CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTION

The princely state of Kapurthala consisted of three main non-contiguous parts. All of these lied in the Jalandhar Doab. Of these, the main portion of Kapurthala and Sultanpur was situated at the southern extremity of the Doab, between 31° 9’ and 31° 49’ north and 75° 5’ and 75° 41’ east, extending to the confluence of the Beas and Sutlej Rivers. This portion of the state had total area of 510 square miles. It was 45 miles long from north east to south west, while its breadth varied from seven to twenty miles.1 This portion bounded partly in the north and wholly in the west by the Beas River, which separated it in the north from Gurdaspur district and in the west from Amritsar district. The Sutlej River separated it in the south from Ferozpur district, but it was mainly bounded in the south by Jalandhar district. In the east it was again bounded by Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur districts and in the north partly by the Hoshiarpur district.2

The second largest portion of the state was ilaqa of Phagwara. It was situated between north latitude 31°10’ and 31° 22’ and east longitude 75° 40’ and 75° 55’. It had an area of 118 square miles, surrounded by Jalandhar District on all the sides, except the north-east, where it adjoined the district of Hoshiarpur. It was added to the state in 1806 by Sardar Fateh Singh Ahluwalia.3 The third and the smallest portion was the ilaqa of Bhunga, which had an area of 24 square miles in the Hoshiarpur district. It was included in the state by Sardar Fateh Singh Ahluwalia in 1822.4

The state had also owned 34 villages in the district of Lahore and Amritsar of Bari Doab. These villages were assigned to Raja Randhir Singh and his descendents in perpetuity in 18605 by the British in recognition of his services during the Mutiny of 1857.6 The Raja had been moreover conferred upon the Istamrari tenure of the Ilaqas of Baundi, Bithauli and Akauma in the Baraich and Bara Banki districts of

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3. Kapurthala District Profile prepared by the District Administration Kapurthala, p1.
4. District Gazetteer Kapurthala 1904, p. 1
Oudh. It was bestowed upon the Raja as a gift by the British in 1859 in recognition of his services to the Sepoy Mutiny.\(^7\) In 1872, Raja Kharak Singh purchased the Darpura Ilaqa in the Kheri district of Oudh and in 1873 he further purchased that of Bhogpur in Bijnore district. The total area formed over to 700 square miles in Oudh estate.\(^8\)

Lying in the Bist-Jalandhar Doab, the Sutlej and the Beas rivers formed the southern and western boundaries of the state but neither of these rivers actually traverses its territory. However the two Beins called White Bein and Black Bein intersect the state; the White or Eastern Bein entered the Phagwara tehsil from the Garhshankar tehsil of Hoshiarpur district and drained the village of Chahr, after which it entered to Jalandhar district and flowed into the Sutlej. The Black or Western Bein entered the state from Dasuya tehsil of Hoshiarpur district and after draining the Ilaqa of Bholath, Dhillwan, Kapurthala and Sultanpur Lodhi, it joined the river Beas.\(^9\)

The type of land of the state varied. In the north-western and southern peripheries along the river Beas down to the Sutlej, in the south, was locally known as the Bet land (flood-plain). There were low embankments and wide strips of alluvial land over which water spread when the river was flooded.\(^10\) The area of whole of the Phagwara tehsil was the upland plain. A portion of this plain was cut across by the White Bein and its north side was called Sirowal. There was water logging due to seasonal chocking of chos most of which terminated near the boundary between Phagwara tehsil and Hoshiarpur district.\(^11\)

The area around Kapurthala was underlain by the Indo-gangatic alluvium. It consisted of silt, clay, loam, kankar, fine to coarse grained sand, gravel and pebbles. Building materials such as boulders, pebbles, shingles and sands were found west of Sultanpur Lodhi around the confluence of Sutlej and Beas. Brick clays used for making hard burn bricks were found at many places, especially around shallow water depressions.\(^12\)

The vegetation in the area of the state comprised mainly of Shisham (Dalbergia sissoo) provided valuable timber for the furniture and buildings. The bark of Kikar/babul (Acacia arabica) fulfilled the requirement of the tannery of the state for tanning leather. Eucalyptus hybrid (mysoresgum), Mango (mangifera indical),

\(^7\) District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, p.2. 
\(^8\) Anju Arora, Princely States, p.1. 
\(^9\) District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, p.2. 
\(^10\) District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1984, p.4. 
\(^11\) Ibid, p.4. 
\(^12\) Ibid, p.6.
Malberry (morus alba), Jaman (syzygium cumini), neem (azadirachta indica) were grown for the splendour of the gardens. Though some other species like Borh (ficus bengalensis), Pipal (ficus religioso), Dhek Palah (butea monosperma), Khazur (date) and Ber (ziziphus mauritiana) were also found.13

The history of the territory of this erstwhile state of Kapurthala is traced as early as the ancient times of Panini, the celebrated grammarian of 6th century B.C. His sutras contain, what are probably the earliest references to the people inhabiting the territory lying between the rivers Sutlej and Beas. Sutra IV of Panini’s Ashtadhayayi mentions that in the middle of the sixth century B.C. the territories of Bist Doab were dominated by three tribes viz, Tilkhala, Trigarttas and Yaudheyas.14 They were routed by the Muslim invasions. The invasions, which actually reimposed with the rise of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni resulted with the fall of the Shahi kingdom of Anandpal, but directly no place of Kapurthala appeared on the pages of Punjab history.15 In fact, there were three main towns namely, Kapurthala, Sultanpur and Phagwara in the state and all of these had their own separate historical background.

Kapurthala town was the capital of the erstwhile state of Kapurthala. It is connected by the railways with Jalandhar and Ferozpur. The roads ran from Kapurthala to Jalandhar city, Subhanpur and Kartarpur.16 The city is said to have been founded by Rana Kapur, a descendent of the ruling Rajput house of Jaisalmer, about the time of invasion of India by Mahmud Ghazni in the early eleventh century.17 The town did not occupy any place of importance during the Mohammedan rule. After the death of Adina Beg, the Mughal Governor of Jalandhar Doab, in the middle of eighteenth century, a Rajput Chieftain, Rai Ibrahim Khan Bhatti established himself in an independent position at Kapurthala.18 In Bute Shah’s account, it is mentioned that Kapurthala was a small village lying along the city of Sheikhupura, which later on appeared vice-versa. Rai Ibrahim Bhatti, who was very brave, collected a large number of forces and annexed the area up to Sultanpur. Most of the people

15. Ibid, pp.15-16.
17. Lapel H. Griffin, The Rajas of Punjab, Low Price Publication, Delhi, 2000(Reprint), p.450
serving under Adina Beg, after his death, came in the service of Rai Ibrahim and soon the village turned to a big city.\textsuperscript{19}

The Bhattis were the residents of Malwa region for the centuries. Their ruler, Vijay Rao of Bhathinda was defeated by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1005 A.D. They were compelled to migrate to Rajasthan. One of the Bhatti chief named Jaisal founded Jaisalmer. There was the uprising against him and he had to leave Jaisalmer with all his people and migrated in the direction of Punjab.\textsuperscript{20}

Rana Kapur might have been from the same family of Rajputs of Jaisalmer, to which the Kapurthala house claimed to trace its origin as the Ahluwalia house of Kapurthala is said to have a remote connection with the house of Jaisalmer.\textsuperscript{21} To make these ties more strong, the last ruler of Ahluwalia, Maharaja Jagatjit Singh was married to the Rajput girl.\textsuperscript{22} The truth of this remark is quite uncertain because Rana Kapur appears to be a mythical figure.\textsuperscript{23} He was ruling at Kapurthala at the time of its subjugation to the Ahluwalia territory. In fact, the tradition of almost every Jat tribe in the Punjab point to a Rajput descent; Jats and Rajputs had probably a common origin.\textsuperscript{24}

The town of Kapurthala gained importance only in 1780, when the local Rajput Bhatti chief, Rai Ibrahim Khan was dispossessed by Sardar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, the founder of the Fortunes of the Ahluwalia family. He selected this place as his capital. Though he himself did not reside here, but after his death, Kapurthala became the permanent capital for his descendants.\textsuperscript{25}

