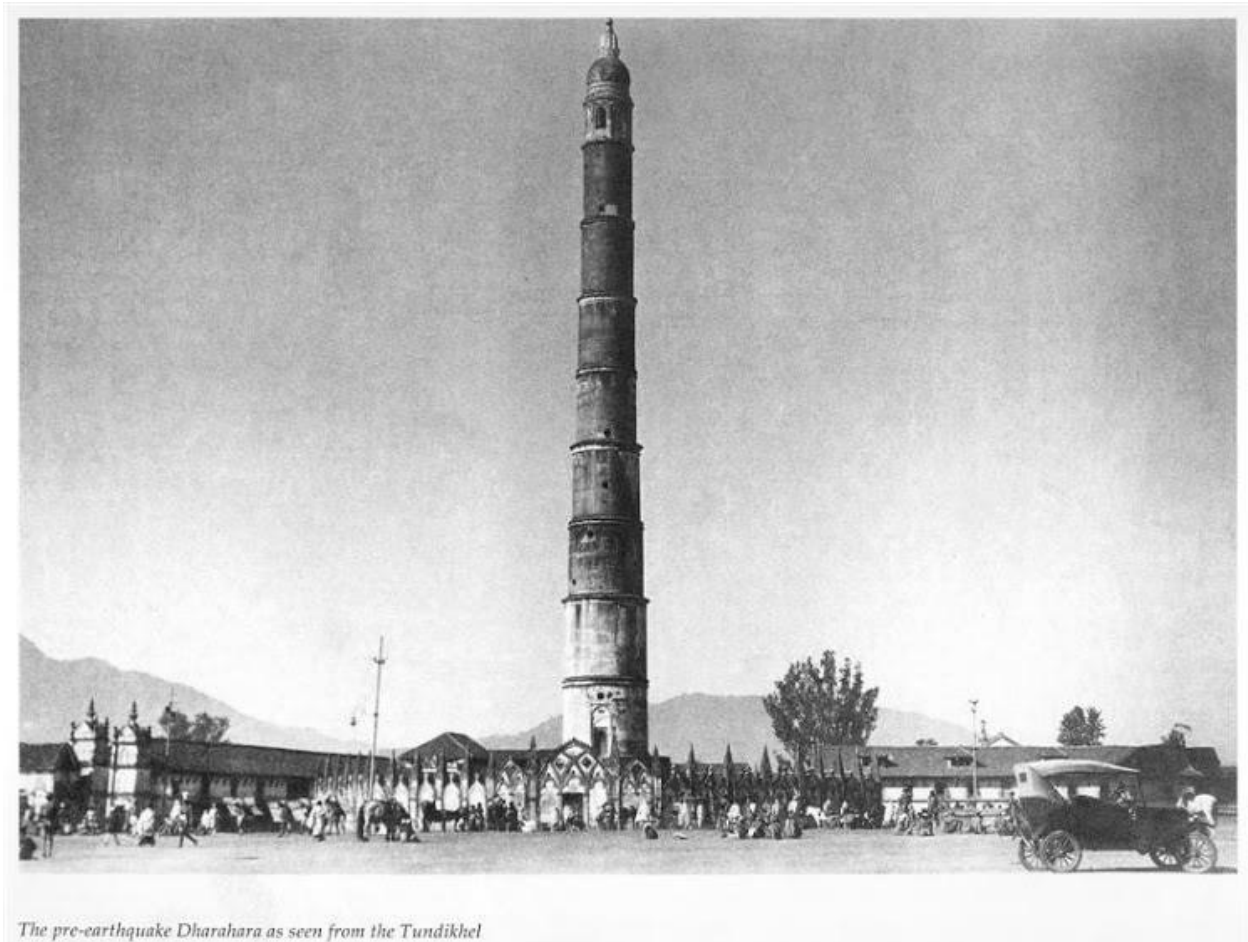
Besides its people and household, another heartbreaking impact has been on several cultural heritages of Nepal. Among the 8 cultural heritages listed in UNESCO world heritage list, 6 of them are severely affected due to earthquake. All the major sites including the three durbar squares have been severely damaged. The nine-storied tall Dharahara, also known as Bhimsen tower got destructed leaving just its base.



