

LIFE AND TIMES OF MAHARANI JIND KAUR (1817 A.D.-1863 A.D.)

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Punjab is the state of North India, form part of the larger Punjab region. The state is bordered by the Indian states Jammu and Kashmir to the north, Himachal Pradesh to the east, Haryana to the south and southeast, Rajasthan to the southwest, and the Pakistan province of Punjab to the west. The state capital is Chandigarh, a Union Territory and also the capital of the neighboring state of Haryana. After the partition of India in 1947 A.D, the Punjab province of British India was divided into India and Pakistan.¹ The Indian Punjab was divided on the basis of language in 1966 A.D. It was divided into three parts. Haryanvi speaking areas (dialect of Hindi) were carved out as Haryana, Hilly regions and *Pahari* speaking areas formed Himachal Pradesh alongside the current state of Punjab.

After the martyrdom of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, for several years Sikhs found refuge in the jungles and the Himalayan foothills until they organized themselves into military bands known as *jathas* called *Misls*. The Sikh Rule in Lahore initiated from the invasion and rule of the Sikh *Misls* and extended till the Sikh Empire of Ranjit Singh (*also known as Punjab, the Sikh Raj, and Sarkar Khalsa Raj*) which ended in 1849 A.D.² There were twelve *Misls*, each *Misl* was made up of members of soldiers, whose loyalty was given to the *Misl's* leader. A *Misl* could be composed of a few hundred to tens of thousands soldiers. Every soldier was free to join any *Misl* he choose and free to cancel his membership of the *Misl* to whom he belonged.

The Sikh *Misls* had four different classes of administrative divisions. The *patadari*, *misaldari*, *tabadari*, and *jagirdari* were the different systems of land tenure used by the *Misls*, and land granted by the *misl* left the responsibility of establishing law and order to the owner of the land. The land under the direct administration of the chief of the *Misl* was known as the *sardari*, *tabadari* and *jagirdari* systems used land directly given by the chief from the *sardari*. The *Patadari* and *Misaldari* systems formed the basis of a *Misl*,

¹ Punjab, Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre, Retrieved 8th September, 2011,p.no. 1.

² Punjab, Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre, Retrieved 8th September, 2011, p. no. 2.

while *tabadari* and *jagirdari* lands would only be created after large acquisitions of land. The type of system that was used in an area depended on the importance of the chief *sardar* of the area to the rest of the *Misl*. Eleven *Misls* were conquering north region of the Sutlej river and one the *Phulkian Misl* was south of the Sutlej.

The Sukerchakia Misl was one of 12 Sikh *Misls* in Punjab during the 18th century. Sukerchakia Misl named after the village of Sukkarchakk in Gujranwala district, now in Pakistan, to which its founders belonged, became ultimately the most important of the twelve eighteenth-century Sikh ruling clans.

Mahan Singh died in 1790 A.D.³ At his death, his 10 years old son, Ranjit Singh, became the head of the Sukkarchakia misl. Young Ranjit Singh had inherited from his forefathers a sizeable estate in Northwestern Punjab, a band of intrepid horse and matchlock men, and an ambition that knew no bounds. In due course, he liquidated the *Misls* from the north of the Sutlej and became the powerful sovereign of the Punjab.

