

Historical Introduction of Narayanhiti Palace Museum and Shah Rulers of Nepal



Budhi Bahadur Gurung
Translated by Dr. Poonam R L Rana



**The Narayanhiti Royal Palace during the rule of HM King
Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah**

The Historical Palaces within the premises of Narayanhiti Palace Museum



The old Narayanhiti Palace during the rule of King Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah

Crown Prince Trailokya Bikram Shah son of King Surendra Bikram Shah expired while yet a crown prince, therefore his son Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah was declared as the new crown prince. In 1881 A.D. when King Surendra Bikram Shah expired his minor son crown prince Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah was placed on the throne and was declared a king. Fearing conspiracy from former King Rajendra Bikram Shah and the second cousins of King (Shahebju) Narendra Bikram Shah; it was Shree Tin Maharaja Ranodeep Singh Rana who was the premier decided to house him at Naranhiti Royal Palace rather than at Hanumandhoka Darbar.

It was in 1885 A.D. when Shree Tin Ranodeep Singh Rana was assassinated and Bir Shumsher became a new premier and he at once demolished the palace where Shri Tin Ranodeep Singh was

assassinated and on the advice of Joglal a new palace was reconstructed.

On the SE of this Palace lies the Narayan temple and near it the stone tap known as the 'Hiti' in Newari. Hence the word Narayana was followed by the word 'Hiti' and thus it was named 'Narayanhiti' Darbar.

In March 1889, the 12 years old King Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah was married to two Rajput Princesses Ratna Divyashowri and Laxmi Divyashowri; however Bir Shumsher wanted the future crown-prince to be born from his daughters; therefore he married his two daughters Kirti Divyashwori, and Durga Divyashwori with King Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah and kept them at the Palace since then this Palace (Darbar) was named Narayanhiti Royal Palace. Since then the Shah rulers left their former palace of Hanumandhoka and shifted to Narayanhiti Palace permanently.

In 1934 A.D. when the great earthquake destructed most of the old Narayanhiti Darbar, only a small portion remained. It was in this small portion that King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah's 'undeclared wife' Sarala lived there for quite some time. At present this lies outside the Narayanhiti Royal palace Museum. When one looks towards the East of the fountain garden one can see some part of this palace.



The Open Rooms of Narayanhiti Palace Museum

The Royalties during various occasions made use of the 77 rooms out of which 45 are named after different districts. While 32 of the remaining rooms of the Narayanhiti Palace Museum has not been named. Many of these 32 rooms are small but were used during various occasions.

The Narayanhiti Palace Museum has been opened following one way path leading to the 'Three Sections' of the Palace Museum. At present, only 19 rooms of the Narayanhiti Palace have been opened for the exhibition purpose. Since the other rooms of the Palace museum does not fall under this 'one way route', and it would be difficult for the viewers to move about; therefore at present many of the rooms remains closed.

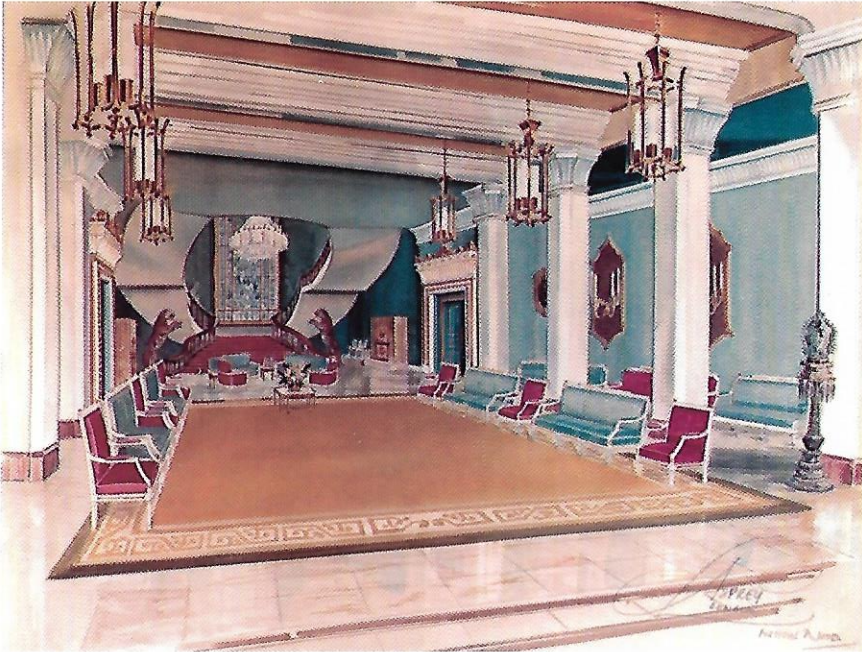
This book reveals in detail about the 19 rooms and drawing rooms opened for the public viewing. The Narayanhiti Palace Museum has future plans to conduct detail study of the closed rooms and plan out 'a route' for the public viewing.

