

Age 11 to 20, Fourth Episode  
Auditions for Sikh of America World Competition 2019

(Give all answers in complete sentences)

Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Q-1

What is Maharajah Ranjit Singh Sandhawalia also known as?

Maharajah Ranjit Singh Sandhawalia (November 13, 1780 - June 27, 1839), also known as "Sher-e-Punjab" ("The Lion of Punjab"), became the first Sikh Emperor after uniting the 11 Sikh Kingdoms of Punjab on the foundations of the Khalsa and under the banner of Sarkar-i-Khalsa, from 1799-1839.

Q-2

When was Ranjit Singh born on?

Ranjit Singh was born on November 13, 1780 in Gujranwala City, Punjab, which is now in modern day Pakistan. He was born into a Sikh Jatt family of the Sandhawalia Clan, to Sardar Maha Singh Sukerchakia (d. 1792), and Sardarni Mai Raj Kaur, the daughter of Raja Gajpat Singh of the Jind Kingdom. At the time, large parts of the Punjab were ruled by the Sikhs, who had divided the territory among factions known as Misls, each with its own powerful Sikh chieftain. His grandfather was Sardar Charat Singh Sukerchakia (d. 1770), and his great grandfather was Sardar Naudh Singh (d. 1752), also a Sikh Warrior, and the great great grandson of Baba Budha Ji (d. 1718), the first in line to take Amrit Sachaar.

Q-3

How many acres of land did Sardar Budh Singh own?

Sardar Budh Singh (1670-1718), Owned 25 acres of land, where he founded the village of Sukerchak, in Amritsar District.  
Sardar Naudh Singh (d. 1752) Married, Sardarni Lali Kaur, daughter of Sardar Gulab Singh of Majitha.  
Sardar Charat Singh (d. 1770) Married, Sardarni Desan Kaur, daughter of Sardar Amir Singh Waraich, of Gujranwala District.  
Sardar Maha Singh (d. 1792) Married, Sardarni Raj kaur, of Jind State and Sardarni Mai Kaur daughter of Sardar Jai Singh Maan.  
Maharajah Ranjit Singh (1780-1839). Had 20 wives, Sikh,

Q-4

Who were the contemporaries for Mughal Emperors at Delhi?

Contemporaries: Mughal Emperors at Delhi

1. Shah Alam II (Mirza Abdullah Ali Gohar) (1759-1806 AD)

2. Akbar Shah II (1806-1837 AD)
3. Bahadur Shah II □Zafar□ (1837-1858 AD ) Deposed and deported (1858 AD , died at Rangoon in exile (1862 AD)

Q-5

Who were the contemporaries at English Sovereigns?

Contemporaries: English Sovereigns

1. George III (1760-1820 AD)
2. George IV (1820-1830 AD)
3. William IV (1830-1837 AD)
4. Queen Victoria (1837-1901)

Q-6

Who were the contemporaries at Chinese Sovereigns?

Contemporaries: Chinese Sovereigns

1. Jiaqing Emperor (1797-1820 AD)
2. Daoguang Emperor (1820-1850 AD)

Q-7

Who were the contemporaries at Iranian Qajar Sovereigns?

Contemporaries: Iranian Qajar Sovereigns

1. Fat?h-Ali Shah Qajar (1797-1834 AD)
2. Mohammad Shah Qajar (1834-1848 AD)

Q-8

Who were the contemporaries at French Sovereigns?

Contemporaries: French Sovereigns

1. Napoleon I (1804-1814 AD)
2. Louis XVIII (1814-1815 AD)
3. Again Napoleon I (1815-15 AD)
4. Napoleon II (1815-15 AD)
5. Again Louis XVIII (1815-1824)
6. Charles X (1824-1830 AD)
7. Louis Philippe I (1830-1848 AD)

Q-9

Who were the contemporaries at Patiala Sikh Sovereigns?