*Photo courtesy: Sandesh Ravikumar*

*An old man sitting inside his damaged house in Changunarayan Nepal; His house was damaged by the earthquake of 25th April, 2015*

## DHARAHARA (Bhimsen Tower)



*The pre-earthquake Dharahara as seen from the Tundikhel*

### ***Dharahara before 1934 Earthquake***

Standing 203.0 ft tall nine-storied tower in the center of Sundhara, Kathmandu was Dharahara, also known as Bhimsen Tower. Dharahara was first built by then Mukhtiyar (equivalent to Prime Minister) Bhimsen Thapa in 1832 BS. The tower was built for Queen Tripura Sundari who was the niece of Bhimsen Thapa. Initially Dharahara was built 11 storied tall where the top two storied were damaged during the major earthquake of 1934AD. The remaining 9 storied were rebuilt later which was till now the oldest tower in the city. The earthquake in 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 damaged the tower completely leaving only its base.

## History

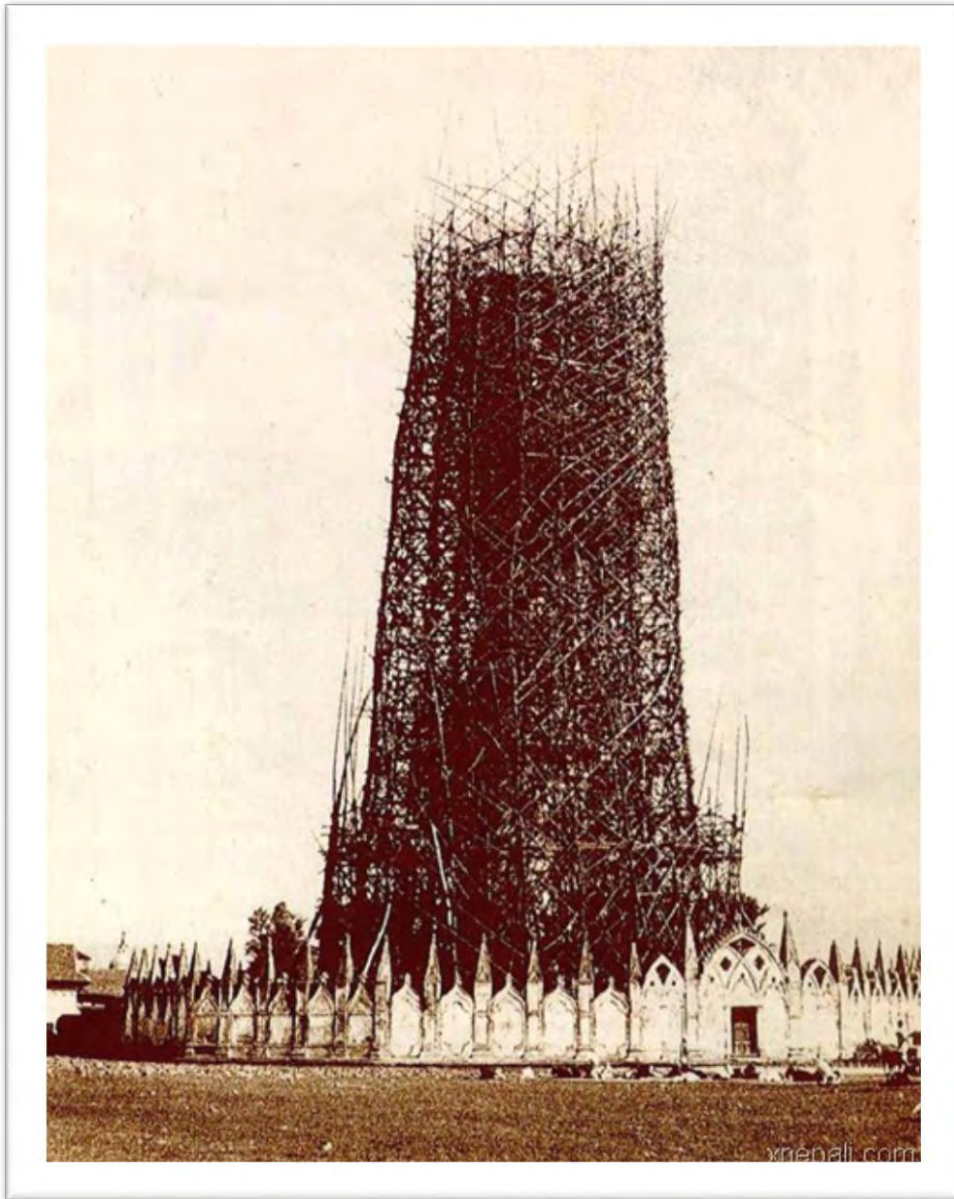
Bhimsen Thapa, who built dharahara had built one more tower. The first tower was built eight years earlier in 1824 and was 11 stories high, two stories taller than the Dharahara. During the earthquake of 1834, both towers survived, but the first Bhimsen's tower suffered severe damage. A century later, on 15 January 1934, another earthquake completely destroyed the first tower, and only two of the 11 stories of the second tower remained. The then Prime Minister of Nepal, Juddha Shumsher, subsequently carried out renovation work of the Dharahara tower to fully restore it.<sup>[3]</sup> After the original Bhimsen Tower was destroyed, Queen Lalit Tripura Sundari's tower became known as 'Bhimsen Stambha' or 'Bhimsen Tower'.