The second important town Sultanpur was a place of historical importance from the very ancient times. It was situated on the bank of Black Bein, sixteen miles south of Kapurthala.\textsuperscript{26} In the eleventh century one of the military generals of Mahmud Ghazni, named Sultan Khan, again founded the city.\textsuperscript{27} He renamed it with his own name Sultanpur Lodhi. The city began to flourish during the rule of Nasir-ud-din

\begin{thebibliography}{99}
\bibitem{20} Fauja Singh, R.C. Rabra, \textit{City of Faridkot, Past and Present}, Publication Bureau, Patiala, 1976, p.3.
\bibitem{21} District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, p.3.
\bibitem{22} Report on the Administration of Kapurthala State 1885-86, Civil and Military Gazette Press, Lahore, p.2.
\bibitem{23} Lapel H. Griffin, \textit{The Rajas of Punjab}, p.45.
\bibitem{24} Anju Arora, \textit{Princely States}, p. 2.
\bibitem{25} District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, p.44.
\bibitem{26} District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1984, p.327, District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, p.45.
\bibitem{27} R. L. Anand, \textit{Census of India, Kapurthala District}, p.4.
\end{thebibliography}
Mahmood Shah of Delhi Sultanate and gained some importance during Balban’s reign from military point of view as the Mongols had invaded the Sultanpur mint. In Sultan Sikander Lodhi’s rule, the Nawab of Lahore, Daulat Khan Lodhi found the place pleasant and attracted with its scenic beauty, he preserved its surroundings as a hunting-grounds. He invited the people to settle here in the town for the third time. Fed up from the Delhi Sultan, Ibrahim Lodhi, Daulat Khan Lodhi met Babur, the Mughal invader, when he invaded and captured Dipalpur and offered him tribute. In return, Babur appointed Daulat Khan, the Governor of Jalandhar, Sultanpur and Dipalpur. It was not enough that Daulat Khan had expected and he declined to accept it. Finding it dangerous, Babur arrested Daulat Khan and his son Gazi Khan and later on released them. The district of Sultanpur was rewarded to Dilawar Khan, who had given some important secret information about his father, Daulat Khan. The nawab died here in 1525. With his death, the town again lost its splendour.

Under Sher Shah Suri’s rule, Sultanpur located on the main Delhi- Lahore highway. It became famous from political as well as commercial point of view. He got a bridge constructed over Kali Bein, the remains of which can still be traced. The mention of Sultanpur Lodhi in *Ain-i- Akbari* shows that it remained a place of considerable importance during the Mughal rule. An old Sarai and a bridge, in dilapidated condition, still stand here and are reported to be of the Mughal times. The Mughal emperor Aurangzeb and his elder brother Dara Shikoh are said to have received their education at Sultanpur. There was a well known *madrassa* for higher education and Abdul Latif was the head of institution.

The city became important from the religious point of view for the Sikhism. According to *Twarikh-Guru- Khalsa* of Giani Gian Singh, the first Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Nanak Dev, arrived here in *Bikrami Sambat* 1542 and got the service at *modikhana*. It came to be considered as the Mecca of the Sikhs. The Guru’s stay at Sultanpur Lodhi has been explained in the *Janamsakhis* like the *Purani Janamsakhi* of Bhai Bala, *Wilayat Wali Janamsakhi*, *Janamsakhi* of Bhai Maharban, *Janamsakhi* of Bhai Mani Singh. Guru Nanak Dev stayed here for more than fourteen years of

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his life. He attained enlightenment, incited the *mul-mantra* and started the institution of *Langar* (Community Kitchen) primarily at Sultanpur. With this very institution, the Guru brought into his fold, men of all castes and creeds. He preached, ‘Oneness of God’ and ‘universal brotherhood’ starting from here.\(^{35}\) The fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjun Dev stayed here for some time in context of the marriage of his son, Hargobind.

In 1739, Nadir Shah and after him Ahmed Shah Abdali looted and plundered the town. It lost its importance and it could not rise again. The Sikhs became powerful after the death of Mir Mannu, the Governor of Punjab and Sardar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia annexed Sultanpur and it remained with his successors.\(^{36}\)

In the second portion of the state territory, the city of Phagwara lied both on the railway line and the grand trunk road. The city was not of as much importance during the medieval times. Like Sultanpur, it could not get the mention in the *Ain-i-Akbari* though Hadiabad, a place lying at one *Koh* distance from the city of Phagwara, which is now mingled with it, had got such importance. The town came to light with its foundation in the reign of Shah Jahan. It was held by the Hindu Jats.\(^{37}\) At the time of Ahmad Shah Abdali’s invasions, these *zamindars* offered *nazrana* to him and after paying it, they saved themselves from plunder. Finding the place safe from invasions, a number of people from nearby areas migrated here to live.\(^{38}\) These *zamindars*, locally known as *chaudharis*, were of Basra Jat clan. Their importance could be seen, when Tilak Chand, married Bibi Raj Chander, the grand daughter of Ala Singh, the founder of Patiala state. She succeeded on her husband’s death to his property and authority. In 1874 A.D., she went to Patiala to put an end to the distracted state into which it had fallen under her cousin Maharaja Sahib Singh. During her absence from Phagwara, her brother-in-law, Chuhar Mal, who was said to have been leper, eventually succeeded her. In 1803, after his death, his widow was deprived of it by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who gave it to Fateh Singh Ahluwalia in 1806. The Basra proprietors have since been ejected from Phagwara by the Kapurthala authority.\(^{39}\)

Under the Ahluwalias, Phagwara developed into main market of Jalandhar Doab, which was famous for its manufacture of hardware and metal goods and also the

\(^{35}\) *District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1984*, p.18.
\(^{38}\) Bute Shah, *Geographical Description of the Punjab in Punjabi*, p.33.
\(^{39}\) *District Gazetteer, Jullundhur, 1904*, p.6.
centre for sugar trade.\textsuperscript{40} It rose as the famous commercial and industrial town in the Punjab and the richest part of the state territory.\textsuperscript{41}

In addition to the towns of Kapurthala, Sultanpur Lodhi and Phagwara, during the medieval times Sheikhpur, Dalla and Hadiabad in the vicinity of Kapurthala, Sultanpur Lodhi and Phagwara respectively were very important. Hadiabad and Sheikhpur even got place to be mentioned in \textit{Ain-i- Akbari}.\textsuperscript{42} Sheikhpur was even a separate \textit{pargana} that lost its importance with the emergence of Kapurthala as a town, however Hadiabad remained with the Muslim Rajputs.\textsuperscript{43} Dalla, of course, was the part of Sultanpur itself which became important due to its Sikh population.\textsuperscript{44} The area of Bhunga is located near Hoshiarpur. Bute Shah mentions the area of Bhunga as fertile land with a lot of trees specially mangoes. Due to its situation near the hills, the water of the canals was clean.\textsuperscript{45} With this background, the above mentioned towns formed the part of Kapurthala State.

\textbf{Origin and History of the State}

The eighteenth century found the fair land of the Punjab in the midst of political strife and turmoil. The Mughal Empire was in the process of disintegration and a fierce quadrangle struggle for supremacy ensued among the Mughals, the Sikhs, the Afghans and the Marathas. On occasions like this the spirits of adventure, intrepidity and initiative find free play. It was in such an atmosphere that Jassa Singh Ahluwalia played a conspicuous role in the struggle for leadership and emerged as the undisputed leader of the Sikhs due to his undaunted bravery, religious fervor and political sagacity.\textsuperscript{46} He was the real founder of the Ahluwalia Misal that emerged as the Kapurthala State.\textsuperscript{47} His ancestor, Sadao Singh was an enterprising \textit{zamindar}, who nearly four hundred years ago, founded four villages of Ahlu, Hallu Sadho, Tor and Chak in the vicinity of Lahore (Pakistan). These continued to be held in perpetuity right by his descendents till the partition of the country in 1947. From the village ‘Ahlu’ the family derives its territorial title of Ahluwalia.\textsuperscript{48}