Contemporaries: Patiala Sikh Sovereigns

1. Raja Sahib Singh (1781-1813 AD)
2. Raja Karam Singh (1813-1845 AD)

Q-10

Who were the contemporaries at Jind Sikh Sovereigns

Contemporaries: Jind Sikh Sovereigns

1. Raja Bhag Singh (1789-1819 AD)
2. Raja Fateh Singh (1819-1822 AD)
2. Raja Sangat Singh (1822-1834 AD)
4. vacancy of three years (1834-37 AD)

5. Raja Sarup Singh (1837-1864 AD)

Q-11

Who were contemporaries at Nabha Sikh Sovereigns?

Contemporaries: Nabha Sikh Sovereigns

1. Raja Jaswant Singh (1783-1840 AD)

Q-12

Who were contemporaries at Faridkot Sikh Sovereigns?

Contemporaries: Faridkot Sikh Sovereigns

1. Sardar Charat Singh (1798-1804 AD)

2. Sardar Gulab Singh (1804-1826 AD)

3. Sardar Attar Singh (1826-27 AD)

4. Raja Pahar Singh (1827-1849 AD)

Q-13

Who was Ranjit Singh's father?

Ranjit Singh's father, Maha Singh was the misaldar ("commander", "Misl leader") of the Sukerchakia Misl and controlled a territory in west Punjab, based around his headquarters at Gujranwala. As a child, he suffered from smallpox. This consequently resulted in the loss of sight in his left eye. His father died while Ranjit Singh was 12 years old. After the death of his father, Ranjit Singh was raised by Sada Kaur of the Kanheya Misl.

Q-14

What age did he take over the misaldar of the Sukerchakia Misl?

He took over as misaldar of the Sukerchakia Misl at the age of 18. He was married to Mehtab Kaur (d. 1813), daughter of Sardar Gurbakash Singh Sandhu (d. 1785), of the Kanhaiya Misl, in 1796, at the age of 16. In 1798, he married Raj Kaur, alias Maharani Datar Kaur (d. 1838), the daughter of Sardar Ran Singh Nakai (d. 1781), of the Nakai Misl. Y

Q-15

When did he die?

This great warrior, fearless soldier, able administrator, clement ruler, statesman and liberator of Punjab died on June 27, 1839. His Samadhi (memorial) is located in Lahore, Pakistan.

After several campaigns, his rivals accepted him as their leader, and he united the Sikh factions into one state and he took the title of Maharajah on April 12, 1801 (coinciding with the day of Baisakhi), with Lahore serving as his capital from 1799.

Q-16

When did he take control of the holy city of Amritsar?

In 1802 he took control of the holy city of [[Amritsar] from the Bhangi Misl, ruler Mai Sukhan, widow of Sardar Gulab Singh Dhillon. He brought law and order, yet was reluctant to use the death penalty. He stopped

India's non-secular style and limiting practices. He treated both Hindus and Muslims with equality and banned the discriminatory religious "jizya" tax on Hindus and Sikhs which had been imposed by the various Muslim rulers. Maharajah Ranjit Singh is included in the list of "Undefeated Military Commanders", [1] at Wikibin - a list of known military commanders who did not lose any significant engagement against the enemy as the commander-in-chief of a significant portion of a country's military forces

Q-17

What were the majority of Maharajah Ranjit Singh's subjects

The majority of Maharajah Ranjit Singh's subjects were Muslim and yet they had an intense loyalty towards him and his Sikhs, who showed tolerance, even respect, towards their religion, its practices, and its festivals. Maharajah Ranjit Singh was the first Asian ruler to modernize his army to European standards and was well known for filling the leadership positions in his Darbar with men of various religions. People were recognized and promoted on their ability and not their religion. During the Rule of Sher-e-Panjab, the Sikh Population, was 10 million strong and the Sikh faith was mainly based in the central parts of the Punjab - areas such as Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Lahore, Kasur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur.

Q-18

Did Maharajah's workers respect Maharajah?