**Dharahara after 1934 earthquake**



The purpose of construction of Dharahara was for military use as a watchtower. When incidents of national importance occurred, bugles were blown from the top floor of the tower. This was the signal for soldiers to assemble. This tradition of bugle trumpeting continued until the collapse of the tower. After 1934 earthquake, two of the top stories got collapsed. It was renovated in the same year with only nine floors.



*Dharahara being renovated after 1934 earthquake*



***Dharahara after being renovated; till 2015***

Then, the devastating earthquake of 25<sup>th</sup> April damaged Dharahara completely. The tower that stood as a pride and historic identity of Kathmandu got crashed down within 50 seconds of 7.8 magnitude quake and only the base of tower remained. Around 200 people got killed from dharahara, yet some people were rescued alive even after some days.



## **BASANTAPUR ( KATHMANDU DURBAR SQUARE )**

Kathmandu Durbar Square was one of the three Durbar (royal palace) squares in Kathmandu valley which was the significant identity of spectacular architectures rich in Newari culture. The durbar square was built at the time of Lichhavi Kings and underwent various renovations and new addition till Shah Dynasty.

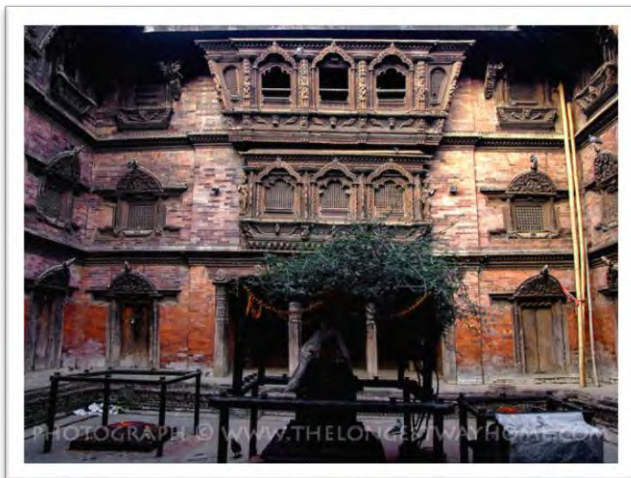


Though there are no written archives stating the history of Kathmandu Durbar Square, construction of the palace in the square is credited to Sankharadev (1069–1083). As the first king of the independent Kathmandu City, Ratna Malla is said to have built the Taleju temple in the Northern side of the palace in 1501. Construction of the Karna Chok is not clearly stated in any historical inscriptions; although, it is probably the oldest among all the courtyards in the square. The Bhagavati Temple, originally known as a Narayan Temple, rises above the mansions surrounding it and was added during the time of Jagajaya Malla in the early eighteenth century. The Narayan idol within the temple was stolen so Prithvi Narayan Shah replaced it with an image of Bhagavati, completely transforming the name of the temple.