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item \textit{Ibid}, p.44.
\item \textit{His Highness Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, A Brief Life Sketch by an Official}, p.8.
\item \textit{District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904}, p.45.
\item Bute Shah, \textit{Geographical Description of the Punjab in Punjabi}, pp.19,33.
\item Academy of Folklore, \textit{Punjab Da Gaurav Sultanpur Lodhi}, p.27.
\item Anju Arora, \textit{Princely States}, p. 2.
\item Ganda Singh, \textit{Patiala and East Punjab States Union; Historical Background}, Archives Department, Patiala, 1951, p.70.
\item \textit{District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1984}, p.21.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
Jassa Singh came to be known as the Jat Kalal to which his ancestors belonged. As the tradition goes, Sadawa, the younger brother of Sadao Singh fell violently in love with a girl of the Kalal caste. This culminated in the marriage; the parents of the bride, however, stipulated the whole family of the bridegroom adopt the disagreeable cognomen of Kalal, which was accepted and the family came to be known as Ahluwalia Kalal and agreed to marry into that tribe only.\(^4^9\) Jassa Singh was born in 1718. His father Badar Singh, youngest son of Sadao Singh, died five years later. He was brought up under the forging care of Mata Sundri, wife of Guru Gobind Singh. At the early age of twelve, his maternal uncle Bhag Singh, who was issueless, requested Mata Sundri to spare the young boy to succeed him. At the departure Mata Sundri blessed him, predicted his future greatness and gave him a silver mace, saying that he and his descendents would have mace bearer to attend them. Since that time Bhag Singh took special interest in his nephew. The boy soon developed into a promising youth, well versed in Persian and Arabic and proficient in riding and use of arms. He also learnt music and loved to sing the hymns of the Adi-granth along with his mother.\(^5^0\)

Bhag Singh, the maternal uncle of Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, died leaving him thirteen years old. He inherited the property of his uncle, grew into a very brave and fearless young man. His “political talent, religious zeal and lofty aspirations combined, rendered him one of the most powerful federal chiefs of the Punjab,” says Muhammad Latif in History of Punjab. He created a jatha of his own and became one of the leading Sikh Sardars.\(^5^1\) He had already joined Nawab Kapur Singh Faizalpuria, who was the most prominent leader of the Sikhs. Soon he became the right hand man of Nawab Kapur Singh in the organization of Dal Khalsa.\(^5^2\) Jassa Singh played an important part in possessing of most of the plunders of Nadir Shah, on his return after attacking India in 1739.\(^5^3\) He began to take a leading part in the Sikh struggle against the Mughal Governors of Punjab named Zakaria Khan, Yahiya Khan and Mir Mannu.

Jassa Singh Ahluwalia’s personal bravery and cool judgement in the skirmish at Aminabad against Jaspat Rai in February, 1746, and in the subsequent holocaust of June, 1746 won him great respect among the Khalsa. Under his guidance, the

\(^{50}\) Kapurthala State; Its Past and Present, By an Official, Kapurthala,1928, p.2 .
\(^{51}\) Bhagat Singh, A History of Sikh Misals, p.59.
\(^{52}\) Anju Arora, Princely States, p.2.
\(^{53}\) Bhagat Singh, A History of Sikh Misals, p.59.
foundation of Ram Rauni fortress at Amritsar in March 29, 1748 was laid by the Sikhs and they opposed the forces of Mir Mannu under Adina Beg.\textsuperscript{54} It was in recognition of his qualities as a valiant warrior that he was chosen as the supreme commander of the Dal Khalsa. It was at the suggestion of Nawab Kapur Singh, who was growing old, that Jassa Singh was entrusted this responsibility. In 1748, he killed Salabat Khan, Governor of Amritsar, and took possession of a large part of the district. Five years later he extended his conquests towards the river Beas. He defeated Adina Beg Khan, the Governor of Jalandhar Doab, seizing the \textit{pargana} of Fatehabad, which had ever since become a part of Kapurthala state.\textsuperscript{55}

Before his death in 1753, Nawab Kapur Singh Faizalpuria gave over to Jassa Singh, the steel maze of Guru Gobind Singh, thus appointing him the successor of his influence. By his ability and courage, he considerably increased it. In 1754, the title of Nawab was conferred on him by the Sikhs at Amritsar, which was a public recognition of the fact that he was the real successor of Nawab Kapur Singh.

In 1756, Nawab Jassa Singh Ahluwalia occupied Lahore temporarily. He led the Sikhs against Sirhind in 1758 and again captured it with the help of Marathas and also occupied Lahore. It was at this time that the Punjab was practically free from foreign domination and the Sikhs established themselves in the country, both to the north and south of Sutlej.\textsuperscript{56} In October 1759, Jassa Singh moved toward Jalandhar Doab, defeated Ghamand Chand, the Governor appointed by Ahmed Shah Abdali. He also placed under his control Jalalpur, Goindwal, Istala, Butala, Tarn-Taran and Khadur. After crossing river Beas, he occupied Sultanpur and Talwandi. He also controlled Nadala, Miani, Begowal etc., an area of about hundred villages. He gave away all of these villages to the Sikhs of Wazir village. The other areas of Machunki, Dhillwan, Sidhwan, Haliwal, Brahmwal, Chakoki, Boh, Dogra and the surrounding areas and portions of Pargana of Nurmahal were conferred upon his \textit{tumandars} and \textit{misaldars}.

The Zamindars of Phagwara, who were very affluent and maintained big contingents, conceded to pay regular annual revenue to him.\textsuperscript{57} On the other hand, Ahmad Shah Abdali again established his influence in 1759. He defeated the Marathas in the third battle of Panipat in 1761. Taking advantage of Ahmad Shah Abdali’s engagement with the Marathas, Jassa Singh captured Sirhind and Dialpur,

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{54} Ganda Singh, \textit{Patiala and East Punjab States Union; Historical Background}, p.73.
\item \textsuperscript{55} Anju Arora, \textit{Princely States}, p.3.
\item \textsuperscript{56} Ganda Singh, \textit{Patiala and East Punjab States Union}, p.74.
\item \textsuperscript{57} Bhagat Singh, \textit{A History of Sikh Misals}, pp. 61-62.
\end{itemize}
south of Sutlej, giving half share of the latter to the Sodhis of Kartarpur. He then marched into the Ferozpur district and seized the _parganas_ of Dogran and Makhu, in both of these he built fortified posts. Hoshiarpur, Bhairog and Naraingarh fell to his sword in the same year. Rai Ibrahim Khan, the Mohammandan chief of Kapurthala saved himself from the destruction only by becoming his feudatory.58

After defeating the Marathas, Ahmed Shah Abdali had hardly crossed the river Indus, when the Sikhs, led by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia and Hari Singh Bhangi began to loot and plunder the country all around. Most of the Afghan _faujdar_, holding important positions in the town, were driven away. The Governor of Lahore Khwaja Ubed Khan marched with his army. He was inflicted a crushing defeat by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, the Sukerchakia and Bhangi Sardars.59 The Sikhs entered the city of Lahore with the help of the leading citizens who opened the gates to them. The Sikhs now proclaimed Jassa Singh as the King of Lahore, with the title of _Sultan-ul-Quam_. It is believed that Jassa Singh after seizing the royal mint of Lahore in November 1761 struck his first rupee which bore the inscription:

_Sikka zad dar jahan ba fazle Akal,
Mulke Ahmed grift Jassa Kalal_

Meaning Jassa Kalal having seized the country of Ahmed (Shah Durani) struck coin in the world by the grace of God.60

In 1762, Ahmed Shah Abdali led his sixth expedition for the special purpose of administering punishment to the rebellious Sikhs.61 After occupying Lahore, he instantaneously marched against the Sikh army which was at Kupp- Rahirha (near Malerkotla). He was joined by Zain Khan, the Governor of Sirhind. In the battle that ensured (called the _Wade Ghalu Ghara_) the Sikhs under the leadership of Jassa Singh Ahluwalia and Charat Singh Sukarchakia were defeated with heavy losses, as they had been attacked suddenly.62 They were again beaten a few months later near

58. _District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904_, p.4.
60. Bhagat Singh, _A History of Sikh Misals_, p. 70. It does not seem to be correct. It is improbable that any Sikh ruler, much less a religious zealot like Jassa Singh should have issued a coin in his own name. In reality, local Muslims and the _mullas_ felt very perturbed on his conquest of Lahore and establishment of his _Badshahat_ there. With the view to instigating the Durani invader, they struck a few coins themselves and sent the same to Ahmed Shah.
61. _District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904_, p.4.
Sirhind. Jassa Singh and his brother chiefs found themselves obliged to seek refuge in the Kangra hills. They, however, shortly afterward revenged themselves by the capture and plunder of the strongly fortified town of Kasur. Thence under the leadership of Jassa Singh they proceeded once more in 1763 to the old battlefield of Sirhind, a bone of contention between the Sikhs and Muhammadans. Zain Khan, the governor, and almost all of his men were slain and the place thoroughly plundered by the victorious soldiers of the Khalsa.63 Lahore finally fell to the Sikhs in 1764. A few more efforts of Ahmad Shah Abdali could not help him to regain his lost dominion.64 After Ahmad Shah Abdali’s exit from the Punjab, the Sikhs were virtually the master of the region.65