The respect shown by those who worked for the Maharajah is best highlighted, perhaps, by the Sikh Empire's foreign minister, a Muslim named Fakir Azizuddin, who when meeting with the British Governor-General George Eden, 1st Earl of Auckland, replied to the question of which of the Maharajah's eyes was missing, "The Maharajah is like the sun and the sun has only one eye. The splendor and luminosity of his single eye is so much that I have never dared to look at his other eye." (The Maharajah had lost the sight of one eye from an attack of smallpox as a child. In a land and time when being blinded disqualified one from ruling, having the sight of only one eye was never a problem for Ranjit Singh, who remarked that it gave him the ability to see things more acutely.)

Q-19

How did the Governor General respond to the reply?

The Governor General was so pleased with this reply that he gave his gold wrist-watch to the Maharajah's Minister during their meeting at Simla. The Empire was effectively secular as it did not give preference to Sikhs, or discriminate against Muslims, Hindus or even atheists. It was relatively modern and had great respect for all religions and non-religious traditions of the Empire's citizens. The only main prominent religious symbols of the empire were the Maharajah and royal family being Sikh (but not Khalsa) and the Army being dominated by Sikh nobles and the Khalsa warriors.

Q-20

Did Maharajah focused Sikhism on his subjects?

The Maharajah never forced Sikhism on his subjects. This was in sharp contrast with the attempted ethnic and religious cleansing of past Muslim rulers - Afgani or Mughal. Ranjit Singh had created a state based upon Sikhi's noble traditions, where everyone worked together, regardless of their background. One where its citizens looked at the things they shared in common, such as having similar Punjabi traditions, rather than any religious differences. Even on death bed he was concerned for the welfare of his followers. The caption displayed below, one of his eminent general Sardar Gurmukh Singh Lamba's potrait painting at serial D-40 Central Museum Lahore says ".....Even on death bed Ranjit Singh is said to have realised the wrong done to his faithful follower and commissioned his son Kharak Singh to restore general honour, wealth and power." It is a remarkable character quality displayed by the empire.

Q-21

Was Ranjit Singh a born warrior?

Shah Mohammed (a famed Sufi poet of the Punjab) writes in his, 'Jang Namah' on the decline of Ranjit Singh's kingdom:

"Ranjit Singh was a born warrior-king who gave his feel to the country. He conquered Kashmir, Multan, Peshawar and made Chamba, Kangra and Jammu bow before him. He extended his territories upto Ladakh and China and struck his coin there. O Shah Mohammed! For fifty years he ruled with satisfaction, glory and power."

For Shah Mohammed, Punjabi Muslims became part and parcel of the Sarkar-i-Khalsa (the Sikh Kingdom of Ranjit Singh), where in the past they had depended on the Afghans, Arabs, Pashtuns, Persians, and Turks, who had consistently betrayed them.

Q-22

What did the Maharajah develop that was considered formidable?

Main article: Army of Maharajah Ranjit Singh

The Maharajah developed a formidable military machine that helped him carve out an extensive kingdom and maintain it amid hostile and ambitious neighbors. The creation of this empire was a result of his own genius. From the scanty force that he inherited, comprised almost solely of horsemen, a force where everyone brought his own horse and whatever weapon he could afford or acquire, without any regular training or organization, the Maharajah developed Asia's only modern army, well ahead of the Japanese restructuring of the 1880s', one which was able to stop the British advance at the Sutlej.

Q-23

What held his troopers together?

What held his troopers together was their personal loyalty to their leader. The guerrilla warfare system had stood the Khalsa in good stead during the turbulent and anarchic eighteenth century, but was unsuited to the needs of the changing times and to Ranjit Singh's ambition to establish a secure kingdom.

Early in his career, he had watched how the British troops with their systematic training and their discipline, had vanquished Indian forces vastly superior in numbers. He had also realized how crucial a well-drilled infantry and artillery were in modern warfare. In 1802, soon after his occupation of Amritsar, he engaged some deserters from the army of the East India Company to train his own platoons of infantry. He even sent some of his own men to Ludhiana to study the British methods of training and tactics.

