

Outline of Presentation

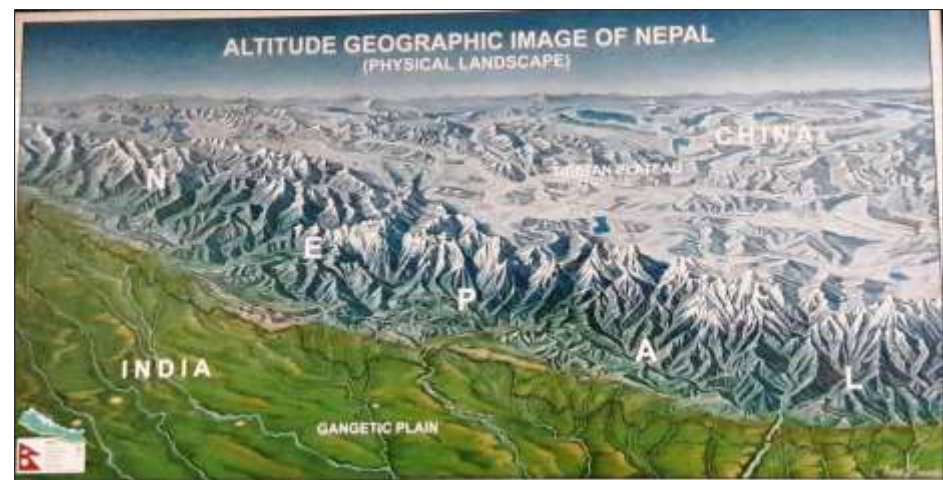
**Presented at the FIG Congress 2018,
May 6-11, 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey**

1. Historical boundary of Nepal
2. Emerged issue
3. Case study, inspection and ground verification
4. Analysis of the issue
5. International norms
6. Conclusion & recommendation

Background

Location of Nepal

- Nepal is a landlocked sovereign state.
- It is situated between two emerging Asian giants, India and China
 - On the north, there is the Himalayan range.
 - On the south, there are neither natural walls nor man made fences.



Historical boundary of Nepal

- If we look back the history, Nepal was extended from Tista to Sutlej in 1806 and Tista to Kangra in 1809, as Greater Nepal.