After the death of his father, Ranjit Singh was raised by Sada Kaur of the *Kanhैया Misl*. He took over as *Misldar* of the *Sukerchakia Misl* at the age of 18 years. He was married to Mehtab Kaur (1813 A.D.), daughter of Sardar Gurbakash Singh Sandhu (1785 A.D.), of the *Kanhaiya Misl*, in 1796 A.D., at the age of 16. Thus that marriage brought two great *Misls* together. In 1798 A.D., he married Raj Kaur, alias Maharani Datar Kaur (1838 A.D.), the daughter of Sardar Ran Singh Nakai (A.D. 1781), of the *Nakai Misl*, thus also adding his strength. The second marriage annoyed Sada kaur and Mahtab Kaur. Mehtab Kaur returned to Batala and returned to Gujrawala occasionally. Among the other wives of Shere-E-Punjab were Rani Ratten Kaur and Rani Daya Kaur of Gujrat, Rani Chand Kaur (1840 A.D.) of village Chainpur (Amritsar), Rani Gulab Kaur (1838A.D.) of village Jagdeo (Amritsar), Rani Lachhmi Kaur of village Jogki Khan (Gujranwala), Rani Jind Kaur(1817 A.D.-1863 A.D.) of village Chachar (Gujranwala), Rani Raj Banso Devi (1835A.D.) of Kangra Hill State . Among all the wives, Maharani Jind Kaur was the youngest wife of Shere -E- Punjab Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who established Sikh Raj after the death of Maharaja and also worked for the better improvement of Sikh raj. In present time, women is accepted as the weakest person in the society, but Maharani Jind kaur faced the British ruled forces. British Government was too afraid of Maharani Jind Kaur. Lord Dalhousie also revealed her character by saying “Believe me, for us only trouble which could be caused will be Maharani Jind Kaur”. Among the most important of Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s regular wives married according to Sikh customs, were Mehtab Kaur of Kanhia Misl, gave birth to three sons, the eldest Ishar Singh died young at 1.5 years of age. Thus among the all wives of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Maharani Jind Kaur was the only beautiful, brave, political and full of enthusiasm wife and also was the fearless lady which gave her the name of ‘The Iron lady’. She was called as Jindan in the family and she got familiar with this name only because of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. After the death of Maharaja Ranjit

³ Ibid, p. no. 2.

Singh, Maharani Jind Kaur and her son Dalip Singh hold the Sikh raj for few years. She was the first women who hold an importance in the first Independence war for India.

Past history reveals that the girls were killed as soon after the birth. Even the people of lower caste, big *jagirdars*, highly designated people and kings were not behind in the killing of girls. During the war unmarried girls were kidnapped by the soldiers. The fear in the mind of people was only threat if they lost the war, their sisters and daughters could be abused physically and mentally and their whole family would be stigmatized. Sikh history does not reveal any example of killing of girls but Maharaja Ranjit Singh's mother Mata Raj Kaur was buried in the earthen pot. At that time when Baba Guddarh Singh ji came to know about this cruelty he rescued the girl child and blessed her to be the mother of a great warrior. Similarly Jassa Singh Ramgharia was accused of killing a newly born child due to which he was expelled from Sikh community.⁴

Maharaja Ranjit Singh being careless leader was fond of hunting. One day he went to Siyalkot (now in Pakistan) with his friends for hunting. They were unable to find even a single prey after lot of struggle. Finally in the evening they placed tents for spending the night and set up the kitchen for preparation of food. That was the village Chagari of a rich wealthy Saradar Maana Singh which was in the tehsil Zaffarwal district Siyalkot. Co-incidentally the girls of Chagari went out of their houses during the dusk. The beauty of Jind Kaur was noticed by the observing eye of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.⁵ It was found that kennel officer Maana Singh Aulakh 's daughter , Jind Kaur had exceptionally attractive looks and was vivacious enough to attract the lion of the Punjab. She was the daughter of his friend –officer who hailed from nearby village (Chichrianwali) of his own birth place Gujranwala, Jind Kaur could be inducted into the royal palace (harem) only after the nuptial ceremonies had been through. Her captivating eyes and ever ready wit so on charmed the one eyed lion that she became her JIND (life and strength) in the lateral sense. But she attracted the public eye only after she gave birth to a son (Dalip Singh) on the 6th September, 1838 A.D.⁶

Jind Kaur was the daughter of Sardar Manna Singh, an Aulakh *jat* who hailed from a small village Chacher district Gujranwala, now in West Pakistan.