Q-24

What was the history of Punjab in 647-1192 period?

History of Punjab

647 - 1192: Rajput Period

713 - 1300: Muslim Invaders (Turks and Arabs) infamous invaders like Mahmud Gori and Mahmud Ghazni

8th Century: Arabs capture Sind and Multan

1450 - 1700: Mughal Rule

1469 - 1539: Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1st Sikh Guru)

1539 - 1675: Period of 8 Sikh Gurus from Guru Angad Dev Ji to Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

Q-25

What was the history of Punjab in 1699?

1675 - 1708: Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji (10th Sikh Guru)

1699: Birth of the Khalsa

1708 - 1715: Conquests of Banda Bahadur

1716 - 1759: Sikh struggle against Moghul Governors

1739: - Nadir Shah of Persia invades

1748 -1769: Ahmed Shah Abdali's nine invasions

1762: 2nd Ghalughara (Holocaust) during Ahmed Shah's 6th invasion

1764 - 1799: The Sikh Misls fight each other for control of territories

1799 - 1839: Maharajah Ranjit Singh Rules Punjab and J and K

[[Image:Samadhi\_of\_Ranjit\_Singh\_July\_1\_2005.jpg|thumb|300px|right|The Samadhi of Ranjit Singh in Lahore, Pakistan

Q-26

What was the history of Punjab in 1707-1616?

Sikh Confederation

1707-1716, Creation of Sikh Confederacy begins to influence the political structure of the Punjab region.

1716-1732, Guerrilla wars against the Mughal Empire.

1733-1735, Sikhs start to extend their power.

1735-1739, Sikh struggle for power, within Punjab Region, Regularly Wars Occur.

1739-1740, Sikhs Declare the Sikh Raj, Within the Punjab. Land of Five Rivers.

Q-27

What was the history of Punjab in 1753-1762?

1753-1762, Sikh Rule is made stable and steady and ready to defend the Punjab Borders.

1762-1767, Ahmed Shah Abdali and the Sikhs battle for control.

1763-1774, Charat Singh, Misaldar (Leader or Chief) of Sukerchakia Army established himself in Gujranwala.

1773, Ahmed Shah Abdali dies and his son Timur Shah is unable to suppress the Sikhs.

1774-1790, Maha Singh, becomes Misaldar of the Sukerchakia Army.

1762-1801, The military power of the Sikh Confederacy increases rapidly.

Q-28

What was the history of Punjab in 1790-1801?

1790-1801, Ranjit Singh becomes Misaldar (ruler) of the Sukerchakia Army.

1799-1801, transition period neither Confederacy or Empire.

1801 April 12th, Coronation of Ranjit Singh as Maharaja, formal beginning of the Sikh Empire.

1801 - 27th June 1839, Reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, whose coronation took place in 1801.

27th June 1839 - 5th November 1840, Reign of Maharaja Kharak Singh

5th November 1840 - 18th January 1841, Chand Kaur was briefly Regent

18th January 1841 - 15th September 1843, Reign of Maharajah Sher Singh

15th September 1843 - 31st March 1849, Reign of Maharajah Duleep Singh

Q-29

What did the the sikhs think of the infantry service?

The Sikhs, natural born horsemen (or at least trained as such throughout childhood since Guru HarGobind's days) did not think much of infantry service. To say they looked down upon it would be an understatement. So the Maharajah recruited Purbias, mercenaries from the Gangetic made up of Punjabis, Muslims, Afghans, and later, Gurkhas, as well. These troops were soon tested during the short campaign against Ahmad Khan Sial of Jharig and the zamindars of Uchch during the winter of 1803-04.