The opened rooms and the drawing rooms have been mentioned below.

1. Welcome & Royal Programme Section

Under this section of the Narayanhiti Palace Museum are the rooms where the Royalties held 'Royal Programmes' and also welcomed the various 'State Dignitaries' and other guests of honour. Those drawing-rooms have been mentioned below.

Kaski Drawing Room



This Drawing room has been named after Kaski district. It is the first drawing room among other exhibited rooms. The Kaski Drawing room marks the beginning of ‘Welcome and Royal Programme Section’ and other rooms and drawing rooms.

Kaski drawing room is an important room among the Narayanhiti Palace Museum. It is also known as the ‘Welcome Room’ where the Head of the State from foreign nations visited Nepal they were welcomed here. Beside this other ceremonies such as the oath taking, Diplomats gave their credentials in this very room.



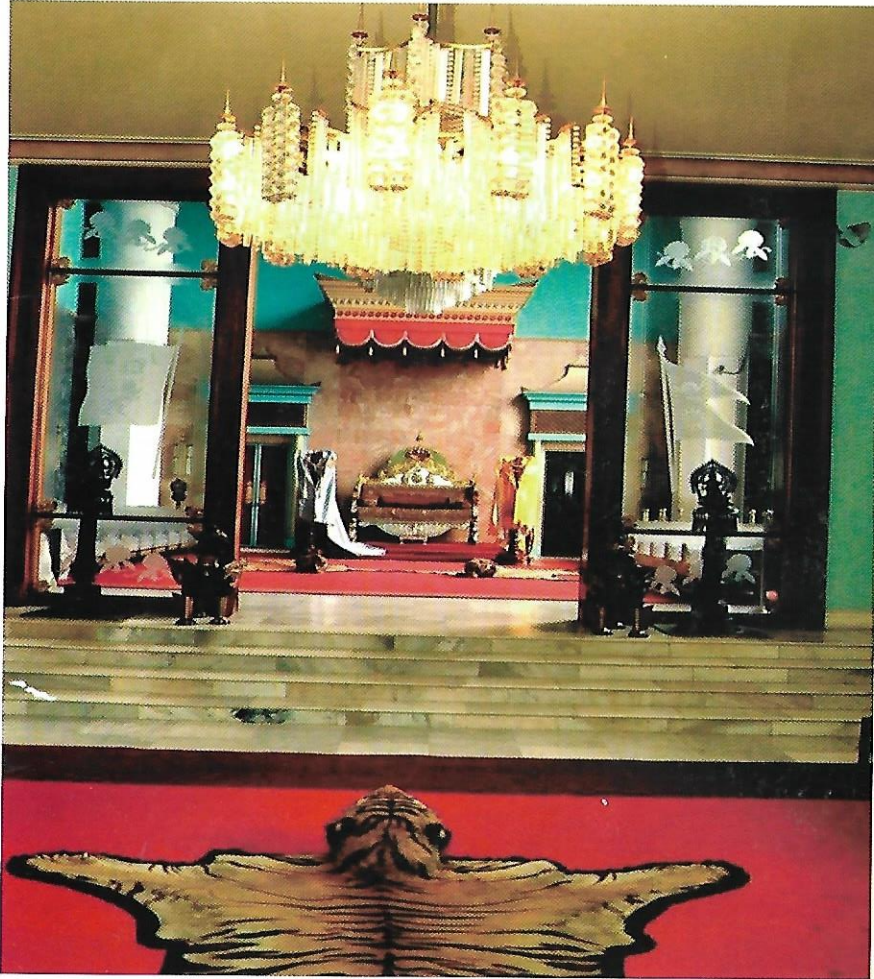
During the birthday ceremony of HM the King and Her Majesty the Queen, 'State Dinners' were organized in this drawing room. Former King Gynandra Bir Bikram Shah called Press Council for the last time as he bid farewell to the Narayanhiti Royal Palace and Monarchy from this drawing room.