The father of Maharani Jind Kaur was a Aulakh *jat*. At an early age, Manna singh entered the service of Ranjit Singh as a dog-keeper. He was a Kumedan in the darbar of Shere-E-Punjab on the establishment maintained for looking after the department of hunting the dogs. Thus because of his job he was in direct contact with Maharaja. Jind Kaur was born in 1817A.D at Sardar Manna Singh Aulakh 's home. Jind Kaur was the sister of two brothers namely Sardar Jawahar Singh and Sardar Hira Singh . The name of all these could be read easily in the history but history did not revealed any clue or evidence about the elder daughter of Manna Singh. Jind kaur was the younger daughter of Sardar Manna Singh, an Aulakh *jat* who hailed

⁴ Kaille, S. L and Gill, H.S., *Sikh raj vich Maharani jinda ik hasti si*, Bhai Chatar Singh Jiwan Singh, Amritsar, 2011, p. no. 17.

⁵ Ahluwalia, M.L., *Maharani Jind Kaur(1816-1863)*, Singh Bros. Amritsar, 2001, ,p. no. .

⁶ Ibid p. no. 13.

from a small village Chachar⁷, district Gujranwala now in Pakistan.. Her elder sister was married to Sardar Jwala Singh Bhadania. Jind kaur, the youngest wife of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and the queen mother of the last Sikh sovereign Maharaja Dalip Singh is called as Rani/Ranee/Mai or Queen mother, by the various European as well as native contemporary writers. However she was known as Rani Jindan or Jind kaur. She was renowned for her beauty, energy and strength of purpose but her fame was derived chiefly from the fear she engendered in the British in India, Who described her as "the Messalina of the Punjab", a seductress too rebellious to be controlled⁸. From many contemporary evidences, it was clear that Rani Jind Kaur was not only the principle wives of Maharaja and her own existence as well as that of her son Dalip Singh was unknown till 1843 A.D. when the Khalsa army panchayats proclaimed the latter as Sovereign of the Sikh Kingdom. An Indian woman wearing a crinoline over her traditional clothes, and emeralds and pearls under her bonnet was Maharani Jind Kaur.

In the early age of life Jind Kaur used to play the game of king and queen along with other girls and Jinda usually become the queen of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. And all the other girls who used to play with her and even her elder sister would laugh on Jinda and taunted her that she would be the queen of one-eyed king. All these things were not understood by Jinda in the early age. She danced in the joy and her mother made her promise to make her the queen of Maharaja. All this was made a taunt to Jinda by other girls and they called her Rani Jinda.⁹

Listening to the Maharaja Ranjit Singh's order Manna Singh was totally confused and was unable to give any reply to Maharaja as being their servant. He could lost his job in case if he refused to the Maharaja. Manna Singh was unable to give any answer to the question asked by Maharaja as Maharaja was thrice time old as the age of Jinda and how could he marry Jinda with Maharaja. He started thinking about it as it was so difficult for him but after thinking a lot he accepted the proposal of Maharaja and agreed to give the hand of Jinda to Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Manna Singh arrived back home and shared all the conversation which took place between him and Maharaja Ranjit Singh to his wife. He told each and every thing to her without in return listening any of the answer of her. All that left a deep impact on Jind Kaur¹⁰. She was doubted on the proposal laid down by the Maharaja as she was going to become Maharani but on the other hand there was fear in her mind that their was short family life due to the age gap between her and Maharaja.

Maharani Mehtab Kaur who was daughter of Sardar Gurbaksh Singh Ghanayia and Rani Sada Kaur with whom Maharaja Ranjit Singh married in 1796 A.D. She was mother of Isher Singh , Sher Singh and Tara Singh. She died in 1813 A.D. Rani Raj Kaur who was also called Dataar Kaur and was famous by the name of Mai Nakain Kaur. She was daughter of Ran Singh and sister of Giyan Singh Nakai. She was married in 1798 A.D. and was the mother of Maharaja Kharak Singh. Rani Roop Kaur, District Amritsar village Kot

⁷ Griffin, W.D. , *Village Char 'The Punjab Chiefs'*, Digital Library, India, 1865, p. no. 7.

