

## **Abstract:**

The thesis aims to providing a historical survey of Chakrala, apart from discussing the geographical importance and the social and economic conditions of the regions. It also gives a bird's eye view of the political consciousness of the landed elite and basic information of various ruling dynasties and their impact on the local people's civilization. Along with focusing and pin pointing the state of various communities including the Hindus, Muslims and the Sikhs. It summarizes various reforms which were introduced by the British to improve the conditions of the people. The evolutionary political consciousness of the landed elite which contributed in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars, and their loyalty with the British Raj. Various families of the Punjab landed elite, they were awarded and rewarded by the British for their loyalty. It also sums up the local Chief and their two way relationship with the British.

The first chapter examines the geographic and historical importance of the locality through different angles. As feudal society, and status of money landed elite and how they have influenced the area and have secured as positions like as Zaildar's etc. The topography of the area which is mostly hilly makes the people quite hardy which makes the area suitable for army recruitment. Different religious movements as Ahlal Quran, Sufi revival movement and Majlis-i-Ahrar activity makes the area prominent.

The Second chapter discusses the administrative policies regarding colonial Indian Army in the First and Second World Wars. The problem Faced by the soldiers and policies which were adopted by the British are discussed. The rewards and grants which were given by the British are also discussed briefly.

Chapter three highlights the cultural norms and value of Chakrala,. The living style, rituals, myths, games, language, dresses, and cuisines, are also elaborated.

Forth chapter discusses the historical places of Chakrala. Stupas, Shrines , Dams, Rest Houses which exist in Chakrala make prominent and described the importance of area.

The British introduced the railways in the Punjab primarily for the transportation of troops and ammunition to the frontier region adjoining Afghanistan. It could be used for transportation of

passengers and agricultural goods. The Chakrala region was provided with railway facility when Masan railway station was opened in 1889.

The fifth chapter has also tried to identify the leading personalities of Chakrala and highlighted their achievements which gave special identity to Chakrala. As mentioned earlier, the existing literature covers the lives and achievements of a few personalities such as Nawab of Kalabagh, Abudullah Chakralwi and Maulana Allah Yar, who are political and religious figures. However, this study has tried to identify other personalities also which included literary figures, Sufis and peers. Besides this it highlighted such personalities as contributed towards *Haidth* and posed challenge to the Ahlul Quran movement of Abdullah Chakralwi.