Jassa Singh then returned to Amritsar where he contributed liberally towards the rebuilding of the Golden Temple.66 Ahmad Shah Abdali had got the building blown off with gunpowder and the tank filled with debris. Therefore, it had been decided to rebuild the tank and the main building.67 This time the foundation of the temple was laid by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia on 11th of Baisakh, Sambat 1821 (A.D.1764).68 He also constructed Bunga near Harmandir for pilgrims coming from outside. He established his own fort towards the eastern side in the town of Amritsar and also established Katra Ahluwalia as well, encouraging the traders and craftsmen to reside there. The Katra had its own autonomous administration.69 It had been an architectural ornament to the sacred city until the mid of the twentieth century.70

In 1765, Amar Singh, the grandson of Ala Singh, invited Jassa Singh on his coronation. As a regard, he gave him a pargana of Isru which remained with Ahluwalias till the the first Anglo-Sikh War.71 In 1769 Jassa Singh captured Jalandhar and adjoining territories in collaboration with Khushal Singh Singhpuria. After keeping Jalandhar with himself for a few years, he gave it to Khushal Singh as a regard for his patron Nawab Kapur Singh. Jassa Singh marched against Kapurthala

63. Ibid, p.22.
64. Ganda Singh, Patiala and East Punjab States Union, p. 74.
69. Fauja Singh, The City of Amritsar, p. 377. Katra was a walled locality with only one gate providing all the security, the inhabitant needed
70. District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1984, p.22.
71. Bhagat Singh, A History of Sikh Misals, p. 64.
held by Rai Ibrahim, who had promised to pay annual tribute but that had remained due. He paid the due tax but Jassa Singh’s authority was not really established. In 1777, Jassa Singh’s son-in-law Mohar Singh was shot and killed here. It was pretended that it happened accidentally. Jassa Singh was compelled to accept the explanation offered. In 1780, Jassa Singh took advantage of the tribute again falling to arrears to seize the town of Kapurthala and he made it his capital. Rai Ibrahim was allowed to leave the place with his movable property and family.

On the request of Maharaja Amar Singh in 1779, Jassa Singh with his collaborators Khushal Singh and Tara Singh Ghaiba marched towards Patiala which was invaded by Delhi Minister Abdul Ahad, who got frightened and returned to the Mughal capital. Accompanied by the Sikhs, Jassa Singh Ahluwalia also entered Delhi in early March 1783. He made for the Red Fort and the Sikhs made him sit on the throne but Jassa Singh Ramgarhia and some other sardars resented it. The Ahluwalia chief immediately declined the honour and left the Darbar. Jassa Singh died at Amritsar on October 22, 1783 at the age of sixty-five. A monument was erected to his memory in dera Baba Atal, in Amritsar Golden Temple complex, near that of Nawab Kapur Singh Faizalpuria. The State Toshakhana still retains Jassa Singh Ahluwalia’s sword as a proud heritage.

“Although a most successful general in the field” says Sir Lapel Griffin in his *The Rajas of the Punjab*, “It was rather as the most saintly and orthodox of their leaders as the Sikhs respected him.” In the battlefield it was never his motive to conquer the territories for his personal gains. He was never greedy for any territory. Kapurthala was the place which belonged to him and it was occupied by him at a later stage. He did not take an undue advantage even of his high position. The *Panth* had also showered exceptional glory on him by raising him to the status of *Sultan-ul-Quam*. The rulers of Patiala and Jind stood before him in reverence and humility. Many powerful and prominent *sardars* including Amar Singh of Patiala received *Pahul* from his hands. The Rajas of Jammu, Kangra, Bilaspur and Nalagarh touched his knees. The Nawab of Malerkotla and Kanjpura paid him homage, but he always

considered himself to be a humble devotee and disciple of Guru Gobind Singh.\textsuperscript{77} At Amritsar the first national coin known as \textit{Nanaki} or \textit{Nanak-shahi} was struck with the following inscription:

\begin{quote}
“Deg, wa teg, wa fateh, wah nusrat be
Dirang yaft az Nanak Guru Gobind Singh.”
\end{quote}

Meaning hospitality, the sword and the victory and conquest unfalling to Guru Gobind Singh from Nanak.\textsuperscript{78}

Jassa Singh was an enlightened and liberal-minded man. A very large number of Muhammadans were employed in his service and they were allowed to follow their own religious observances without any molestation, but cow slaughter was prohibited. He was a very kind and generous man. His liberality to the poor made him extremely popular. He had opened a \textit{langar} called \textit{Sada barat langar}, where anyone could have meals at any time.\textsuperscript{79}

In short, Jassa Singh Ahluwalia possessed qualities of a great religious leader, an intrepid military general, a shrewd politician and a zealous patriot. He did more than any contemporary Sikh to consolidate the power of Khalsa at the most critical times. No matter of religious importance came up for discussion concerning which his advice was not sought and generally followed. He was not only the founder of Kapurthala state, but also helped prominently in emergence of other independent Sikh principalities. His death was a calamity which might have seriously affected the future of Sikh faith, had the gap not been filled by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{80}

Before his death, Jassa Singh had nominated his grand nephew, Bhag Singh son of Sardar Ladha Singh as his heir to the \textit{Gaddi}. In addition to inheriting Jassa Singh’s territories and disputes with the neighbouring rulers, Bhag Singh also had to face a constant challenge from the son-in-law, Mohar Singh, of his predecessor.\textsuperscript{81} The rival Sikhs desired Mohar Singh to succeed him, but with the help of Jai Singh Kanhya, the then leading Sardar of Batala managed to get Bhag Singh appointed as the new ruler of Ahluwalia Misl.\textsuperscript{82} In 1787, he had to dismiss Sardar Burha Mal, who

\textsuperscript{77} Bhagat Singh, \textit{A History of Sikh Misals}, p. 68.
\textsuperscript{78} Kapurthala State; \textit{Its Past and Present}, p.3.
\textsuperscript{79} Anju Arora, \textit{Princely States}, pp. 5-6.
\textsuperscript{80} District Gazetteer, Kapurthala, 1904, pp.4-5.
had been found as a man of questionable character. The diwan occupied Begowal and came in open confrontation with the state forces. He was captured and released later. He again revolted in 1789 and occupied Chakoki. Encouraged by him, Diwan Sheikh Karim Allah also revolted and captured Sultanpur. Diwan Burha Mal was made captive and ordered to be beheaded. His life was spared on the intercession of Sayad Chirag Shah of Sultanpur. A contingent was sent against Sheikh Karim Allah. He ran away from Sultanpur, was overpowered by some robbers and killed near Mianwind village.  

By now, the opposition of the Ramgarhias, who had become the allies of Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra, had also become intensified. The allies captured some of the Ahluwalia territory. A number of battles were fought between Bhag Singh and the Ramgarhias. The Ahluwalia chief even tried to befriend Sansar Chand, but he mostly remained loyal to the opposite sides. The important battles of this period were those of Nagoke, Miani, Begowal and Garhdiwal. The assistance given to Bhag Singh and the Sukerchankias against the Ramgarhias too was in keeping with the continuing pattern of politics in the region.  

Sardar Bhag Singh was a man of docile and affable disposition which sometimes stood in the way of an efficient administration. Griffin considered him “a man of very slight caliber”. He succeeded in conquering Kasur with the help of other Sikh Sardars. In honour of his victory, he named his newly born son Fateh Singh. Yet he did little to improve the fortune of his chiefship. On the other hand, certain places such as Begowal and Miani went out of his hands and payment of revenue of some areas was withheld by the officials and zamindars of these places.  