*Statue of Lord Hanuman*

The oldest temples in the square are those built by Mahendra Malla (1560–1574). They are the temples of Jagannath, Kotilingeswara Mahadev, Mahendreswara, and the Taleju Temple. This three-roofed Taleju Temple was established in 1564, in a typical Newari architectural style and is elevated on platforms that form a pyramid-like structure



*Kumari ghar; where Kumari, living goddess resides*

In the time of Pratap Malla, son of Laksminar Simha, the square was extensively developed. He was an intellectual, a pious devotee, and especially interested in arts. Immediately after his coronation as a king, he immediately began enlargements to his royal palace, and rebuilt some old temples and constructed new temples, shrines and stupas around his kingdom. He added Nasal chowk, Mohan chowk and several other temples to enhance the beauty of the city and durbar square.

After the death of Pratap Malla, there was not much effort made by any other ruler in terms of cultural development. Later around 1692, Radhilasmi, the widowed queen of Pratap Malla, erected the tall temples of Shiva known as Maju Deval near the Garuda image in the square. This temple stands on nine stepped platforms and is one of the tallest buildings in the square.

There was several effect on Durbar square are after 1934 earthquake. The temples such as Kageshwara temple which was built by daughter-in-law of Pratap Malla was beautiful temple of

Newari architecture. After it was damaged in 1934 earthquake, the roof was replaced by a plain tin roof which was no near to Newari architecture.

In this way Kathmandu Durbar square has undergone various changes and modifications. The massive earthquake has damaged most of its part. The tallest temple standing nine-stepped tall is no more left and the museum has been completely destroyed. Below are some of the photographs of Basantapur Durbar Square after the major earthquake.





*photo courtesy: Sandesh Ravikumar*

*After earthquake 2015*

## BHAKTAPUR DURBAR SQUARE

Bhaktapur, also known as Bhadgaon is an ancient Newar city of the Kathmandu valley. Bhaktapur was the largest of the three Newar kingdoms of the Kathmandu Valley, and was the capital of Nepal during the great 'Malla Kingdom' until the second half of the 15th century. Today it is the third largest city in the Kathmandu Valley. The Nepal Bhasa (Newari language) is distinctly different from other places and now even being the smaller city, the vast population is Newari.

Founded in the 12th century by King Ananda Malla (according to various chronicles), Bhaktapur was the capital city of the Greater Malla Kingdom until the 15th century and was an independent kingdom from then until the 18th century.



Bhaktapur Durbar Square is one of the three durbar squares of Kathmandu that are listed in UNESCO world heritage list which imitates of ancient Newari culture and architectures. The major attractions of Bhaktapur Durbar squares are 55 window palace, Batsala Temple, Golden gate, Lion gate and mini pashupati temple and Nyatapola temple.

In 1934, the major earthquake destroyed over 2,000 houses and severely damaged over 2,000 more homes. Over 1,000 people died in this quake.



*Bhaktapur after 1934 earthquake*



*Bhaktapur durbar square after 1934 earthquake*

Even in the earthquake of 2015, Bhaktapur was one of the most affected districts in Nepal. Bhaktapur durbar square was also badly affected and lot of houses which were of mud and stones got damaged. Bhaktapur, is one of the districts where one could still see the ancient lifestyle and culture and was less touched by modernization in compared to other two districts of valley. Therefore, there was severe damage in this area in the recent earthquake.



*Photo courtesy: social networking sites*

*After 2015 earthquake*



*Photo courtesy: Sandesh Ravikumar*



*After 2015 earthquake*



## **PATAN DURBAR SQUARE**

Patan durbar square is yet another marvelous example of Newa architecture and culture of Kathmandu valley which is listed in UNESCO world heritage list. There is no any accurate historically marked date of its establishment but historians has it that the durbar was built even before the Malla reign. The pradhans who were around the area have some connection with the durbar. However, Malla kings did make remarkable changes and development around the area by building various temples and monuments. Many of the current architectures date back to 1600s which were reformed during Malla period.