Their success and the fact that the Maharajah himself regularly attended their training sessions, soon made the infantry an enviable service which Sikhs too started joining in large numbers. Ranjit Singh gave increased importance to artillery,

Q-30

What had been limited to the use of zamburaks or swivel mounted guns on camels?

which had, until his time, been limited to the use of zamburaks or swivel mounted guns on Camels or other animals only. He not only increased the number of guns, but undertook the casting of larger caliber guns as well as the manufacturing of ammunition on a large scale. The reorganization and training of his cavalry, however, waited until the induction of European officers into Sikh service, who as veterans of the Napoleonic Wars were looking to the well known Sikh ruler for their next chance to oppose the British aims in India.

Q-31

What was the starting point?

The arrival of Jean Baptiste Ventura and Jean Francois Allard, two veterans of the Napoleonic Wars, at Lahore in 1822 was the starting point. Ranjit Singh gave them employment after considerable initial hesitation and elaborate verification. He charged them with the raising of a special corps of regular army, the FaujiKhas or FaujiA'in. General Ventura trained battalions of infantry and General Allard trained the cavalry. Artillery, its training, command, and ordnance were under Punjabi generals, Ilahi Bakhsh and Lahina Singh Majithia, until the arrival of a French officer, General Claude Auguste Court in 1827 and the American Colonel Alexander Gardner in 1832. Lahina Singh Majithia continued to head the armament workshops, and Dr. John Martin Honigberger, a Hungarian physician, was entrusted with the mixing of gunpowder.

Q-32

When was the rapid increase?

There was a rapid increase in the strength of the army during the years following 1822, as the following figures compiled by Professor Sita Ram Kohli from the records of the Sikh government show:

Year	Infantry	Cavalry	Irregular
1819	7,748	,750	3,577
1823	11,681	,1650	,7,300
1828	15,825	,4315	,7,200
1838	26,617	,4090	,10,795

Q-33

What were the years guns swivels personnel?

Artillery

Year	Guns	Swivels	Personnel
1819	22	190	834
1823	Figures not available		
1828	130	280	3,778
1838	188	280	4,535

Q-34

What does the above table not include?

The above table does not include the jagirdari fauj or feudal levees for which no figures are available. This force consisted almost entirely of horsemen which the jagirdars had to maintain and produce in time of need or at the annual general reviews, normally held at the time of Dussehra in October. Besides the king's bodyguards, there was Fauji-Q-Hajat, the garrison infantry maintained to guard important forts, and a 4000 strong crack brigade of Akalis, or Nihangs, known for their dare-devil attitude, bravery, and speaking their minds, calling even the Maharajah to task.

Q-35

What became the central force?

The infantry thus became the central force, with cavalry and artillery serving as supporting arms. It was organized into battalions of about 900 men each. A battalion, commanded by a kiimedan or commandant, assisted by an adjutant and a major, was the standard administrative and maneuvering unit. Its administrative staff included, besides the usual camp followers and tradesmen, a munshior (clerk), a mutsaddi (accountant), and a Granthi (priest and scripture reader).

Q-36

How was the battalion organized?

A battalion had eight companies of 100 men each, further divided into sections of 25 men each. Similarly, regular cavalry was organized in risalas, regiments, subdivided into turps (troops) and artillery into deras and batteries. Artillery was further classified according to its mode of traction, which was generally determined by the size of the guns.

Q-37

What happened in 1804?

In 1804, this arm had been divided into topkhana kalan (heavy artillery) and topkhana khurd (light artillery). Zamburaks or swivels, usually carried on camels, were attached to infantry units. Horsedrawn artillery was introduced in 1810. During the same year, a special artillery corps, known as topkhanaikhas or topkhanaimubarak, was formed as the royal reserve under Ghaus Muhammad Khan, popularly known as Mian Ghaus.

Q-38

What happened in 1827?

In 1827, General Court reorganized the artillery into three wings. Topkhana jinsi, literally personal artillery (reserve), was a mixed corps with batteries of gavi (bullock drawn) aspi (horse drawn), fill (elephant drawn) guns and the Aobobs (howitzers). Topkhana aspi or horsedrawn artillery consisted of batteries for attachment to divisions of irregular army. Zamburaks or camelswivels and ghubaras or mortars were organized into deras or camps subdivided into batteries. Batteries were subdivided into sections of two guns each, with provision for even a single gun functioning as a subunit.