⁸ Login, E.D., *Lady Login's Recollections*, Smith, Elder & co., 1916, p. no. 23.

⁹ Gyani Sohan Singh, *Maharani Jind Kaur*, Lahore Book Shop, *Ludhiana*, 2013, p. no. .

¹⁰ Ibid p. no. 39.

Sayiad Mehmood's numberdar Jai Singh's daughter and was married to Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1815 A.D. Rani Laxmi 's marriage was in 1820 A.D. and she was Dega Singh Vada Dhaga's daughter who was Sandhu jat resident of village Jogki of Gujrawala. Rani Mehtab Kaur or Rani Katochan or Gadan was daughter of Raja Sansar Chand Katoch of Kangra. She was married to Maharaja in 1829 A.D. and died in 1839 A.D. after the death of Maharaja became sati. Rani Raj Kaur Banso sister of Mehtab Devi and second daughter of Raja Sansar Chand. Her marriage was in 1829 A.D. and she died in 1835 A.D. Rani Raj Devi daughter of Mian Padam Singh became sati after the death of Maharaja in 1839 A.D. Rani Devno Devi daughter of Chib khatri Sanad Bhari of Batala's daughter also became sati after the death of Maharaja. Rani Hardevi daughter of Chaudary Ram Saleria Rajput of Atalgarh district Gurdaspur also became sati after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death. Rani Ram Devi daughter of Kour Singh of village Shashriwala district Gurdaspur died before the death of Maharaja. Rani Devi from district Hoshiarpur's village Jaswan daughter of Wazir Nakuda. Rani Moran before marriage was a muslim dancer in Lahore. In 1802 A.D. she was married to Maharaja and she also went along with Maharaja to Hardwar on a tour. Rani Gul Bahar Begum of Amritsar was married to Maharaja in 1833 A.D. and died in 1863 A.D. Rani Ratan Kaur was the widow of Gujrat's Sahib Singh Bhangi. After his death Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1811 A.D. brought her to his palace and she was the mother of Kanwar Multan Singh. Rani Daya Kaur was also the widow of Gujrat's Sahib Singh. She gave birth to two sons Kashmir Singh and Pishora Singh and died in 1843 A.D. Rani Chand Kaur was the daughter of Jai Singh Jat of village Chainpur district Amritsar. She was married to Maharaja in 1815 A.D. She died in 1840 A.D. Rani Mehtab Kaur was the daughter of jat Sujan Singh of village Malla district Gurdaspur married to Maharaja in 1822 A.D. Rani Shaman Kaur, the daughter of Suba Singh of the Malwa region was married to Maharaja in 1832 A.D. Maharaja Ranjit Singh married to Rani Gulab Kaur of Jagdeva village of Amritsar. Rani Jind Kaur also known as Rani Jinda was the daughter of Sardar Manna Singh Aulakh and she was married to Maharaja in 1835 A.D. She died in 1863 A.D. and was the mother of Maharaja Dalip Singh.¹¹

The queen of beauty, daughter of kingdom and intelligent lady made a great important place in the life of Maharaja. Maharani Jinda adopted the new way to led a life other than all other Rani's. Due to this nature she became beloved one of all in the Raj Mahal. Maharani Jind Kaur's emerald and seed-pearl necklace was one of the famous necklace from the jewelry she hold down. This necklace was named as Maharani Jindan Kaur Emerald and Seed-Pearl Necklace¹².

On September 4th, 1838 A.D. Rani Jinda gave birth to a son. Everyone was happy and thanked the Almighty. *Shri Akand Path Sahib* was done and after that *Kirtan* and *Ardas* was done in the Palace. The

¹¹ Kaille, S. L and Gill Harnek Singh, *Sikh raj vich Maharani jinda ik hasti si*, Bhai Chatar Singh Jiwan Singh, Amritsar , 2011, p. no. 40.

