

# Caravans across the Himalayas

## *The Transborder Trade*



A caravan crossing the Kyichu, the Lhasa river



A caravan on its way to Tibet

The Anglo-Tibetan Convention of 1904 formalized the centuries-old trade between Tibet and India: “The Tibetan Government undertakes to open forthwith trade marts to which all British and Tibetan subjects shall have free right of access at Gyantse and Gartok, as well as at Yatung,” says Article I, while Article V affirms: “The Tibetan Government undertakes to keep the roads to Gyantse and Gartok from the frontier clear of all obstruction and in a state of repair suited to the needs of the trade.”



Crossing the Sutlej near Shipki-la



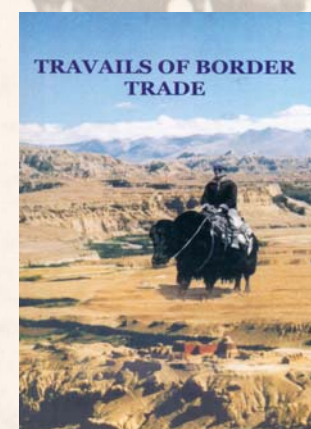
The road is always dangerous...

The 1954 Panchsheel Agreement confirmed that the traders and pilgrims of both countries could use the following passes: Shipkila pass, Mana pass, Niti pass, Kungri Bingri pass, Darma pass, and Lipulekh pass.



Milam village in Kumaon (today deserted)

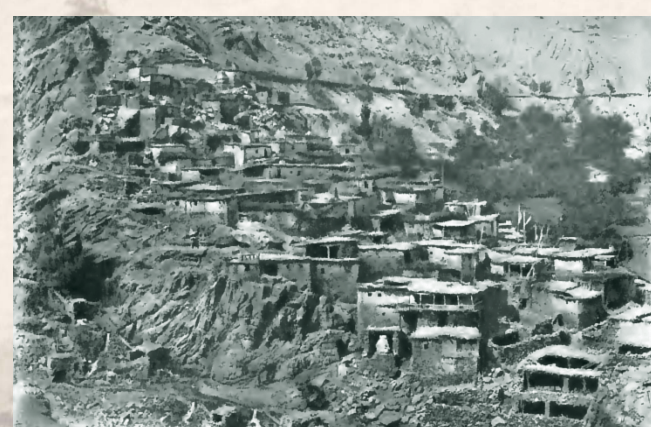
Unfortunately, after the lapse of the Panchsheel Agreement (April 1962) and the border war, the Himalayan passes were closed. They remain so today, except for the petty trade which reopened at Lipulekh (Uttarakhand), Nathula (Sikkim) and Shipkila (Himachal).



The Indian Trade Agent in Gartok on his way to Tibet



Packing for the journey to Tibet via Lipulekh



The Shilpi village in Himachal