

Maharaja Gulab Singh

By IASToppers | 2023-10-25 16:05:00



Maharaja Gulab Singh

Tributes were offered to Maharaja Gulab Singh, the first Dogra Ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, on the occasion of his **231st Birth Anniversary** during a ceremony held at the Shri Raghunath Ji Temple.



[ref- news9live]

About Maharaja Gulab Singh

- Maharaja Gulab Singh was the founder of **Dogra dynasty** and the **first Maharaja** of the **princely state of Jammu and Kashmir** during the British Raj in India.
- Gulab Singh, born on October 18, 1792, was a member of the **Jamwal clan** of Rajputs.
- In 1808, Gulab Singh fought alongside his fellow clansmen in an unsuccessful attempt to defend Jammu against a Sikh invasion led by **Emperor Ranjit Singh**.
- After the defeat, the **Raja of Jammu** retained **internal autonomy** over the principality, but it became a **tributary of the Sikh Empire**.
- Gulab Singh joined the army of Ranjit Singh in 1809 and was successful to earn a **jagir** worth 12,000 rupees and also 90 horses.

Expeditions:

- He distinguished himself in **several campaigns**, including the **conquest of Multan** (1816).
 - He led an **independent campaign** in 1816 to conquer the **hill-town of Reasi**.
- In 1821, Gulab Singh captured **conquered Rajaori** from **Aghar Khan** and **Kishtwar** from **Raja Tegh Muhammad Singh**.
- Gulab Singh took part in the Sikh conquest of **Dera Ghazi Khan**.
- He also captured and executed his own clansman, **Dido Jamwal**, who had been leading a rebellion against the Sikhs.

Raja of Jammu:

- In 1820, in recognition of the services provided by **Gulab Singh's family**, especially Gulab Singh

himself, Ranjit Singh granted the Jammu region as a hereditary fief to **Kishore Singh**.

- After the death of Kishore Singh in 1822, **Gulab Singh** was confirmed as the Raja of Jammu by **Ranjit Singh**.

Creation of princely state of Jammu and Kashmir:

- The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was established following the defeat of the Sikh Empire in the **First Anglo-Sikh War**.
- During the war, Gulab Singh maintained **neutrality**, which ultimately contributed to the British victory.
- He even assumed the **role of prime minister** of the Sikh Empire for the last 38 days of the conflict.
- The **Treaty of Amritsar**, signed in **1846**, the sale by the British to Gulab Singh for 7,500,000 Nanakshahee Rupees of all the lands in Kashmir that had been ceded to the British by the Sikhs through the Treaty of Lahore.
 - Under the Treaty of Lahore the **defeated Lahore court** transferred Gulab Singh's kingdom and the adjoining hilly regions of Hazara, Gilgit, Kashmir, and Chamba to the **British in lieu of the war indemnity**.
- In 1947, Hari Singh, the **great-grandson of Gulab Singh**, confronted an **incursion of Pashtuns** from Pakistan and decided to accede to the Indian Union.
 - This led to the formation of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

About Dogra dynasty:

- The Dogra dynasty is a **Rajput clan** located in the **Kashmir region** of the **northwestern Indian subcontinent**.
- They are primarily concentrated in the area centered on **Jammu**, which lies to the north of what is now **Lahore, Pakistan**, roughly between the **Chenab** and **Ravi rivers**.
- The Dogras or Dogra people are an **Indo-Aryan ethno-linguistic group** consisting of the Dogri language speakers
- Dogra Rajputs of the **Jamwal clan ruled Jammu** from the 19th century, when Gulab Singh was made a **hereditary Raja of Jammu** by Ranjit Singh, whilst his brother **Dhian Singh** was the **empire's prime minister** of Punjab, until October 1947.