¹² An important emerald and seed-pearl necklace from the Lahore treasury, worn by- Maharani Jind Kaur(1817-1863) wife of Ranjeet Singh , the lion of Punjab (1780-1839)- www.bonhams.com., p.no.1.

alphabet “D” was the first alphabet which came from the order (*Hukamnama*) by Guru Granth Sahib. The name of her was kept “Dalip Singh”.¹³

So in the history of Punjab the most dispute period was of Maharani Jind Kaur’s who was regent of Maharaja Dalip Singh from the time period of 1843A.D. to 1848A.D. After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, she and Dalip Singh commanded Sikh rule and governed it for some time. She was known to be the first lady who fought in the war of independence of India. Maharani was the youngest wife of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. She was the 18th wife of Shere-E-Punjab. The name of Jinda was all due to him only and was remembered in the history of Punjab. She was named as the Iron lady due to which there was always fear of her among the British. Maharani Jind Kaur’s life was full of sacrifices which correlates with the rise and downfall of Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s rule.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh died on 27th June 1839 A.D. After his death all his sons fought with each other and bloody war to sit on the throne and the heads were removed off from the body. All that finished the power of Lahore.

Rani Jind Kaur hold all that and she appointed Bhagat Ram as the Chief of Army, Sardar Teja Singh as the army leader and Raja Lal Singh as the prime minister but due to poor administrative after few days war took place between Sikhs and British.¹⁴

Maharani Jind Kaur and Sham Singh Attariwala never want that there should be dispute or war against British but in front of army they were failed. Due to the traitors in the Sikh army, Sikhs lost the war and Britishers came to Lahore. They played fraud with young Maharaj and wanted to destroy the building stone of Sikh Raj and were very eagerly waiting for mixing up Sikh Raj with them. They tried to spread rumors against Maharani Jind Kaur and tried to put allegations on her for killing Teja Singh and Lal Singh in the war against British army and she did all this for taking the revenge of death of her brother Jawahar Singh by the sikh army. When the people ignored all that, the British found the another way for making her guilty. On 7th August, 1847 A.D. the Resident Lawrence was called in the Darbar where some of the Sardars were to be honored with the post of Raja. Tej Singh was also present in the Darbar who did fraud with the Lahore Darbar and helped the British due to which he was to be honored with the Raja by Lawrence.¹⁵

During the period between the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the coming of the Queen Jind Kaur to the helm of affairs, the Sikh kingdom witnessed the full play of factionalism in its ugliest form. Many historians described it as the beginning of the end of the mighty edifice, so dexterously built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh almost brick by brick¹⁶. Before proceeding further to delineate role of Rani Jind Kaur as a Regent of Maharaja Dalip Singh, it would be in the fitness of things to make an attempt to lay bare the British

¹³ Singh, K. and Kaille, S. L., *Maharani Jinda (Iron lady)*, Bhai Chatar Singh Jiwan Singh, Amritsar, 2015, p. no. 44.

¹⁴ Punjabi Tribune, December,2012, p.no. 1.

¹⁵ Rozana Spokesman ,28th August, 2016, p. no. 1.

¹⁶ Ahluwalia, M.L., *Maharani Jind Kaur(1816-1863)*, Singh Bros., Amritsar, 2001, p. no. 16.

