

Maharaja Ranjit Singh



Why in News?

The statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh which was installed in 2019, vandalised by a member of radical outfit Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).



About Ranjit Singh

- ✔ Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the leader of the Sikh Empire. His reign lasted from 1801 to 1839.
- ✔ He was the founder of the Sikh kingdom of Punjab and was known as the Lion of the Punjab or Sher-e-Punjab.



Achievements of Maharaja Ranjit Singh

- ✔ His holdings stretched from the Khyber Pass in the northwest to the Sutlej River in the east, and from Kashmir, the Indian subcontinent's northernmost area, southward to the Thar (Great Indian) Desert.
- ✔ Punjab state is the only state which has defeated Afghanistan.

He had coins made in the name of the Sikh Gurus, and then proceeded to govern the state in the name of the Sikh commonwealth.

- ✔ He turned Harimandir Sahib at Amritsar into the Golden Temple by covering it with gold.
- ✔ He is also credited with funding Hazoor Sahib gurudwara at the final resting place of Guru Gobind Singh in Nanded, Maharashtra.



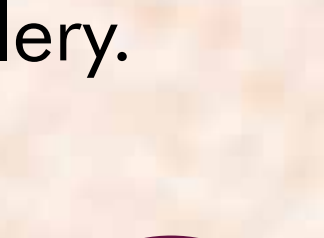
Agreement between the British East India Company

He was forced to sign the Treaty of Amritsar in 1809, which established the Sutlej River as the empire's eastern boundary.



Well equipped Army

- ✔ His army comprises of Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus commanders.
- ✔ In 1820, Ranjit Singh started modernizing his army, with best European officers to train infantry and the artillery.



International recognition

- ✔ In 2016, the town of St Tropez in France unveiled the maharaja's bronze statue as a mark of respect.
- ✔ His throne is displayed prominently at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.
- ✔ In 2018, London hosted an exhibition that focused on the history of the Sikh Empire and the international relations forged by the Maharaja.