- The land area was 267,575 sq. km



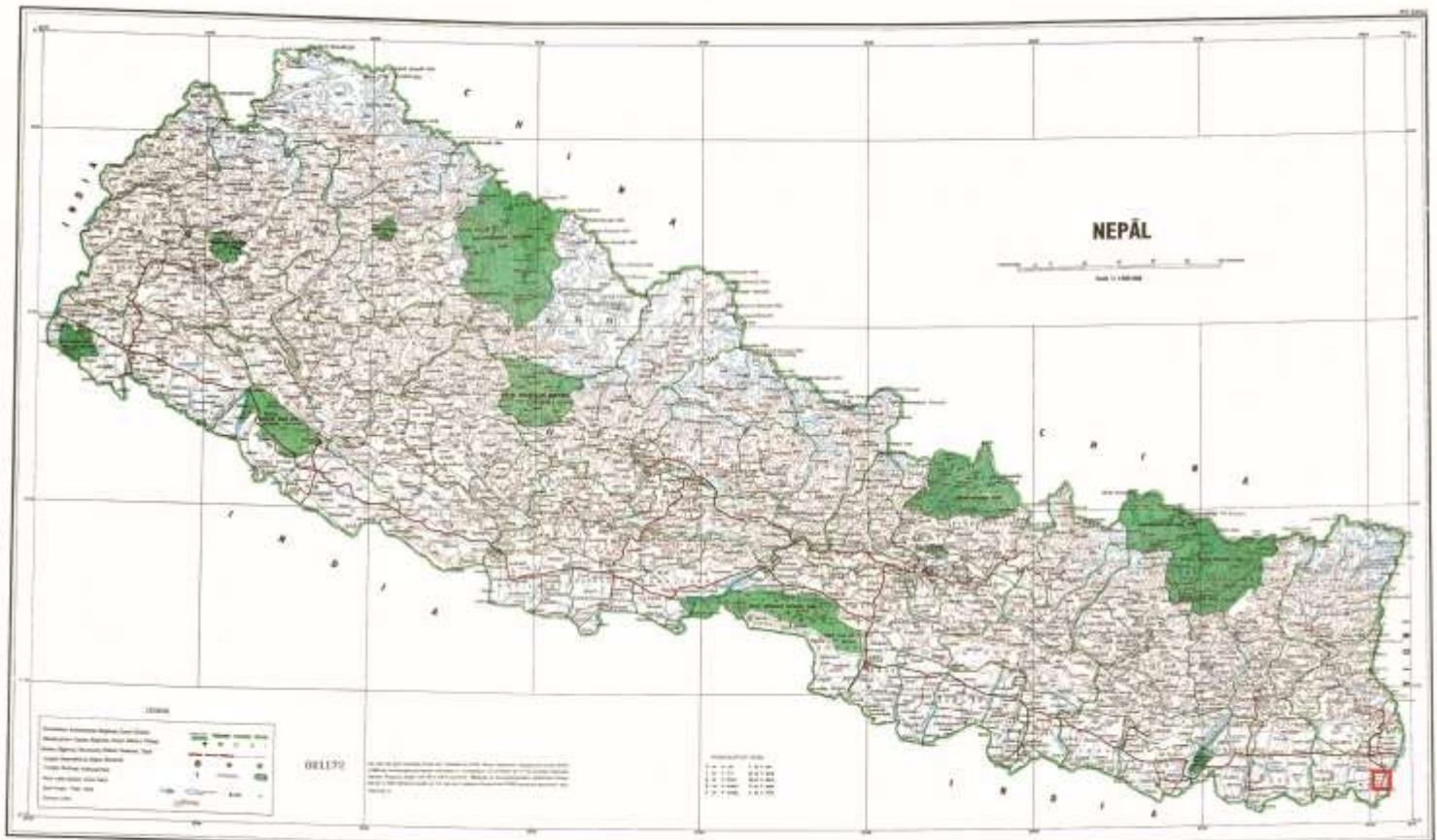
- It was shrunk from Mechi to Mahakali with the effect of Anglo-Gurkha War (1814-16) by the Treaty of Sugauli- 4 March 1816.

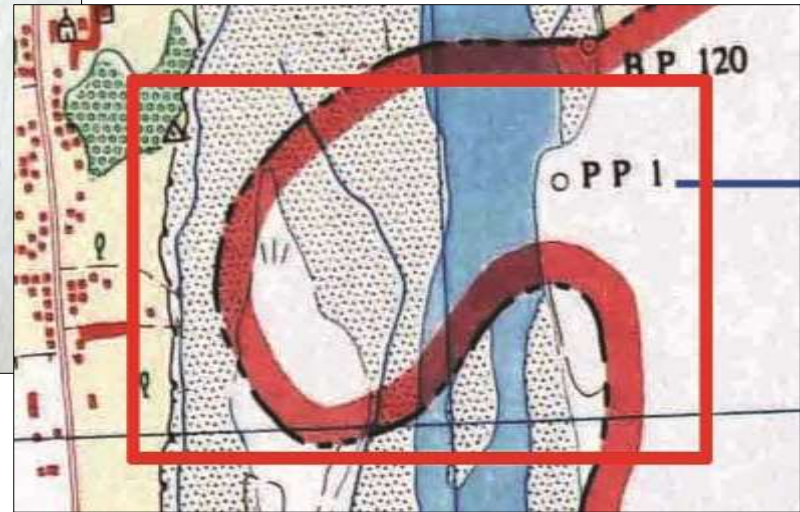
- Area was reduced to 147,181 sq km



Present boundary of Nepal

- Case study area :
 - South-eastern portion of Jhapa district of Nepal boundary with India, close to the border river Mechi.





Case Study Area

- Whether the masonry pillar (PP-1) is the Main Boundary Pillar or a Reference Pillar !