Tanahu Drawing Room



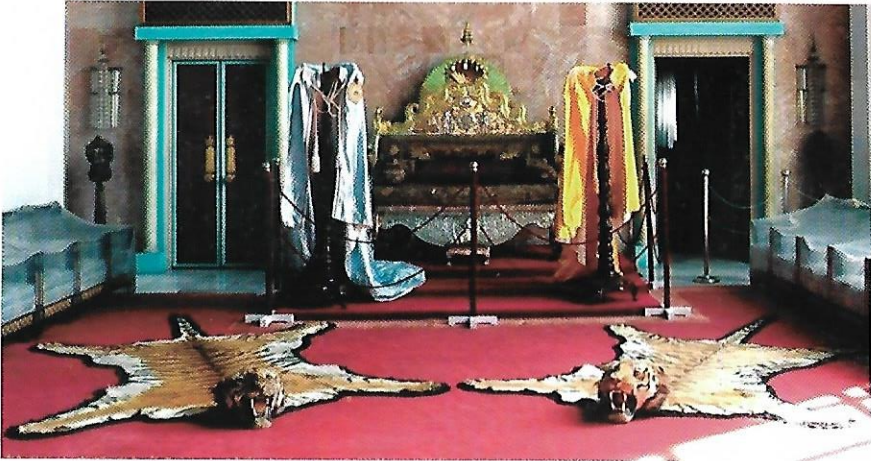
This drawing room has been named after Tanahu district of Nepal. This drawing room comes under the 'Welcome & Royal Programme Section'. When Royal Programmes were held at the Gorkha drawing room and there were large number of guests then at such instance they use this Tanahu Drawing. Beside this room was also used by High officials, Ministers who could observe the programme held at the Gorkha Drawing room.

Gorkha Drawing Room

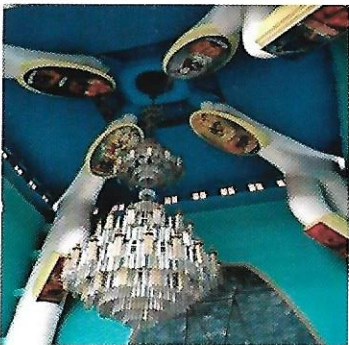


This room has been named after Gorkha district of Nepal. This Gorkha Drawing room is the main public attraction of Narayanhiti Palace Museum. It is in this Drawing room that one can see the Royal Throne. This was the very Drawing room where the Royal

family took their family photos. It was in this Gorkha Drawing room Their Majesty King announced their son as the Crown Prince and also awarded various medals and awards to the Queen and the Crown Prince. When His Majesty King Birendra made his Royal Proclamation for the public, he announced it from this drawing room. His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah in 1990 A.D. announced the 'Constitution'.



Gorkha Drawing room



Royal Emblem

His Majesty King Prithivi Narayan Shah



It was Narabhupal Shah ruler of Gorkha's second Queen Kaushalyawati who gave birth to Prithivi Narayan Shah in 1723 A.D. he is known as the first King of Modern Nepal. He was the

His Majesty Pratap Singh Shah



In 1749 A.D. His Majesty King Prithivi Narayan Shah's youngest Queen Narendra Laxmi gave birth to Pratap Singh Shah. As King Prithivi Narayan Shah's majority time was devoted to the 'Unification Campaign' he was unable to provide time for his son's education. As Pratap Singh Shah grew up he became more

inclined towards 'Tantrism' rather than towards his rule and indulged in enjoying the Royal pleasures.

In the 1775 A. D. his Queen Rajendra Laxmi gave birth to Rana Bhadur Shah after which things became more organized within the palace.

The unification campaign started by His Majesty Prithivi Narayan Shah continued during the rule of Pratap Singh Shah. The area of Kabilapur Gadi, Suneswar Gadi and Chitwan also became a part of unified Nepal. During his rule trade with Tibet flourished. In the 1777 A.D. King Pratap Singh Shah expired at a young age.