intentions with regards to the Sikh kingdom that remained the only sovereign power on the Indian subcontinent. Since 1834 A.D., when Maharaja Ranjit Singh suffered a paralytic attack, the British authorities in India as well as London had started making re-appraisal of their options in Punjab in the event of the sudden death of Maharaja. Captain C. M. Wade suggested that in the first instance the Residency be shifted from Ludhiana to Ferozepur from where over watching the developments in Lahore would be easier and, “as good as the resident functioning from Lahore itself.”¹⁷ But this was not approved as this would have irritated the Maharaja all the more who was not already less sore on the decision of the British to take over the estate of Sardarni Lachman Kaur in Ferozepur, whom the Maharaja claimed to be his jagirdar. Major Broadfoot, blue eyed boy was posted as political agent at Ludhiana and was given the task of making the best use of the dissensions and factionalism that had come to play at the Lahore *Darbar*. With the deep sorrow Jind Kaur closed her eyes from all the sides and adopted the alone living. Her world was limited only up to the small aged Dalip Singh. For some time she besided away from the eyes of all *punjabis*. Within three year of the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the contenders of the throne and their supporters converted the entire kingdom into a cesspool of their avaricious political ambition. But interestingly those who created the cesspool with their knavish deeds themselves fell one by one. At that time, Maharani Jind Kaur was only keeping a watchful eye on all the happenings from within the four walls of the Lahore *Darbar*. Sikh Raj was divided into three groups, Dogras group, Sandhawalias and Maharaja Sher Singh group. Maharani Jind Kaur did not have any group but she wished to be with the winning group and from the deep heart she wanted Sandhawalia’s win. Both the Dogras and Sandhawalia were get together at Maharani Jind Kaur’s *Darbar*. For the reorganization of the affairs of the state, Hira Singh put himself as Prime Minister, continued to hold the charge of Khalsa army, named Rani Jind Kaur the regent and asked her brother Jawahar Singh to supervise the education of the child- Maharaja.¹⁸

Scant notice of Maharani Jind Kaur which was taken either by the official Lahore diarist, Sohan Lal Suri, or the British records until 1838 A.D., when according to the former, a munshi brought the blessed tidings of the birth of a son to her which appeared that she and her son lived a life of obscurity under the care of Raja Dhyani Singh at Jammu in August, 1843 A.D., the young prince and her mother were brought to Lahore in September. After the assassinations of Ranjit Singh's first three successors, Dalip Singh came to power in September, 1843 A.D. at the age of five year and Jind Kaur became Regent on her son's behalf. Being the mother of minor Sikh sovereign, she came to be called as Mai or the Queen Mother as she was the only surviving widow of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Pandit Jallah was appointed as *Mashir-i-khas*. At that stage, it was necessary to have look at the state of affairs of the governance machinery. The Civil, Military and the Revenue administration virtually came to a stand still.¹⁹

¹⁷ Ahluwalia, M.L. and Singh, K., *The Punjabi's Pioneer Freedom Fighters*, Orient Longmans Ltd., New Delhi, 1963, p.23.

¹⁸ Ahluwalia, M.L., *Maharani Jind Kaur (1816-1863)*, Singh Bros., Amritsar, 2001, p. no. 24.

¹⁹ Ibid p. no. 24.

The increase in the strength of the *Darbar* forces and the high cost of their pay and allowances during 1839 A.D.-1845 A.D, reflected how the defenders of the Khalsa Raj were eating into the dwindling resources of the State. As a first step towards this direction, Maharani Jind Kaur thought it proper to allow Raja Hira Singh to give priority to the collection of revenue.

Though Rani Jind Kaur always favoured the chiefs who aided her along with her brothers, yet she looked to her brothers with special favour as compared to the other members of *Darbar*. Raja Hira Singh and Jallah did not like her and her brothers, regarding them as without influence for want of family connections and due to their disreputable character. For very few time both the brothers of Maharani were deprived of jagir but later small jagirs were released on them. The love affair of Rani Jind Kaur and Raja Lal Singh was the talk of town of Lahore who was the son of Missar Jassa Mal, a scribe attached to Ranjit Singh. Lal Singh was a great favourite of the Queen Mother. At that time the Sikhs lost the First Anglo-Sikh War she was replaced in December, 1846 A.D. by a Council of Regency, under the control of a British Resident. However, her power and influence continued and, to counter that, the British imprisoned and exiled her. Over thirteen years passed before she was again permitted to see her son, who was taken to England.²⁰

The political history of Jind Kaur began from that date gradually, when she assumed the role of a dejure regent to the minor Maharaja.