He was given to constant meditation and he gave alms to the Brahmans. He got excavated at Kapurthala, a Devi Tank. He also got repaired a Devi Dwara. The pujaris were provided with subsistence. All the new sadhus entering Kapurthala were entertained sumptuously by him. He was an extremely kind hearted man and would not tolerate cruelty even to the animals and insects. In his early days, he was required to look after the needs of the mendicants. This had made him sympathetic to the poor to whom he gave the charity. He also constructed the third storey of the Akal Bunga

85. Kapurthala State; Its Past and Present, p.5.
86. Anju Arora, Princely States, p.7.
and plated it with gold.\textsuperscript{88} Bhag Singh died in Kapurthala on 10\textsuperscript{th} July 1801.\textsuperscript{89} He was cremated at the tank of the goddess (Devi Tal).\textsuperscript{90}

Fateh Singh, the only son of Bhag Singh succeeded him in 1801. He was born in 1784 but according to Khushwaqat Rai and Bute Shah, Fateh Singh was of twelve years of age at the time of his accession to the sardari of his misal in 1801. He also inherited internal trouble, external pressure and shifting alliances. Increasing hostilities of the Ramgarhias and Sansar Chand obliged Fateh Singh to look for dependable allies. Maharaja Ranjit Singh was in a similar position at that time, and he too appeared to have welcomed the idea according to Ram Sukh Rao.\textsuperscript{91} Both the young Ahluwalia and Sukarchakia chiefs formed an alliance offensive and defensive.\textsuperscript{92} The formal alliance was made with a treaty (Ahd-nama) of 1802, solemnized before the Guru Granth Sahib at Fatehabad. This was accompanied by an exchange of turbans (dastarbadli) to mark the establishment of perpetual friendship and brotherhood.\textsuperscript{93} The exchange of turbans in India is regarded to be the highest symbol of affection between two persons. The custom of exchanging turbans dates back from time immemorial. King Nadir Shah of Persia got the famous Diamond from King Mohammad Shah Rangeela by the cunning exchange of turbans.\textsuperscript{94} In the presence of holy Granth they accepted to abide by three conditions: one, that the enemy of one would be considered as the enemy of the other. Two, in the course of their meetings in the territory of Ranjit Singh or that of Fateh Singh, they would not claim any expenses from each other. Three, if they jointly conquered any territory, suitable jagirs from the same would be given to the other.\textsuperscript{95}

It is ironical though that this alliance actually intensified the opposition of Fateh Singh’s enemies, with whom he had to contend single handedly, the Maharaja being, perhaps, preoccupied elsewhere. A number of battles such as Mekian, Mukhala, Bhunga, Bajwara, Drauli, Kehala and Sathiala were fought in Jalandhar Doab. The battle of Drauli in 1804, however, decisively settled the issue in favour of

\textsuperscript{89} Bhagat Singh, A History of Sikh Misals, p.74.
\textsuperscript{91} Joginder Kaur, Fateh Singh Partap Prabhakar, p. 10.
\textsuperscript{92} Bhagat Singh, A History of Sikh Misals, p. 75.
\textsuperscript{93} Joginder Kaur, Fateh Singh Partap Prabhakar, p. 28.
\textsuperscript{94} Jarmani Dass, Maharaja, Hind Pocket Books Limited, Delhi, 1970, p. 153.
\textsuperscript{95} Bhagat Singh, A History of Sikh Misals, p. 75.
Fateh Singh. By the time of the battle of Sathiala in 1808, the Ramgarhias were definitely on the defensive. Most of Fateh Singh’s military activities, undertaken on his own centred round the reconquest of the territories snatched by his rivals and neighbours and the suppression of recalcitrant vassals.  

In most of Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s campaigns, Fateh Singh served him with his contingents. He had accompanied the Maharaja’s forces in the expeditions of Kasur (1804 and 1807), Amritsar (1805), Jhang (1807), Sialkot (1807), cis- Sutlej expeditions (1806-08), Kangra (1808), Jalandhar (1810-11), Kashmir (1814) and Multan (1818). Fateh Singh had participated in the battle of Hazro (13th July, 1813) in which Fateh Khan, the Kabul Wazir, was defeated. During the Maharaja’s Kashmir campaign of 1819, Fateh Singh remained in-charge of Lahore. In 1821, Fateh Singh assisted Lahore forces in the reduction of fort of Mankera. 

It is significant that when Jaswant Rao Holkar came to Punjab in 1805, he met Ranjit Singh and Fateh Singh Ahluwalia at Amritsar, after being driven north of the Sutlej by Lord Lake’s persuading army. It was Fateh Singh, who perceived the situation correctly and warned Ranjit Singh of the likely consequences of going to war with the British. He suggested that the British were not only militarily superior, but also true to their word and, therefore, trustworthy. This advice finally carried weight with Ranjit Singh and he decided to befriend the British. He even sent Fateh Singh Ahluwalia to negotiate with Lord Lake. He and the Maharaja jointly signed the first treaty, dated 1st January, 1806, entered into relations initiated by the British Government with the rulers of trans-Sutlej. There under the British agreed never to enter the territories of ‘said cheiftains’ nor to form any plans for the seizure or sequestration of their possessions or properties as long as they abstain from committing any act of hostility against them.

Fateh Singh’s sagacity in the context of Charles Metcalfe’s visit to Punjab as the envoy of Governor- General was also praise worthy. He once again advised Ranjit Singh against going to war because the Sikh chiefs could not be relied upon in that event and on his advice and mediation; The Treaty of Amritsar was signed in 1809, between the Maharaja and the British. Fateh Singh was offered Sonipat and Panipat as

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100. *District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904*, p.5.
a mark of his appreciation for his role in bringing about amicable settlement with Ranjit Singh. Fateh Singh refused this on the ground that it would be regarded as a bribe for having advocated friendship with them.101

At the beginning, Ranjit Singh and Fateh Singh were two sovereigns nearly equal. Fateh Singh played a laudable role in the expansion of Ranjit Singh’s dominions. There was hardly any important campaign in which he was conspicuous by his absence. Fateh Singh also had gained a lot in terms of prestige as well as territories, which were granted to him as his share. For example, he had been given Phagwara and the territories of Bhunga, consisting of twenty four villages, situated in the west of Hoshiarpur. Charles Metcalfe, a shrewd observer remarked, “the quiet character of Fateh Singh who was the equal, if not superior, in rank and power of Ranjit Singh, has yielded to the bold commanding spirit of the other, and he has been the ladder by which Ranjit Singh has mounted to greatness”.

Within a decade, Fateh Singh had slipped into the role of a vassal of the Maharaja commanding his services on every military adventure and insisting upon his constant attendance at Lahore. Matter became, at length, intolerable even to the amicable Fateh Singh.102 In 1813, Ranjit Singh had ascertained from a reliable source the strength of Fateh Singh’s army and when he came to know that he had maintained a force of 3500 horse and foot, the Maharaja gave out that he would expect the Ahluwalia contingent on the Dussehra Day. Gradually mutual jealousy and distrust began to grow between two chiefs.103 Pouring oil to the fire, Qadir Baksh, the wazir of Fateh Singh to Lahore, mischievously conveyed to the Maharaja that Fateh Singh was planning to revolt against him. Ranjit Singh sent two battalions of the Lahore army to Jalandhar Doab. On the contrary, he provoked and frightened Fateh Singh by telling him that Ranjit Singh had sent a force to conquer his territory and to make him captive.104 Terribly alarmed by the suspected hostile designs of Ranjit Singh, Fateh Singh fled across the Sutlej with his family on 27th December, 1825 and went to Jagraon, which was his possession in the cis- Sutlej. Ranjit Singh took over all his territories in Jalandhar Doab, appointing Faqir Aziz-ud-Din to administer them. Fateh Singh sent his confidential agents to Murray at Ambala and Captain Wade at

104. Bhagat Singh, A History of Sikh Misals, p. 79.
Ludhiana to seek British protection for the security of his trans-Sutlej possessions. The British authorities refused to interfere on his behalf on the ground that they have no valid excuse for interfering with Ranjit Singh’s affairs in the trans-Sutlej area in violation of the Treaty of Amritsar.105

The apprehensions of Fateh Singh were totally baseless and Ranjit Singh was as sincere to him as ever. In the words of Griffin, “the fears of Fateh Singh were exaggerated and that he was one of a few men for whom the Maharaja had any sincere feeling of regard”.106 On his part, the Maharaja was pained to hear that his close friend had sought refuse with the British out of fear for him. He sent Dhian Singh and some other officials to Jagraon to convince Fateh Singh of his sincerity towards him and bring him back with all honours due to him.107 On the contrary, Fateh Singh wanted to secure a guarantee of trans-Sutlej possessions such as had been accorded by the British to the Phulkia chiefs. It seemed impossible without coming to an open rapture with the Maharaja against the Treaty of Amritsar of 1809.108 So Fateh Singh gave a favourable response and returned to Kapurthala in 1827. His territories were restored to him. In 1836, however, Fateh Singh again found himself in conflict with Ranjit Singh who had confiscated his territory of Phagwara, which was soon restored.109

