

Maharaja Ranjit Singh

ROLE OF RANJIT SINGH IN INDIAN HISTORY

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- *Ranjit Singh was the founder of the Sikh Empire. He brought unity and cohesiveness among all the states in Punjab.*
- *The main focus of his administration was on the military training of the Sikhs.*
- *The areas on which he worked were;*
 1. *Army reforms- Ranjit Singh's army was known as the Khalsa army. He modernised the army and its training, recruited people from different backgrounds and ethnicities in his army. He strengthened both infantry and artillery and brought new equipment of warfare.*
 2. *Focus on peace and security- There was increased prosperity in his region. He enhanced better security, curbed violence and improved facilities for trade.*
 3. *Unity among the Sikhs- The Sikhs emerged as a strong and cohesive political unit under Ranjit Singh. He was also known for his renovation of the Golden temple in Amritsar. He was also a keen admirer of Guru Govind Singh.*
 4. *Protection from foreign invaders- He not only united Punjab but also rolled back the tide of foreign invasions.*
 5. *Respect for all religions- Men from different religions and races were there in his army and government in various authoritative positions. He joined the Hindus in their temples and prohibited cow slaughter out of respect for Hindu sentiments. His standing orders for his soldiers were to neither loot nor molest civilians.*

Revenue System

- ❖ Ranjit Singh aimed to raise sufficient revenue for his military campaigns and to keep his peasantry contented as well.
- ❖ The most common assessment of land revenue was Batai system; the old method of division of crop between the cultivator and the government.
- ❖ in 1824, it was replaced by Kankut system; assessment of government shares on the basis of standing crops.
- ❖ On the fertile lands, the state demand was as high as 50% of the gross produced.
- ❖ In less fertile land, the state share varied from $\frac{2}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$.
- ❖ By the end of Ranjit Singh's reign, about 1 million acres of land had been brought under canal irrigation.

CONCLUSION

- Ranjit Singh is remembered as a founder of a united and prosperous Sikh kingdom.
- Proclaimed the title 'Maharaja of Punjab' at the age of 21.
- Successfully absorbed and united the Sikh misles or confederacies.
- Ranjit Singh's reign introduced reforms, modernisation, investment into infrastructure and general prosperity.
- He was popularly known as 'Sher-e-Punjab' or the Lion of Punjab.