The eclipse of the Jalla regime was a political victory for Maharani Jind Kaur, who had goaded the army to overthrow Hira Singh and appointed her brother Jawahar Singh as the Wazir. She assumed control of the Government with the approval of the army generals who declared that they would place her on the throne of Delhi. Jind Kaur proclaimed herself as regent and casted off her veil. She became the symbol of the sovereignty of the Khalsa ruling the Punjab in the name of her son. She reviewed the troops and addressed them, held court and transacted state business in public.²¹ She reconstituted the supreme Khalsa Council by giving representation to the principal sardars and restored a working balance between the army panchayats and the civil administration. Numerous annoying problems confronted the Maharani.

Jind Kaur applied herself to the solution of these problems and secured to this end the assistance of a newly appointed council of elder statesmen.

Maharani Jind Kaur had been accused by some historians of wishing the Khalsa army to destroy itself in a war with the English.

In December, 1846 A.D., Maharani Jind Kaur surrendered political power to the council of ministers appointed by the British Resident after the treaty of Bharoval and except for occasional murmurs. The Sikh *Darbar* Ceased to exist as a sovereign political body. The regent was dismissed with an annuity of Rs

²⁰ Kaillie, S. L and Gill Harnek Singh, *Sikh raj vich Maharani jinda ik hasti si*, Bhai Chatar Singh Jiwan Singh, Amritsar , 2011, P.no. 239.

²¹ Ibid, p. no.2.

1,50,000 and "an officer of Company's artillery became, in effect, the successor to Ranjit Singh".²² The resident however, suspecting her full of intrigue, imposed necessary restrictions on her. However the queen mother was in favour of the retention of British troops under the terms of the then existing treaty under the impression that "the British Government will not exercise any interference in the internal administration of Punjab state - but in all cases or questions which may be referred to the British Government, the Governor General will give the aid of his advice for the furtherance of the interest of the Lahore Government. Maharani Jind Kaur soon became disillusioned about the intentions of the Governor General who aimed at giving to British resident at Lahore. From Henry Lawrence 's report to the Government dated 17th December, 1846 A.D., it was evident that sooner or later the ultimate aim of the British Government was to occupy the Punjab. The British Government determined to undermine the morale of the Sikhs.

During her rule as regent, Maharani Jind Kaur waged two disastrous wars against the British that led to the annexation of the Punjab. She may have made huge strategic errors due to her military unexperience and young age (she was in her early 20s), but Maharani Jind Kaur was a fierce ruler. British historian Peter Bance describes her as a "very gutsy woman". She stood her ground against the British. She actively took charge of the Punjab."²³

The Maharani Jind Kaur was described as "a serious obstacle" to British rule in India. They launched a smear campaign to discredit her, painting her as the "Messalina of the Punjab", a seductress too rebellious to be controlled.

The End of the Sikh Empire in 1849 A.D.²⁴ was a great Shock for the Punjabi people and the Sikhs and a Great Imperial Power Came to an end, Sikhs made lots of sacrifices to save the Empire but in the end all hopes were lost. It became a memory of the Golden Age of when the Empire had reached its Zenith. For Sikhs they shall always remember the last Sikh Raj.

It was her desire that she should be cremated near the smadh of Maharaja in Lahore. But British officers did not give permission to Maharaja Dalip Singh for that. He brought her body in India and cremated near Narmada and her ashes were put into the running water. After this Maharaja Dalip Singh went back to England.²⁵

Thus Maharani Jind Kaur emerged as a prominent Sikh lady during the past 1838 period. She played an important and very vital role in the resolving disputes along with British government. She entered Sikh court politics and also fought the Anglo-Sikh war. She dominated Sikh politics in Punjab from 1838 to 1863. Due to her political leadership quality she was known as the Iron lady and is still remembered among the entire Sikh community.

²² Ibid Retrieved 2002,p. no. 3.

²³ Grewal, H.K., *Rebel Queen-a throne in the crown*, The Guardian, Retrieved 4th October 2015.

²⁴ Gyani Sohan Singh Seetal, *Maharani Jinda*, Lahore Book Shop, Ludhiana, 2013, p no. 96.

²⁵ Ibid p. no. 102.