Emerging issue

- During the British India period, Survey and demarcation was started just after the 1816 treaty.
- In connection to demarcation, Masonry Boundary Pillars were erected on the ground in a distance of 5 to 7 Miles.
- Strip-maps were prepared on the basis of ground survey.



- But the actual borderline was not straight between two pillars.
- It was somehow curved and jig-jag in some portions.
- In course of time there were conflicts and disputes on the lands between the inhabitants of two countries as the boundary was blurred.
- To make the border line clear, between two masonry *Jange* pillars:
 - ‘Nepal-India Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee’ (NIJTLBC) was formed on February 25, 1981, to establish subsidiary and minor pillars, and to prepare new strip-maps.



During joint demarcation in 1995-96 field season:

- Masonry Jumbo Pillar (PP-1), erected in 1817, just on the eastern bank of River Mechi, was not given status of the Main Boundary Pillar.



- But it is said it is the reference pillar

- There was a hue and cry in the local level.
- Local people protested mentioning:
 - Masonry *Jumbo* pillar is the main boundary pillar since last 200 years,
 - It is not the reference pillar (RP),
 - As there is no larger pillar than this.

- In the mean time Bhadrapur municipality issued a white paper highlighting the issue and solution of the problem.

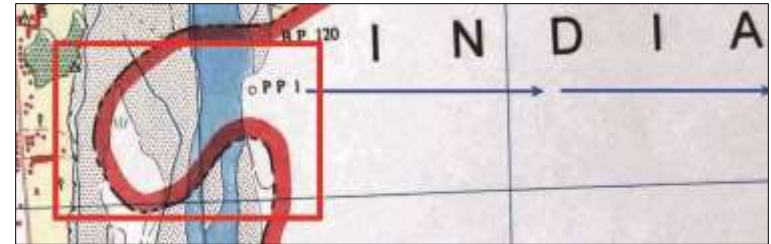


- Whether the masonry boundary pillar (PP-1) is the main boundary pillar or just a reference pillar has been the bone of contention.
- This is the case study and issue dealt in this presentation.

Case study inspection and ground verification

During the field inspection and study, it is found that:

- The masonry (*Jambo or Jange*) pillar number PP-1 is located on just eastern bank of Mechi River.



- The foundation underneath the ground of the masonry pillar is 1.5 x 1.5 x 1 meter.
- There is a platform of 1 x 1 x 0.75 meter above the foundation.
- On the platform, the pillar is:
 - 2 meter high having
 - 3 meter round diameter.



- There is a small ditch on the eastern part of pillar platform.
- Indian metalled road starts from the ditch point and it leads to their Galgalia Railway Station.



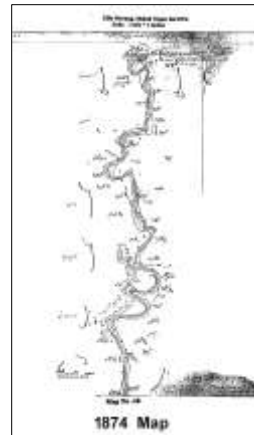
- Indian Special Security Bureau (SSB) has occupied the boundary pillar area.



- I verified on the ground four maps, as available:



1818 Map



1874 Map



1932 Map



1996 Map

- There is no other pillars other than the Jumbo pillar around Masonry monument PP-1.

- A bridge on the river Mechi is being half constructed by Nepal.