Fateh Singh, on his part, was a sincere friend and a conscientious ally. He was true to his words. Fateh Singh, as depicted by Ram Sukh Rao, in his account, was a powerful and enlightened ruler, a good administrator, a brave warrior and intrepid general. He was also God-fearing, generous and charitable. In other words, he had all the qualities that a person could conceivably have. His soldierly accomplishments included skill in marksmanship, archery and fencing. He had such a passion for fighting in the front line that he refused to act merely as a general and guide the operations from a distance.110

He was exceptional also in remaining alert all night for any possible night attack by the enemy, although he himself generally did not permit his men to resort to such tactics, regarding it as fareb-ki-larai. Extremely religious person, he was following all the daily observances even in the battlefield. He had a complete faith in

106. Lapel H. Griffin, The Rajas of Punjab, p. 489.
108. District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, p.5.
110. District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, pp.5-6, Joginder Kaur, Fateh Singh Partap Prabhakar, p.41.
God’s grace. He showed due regard and deference to the religious establishments and personages belonging to Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam, extended his patronage to all of them. His generosity and charitable attitude went to the extent that besides a regular kitchen at the capital, which was open to all, irrespective of the creed or social position, the Ahluwalia chief provided food to the poor even while on an expedition in the enemy’s territories.\footnote{\textit{Ibid}., pp. 41-42.}

A great patron of art, he had laid many beautiful gardens decorated by canals, fountains, water-mills and Persian-wheels at Jalandhar, Sultanpur and other places. The structure in these gardens were designed and constructed with particular care and ingenuity.\footnote{\textit{Ibid}., p. 68.} The Shalimar garden, the Kamra garden and Kamra palace and the Hindu temple, are the standing monuments of his constructive genius.\footnote{Anju Arora, \textit{Princely States}, p. 10.} To promote trade and commerce in Kapurthala, he attracted many bankers, businessmen and traders from Jagraon, Ludhiana, Phagwara and Sultanpur and settled them there. He once remarked that he would be greatly pleased if the bazaars of the capital were so full of stocks of goods and saleable commodities that his elephants might find it difficult to pass through them. He gave \textit{khillats} to the bankers and traders, who had outstanding performance to their credit. It eminently displayed Fateh Singh’s keen interest in the promotion of the economic condition of the state.\footnote{Bhagat Singh, \textit{A History of Sikh Misals}, p. 83.} Fateh Singh died on 20\textsuperscript{th} October, 1837 due to malaria fever.\footnote{Syad Mohammad Latif, \textit{History of the Sikhs}, p. 318.}

Sardar Fateh Singh had two sons, Nihal Singh and Amar Singh. The elder son, Nihal Singh succeeded his father. The events of vital importance occurred at Kapurthala during his reign. First of all, his rule was disturbed by constant quarrels with his brother Amar Singh, who for some unexplained reasons, considered himself his father’s rightful heir.\footnote{District Gazetteer \textit{Kapurthala}, 1904, p.6.} Once he hatched a conspiracy against his brother, Nihal Singh. When Nihal Singh was leaving his residence with only one attendant, he was attacked by Amar Singh’s men. The attendant threw himself before his master and was cut to pieces but the Raja was saved with a few wounds. Ranjit Singh called both the brothers to Lahore to express sympathy with Nihal Singh and directed him to allow Amar Singh a separate maintenance allowance of Rs. 30,000 a year.\footnote{Bhagat Singh, \textit{A History of Sikh Misals}, p. 83.}
A few years later, Amar Singh, provoked by a zamindar named Lakha, again asked for the division of the territory of the state. He made Nihal Singh captive. Then Diwan Gulam Mohammad handled the situation by making Randhir Singh (son of Nihal Singh) as the Raja. With the help of Sadhu Singh Sodhi of Kartarpur, the diwan got Nihal Singh released. The division of the state was also accepted. The area of Sultanpur, which had the revenue worth Rs. 40,000 per year, was given to Amar Singh. After Nihal Singh’s return, Amar Singh appointed Lakha on a powerful position. Nihal Singh objected to it. A force was sent to Sultanpur under the command of Maulvi Gulam Mohammand, who captured and killed Lakha at Kartarpur. Getting annoyed with this incident, Amar Singh went to Maharaja Sher Singh, the descendant of Ranjit Singh, in 1841 and asked to help him in getting half share of his father’s state.118 On 28th March, 1841, Maharaja Sher Singh went on boating excursion on the Ravi along with Amar Singh and other Sardars. The boat was suddenly filled with water. Amar Singh was drowned and the rest of the party was rescued.119 So the premature death of Amar Singh avoided the division of the state and whole territory remained under Nihal Singh up to the time the Lahore Government remained in power.120

During the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839) Nihal Singh rendered help to the British in their expedition to Kabul.121 With the outbreak of war on Sutlej, a time of crucial trial came for Nihal Singh. Kapurthala state had a number of parganas to the south of river Sutlej. The British expected Nihal Singh to ally himself active with them against Lahore Raj during the Anglo-Sikh War of 1845-46. He could not comply with the British authorities as his main territories lay to the north of Sutlej and towards Lahore side. Sardar Nihal Singh wavered to the last, withholding assistance from the British. His troops actually fought against them under their commander Haider Ali both at Aliwal and Buddowal; but for this hostile act, the chief was not personally responsible, in as much as the soldiers broke away from his control, murdered Wazir Gulam Mohammad, who attempted to restrain them. Generally his conduct was, however, condemned as weak and vacillating, for as a protected cis-Sutlej feudatory, he was bound to place all his resources at the British disposal, but in

this he failed. The result was that, at the end of the war, the chief was confirmed as a subject to an annual nazrana of Rs. 1,31,000 fixed in commutation of military service and his estate south of the Sutlej yielding a revenue of Rs. 5,65,000 were declared escheat to the British Government on his failure to act up his obligations under the treaty of 1809.\textsuperscript{122} Though the territories lying between Sutlej and Beas were acquired from the Lahore Government, the chief of Kapurthala retained in his possession the territories in this doab.\textsuperscript{123}

The lesson was not lost upon the chiefs. In the Second Anglo-Sikh War, he did all in his power to retrieve his name, furnishing carriage and supplies, and proving himself a loyal and active ally. At the close of the war, he was honoured with the visit of the Governor-General Lord Dalhaosie, who made him a Raja in acknowledgement of his valuable services.\textsuperscript{124} Thus the Ahluwalia sadar, earlier known as the Sikh Chief of Ahluwalia Misal, came to be known as a Raja of Kapurthala state.

Though popular with his subject and of benevolent disposition, Nihal Singh had little strength of character. He was generally under the influence of his favourites, which was seldom in the interest of the state. In the words of Griffin: ‘His apathy and vacillation were such that he was unable to carry out measures which he acknowledged to be advantageous, and he brought on himself and his state troubles which the most ordinary energy and courage might have averted.’ Raja Nihal Singh breathed his last on 13\textsuperscript{th} September, 1852.\textsuperscript{125}

Raja Randhir Singh, the elder son of Nihal Singh succeeded his father. He was an accomplished ruler. He had the gentle and generous nature of his father, in addition to this, a vigour and energy of purpose that secured him a high place amongst those good men who were on the British side in 1857.\textsuperscript{126} The Raja of Kapurthala placed every available soldier and gun at the disposal of the British and extended cooperation to them during the crisis. He himself marched to Jalandhar with his forces accompanied by his brother, Bikram Singh and his personal advisers. He remained at Jalandhar throughout the emergency and protected the city. He sent a detachment for

\textsuperscript{122} District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, p.6, Ganda Singh, Patiala and East Punjab States Union, p.75.
\textsuperscript{124} Charles Francis Massey, Chiefs and Families of Punjab, Kapurthala, 1890, p.38.
\textsuperscript{125} Lapel H. Griffin, The Rajas of Punjab, p. 503.
\textsuperscript{126} Charles Francis Massey, Chiefs and Families of Punjab, p.38.
Hoshiarpur. The total force consisted of 1,200 infantry, 200 cavalry and five guns placed at the disposal of the British.\textsuperscript{127}

In 1858, Raja was permitted to lead a contingent of soldiers to Oudh and take part in the pacification of the disturbed districts accompanied by his brother Bikram Singh. The Raja remained in the field for ten months.\textsuperscript{128} The services of the Raja were duly regarded by the British authorities. He was granted additional titles and territories and reduction in the amount of his annual tribute to the British. After the annexation of the Punjab, by the British, the Ahluwalia chief had independent power confirmed to him by the English. The chief was maintained in the independent possessions in perpetuity.\textsuperscript{129} The most highly prized privilege was the right of adoption granted under a Sanad of Lord Canning dated 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 1862. In 1864, the Raja received the G.C.S.I. from Her Majesty Queen Victoria in a public Darbar held at Lahore at the hands of Lord Lawerence.