The major attractions of Patan durbar square include Krishna Temple, Vishwanath Temple and Taleju temple. Krishna Temple is the major temple of Patan which is said to have been built of one single stone. The carvings and design of the temple is one of the highlighting factor and resemblance of finest Newa architecture. The temple was built in 1637 by King Siddhinarasimh Malla.



*Patan Durbar Square; Krishna temple on the right*



**The water color sketches by Henry Ambrose Oldfield, who was a doctor at the British Legation in Kathmandu in 1854. His drawing of Patan Darbar Square shows Tushahiti, the Bhandarkhal Pond and Taleju temple in background.**

*Source: Before and After, Nepali times (<http://nepalitimes.com/blogs/kundadixit/2011/04/05/797/>)*

Patan Durbar square is one of the least affected heritages in the valley in earthquake 2015. Although many houses collapsed around the area, the durbar square however remained intact. Patan; also known as Lalitpur is the largest district of the valley. Many parts of this district were severely damaged in the earthquake.



*Photo courtesy: social networking sites*



*Photo courtesy: social networking sites*

*An Ariel view of Patan durbar square after earthquake*



*Photo courtesy: social networking sites*

*Patan durbar square after earthquake*

## SWOYAMBHUNATH MONASTERY

Swayambhunath is an ancient religious complex atop a hill in the Kathmandu Valley, west of Kathmandu city. It is also known as the *Monkey Temple* as there are holy monkeys living in the north-west parts of the temple. The Tibetan name for the site means 'Sublime Trees' for the many varieties of trees found on the hill. Swayambhunath is the major pilgrimage site for Buddhist Newars and second most important place after Boudhanath for Tibetan Buddhists.

Swayambhunath, is among the oldest religious sites in Nepal. According to the *Gopālarājavaṃśāvalī* Swayambhunath was founded by the great-grandfather of King Mānadeva (464-505 CE), King Vṛsadeva, about the beginning of the 5th century CE. This seems to be confirmed by a damaged stone inscription found at the site, which indicates that King Mānadeva ordered work done in 640 CE



*Swayambhunath Stupa around 1920, flanked by votive chaityas and the Hariti temple. Visible on the rim of the stupa is one of a series of small shrines as it appeared before its embellishment (cf. previous photo).*

The stupa was completely renovated in May 2010, its first major renovation since 1921 and its 15th in the nearly 1,500 years since it was built. However, the stupa faced many damages in the earthquake 2015.



*Photo courtesy: Sandesh Ravikumar*

*Damaged houses and scattered goods inside the stupa premises*



*Photo courtesy: Sandesh Ravikumar*

*Damaged form and wreckages of Shikhar style temple erected by Pratap Malla*



*Photo courtesy: Sandesh Ravikumar*

*Some glimpses of damages in Swoyambhunath*

## CHANGUNARAYAN TEMPLE

Changunarayan is considered as the oldest and the ancient temple of Hindu in Nepal. Its establishment date back to 325 BC at the time of Licchavi King Hari Datta Verma. The first epigraphic evidence of Nepalese history found in the temple premises during the reign of the Licchavi King Mandeva dating back to 464 A.D. shows that Changu had already been established as a sacred site in the 3rd century A.D

Changu Narayan Temple is situated at the top of the hill surrounded by forest of Champ tree, also called Champak tree. According to the mythology, once Lord Vishnu used to reside as one of the Champak tree in the forest as a sin. A Brahmin then cut down the tree and freed Lord Vishnu from his sin and since then the temple came into existence. The shrine is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

There is Newari community located in the village whose major occupation is agriculture but Changunarayan is also a good spot for tourism.



*Changunarayan temple before earthquake*



Changunarayan is among the most affected heritage of Nepal in the earthquake. Although the main temple stands still, it can be broken down by a minor jolt. Many people were injured in the temple premises and considering the severity, the temple was not allowed for visitors for a long period of time. Hence, not much photographs are received.

Even the villages of Changunarayan have been severely affected. 2 people were reported dead while hundreds of them were injured. Nearly 400 houses were damaged as per the report to ICA Nepal.