Q-39

How was the entire field army divided?

The entire field army was divided into faujia'in or regular army, Faujibeqava 'id or irregular army and jagirdari fauj or feudal levees. FaujiA'in, with five infantry battalions under General Ventura, three cavalry regiments under General Allard and 34 guns under General IIahi Bakhsh, formed the hard core troops under the overall command of General Ventura. FaujiBeqava'id forming a larger bulk consisted of deras of ghorcharhas, or irregular cavalry grouped into divisions, each under one of the many distinguished generals such as General Sardar Gurmukh Singh Lamba, who was wounded fifteen times and was a recipient of highest

military award Izazi-i-Sardari Hari Singh Nalwa, Diwan Mohkam Chand, Misr Divan Chand,

Q-40

How was each dera comprised?

Fateh Singh Ahluvalia and Fateh Singh Kalianvala. Each dera comprised several smaller groups, misls, composed of members of a clan or their close relations commanded by heads of respective clans known as misldars. Deras of jagirdari fauj, or feudal levees, were similarly organized forming part of one or the other division. Artillery formed a single central corps from which attachments were made to the divisions, depending upon the requirements of a particular campaign. Nominal overall command of a particular expedition was vested in one of the princes royal. Ranjit Singh himself was the supreme commander.

Q-41

What did he also lead?

He also led some expeditions personally. The crack brigade of Akalis under their famous leader, Phula Singh, was virtually an autonomous formation pressed into service when needed by the Maharajah through his personal influence and tact.

Standard deployment at the commencement of a battle was guns in the centre and slightly forward of the rest of the force, infantry a little behind and also covering the flanks of artillery, and cavalry on the extreme flanks. The battle usually commenced with an artillery barrage.

Q-42

What did regular troops wear?

Regular troops wore distinctive uniforms as prescribed for each force. Cavalrymen were dressed in red jackets (French grey for lancers), long blue trousers with a red stripe, and crimson turbans. Woollen jackets were used during winter. The regiments were armed with varying combinations of weapons sword/sabres and carbines and matchlocks or lances. Infantry was clad in scarlet jacket/coat, white trousers with black belts and pouches. Different regiments were distinguished by the colour of their headdress white, red, green or yellow. The Gurkhas had green jackets and black caps. Postins (furcoats), or padded jackets were used during winter.

Q-43

What did gunner wear?

Gunners wore white trousers and black waistcoats with crossbelts. Officers were not bound by rules of uniform. They used distinctive dress of bright coloured silks each picking his own as he saw fit. The ghorcharhas or the irregular cavalry had no uniform laid down for them; yet they turned out sharply, as testified by Baron Hugel, a Prussian noble, who visited Maharajah Ranjit Singh in 1836 and inspected a cavalry parade. "I never beheld," he wrote of a troop of ghorcharhas, "a finer nor a more remarkably striking body of men. Each one was dressed

differently, and yet so much in the same fashion that they all looked in perfect keeping."

Q-44

Was the army purely on a voluntary basis?

Army service was on a purely voluntary basis. There was no class composition on the basis of religion or nationality, nor was there a prescribed age limit for enrolment or retirement. Physical fitness and loyalty to the State were the essential conditions. However, the clannish basis of the misls in the FaujiBeqava'id ensured solidarity in the lower rungs of military administration. Similarly, bravery in the field and efficiency in the performance of duty were the only considerations for promotion and reward, which were also extended to the sons of those who died in action.

Q-45

What did Ranjit Singh encircle himself with?

Ranjit Singh encircled himself with an array of strong generals and soldiers. They were men from different clans, castes and regions and religions.