For his services at Oudh, the Raja was rewarded with a grant on Istamrari tenure of the two confiscated estates of Bundi and Bithauli, in the Baraich and Bara Banki districts. Bikram Singh, Raja’s brother was given a portion of Akauna estate in Baraich district. This property was subsequently taken over by the Raja in 1869, under an arbitrary order of Sir Henry Devis, then chief commissioner in Oudh. Sardar Bikram Singh received instead the land in Bareily and Lakhimpur, which was paid for by the Kapurthala state.\textsuperscript{130}

Raja Randhir Singh was harassed for many years by a dispute with his brothers, Bikram Singh and Suchet Singh regarding the succession. Raja Nihal Singh executed a waseatnama on 11\textsuperscript{th} July, 1852 before his death. The Will explained that his eldest son, Randhir Singh would be the ruler of the state and his two other sons, Bikram Singh and Suchet Singh from his second wife should be given an estate of the net value of one lac of rupees each without any sort of Government nazrana and that the criminal jurisdiction of all the three estates should be exercised by the heir-apparent, but if the two younger brother be dissatisfied the criminal jurisdiction of the heir estates might be taken over by the British Government.\textsuperscript{131}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{127} A.C. Arora, \textit{British Policy towards the Punjab States, 1858-1905}, p.27.
\item \textsuperscript{128} District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, p.7.
\item \textsuperscript{129} Lapel H. Griffin, \textit{The Rajas of Punjab}, pp. 510-11.
\item \textsuperscript{130} District Gazetteer Kapurthala, 1904, p.7.
\item \textsuperscript{131} A.C. Arora, \textit{British Policy towards the Punjab States 1858-1905}, p.98.
\end{itemize}
After the death of Raja Nihal Singh, with the efforts of Randhir Singh, the two younger brothers signed a covenant declaring that they would accept any arrangement which the Raja would make to administer the affairs of the state and to maintain its stability. If the supreme government decided upon partition and separation of their estates in accordance with their father’s will, they would under no circumstances consent to that. The *khairitas* in this regard was sent to the commissioner and governor general.

Soon after, Suchet Singh began to quarrel with the Raja and began to demand his share from the state. The chief commissioner John Lawarence readily sanctioned the division, though the Raja put forth some arguments. The case in this regard was pleaded to the Secretary of State even after loosing an appeal before the Viceroy. The Secretary of the State got the decision of the Viceroy reversed and the Will was declared null and void with the approval of Her Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria. The Secretary of State for India gave his decision that the Maharaja should rule over the entire state of Kapurthala, while his brothers were to be given handsome annual cash allowances. They were asked to live outside the state so that no cause for conflict between them should occur. They began to live in Jalandhar.

Before the revolt of 1857, Dalhousie had recognized the validity of the Will and decreed the partition of the state in accordance with its provisions. After the assumption of the government by the crown, Canning annulled the Will in recognition of the meritorious services rendered by Raja Randhir Singh during the revolt of 1857. The new policy, adopted by the British government, was that the integrity of the state must be maintained. Thus the decision was reverted by the Secretary of the State.

Maharaja Randhir Singh had a good fortune of bearing the sword used by Nadir Shah of Persia and the famous topaz which Nadir Shah wore on his arm including silver carriages drawn sometimes by six or eight horses wearing the most precious jewels and emerald-studded harnesses to the value of several million rupees.

The Raja had, for years, been desirous of visiting England to ensure Her Majesty of his devotion to Her Crown in person. He had arranged to leave India on

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15th March, 1870, and persisted in carrying out his intentions, although suffering at the time from a severe illness. He had only proceeded as far as Aden, when death overtook him on 2nd April, 1870. His body was brought to Bombay and handed over to his son Kharak Singh, who cremated him at Nasik. The Viceroy in his message of condolence remarked; ‘The British Government has lost in him an attached and valued friend, and a chief, who by a vigorous and progressive administration set an example to other native rulers. The valuable services which he rendered to British Government in time of trouble and danger will never be forgotten.’

He was an outstanding personality and added considerably to the power and prestige of the state. He himself was a good scholar of English and interested in the promotion of education in the state. In 1856, a school was founded at Kapurthala and named after Randhir Singh.

Kharak Singh, born in 1850, was installed as the next ruler of Kapurthala state on 13th May, 1870. In the ceremony of coronation, on the request of his subjects, Kharak Singh announced the opening of a college and a hospital in the name of his late father and sanctioned the amount for the construction of the building. Public Works Department was set up in the state under the charge of state engineer. He also gave Rs. 25,000 to start a Natural Science prize.

He developed symptoms of mental incapacity and insanity in May, 1874. Due to the Raja’s melody, the administration of the state was entrusted to a council, composed of three native officials, Gulam Gelani, Diwan Ram Jas and Diwan Baijnath. It was however reported after sometime by the three successive commissioners of Jalandhar that the experiment of carrying administration by the native council had failed. According to the new provision made by the British Government, Lapel Griffin took over the charge of the management of Kapurthala in April, 1875 with the direction that he should not make any material change in the administration of the state without previous reference to the Government of Punjab and to carry on the administration in accordance with the native laws and usages. He administered the state with marked success till February 1876 and was replaced by

137. Anju Arora, Princely States, p. 12.
139. A.C. Arora, British Policy towards the Punjab States 1858-1905, p.133.
C.M. Riwaz. He continued the reforms started by his predecessor; roads were repaired and metalled, a college and a dispensary were opened.140

Raja Kharak Singh was interned in a house at Bhagsu near Dharamshala at the suggestion of the state physician Ram Rakha.141 The Raja died there on 5th September, 1877 and was cremated at Kapurthala.142 Kharak Singh died at the prime age of his life and his only son Jagatjit Singh, born on 24th November, 1872, succeeded his father at the age of five years. He was formally installed as a ruler of his state with due ceremonies on 16th October, 1877 by Sir Robert Egerton, the lieutenant Governor of Punjab. While the Raja was still a minor, the state was administered by a succession of brilliant English civil servants, many of whom became Governor-Generals in due course. These superintendents, ably assisted by council of trusted native officials introduced various useful reforms, which were conductive to the efficiency of the state administration and the general welfare of the people.143

In the absence of any chief’s college at that time, the idea of sending the young ruler to England was considered out of question.144 It was agreed to give education under the guardianship of able and careful selected people privately.145 “Brought up as an only child, fattened up since he was small, first by his wet-nurses and then by his ays, the boy has acquired dreadful eating habits” stated Doctor Warburton in his report to James Lyall, the tutor of Jagatjit Singh. At first no one was alarmed, but later, when at the age of ten, he crossed the line of a hundred Kilograms, panic began to spread. Fortunately the process did not continue at the same rate and soon assumed a contrary direction, which was a relief for the tutor and doctor.146 The Raja was betrothed in February, 1884 to a girl named Harbans Kaur of the Guleria Rajput blood living near the Palampur Tehsil of the Kangra district. The marriage was fixed on 16th April, 1886.147 Completion the age of eighteen, he was considered fit to

143. His Highness Maharaja Jagatjit Singh A Brief Life Sketch by an Official, pp.1-2, Sir Lepel Griffin, Sir Mackworth Young, Sir Charles Riwaz, Sir Fredrick Fryer, Sir Denzil Ibbetson and Colonel Massey were the prominent civil servants during Maharaja Jagatjit Singh’s minority.
145. His Highness Maharaja Jagatjit Singh; A Brief Life Sketch by an Official, p.1.
take over the administration of the state. It was on 24th November, 1890, James Lyall, the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab came to Kapurthala to be present at the ceremony of the assumption of full ruling powers.  