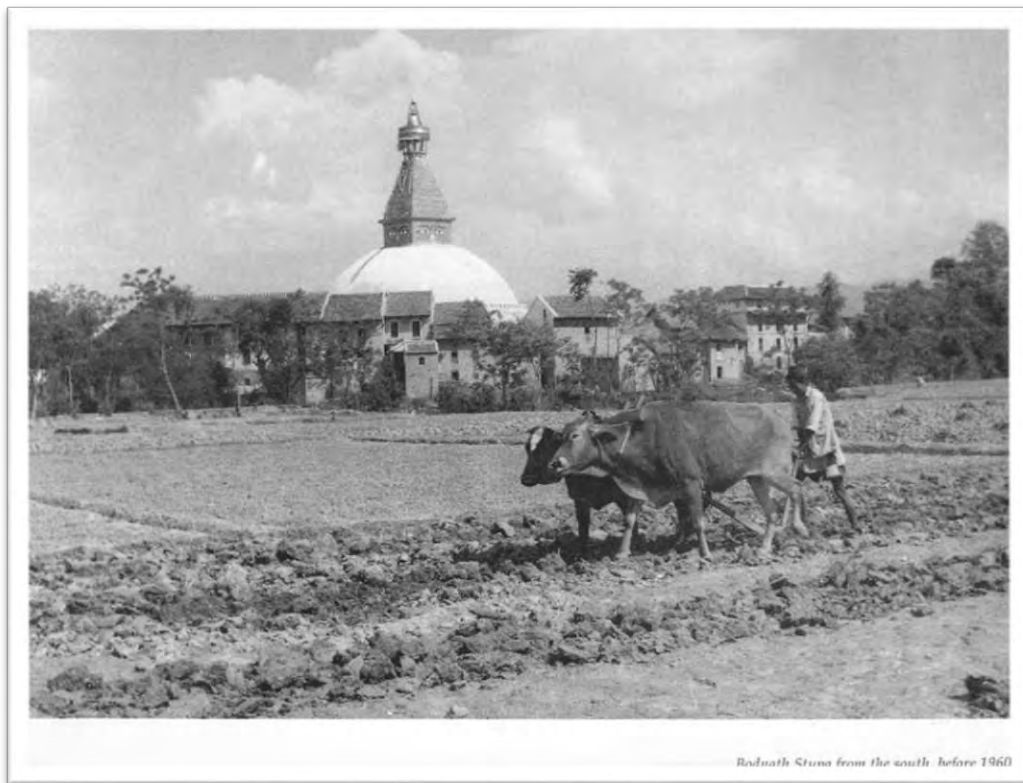


*Photo source: ekantipur.com*

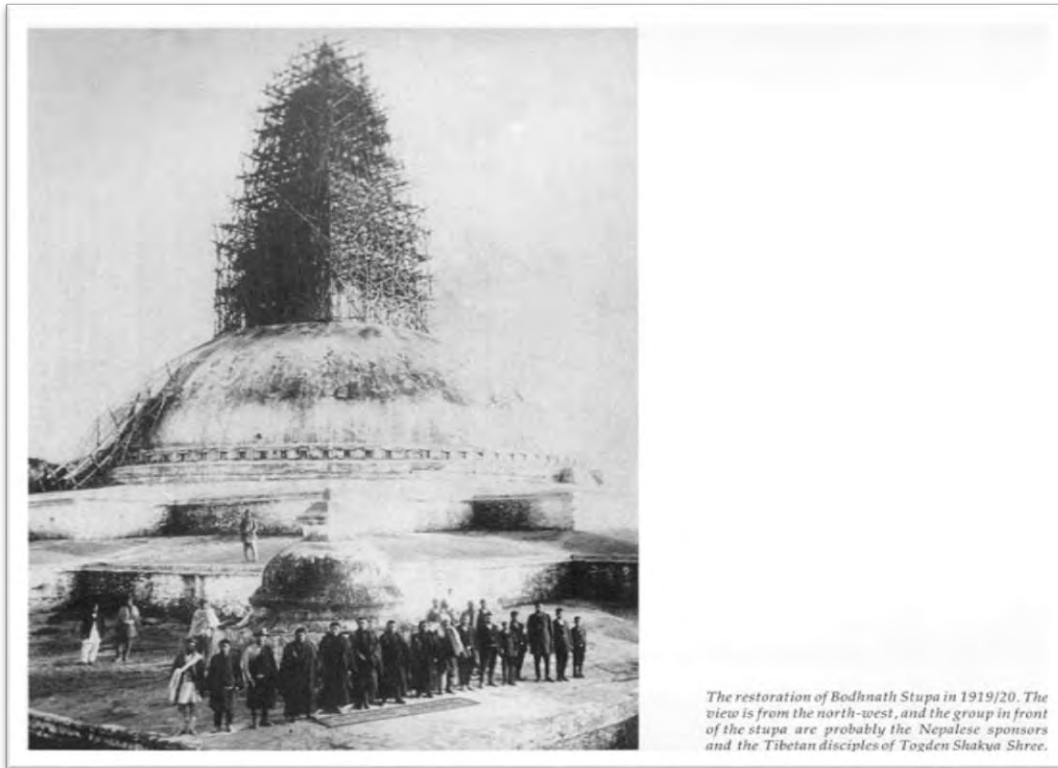
## BOUDHANATH STUPA

Boudhanath stupa is one of the most important pilgrimage site for Buddhists as it is believed to be built after the death of Lord Buddha. Mythologically, it was constructed by the four sons of an angel who came into earth as a common human being. The sons were highly religious and built the stupa which took seven years to be completed. However, history says, the stupa was constructed by founded by the Nepalese [Licchavi](#) king Śivadeva (c. 590-604 CE); though other Nepalese chronicles date it to the reign of King Mānadeva (464-505 CE).

It is known as **Khāsti** in Nepal Bhasa, **Jyarung Khashor** in Tibetan language or as **Bauddha** by speakers of Nepali. The real name of the stupa in full is, however, Jya Rung Khashor Chorten Chenpo, which may be translated into: "Have finished giving the order to proceed with." Having the large mandala makes it the largest spherical stupa of Nepal.



*Photo source: [www.xnepali.net](http://www.xnepali.net)*



*The restoration of Bodhi Tree Stupa in 1919/20. The view is from the north-west, and the group in front of the stupa are probably the Nepalese sponsors and the Tibetan disciples of Togden Shakya Shree.*

Photo source: [www.xnepali.net](http://www.xnepali.net)



*Boudhanath Stupa shining in the evening; before earthquake 2015*

Photo source: [www.webcreationcanada.com](http://www.webcreationcanada.com)



*Boudha stupa got minor damages after earthquake 2015*



*Photosource: [www.thegreatawakening.org](http://www.thegreatawakening.org)*

**Damage after second big earthquake on 12 May, 2015**



*Photocourtesy: Social networking sites*

**Renovation work being carried out after earthquake**



## About ICA Nepal

The Institute of cultural Affairs- Nepal was established in March 1998 in Kathmandu, Nepal as an autonomous, non- governmental organization registered with the government of Nepal and Social Welfare council research, Training, facilitation and community development activities. ICA's activities are based on participation. The organization is dedicated to building people's capacities whether they are rural village inhabitants or business executive in public training courses.

ICA-N is part of a network of autonomous ICAs worldwide working in 30 developing countries. The institute of cultural Affairs has over three decades of experience of building human capacities through participation, training and facilitation activities and setting up community development programs. ICA is concerned with 'human factor in development', strengthening human capabilities in public, NGO and private sectors.

ICA believes that every individual has the capacity to bring change in his/her situation. Therefore, every individual should be given the chance to participate, in order to build a sustainable pattern of change or development. It is ICA's believe that a group's cultural dynamics must be considered in order to build any sustainable pattern of change or development.

ICA Nepal aims to enlarge opportunities of the disadvantaged communities and ordinary people in Nepal enhancing individual's capacity through training, facilitation and human developmental activities. ICA's mission is to promote social innovation by enhancing participation and community building.

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