Among some of the most important and illustrious names include:

Hari Singh Nalwa

General Sardar Gurmukh Singh Lamba

Dewan Mokham Chand

Gulab Singh Pahuwindia - The Famous General Belonging to the Family Tree of Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Ji of Saheedan Misl[1]

Akali Phula Singh

Q-46

What was Balbhadra Kunwar famous for?

Balbhadra Kunwar - The famous Gorkhali General who served for Ranjit Singh after the Anglo-Gorkha war (1814-1816). Balbhadra is famous for his battle of Nalapani.

Mahan Singh Mirpuri

Dal Singh

Among his European Mercenary Generals were:

Ventura - Italian (Modena)

Paolo di Avitabile - Italian (Naples)

Court - French

Oms - Spanish

Rewards and payments

Q-47

What system was enforced?

A well defined system of reward and punishment was enforced to maintain discipline and morale. The system of fasli or six monthly payment, or payment through jagirs was later replaced by regular monthly payment in

cash. Rates of pay ranged between Rs 400500 for a general, Rs 1725 for an infantry soldier and Rs 2226 for a horseman per month, including, in the last case, maintenance of a horse and accoutrements. European officers received much higher salaries. Ventura and Allard were, for instance, each paid Rs 25,000 per annum, in addition to certain jagirs.

Q-48

What had no provision?

There was no provision for retirement benefits, but allowances were sometimes sanctioned from out of the dharamarth or religious charities fund to those permanently disabled on active service or to the dependants of those killed in action. Distinguished service in peace or war was also recognized through the award of civil and military titles, bestowal of khill'ats or robes of honour and grant of jagirs or landed estates.

Q-49

How many grades of khill marked by number?

There were three grades of khill'at marked by the number, variety and quality of the garments, ornaments and weapons comprising each of them. Military titles were high-sounding Persian expressions, which the recipients and their bards and ushers could use before their names, such as HizbariJang (the lion of battle), ZafarJang Bahadur (victorious, brave in war) Samsam uddaulah (sharp sword of the State), Shuja' uddaulah (valour of the State), Tahavurpanah (asylum of bravery), and so on.

Q-50

How did military officers look at the title of Sardar?

The titles of Raja and Diwan, sparingly bestowed, were essentially for distinguished service on the civil side. For military officers, the title of Sardar was considered one of considerable distinction. The noted generals, like General Sardar Gurmukh Singh Lamba were awarded title of izat-i-Sardari. Sardar was wounded fifteen times and his portrait painting is displayed at "Central Museum" Lahore at serial D-40 with caption.

Q-51

When was the marriage of Kanvar Nau Nihal Singh?

Towards the end of his reign or, to be more exact, on the occasion of the marriage of Kanvar Nau Nihal Singh in March 1837, Ranjit Singh instituted an Order of Merit named Kaukabi-Iqbali-Panjab (Star of the Prosperity of the Punjab). It was a gold medal, 2.25 inches across with five large and five small pointed branches issuing outwards alternately from a roundish centre bearing a likeness of the Maharajah in bust on one side, and his name on the other. It was meant to be worn round the neck suspended on a gold and scarlet riband passing through a ring on top of the semiglobular head of the star.

Q-52

What did the kaukabwas of three different classes represent?

The kaukabwas of three different classes representing the three grades of the Order, distinguished by the size and quality of the inset precious stones. Star of the first class, meant to be awarded only to members of the royal family and very few distinguished chiefs and nobles for their proven devotion and fidelity to the person of the Maharajah and his House, was ornamented with a single large diamond. The Order of the second grade was bestowed upon loyal courtiers, governors of provinces, generals and ambassadors in recognition of political services. It had a diamond (of smaller size) and an emerald on it.

Q-53

Who was awarded having a single emerald?

The Order of the third grade, having a single emerald, was awarded to military officers of the rank of colonel, major or captain for bravery, resourcefulness, alertness and faithfulness; to civil servants for distinguished administrative ability and honesty; and to others enjoying greater confidence of the sovereign. Bestowal of the kaukabwas were accompanied by appropriate khill'ats and titles for the awardees.