His Majesty Rana Bahadur Shah



In the 1775 A.D. Queen Rajendra Laxmi Shah the Queen of Pratap Singh Shah gave birth to Rana Bahadur Shah. When he was two and half years of age his father expired and he was declared a King. As he was just a minor, his mother Rajendra Laxmi took the title of a 'Regent' (Nayabi) and began to rule in his name. Later she was blamed for going against Pratap Singh Shah;

His Majesty King Girvana Yuddha Bikram Shah



It was in the 1797 A.D. that Kantawati Queen of King Rana Bhadur Shah gave birth to Girvana Yuddha Bikram Shah. As per

His Majesty Rajendra Bikram Shah



In the 1813 A.D. Rajendra Bikram Shah was born to King Girvana Yuddha Bikram Shah. When he was just 3 years of age his father King Girvana died in the 1816 A.D. and he became the

His Majesty King Surendra Bikram Shah



Samrajya Laxmi the eldest Queen of King Rajendra Bikram Shah gave birth to Surendra Bikram Shah in the year 1829 A.D. He was by nature aggressive and stubborn as a Crown Prince. He enjoyed

His Majesty King Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah



In the 1875 A.D. King Surendra Bikram Shah's son Crown Prince Trailokya Bikram Shah and crown princess Lalita Kumari gave birth to Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah

Crown Prince Trailokya Bikram Shah did not like what his father was doing by giving all his administrative powers in the hands of the Ranas' and remain a puppet in their hands. Though Crown

Prince Trailokya was married to the two daughters of Junga Bhadur yet he was conspiring to put end to the Rana Regime. He was looking for those courtiers and others who were against the Rana Regime and in this context he met Coronel Bikram Thapa, Coronel Indra Singh Tandan, Subba Homnath, Tankanath Upadhyay, Bambir, Jagat Jung Thapa all formed a group. The Ranas' however had come to know about such conspiracy to some extent. However in the 1878 A.D. suddenly Crown Prince Trailokya Bikram Shah due to gastric and arthritis fever he expired and his son Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah was declared a Crown Prince. In the 1881 A.D. King Surendra Bikram Shah expired and 6 years old Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah was put to the throne. Fearing for his safety of this minor King, Dhir Shumsher requested the Premier Ranoddip Narashima Rana to keep him at Narayanhiti Royal Palace.

When Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah was 12 years old he was married to two Rajput Princess Ratna Divyashowri and Laxmi Divyashowri. Later after the assassination of Ranoddip Narashima, Bir Shumsher became the premier and he married his two daughters Kirti Divyashowri and Durga Divyashowri with the hope that Crown Prince would be born from them.

A new Palace was constructed and it was named Narayanhiti Royal Palace and Prithivi Bir Bikram was brought to the Palace from Hanumandhoka. It was from this time Shah Rulers permanently resided in the Narayanhiti Royal Palace. In the 1911 A.D. King Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah expired at the age of 36.

His Majesty King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah



In the 1906 A.D. Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah was born to King Prithivi Bir Bikram Shah and his second Queen Laxmi Divyashowri. In 1911 A.D. King Prithivi Bir Bikram expired at

His Majesty King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah



In the 11th June, 1920 Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah was born to King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah and his eldest Queen Kanti

His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah



In this 28th December, 1945 Crown Princess Indra Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah the eldest Queen of King Mahendra gave birth to Birendra Bir Bikram Shah. When Birendra Bir Bikram Shah was five years of age his mother Indra Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah expired in the 2nd September, 1950. In the 1952 AD. King

References

- ❖ *Puratatwik Parechaya*- Dr. Pesal Dahal/ Som Prashad Khatiwada: M.K Publishers & Distributers, Bhotahiti, Kathmandu (V.S. 2058).
- ❖ *Nepal Samikchyatmak Etihās*, - Shri Ramprashad Upadhyay: Sajha Prakashan Chhapakhana, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, (V.S. 2055)
- ❖ *The Coronation Book of their Majesties of Nepal*, Adhyacharan Rajbhandari: Temple Press, Calcutta, India.
- ❖ *Rana Sasan Ko Britanta*- Pramod SusherRana: Pairabi Book House, Putalisadak, Kathmandu (V.S. 2058)
- ❖ *Nepal Adhirajya ka Bibhushanharu*-Bibhushan Samiti, (V.S. 2024) Shri Saraswati Press Ltd., Calcutta, India.



Name: Budhi Bahdur Gurung

Date of Birth: 27/10/1966 A.D.

Place of Birth: Dhading , Katunje

Education: Bachelors

Address: Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Ward N. 4, Chandol

Contact: 9841317752



978-993-2-5129-7