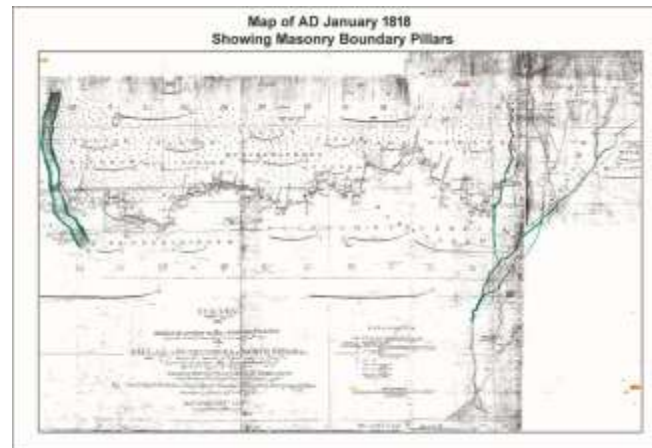
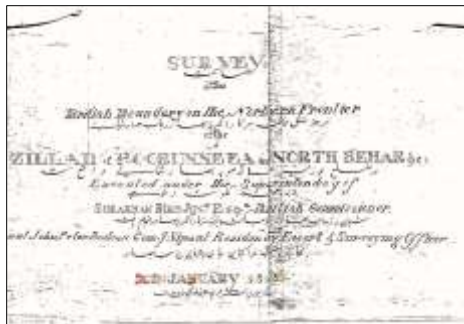


- It is to connect Bhadrapur to Masonry Pillar PP-1 that leads to Indian road to Galgalia.



Analysis of the issue

1. The Nepalese people believe that *Jange* pillars are the main boundary monuments erected on the boundary line between Nepal and India.
2. Map of 1818 '*Survey of British Boundary on the Northern Frontier of Zillah of Poorneea in North Behar*' scale 1 Inch to 2 Miles, says:
 - *Pillars of Masonry along the boundary connecting the Ditch on the angles.*
 - *'The Red Line denotes the British Boundary and ditch which is 6 feet wide and 6 feet deep.'*

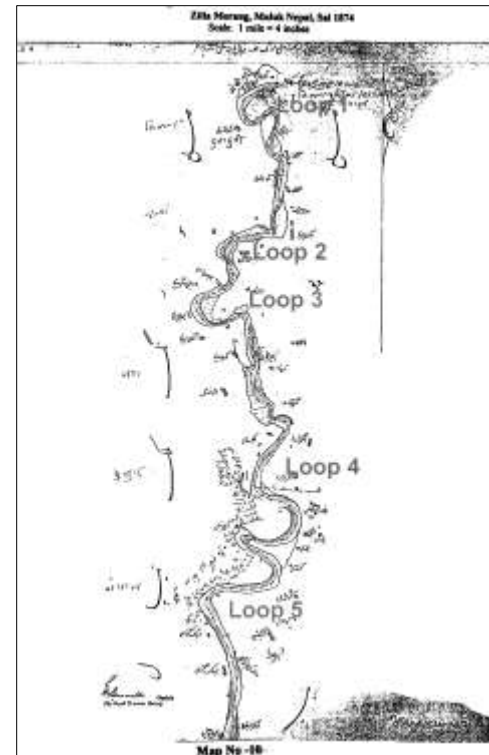


- Masonry pillars from number 1 to 5 along the Mechi river have been erected on the eastern bank of the river

3. Persian Map of 1874, scale 4 Inches = 1 Mile, depicts that:

River Mechi is meandering nearly 475 to 1250 meters in five loops:

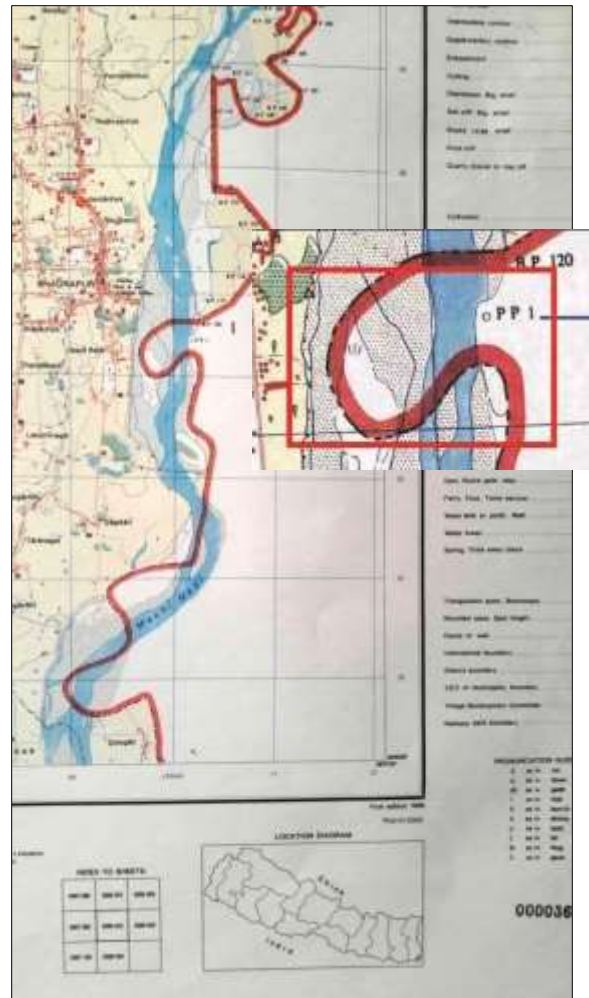
- Loop-1= 0.176 sq meter,
- Loop-2= 0.352 sq meter,
- Loop-3= 0.075 sq meter,
- Loop-4= 0.880 sq meter,
- Loop-5= 1.056 sq meter.



4. Subsequent map of 1932 follow the river course as shown in 1874 map.



5. Latest map of 1996 also follow the river course as shown in 1874 map.



- While taking the PPs as main boundary pillars, it computes that:
 - 2.54 sq km area of Nepal has been encroached.

All the maps show:

1. The pillars are located on the eastern bank of the river Mechi.
 - But, not on the left and right banks alternatively.

2. All other pillars of same size and shape in other places (e.g. Krishnanagar area) have been given the status of:
 - Main Boundary Pillars.



3. The PP-1 is regarded as the Tri-junction point of Nepal-Bihar-West Bengal.



4. Pyramidal shaped pillars are smaller than the PP masonry pillar.



International norms

- To resolve the status of masonry Jumbo (*Jange*) pillar whether it is the main boundary pillar or a reference pillar, one has to look the definition.

Definition of main boundary pillar

S. Whitemore Boggs (1940) has defined in his book entitled

‘International Boundaries’ (page 166):

- ‘The main boundary pillars should have been erected at intervals of about five kilometres with intermediate or auxiliary pillars at interval of about 500 metres’.
- These pillars will be established in the main chainage of the border line to create the line of sight between the two main pillars.
- To recognize its status, the main boundary pillars are automatically larger in shape and size in comparison to intermediate and reference pillars.

Definition of reference pillar

The reference pillars have been defined as ‘Reference Marks’ when:

- there is any possibility of temporary or permanent marks being moved and it is desired to be (st) able,
- reference pillar helps to identify main boundary pillar in the exact positions in which they were originally erected,
- they should be carefully referenced.’

Conclusion and recommendation

According to this international definition:

- It has to honour the masonry (*Jumbo or Jange PP-1*) pillar, to the status of main boundary pillars (BP).
- There is no difference on shape and size between the Jumbo pillars of riverine and land sectors.
- If the PP-1 at Bhadrapur area is supposed to be as RP, there must have its main BP.
- But there is no other pillar larger than Jumbo pillar on and around the area.



In the light of these points and technical facts and due to ground reality:-

- Nepal-India JTLBC should review the issue.
- The 1818 map must be taken as the basis map,
- As it is mentioned in the map index that :
 - 'Pillars of Masonry along the Boundary connection the Ditch at the angle'
 - The Red Line denotes the British Boundary and ditch which is 6 feet wide and 6 feet deep.'
- No matter whether these are located in land sector or riverine sector, along the boundary:
 - It must belong the same status of main boundary pillars.

- With the ground reality, old maps and international definition:

- The masonry permanent pillars (PPs), established on the ground in 1817 (200 years ago), must be given the status of:

- Main Boundary Pillars, located in the south-eastern portion of boundary of Nepal with India. â



Thank you



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