The preparations for the ceremony lasted for two weeks. Three hundred English and Indian guests came to participate in the three days festivities. The Civil and Military Gazette, a newspaper published from Lahore, whose pride was that Rudyard Kipling wrote for it, its front page and most of its edition of 28th November, 1890 dedicated to the investiture ceremony as under briefly, “the scene at the Darbar Hall was so full of life and so picturesque, that it must live long in the memory of those who took part in it” Raja Jagatjit Singh took a keen personal interest in the administration and there was hardly any branch of administration in which he did not leave a prominent impact of his personality. It was due entirely to his initiative that Kapurthala had always been considered as one of the best administered and progressive state in India. Modern Kapurthala was in fact the creation of His Highness’s foresight, broadmindedness and sagacity. He had inaugurated a state assembly on the occasion of his silver jubilee in 1916. It brought the representatives of the people into contact with the administration and provided the constitutional medium for the ventilation of popular opinions on the matter affecting the general welfare of the people.

Civic bodies, composed of a majority of elected members, were functioning in the municipal towns of the state. Presided over by the known officials, the rural boards, consisting of entirely elected agriculturists, used to supervise village sanitation, roads and measures of welfare. Being a progressive ruler and a lover of justice, he introduced modern system of judiciary and police administration on the British pattern.

For the economic development of the state, Jagatjit Singh paid a special attention towards the development of agriculture. He set up an Agricultural Demonstration Farm, which experimented in the modern techniques of agriculture and for the help of agriculturalists, supplying them a new kind of seeds and encouraging them to adopt scientific modes of agriculture. Veterinary hospitals were

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opened at a number of places. A keen interest was taken by him in promoting industrial development. The state had a large sugar factory running since 1935 at Phagwara. A much bigger sugar mill with a capacity of crushing 1,200 tones of sugarcanes daily had been established at Hamira, a few miles from Kapurthala. The chemicals, cotton textile, steel and leather factories had also come in to existence. One of the biggest distilleries in India at that time was constructed at Hamira.

It had been the Maharaja’s earnest endeavour to do all he could for the advancement of his state and his people. So he paid a particular attention to the beneficent departments of the state. Himself being western educated, he spent a considerable amount every year for the development of modern education in the state. He was among the earliest rulers to sanction primary and compulsory primary education (for boys) throughout the state. A large number of schools were opened during his reign. Technical and vocational education was also started. Attention was paid for improving the service conditions of the teachers, who were granted half pay pension after a service of thirty years. Hospitals and dispensaries were started in all the towns and important centres of the state with the object of affording medical relief within a radius of four miles. Metalled roads were constructed to connect the important towns of the state and with the other towns falling in the British territory.

The impress of his charming personality and cultivated taste is apparent, particularly in the capital of the state. It had been embellished with handsome palaces and public buildings. His new palace constructed on the model of French palace at Versailles, the great Darbar Hall inside the palace, Court of Justice, the State Gurudwara, Moorish Mosque, Poor House, Hospital, New College and School Buildings, Jubilee Hall and Gurudwara Ber Sahib at Sultanpur were the great buildings that are still by common consent striking architectural embellishment of the refined taste and culture of its ruler.

154. *His Highness Maharaja Jagatjit Singh; A Brief Life Sketch by an Official*, p.4.
156. *His Highness Maharaja Jagatjit Singh; A Brief Life Sketch by an Official*, p.6.
158. *His Highness Maharaja Jagatjit Singh; A Brief Life Sketch by an Official*, p.10.
The keynote of His Highness’s policy had always been wholehearted and thorough cooperation with the British Government. The state troops, that had a high standard efficiency and to which the British officers were associated, as military advisers, were sent to serve the British Empire wherever there was hostility.\textsuperscript{159} His Highness had travelled far and wide over the four continents and had been twice round the world. He had been all over Europe, North, Central and South America, Egypt, China, Japan, Siam, Java and the Straits Settlements. These tours apart from broadening his mental outlook had been of practical value to the state.\textsuperscript{160} The Maharaja successfully kept the different communities satisfied and communal feelings were avoided in the state. He kept on reshuffling his ministers so that everyone felt represented. Kapurthala was an example of peaceful co-existence. The people were happy with him. He met his people every year in the Shalimar Garden, answering their questions, taking an interest in them and enjoying the warm affection of his subjects. His constant visits to the Law Courts, the police stations and hospital were the visits, which allowed him to closely monitor the heartbeat of his administration.

When the Viceroy Lord Mountbatten announced to cancel the agreements of the past, the Maharaja took a decision to lean towards a secular country, as he had wanted Kapurthala to be, in spite of the majority of Muslim population in the state. The Maharaja called a meeting with representatives of people, village headmen, Hindu\textit{ pundits}, Muslim\textit{ muftis} and Sikh priests to announce his decision to them. Only one person dared to make a comment from total silence who said to him, “That is all well and good, Lord, but who will dry our tears in future?” The phrase was a tribute not only for the long reign of the Maharaja himself, but also to his ancestry, which throughout history had found a way to be with the people.\textsuperscript{161} The Maharaja ruled for sixty nine years. He was honoured by the British Government and received the highest decoration and honours from the Kings of England and the Presidents and the

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\textsuperscript{160}. \textit{His Highness Maharaja Jagatjit Singh; A Brief Life Sketch by an Official}, p.8.

\textsuperscript{161}. Javier Moro, \textit{Passion India}, p. 431.
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Kings of other foreign countries.\(^{162}\) He was granted the hereditary title of the Maharaja by his Imperial Majesty George V at Delhi Coronation Darbar in 1911.\(^{163}\) For the recognition of his services in the First World War, G.C.I.E. and G.B.E. were added on the occasion of golden jubilee in 1927. In 1945, he was the only living prince in India who was the recipient of three G.Ss. from the British. In the foreign countries, the French Republic conferred him the Grand Cross of the ‘Legion of Honour’ in 1924. He received highest decoration from Italy, Spain and several other European, Asiatic and South American countries. He was present at the historic peace conference at Versailles in 1919. He represented the princely order of India in 1926, 1927 and 1929.\(^{164}\)

The Maharaja continued in office up to 20\(^{th}\) August, 1948, when the state lapsed into the Indian Dominion. The East Punjab States formed the new state of Patiala and the East Punjab States Union (PEPSU). He was appointed \textit{Up-Rajparmukh} of the PEPSU, which position he held till his death on June 19, 1949. After his death he was succeeded by his son Paramjit Singh, who died in July 1955. He was succeeded by his son Sukhjit Singh. On the merger of the PEPSU, on 1\(^{st}\), November, 1956, Kapurthala became one of the districts of Punjab.\(^{165}\)

The territory of Kapurthala state had its mention even in the ancient literature but during the medieval times, it did not have much importance. Its towns of Sultanpur, Sheikhpur and Hadiabad got the names mentioned in \textit{Ain-i-Akbari} as the \textit{parganas} during Mughal period. The state in itself only emerged after the fall of Mughal Empire. With the rise of Sikh power in Punjab in the late eighteenth century, it originated as the Ahluwalia \textit{Misal} under Jassa Singh Ahluwalia. Its ruler Fateh Singh Ahluwalia increased the power and prestige of his missal by allying himself with Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the British. After the Second Anglo-Sikh War, the British recognized the \textit{misal} as the state and its ruler Nihal Singh as the Raja to the independent position. His successor Randhir Singh also played important role in increasing the state territory by helping the British in the revolt of 1857. It was

\(^{162}\) Jarmani Dass, \textit{Maharaja}, p.138. \\
\(^{163}\) Javier Moro, \textit{Passion India}, p. 435. \\
\(^{164}\) \textit{Kapurthala Past and Present- By an Official}, p.10. \\
\(^{165}\) \textit{District Gazetteer Kapurthala 1984}, p. 36.
Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, the last ruler, who ruled here for about sixty-nine years. He was a wide travelled and educated person. Whatever he found appropriate during his visits for his state, he tried to apply that in his state. During the long period of his rule, the state emerged on the modern lines and became one of the important princely states. The capital city and other towns of the state are still carrying the examples of his marvelous tastes and interests in the field of art and architecture.